August 15, 2012

Dear Parents,

After Live Oak High School hosted the Special Olympics in April 2010, a group of sophomores wanted the chance to spend more time with students in the Special Education program to enhance your child’s high school experience. Because of this, the R.E.A.C.H. (Respect Everyone And Create Harmony) club was born. In this club, students with exceptionalities will be matched with a student without disabilities for the year to create an ever-lasting friendship and build a bridge to close the gap between the two.

Throughout the year, with your consent, your child would be paired with a “Peer Buddy” to take part in afterschool activities like hanging out at Live Oak sports games, participating in movie nights, and sponsoring fun nights that include games, arts & crafts and sports. We hosted 12 events last year, and we participated in about 15, which equaled to 1-2 activities per month. You are more than welcome to be present at all of these activities. In addition to hanging out together outside of school, Peer Buddies will also spend time with their Buddy during the week at school, during recess, and other functions. If participating, you will receive a newsletter of upcoming events so you can be aware of different activities that will be coming up.

Because it is an important part of this club for our “Buddies” to create long-lasting friendships, your child will be paired with a Peer Buddy that most closely matches his or her personality and personal interests. The selection of Peer Buddies will be very extensive and include an application and an interview. There will be other students, “Helpers,” that will not be paired with a Buddy, but will help run activities. You will also have an opportunity to meet with your child’s Peer Buddy at the first group activity. There will also be a “Code of Conduct” that Peer Buddies will have to follow. You will receive a copy of this, as well as other documents later in the year.

If you would like for your child to be a part of the club, please sign below and provide your email address and phone number so the club sponsors, Mrs. B. Aucoin (High School 101 teacher from Live Oak High School ) and Mrs. Bonura (Special Education teacher at Live Oak High School), can share information about activities. *This club does* **not** *cost any money to join*. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. B. Aucoin at Brandi.Aucoin@lpsb.org or Mrs. Bonura at Jessica.Bonura@lpsb.org. Also, please check out the club website at www.liveoakreach.com for more information.

Please return this paper by Friday, August 17, 2012.

***R.E.A.C.H. Club Sponsors***

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I give permission for my child to be a part of R.E.A.C.H. Club.

Child’s Name:

My email address:

My phone number:

Signature: X