

## Senior Profile: Ariel Porter

by Jonathan Green

Ariel Porter was born in TMC Hospital in Tucson, Arizona, on March 16, 1988. She first attended Second Street School, where she met Tana. (She doesn't remember this, however.) For kindergarten, Ariel went to Whitmore. She stayed at Whitmore until fourth grade, but she didn't finish the year there. Her sister Arcadia had started attending Kino and, when Ariel's fourth grade teacher was unhelpful, she decided to transfer. Ariel was very quiet at first. And she was terrified of the older students. ("Why don't these little kids fear ME now?" Ariel asks.) When Leta and Ariel became friends, Leta helped her out of her shell. Now she can spit further than any of the boys.

Many of Ariel's fondest memories involve a close group of friends who have been at Kino for many years together-- including Leta, Tana, and Maya. She says she still isn't sure if the fairies that Leta and Maya tried to convince her lived in the fairy houses they built outside are real.)

Ariel has been at Kino for many years and has experienced many of its finer moments, such as the field trips to Mexico (including the trip where the Kino van was hit by a renegade fire truck driven by twelve-year-olds). She was also there on the all girl hiking trip to Aravaipa when the van got stuck in the sand and they used their warrior-women spirits to overcome the crisis. \*

Ariel has had several outside jobs while going to school. Her first was when she was a freshman. She worked for a woman with her own catering service and earned \$20 an hour (a lot more than she earns now). Then she worked at El Con Century Theater, where she was a manager. Last semester she worked at Target, and now she works in the Target's Starbucks. Ariel used to work 40 hours a week, but she says it distracted her from school. She now works 12 to 18 hours a week, but she doesn't regret all the work she's done outside of school. "I wanted to make my own money and meet more people," she says. "I've met some of the most awesome people I know through work."

This year Ariel helped out at the International Rescue Committee for community service. She went grocery shopping for a family of refugees and helped organize donations of clothing and household items. Ariel has been accepted at NAU, but she plans to take a year off after graduation. "I think it's necessary for me to take a break from school and clear my thoughts. I also think I should know what I want to do or be before spending thousands of dollars in college." Her senior project, a photography exhibit of her own work, will be set up for Senior Project Night, Thursday, May 18.

\* see Leta's version of this story on page two



Ariel's friends have the following comments to make about her:

Jonathan says, "She's the apple of my eye."

Leta says, ""She's the orange of my eye."

"She's insane," says Andrew D

"She's a poodle and I love her, always," says Tana.

Ariel says, "She's brilliant."

"Ariel is incredibly competent, organized and hardworking. People may not realize that she's been the student editor of the Kino Connection all year -- at the computer every Wednesday making sure we meet the weekly deadline. I will miss her enormously." -- Ann

## Senior Project Sharing / General Meeting Tomorrow (Thursday) May 18, 7 pm

It's a cumbersome name for a special evening here at Kino. It's the general meeting for all members of Kino Learning Center, Inc: that is, the families of enrolled students. It's also the time for this year's graduating seniors to present their senior projects. These are independent projects they've been working on most of the year. For many of them, the projects have been an opportunity to explore and expand on interests or passions they have had for years.

Rio and Ian D presented an alternative version of the after-life in their performance this morning of "The Tape," directed by Gavin.



## Finishing Up the Year in Middle Level Language Arts

There's always so much stuff going on at Kino that we never even mention in the Kino Connection. The Middle Level language arts center, for example, is usually teeming with activity -- sometimes long range or planned projects, sometimes ideas that seems to spring up spontaneously, like the time everyone decided to make fake IDs for themselves. (Julie pointed out that they were actually real IDs, since all the information was accurate, but it was more fun to call them fake IDs.)

There have been two groups listening to Julie read Narnia books out loud, and they are both nearly done with both books -- Voyage of the Dawn Treader and The Last Battle.

Inspired by an Earth Day activity, many students designed their own parks, which are on display in the front hall. They hiked and picnicked in Madera Canyon and brought back wasp galls. Dissecting them, they found wasps in all stages of development.

Right now Julie says lots of reading is going on and tons and tons of writing. They've been writing stories where one author begins the story and another author finishes it. They've even been writing in hieroglyphics

Finally, students have been working on their portfolios. They've been reflecting on the work they've done all year, choosing projects and work they're proud of, putting in photographs, deciding what they want to remember about this year.

And they're celebrating! They had a Middle Level end of the year party at Bedrocks. Next week they'll be having a pizza party to celebrate the middle level students who will be going on to junior high next year.

### **Early Childhood Snacks- May 22 - 26**

Monday	fresh strawberries
Tuesday	watermelon
Wednesday	fruit smoothies
Thursday	pretzels and dip
Friday	yogurt and oranges

milk and juice

## And More Finishing Up . . .

Jen says the hiking class will be taking one last long hike this year. She got a permit for them to hike in Aravaipa Canyon next Thursday. Some of their memorable hikes have been to Seven Falls, Ventana Canyon, Pima Canyon, Wasson Peak, and Mount Lemmon ("where we ate pie"). Several students used the hiking class as a credit earning class; some hiked for the fun of it. One of the requirements for earning credit was to plan and lead at least one hike.

Check out the next Food Conspiracy newsletter for a picture of Jen's science class. They had been studying nutrition, which led to learning about genetically modified food, which then led to a field trip to the Food Conspiracy.

Two of Pollyanna's science students have prepared Power Point presentations and are going to be making a graduate school-type oral defense of their work under Polyanna's and Ed's rigorous questioning. Jonathan K has been researching the mechanics and chemistry of salt water aquariums. Elliott had been exploring the physics of music, building a hurdy-gurdy and restoring a Rhodes electric piano.

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Leta's version of the story of how they used their warrior-women spirit on the Arivaipa trip: "Most of us were sitting in the van 'to give it stability.' Laurie said, 'We need somebody to push the van,' and we all said, "Ariel is the strongest.'"

## CALENDAR

May 18	Senior Project Sharing / General Meeting 7 pm
May 26	Graduation, 7 pm
5/31- 6/1	Parent / Student / Teacher conferences