

# The Kino Connection

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## Senior Profile: Ian Windsor Wheeler

Although he's been at Kino for only 2 years, Ian Wheeler has become a treasured member of Kino's community. He has the ability to tell the straight truth. While it may make you mad at times, he's usually right and has a way of making you think about changing the thing he's confronted you about. The next time you talk to him, he's instantly forgiven due to his charming personality and sweet smile. He also has the amazing ability to make you smile-even when you really don't feel like it. Felice says "He's really honest even when it's hard to be honest...Ian is like the weather in New England: If you don't like it, wait ten minutes"



So who is this unique young man? Ian is one of our many seniors this year.

Ian moved to Tucson from New England in 2003. For his sophomore year he attending Pueblo. "Pueblo wasn't the sort of environment I wanted to be in, academically or socially." When he visited Kino in April of 2004, he was amazed. "It was right before the yard sale, stuff was everywhere, everything was a mess! I remember thinking "This is awesome!"

Ian started attending Kino in September of 2004. He thinks that Kino is an incredible environment where people are free to learn anything they're interested in. "I could learn what I wanted, when I wanted, and when I was ready- without it being shoved down my throat."

"I've been able to pursue ideas and subjects that personally interested me. There are a lot more opportunities available for me than there ever was at a public school." Ian says this has been beneficial towards his writing- because he had more free time to work on it, and because he's had Felice mentoring him. "I believe that people come into other peoples lives for reasons. Felice has inspired me a lot and my writing has improved dramatically."

He has changed in quite a few more ways than just his writing.

Ian used to be known for walking around the school

continuously with his headphones on.

"I was really defensive when I first started Kino. I was angry with myself and others around me." When he left his home in Rhode Island Ian hated the idea of living anywhere else. He now feels thankful; he's made some of the best and closest friends that he's ever had.

Now when you see Ian, he usually has a big grin on his face, is waving his arms around while talking and joking with his many friends, or leading a school meeting, or thoughtfully writing or reading in a quiet space. "I learned to love myself, and Kino has helped me come to that."

Ian's senior project consists of a book of poems. "The reason I'm putting together a collection of my poetry for my senior project is because I have been writing poetry since I was in 6th grade. It has always been my outlet so I could personally divulge how I felt onto a piece of paper and not go insane during the most trying times of my life. I continued to write for that reason until I felt that I was ready to share my work. This project is extremely important to me, because it shows how I have grown as a writer, and an individual, over the past several years. I am also extremely pleased with the fact that I have recently discovered my poetic voice without losing touch with the meaning by muddling it with overdramatic metaphors in the process as my previous works suffered from"

Ian's future plans are to go to college in New England. "I definitely want to go to college. It was debatable for a bit, but I really want to go." He plans to take creative writing and English classes--possibly leading to a career in poetry or as an English teacher. History is also something he loves and would like to pursue.

Sadly, Ian will be graduating Kino early, on May 10th, 2006. He's leaving the next day to move back to New England.

## CALENDAR

April 25

Board Meeting 7 pm

April 29

Yard Sale

May 18

Senior Project Sharing /  
General Meeting 7 pm

May 26

Graduation, 7 pm

### Yard Sale! April 29!

Start bringing in your donations!  
Sign up sheet for workers in the  
front office!

# Evil Invaders From Above!!!

By Gavin Campbell

Hee hee hee, the title of this article has absolutely nothing to do with what the article is about, but you must admit that it's a great eye catcher, right? Yeah I thought so too. **No! No! Wait! Don't stop reading!** I promise that this article on "mundane playground activities" will be just as interesting!

You see, for the past several weeks I have been interviewing students about their playground activities.

I spied my first victim and rushed over. "Matt, what have you been doing on the playground these days?!" He answered in a bored tone, "Well, the most obvious thing you do on a playground, play." What a warm reception!

A while later I saw Heather and Asha walking together over by Chris's homeroom. Quickly I walked up and, with a smile, rattled off my question. "What have you two been doing outside on the playground lately?" Promptly, as if on cue, they both burst out laughing. When they could control themselves, Heather said, "I don't do anything on the playground." Then they walked away amidst another bout of giggles. At first I wasn't sure whether to be offended or not, but then I realized what they had been laughing about. It was obvious. They were so happy to be a part of my Kino Connection article that they just couldn't contain their joy!

Moving on, Cassandra said, "I play with my friends, and I usually play on the tire-swing and slide." Chelsea said, "I go on the balance beam," and Adam replied with, "I just talk to people."

Then I spied Rio, "Hey Rio, what do you do on the playground?" "Hardly anything because it's cold out there," he answered. "Once and a while I meditate... to Ganesh... he is the god with the elephant head. The mover of obstacles."

I found Leta in the library, "What have you been doing on the playground lately?" "(Long pause)... um... I wander around... and try to find structures that kids have been making, and uh, sometimes I sit on a rock." Ah, very calm, very meditative, spoken in true Leta fashion.

I found Zasha in humanities. "We play gangsta soccer," she told me. The speaker of the following quote wishes to remain anonymous. "(We) play gangster soccer, we beat up little kids." Interesting, very interesting. Let's see what the little kids had to say.

Louis seemed quite eager to answer my question. "Well, I've played basketball, slide, tire-swing, and that's about everything," he announced. I talked with little Ian next. "I just play oof", he informed me. Then, promptly, he demonstrated by hitting himself on the head and falling down. You know, if he keeps this up, I think he has a pretty good shot at becoming a stuntman someday. Either way, it looks like Mr. or Mrs. Anonymous can stop beating up little kids. They seem to be quite capable of doing it themselves.



Next I wandered on over to Ariel Varner's statement of, "We just wander out pretty far off Patty's Place." Which is almost synonymous with Sophia's statement of, "Well I like to walk around. (I) like to break the rules by climbing the tree that's out of bounds," but not nearly as vague as Joseph's statement of, "I just walk around." Which, don't get me wrong, is quite concise and to the point.

That concludes my series on the "walkers". Next up, my "those people out there on the playground who play sports" group. To be continued . . .

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## The Easter Egg Hunt

by Ian Downs

This year we (Julie's homeroom) decided we'd have a big Easter egg hunt. We felt we should include the whole school, so we brought in some candy and other objects for the hunt (oh, I got jelly beans, stickers, tattoos, and a starburst whoopee.)

After we got all the supplies together and spent most of Friday morning homeroom filling eggs, we were ready for the hunt. JULIE, Thomas O, Stefani and Aidan hid the eggs all over the playground. At the time of the hunt, we let the little kids go out the door first. Then the rest of us rushed out. It was every man for himself. I mean, the second you saw an egg, by the time you got to it someone else had gotten it. But I can't complain-- I hit the jackpot. (How many did you get? If you got more than 20, you stole someone else's bag -- just kidding.)

Anyway, it was a fun activity and I know most people had a great time.