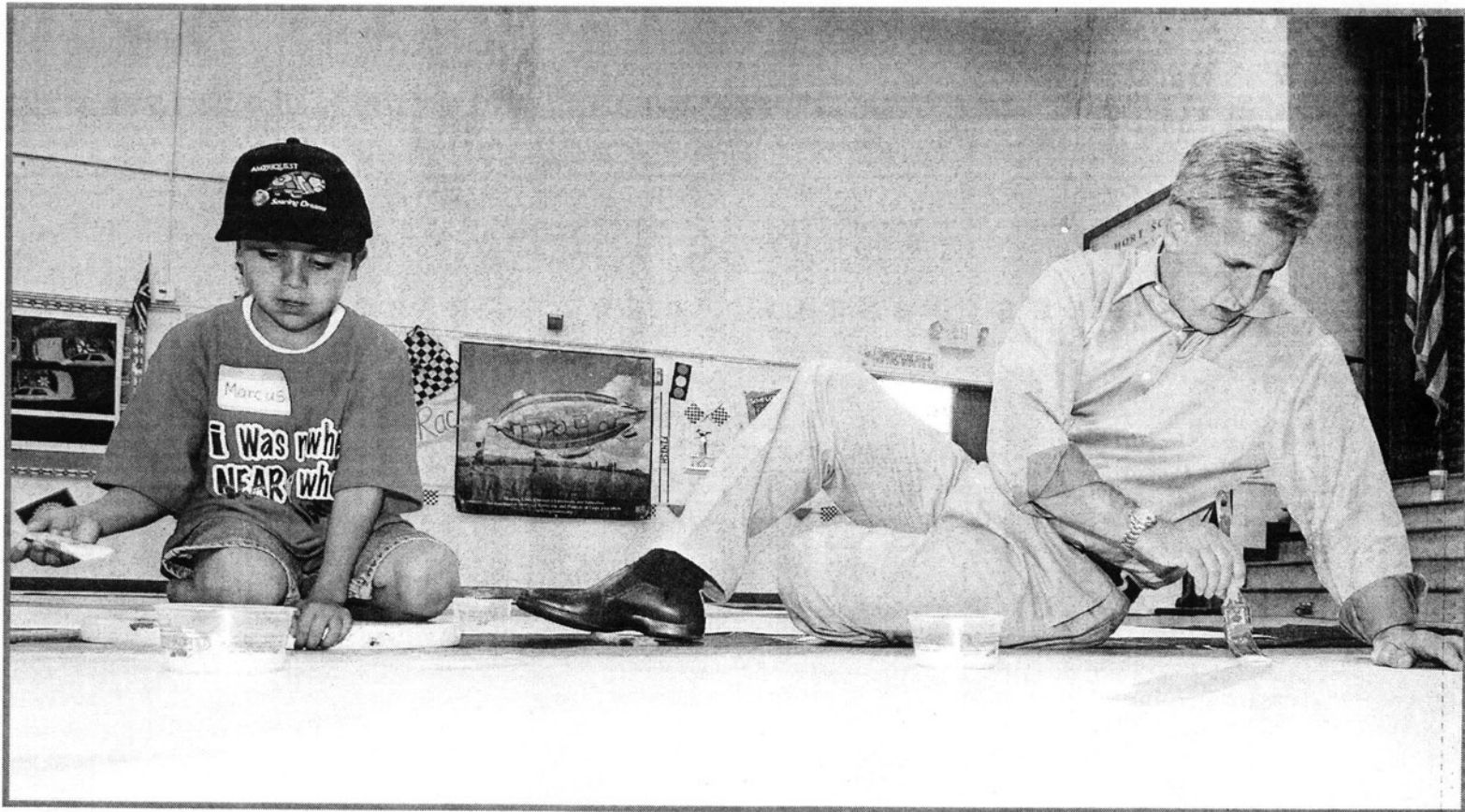


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2004

The Bakersfield Californian

A Thousand Words



ROGER HORNBACK / THE CALIFORNIAN

Marcus Esqueda, 7, and Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, paint a panel Friday at Hort School in east Bakersfield. The panel will be wrapped around a passenger blimp that will fly over major sporting events and public ceremonies across the nation. More than 6,000 kids from across the country will contribute to what will become a 40,000-square-foot panel. The program, called Soaring Dreams, is a collaboration between Ameriquest Mortgage and Portraits of Hope to encourage after-school programs.