



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.

January 2006

Faith Network of the East Bay, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

THANKS FROM

- Dear Faith Network: "Many thanks from the Whittier School Community for your continuing and much appreciated support, i.e., for providing many of our children with uniforms, and for the wonderful lunch - the staff was so thrilled."

- Carla Anders,
Whittier Elementary.

NEWS

If you bank with Washington Mutual you can help support Oakland public schools by enrolling in their **WaMoola for Schools Program**. Each time you make a purchase with your debit card or check card, the school of your choice will earn one point. At the end of the year the points will be converted to dollars.

To enroll, go to the website www.wamoolaforschools.com or call 1-866-WAMOOLA.

Call or email our office if you would like help choosing a school.

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?
Contact us :

email: info@faith-network.com
phone 510.836.5100
fax 510.836.5105

Laurel Reading Clinic

As of January the Faith Network Reading Clinic is up and running at Laurel Elementary. Enrolled are 2nd grade children from Laurel's second grade classes. So far, 6 volunteer tutors are on board: Robbie Hallford, Vicky Hartsock, Becky McKeen, Carolyn Piraino, Sherry Taddei, and Debbie Woychik. We hope to recruit more tutors so that we can serve more children one-on-one, with intensive intervention for building reading skills. The Clinic takes place from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon on Tuesdays and



Debbie Woychik and Robbie Hallford
with Laurel students

Thursdays. For more information contact Carolyn Piraino at (510) 339-3120.

School Site Coordinator Update by Ingrim Green



Congratulations to Faith Network staff member Ingrim Green and his wife Diane on the birth of their daughter, Kaylynn Rose, on Jan. 5.

Four years ago I first met Randy Roth on the campus of Patten University. Randy had been invited to speak at Chapel and to recruit students for community service through Faith Network. I was the first Patten student to register as a volunteer. For two years I served as a tutor working one-on-one with students from Fruitvale Elementary. Then in September 2004 I joined the FN staff as School Site Coordinator which entails: recruiting and coordinating volunteers and resources for under-performing public schools, tutoring and coordinating our Summer Camp for City Kids program. The benefits of this job include the joy of serving disadvantaged youth and providing entry points for people of good will to be salt and light in our urban schools.

At Whittier Elementary, one my assigned campuses, I've had the pleasure of working with a 1st grader that was classified as below grade level in Math and Language Arts. Recently I was informed that this student was named Student of the Month for December 2005. This is just one example of the success of the partnership between Faith Network and the Oakland Public Schools.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Randy Roth

Dear Friends,

I am excited about Faith Network's new partnership with Mission Springs Conference Center, which includes tapping their 25-year history of providing outdoor education programs for private and public schools. Burckhalter Elementary has been selected to be our first Oakland public school to participate in Mission Springs Outdoor Education (MSOE). Ms. Lisa Oler's 5th grade class is scheduled to attend the 3-day program February 21-23. The entire class of 28 students, plus 5 chaperones, will travel by bus to the Mission Springs campgrounds located in Scotts Valley, 5 miles from Santa Cruz.

The MSOE outdoor classroom is over 300 acres of spectacular redwood forest and chaparral, yet only 20 minutes from the rich coastal environment of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Class topics include Ecology, Ornithology, Nocturnal Animals, Astronomy, Invertebrate Zoology, Team Building, Organic Gardening and Environmental Stewardship. MSOE's curriculum is tailored to support the California Science Framework for 4th-6th grade, and their Naturalists have Bachelor's Degrees, First Aid/CPR Certification, and teaching experience as well as a love for the outdoors.

Principal Dhameera Ahmed, teachers and parents are enthused about this extraordinary enrichment opportunity for our Oakland children. While on the Burckhalter campus today, several smiling 5th graders came running up to me saying, "Mr. Roth, we can't wait to go to science camp!" Ms. Oler commented that her students are anticipating Mission Springs as though it were Christmas vacation. Our urban kids, unfortunately, rarely have this kind of opportunity.

So we feel blessed to have a partner like Mission Springs, which is also offering Faith Network 60 camperships this summer. Please pray that our students and chaperones will enjoy an amazing and unforgettable experience in God's great outdoors.

For the children,



QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books..."

-- George Washington Carver

Career Day at Creekside After School Program

Students from Education for Change at Cox Elementary who attend the Wednesday After School Program at Creekside Community Church in San Leandro have been exposed to a variety of careers. Creekside members have kindly shared about their jobs with the twenty-nine 3rd and 4th grade students. Shown in the photo is Bob Knoll, a computer consultant. Bob gave students a thrill by allowing them to use tools and take apart a computer tower to see just what was inside it.

He also showed he inside of a "mouse", a floppy disc, and the underside of a keyboard. Several of the adult volunteers learned a thing or too also!



Bob Knoll showing students computer parts