



Lafayette School Mentoring Project Fall 2008 Newsletter



Mentoring

As a mentor, you are in a powerful position to make a positive impact on a child's life and future. Along with parents, teachers, and the community you can help your mentee learn life skills and qualities needed to be successful. According to the Search Institute, a non-profit research organization in Minneapolis, MN, there are 40 Developmental Assets that describe what youth need in order to grow into caring, responsible adults. These assets help children resist risky behavior such as fighting and substance abuse. Alternatively, "research has shown that the more assets young people possess, the more likely they are to be leaders in their community, succeed in school, and maintain good health."



The 40 assets are divided into two main groups, internal and external. The internal assets are the traits, behaviors, and values that help kids make positive choices and be better prepared for challenging situations, whereas external traits are good qualities of life that children get from the world around them. The internal assets are broken into four categories: commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity and external assets are grouped into the categories of support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, and constructive use of time.

LSMP is excited to learn of this research and will provide handouts on building assets in our youth throughout the year. Next time you're in the mentoring office, pick up your copy of the 40 Developmental Assets. Keep them in mind when working with your student and don't forget how meaningful your role as a mentor is!

Fall Picnic

LSMP tutors, students and families came out to beautiful Roberts Regional Park for a fun afternoon of games, kickball, and even a birthday celebration too!



LSMP Advisory Board 2008

My name is Ricky Shin and it is an honor and privilege to serve alongside Hadley Paculba as co-chairs for LSMP's Advisory Board. The current Advisory Board was formed 2 years ago to directly support the Program Director and Assistant in the planning and execution of events and fundraisers, but more importantly in developing and implementing a strategic direction for LSMP.

The Advisory Board meets once a month to discuss the ongoing tasks and duties involved in running a non-profit, including grant writing, fundraising, and maintaining a sound budget to keep LSMP financially intact. Other current projects include creating a "classroom mentor" program for tutor volunteers who may want to be involved more closely with the school and their student. We hope to create a more holistic approach to mentoring by involving teachers, parents, and the West Oakland community in all aspects and keep LSMP a successful program for years to come.

2008-2009 Advisory Board Roster

Hadley Paculba – Co-Chair and 4th year tutor
Ricky Shin – Co-Chair and 3rd year tutor
Joan Poulter – Founder of LSMP, 12th year tutor and retired teacher
Dr. Judith McCoy – past tutor, learning specialist
Jason Polastri – Teacher representative and 1st Grade
Lateisha Johnson – School representative and SOAR program coordinator

A Brief History of LSMP

LSMP is launching its 12th year of successful tutoring, mentoring, and outreach to the students of Lafayette School. The success of LSMP would not be possible without the generous commitment of Joan and Howard Poulter. Joan, a teacher for 38 years in the bay area, retired in Oakland while Howard, formerly an engineer with Hewlett-Packard, retired from HP to teach math and electronics at Merritt College.

Realizing a gap in the resources of Oakland's public schools, they saw an immediate need to reach out to the youth of Oakland. Joan and Howard founded LSMP in the fall of 1997 with the financial gifts from an anonymous donor. Their vision and goal for LSMP was to create lasting student/tutor relationships in the hopes that it would help break the cycle of poverty, despair, and failure by inspiring Oakland students to do well in school.

Joan's first tutee, Kurt Car (pictured) started college this year and calls Joan and Howard his adopted "grandparents". There's no doubt the hard work Joan and Howard put into LSMP. We are grateful for real-life community heroes like Joan and Howard and, likewise, all our tutors for their dedication and commitment in making a real difference in the lives of our students.



Special thanks are due to the following people:

- Principal Karen Haynes for opening the building on Saturdays for our monthly tutor orientations.
- Judith McKoy for donating tickets to our upcoming fieldtrip, BFG at the Ashby Stage.
- Kevin Wu for donating his time to update our website.
- Dennis Barfield and Liz Romo for hosting the BFG fieldtrip after party
- Thank you also to Mary Isihara, Hadley Paculba, Ricky Shin, and Francis Aquino for donating supplies to LSMP.

Dia de los Muertos Community Celebration



Upcoming Fieldtrips

BFG at the Ashby Stage

Sunday, November 16, 1:00 P.M. followed by a **BFG After Party**, Hosted by tutors, Dennis and Liz

Lawrence Hall of Science

Sunday, December 13, 2:00 P.M.

Holiday Party

Thursday, December 18, 5:00 P.M.

Halloween Fundraiser

Many thanks to Frank Gemignani, of Pyzano's Pizzeria, for hosting the LSMP Halloween fundraiser, and to all those who came out. Tutors and students arrived in costume and enjoyed an evening of fantastic pizza and great company. Portions of the day's sales were donated to LSMP. Thanks to all those who participated!



Student Writing & Artwork

School Uniforms Update

I'm a fifth grade student at Lafayette Elementary School in Oakland, California. We have a new principal and new rules about how to dress. Some people like it and some people don't.

Last year Mr.Redmond and parents made a decision about school uniforms. We have to wear burgundy shorts, skirts, pants, or capris. A burgundy short or white skirt are both ok. We can wear any kind of shoes. We were supposed to wear these uniforms on the first day of school, but some kids didn't.

Some people don't know how to dress. For example, boys are sometimes sagging. Girls wear bootie shorts. That's not good at school. Also, you don't have to have so many clothes. And we can match the school colors, burgundy and white.

I miss my regular clothes because I like to show my friends my outfits. You don't have many uniforms, so your parents has to wash them every single week. We get tired to wearing thee same thing everyday.

Kiara, Gr. 5

By Wesley, Gr. 1



Dia de los Muertos

We went to the Oakland Museum on October 25, 2008 because me and Jennifer and Sally celebrated the Day of the Dead. We had a fun time at the Oakland Museum. We saw people dancing. We decorated sugar skulls. We saw a book of The Dead. We saw men dressed as the devil and skeletons.

Abigail, Gr. 3

Pumpkin Drawn by Maria, Gr.4



Pit Bulls

I like a pit bulls because they run fast. They are cool when they go to the park. They play and jump around. When you throw a frisbee they jump at it. They grab it in their mouth and they bring it to me. I feel good and happy playing with him and my friends.

Jeremy, Gr. 3