



FAITH NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to give hope to disadvantaged children by showing them God's unconditional love and by guiding them into becoming whole persons - socially, intellectually and spiritually.

April 2005

Faith Network of the East Bay, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

THANKS TO

- Ernie and Glory Katsumata for donated FAX machine.
- PC World and Rodney Barnes for donated computer.
- Jan Nussbaum for donated TV.
- Dave Monk & ArcSource for computer networking donation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Faith Network's **4th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event** will be held June 6, 6:45 - 8:15 pm at the Joaquin Miller Conference Center. Save the date!

THANKS FROM

"Thanks for the donated TV and VCR which we plan on using for professional development videos and for watching our own teachers do demo lessons. It will all come in time for use in the After School Scholars Program as well! Also, the children LOVE the jump ropes! We really are touched by your thoughtfulness."

- Principal Tram Nguyen,
EnCompass Academy.

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?
Contact us :

email: info@faith-network.com

NEW!

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Grand Re-Opening of Emerson's Library

For 7 years the library at Emerson Elementary has not been staffed and utilized as a working library. It was apropos to this Easter season that the Emerson library should breathe new life. Parents, students, teachers, neighbors and school officials gathered to celebrate the library's Grand Re-Opening on March 30. Festivities included a buffet dinner, storyteller, free books, and prizes to take home.

Principal Wendi Caporicci was ecstatic. Many of her students, she noted, had never been to a library. Now each class at Emerson will visit the library at least once a week. Students are excited to be able to meander through the stacks and check out books. What make this possible are 1) volunteers who cleaned and organized the space, catalogued and shelved books, and 2) the hiring of a qualified, committed librarian. Her name is Susan White, who recently earned her Masters in Library Science.

Because funds were not available to hire a librarian though the District, community partners stepped up to provide the finances necessary to fund a 20-hour per week librarian through the remainder of this school year. This collaboration includes the Grand Lake Kiwanis, Mustard Seed and Faith Network.



Parents feast on a buffet provided by local businesses.



Children enjoy a story in their new library.

A special Emerson Library Fund has been created for the purpose of keeping the library alive and well into the next year and the next. We welcome your contributions. Checks should be made payable to Faith Network and earmarked "Emerson Library Fund."

The excitement that Emerson is on the Move is spilling out into the community. In a time of confusion and uncertainty because schools are closing, being restructured and under-funded, the Emerson story sparks hope for the future of our children's education.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

The following is an excerpt of an email recently received from one of our volunteer tutors, Miho Armacost.

Hi, Pastor Randy. Last week, I was talking to my student's teacher about Edwin's hearing issues. A few months back I was talking to her about what I'd noticed and she confirmed my fear that he has difficulty hearing certain sounds or combination of sounds AND making connection to the letters. She had said that the parents were hard to get hold of to talk to about that specific issue at that time, but recently Edwin's dad has apparently lost his job and is hard pressed to have him checked for full spectrum hearing exam.

He's a bright boy with good memory, so when he reads books, he does much better primarily because he can recognize "words" (as opposed to sounds). His comprehension is great and is reading chapter books on his own, he says. But when it comes to spelling words out, he actually admits to not being able to hear double-consonant combinations. If you can make a call out to Faith Network's powerful "network", I think we can really help this young man.

After receiving Miho's email I called Dr. John Whalen, a pediatrician and a friend of Faith Network, who said he would be happy to see Edwin and give him a hearing test. Last Friday the principal called to say that after a conversation with Edwin's mother, an appointment was made for her son to see Dr. Whalen.

I wanted to share this with you because it is an example of what can happen when caring volunteers come alongside our children. They become their advocates!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy".

NEWS

Congregation adopts 40 classrooms in Oakland! As part of their 40 Days of Community emphasis, South Bay Community Church came up with the idea of reaching out to Oakland classrooms by responding to teachers' wish lists. Teachers from Grass Valley, Marshall and MLK Jr. Elementary Schools are participating.

Fond Farewell

We bid fond farewell to esteemed volunteer Elsworth Ogilvie and his wife Gail, who are retiring to Lincoln in the Sacramento area. Not long after Faith Network was founded in July, 2001, Elsworth came on board as one of our first volunteers, responding to the need for playground supervisors at Burbank Elementary, where he served for three years. When Burbank closed last June, Elsworth didn't let that deter him from his playground work. He immediately plugged in at MLK Jr. in west Oakland. Truly a gentle man with a caring, quiet spirit, Elsworth will be missed by the students, and by us all. He and Gail, beloved members of Bay Area Christian Connection, will be dearly missed by their church family too.



Elsworth Ogilvie