

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, physically and spiritually



July 2009

THANKS FROM

"Thank you for your hard work on behalf of CCCHS students. I heard nothing but great reports about the time spent at both Burckhalter and Prescott Elementary. We would love to partner with Faith Network again in the future."

- Robin Mathews,
teacher at Contra Costa
Christian High School

THANKS TO

- Windermere Properties of the East Bay for another successful service day at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary
- National Charity League for making gift bags for our summer campers

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?
Contact us:

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Phone 510/836.5100
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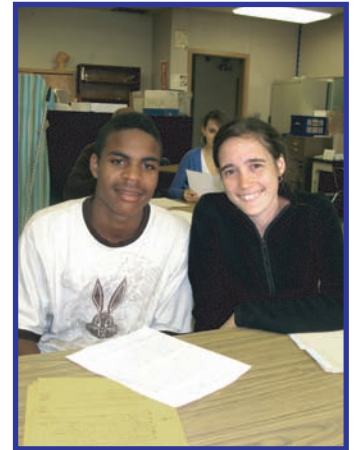
Witnessing Wisdom and Wonder by Aline Graham

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

- Excerpt from Robert Frost's
The Road Not Taken

Middle School students are such interesting people: so much of who they are is still so childlike, and yet they can begin to show intimations of adult wisdom and a maturing wonder about who they are and what the world is about.

As a Writer's Coach at Longfellow Middle School this past year, I had the wonderful opportunity of witnessing such wisdom and wonder emerge in fits and starts. What a privilege it was to sit and listen to a seventh grader grapple with Frost's *The Road Not Taken*, for instance, and then apply it to some of the difficult choices he already had to make. And then helping him put his thoughts down on paper was not simply a lesson in grammar and syntax, but it was a way to encourage his own self-expression. Truly, my choice to serve as a Writer's Coach this year has made such a difference.



Aline Graham coaching
Longfellow student

Middle Schoolers Receive Max Martinez Scholarships by Sue Burger



Left to Right: Randy Roth, Jaqui Marquez,
Charlotte Martinez and Miguel Guiza

The second annual Longfellow Middle School Max Martinez Scholarships were awarded to **Miguel Guiza** and **Jaqui Marquez** at the June 12th Longfellow eighth grade graduation. **Charlotte Martinez** announced the winners who will receive \$2,000 scholarships that will be held for them to apply toward college expenses (at either four-year college or two-year community college), and each student will be paired with a mentor.

This year eleven applicants submitted an application that included two personal essays and a teacher recommendation. Five finalists were interviewed at the end of May. The scholarship selection committee

was led by **Sue Burger** and included **Audrey Molina, Fran Sheppard, Rebecca Buckley, Terry Dwyer, and Trish Singleton.**

Faith Network and First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley established the LMS Max Martinez scholarship to provide educational assistance, mentoring and college scholarships to students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds with high academic potential. This scholarship honors and carries on the legacy of Max Martinez who worked for many years in UC Berkeley's Incentive Awards Program, and who died in 2003 at the age of 56.



RANDY ROTH

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Literacy Assessments Show Student Achievement

My heart is filled with joy and thanksgiving as we complete our 8th school year. What gives me joy is to see how children from hurting families in neighborhoods torn by violence somehow maintain their resilience. And you can't help but smile as you see them respond to a caring tutor.

We have just completed our Excel Reading Clinics year-end assessments. According to Rebecca Buckley, our Succeeding by Reading program director, the results show two-thirds of our Excel Reading Clinic students -- 67%-- advancing their reading skills by two or more grade levels during the school year. An additional 24% advanced by one or one-and-a-half grade levels. What an amazing privilege to support the success of these children, who began the school year far below benchmark in grade-level reading skills.

For those who keep investing in Faith Network financially, for new donors who've just come on board, for the growing number of foundations that invite us to submit grant proposals because they believe our work is making a difference, and for our public school teachers and staff who serve tirelessly in the trenches - I am grateful!

Finally, our staff joins me in expressing appreciation for our relentlessly committed community partners and volunteers. Volunteers don't offer easy answers or polished programs; they offer themselves. Programs don't change kids - relationships do!

Blessings,

St. John's tutors and students celebrate end of year at Horace Mann Excel Reading Clinic



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of our donors, Faith Network is pleased to announce that **we finished the 2008-2009 fiscal year in the black!**

We feel tremendously blessed to be able to sustain our programs and services to urban public schools.

Other Happenings...

Burckhalter & Laurel students head off to camp



Margena Wade of CalTrans celebrates end of year with Ruby Bridges students

STAFF

- Randy Roth, *President*
- Jocelyne Birren, *Grant Writing*
- Chelsea Boniak, *Executive Administrator*
- Norman Brooks, *Director Science Horizons*
- Rebecca Buckley, *Associate Director*
- Natasha Hicks, *Volunteer Director*
- Charlotte Martinez, *Director Health4Kids*
- Carolyn Piraino, *Director Excel Reading Clinics*

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