

THE KINO CONNECTION

Kino School • 520-297-7278 • 6625 N. First Ave. 85718 • Tucson, Arizona • info@kinoschool.org • www.kinoschool.org

Kino Parents

Welcome to the School Year Potluck

September 20, 5:30

Bring something to share and your excitement for Kino

A group of parent has been organizing a new and improved Kino Parents' Group. To kick off the year, they are hosting a pot luck get together next Wednesday, September 20. The potluck will start at 5:30 here at school. It will be a chance for all of us to get to know each other, talk about what we as parents want to bring to Kino this year, and talk about what we would like to see in a parents' group.

Then at 7:00 the same evening, the Kino Board of Directors will be having a meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting as well.

Looking Forward to: **The Book Breakfast**

The Book Dinner has been one of the oldest Kino traditions, dating back to way before most of us can remember. Three years ago we decided to modify it slightly. For those who find weekend events easier to attend than events on weekday evenings, we changed it to a Saturday morning breakfast.

But the essence of the tradition is unchanged. For the Book Breakfast, as with the old Book Dinner, Kino teachers and staff invite you to come enjoy a meal they have prepared. Last year the breakfast included pancakes, cute little omelettes, sausages, a variety of drinks, fruit and pastries. The cost of admission is a book per person.

The Book Breakfast is one of the principal ways we acquire books for the Kino library. Bring in a brand new book you think students will enjoy — it could be one you and your family have liked, one on a topic your child is studying this year, or you can ask one of the teachers for suggestions. If you are stumped or can't get to the bookstore, you can

There will be a raffle at the Book Breakfast. First prize is a \$100 gift certificate to Bookmans Used Book Store; second prize a \$25 gift certificate to Antigone Books; third prize a book of Piratology. Tickets will be on sale at the pot luck or you can buy them directly from Lisa Watmore if you see her. Tickets are \$2.00 each / 3 for \$5.00.

Mention that you are buying a book for the Kino book dinner at Antigone Bookstore and you will get 10% off!

What teachers really talk about when students aren't around
Last week we related a droll conversation about paramecium. It was really protozoans. We apologize for any inconvenience.



Chris's Homeroom Plans The Great Road Trip

By Andrew Pawlicki-Sinclair

At Kino, field trips are always a big part of the learning experience and bonding process. The latter is especially important for homerooms.

Chris' homeroom has been planning the extreme: a week long road trip through New Mexico and Arizona. The students in the homeroom have been looking at the different routes, places to go, what will work with the allotted time, and the cost of gasoline.

Because of the high price of gasoline, the trip has become quite costly. Thus, Chris' homeroom has set up a snack bar during lunch for the purpose of raising money, to ensure the trip's success.

The snack bar has tons of yummy food: doughnuts, little brownies, cookies, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, lemonade, and grilled cheese sandwiches, which are currently very popular.

Learning More About Learning At Kino

Suggested reading: Alfie Kohn, "Why and How to Let Students Decide," PHI DELTA KAPPAN, September, 1993. A copy of this article can be found on the Parents' Bulletin Board in the front hall or on Alfie Kohn's website at <http://www.alfiekohn.com/articles.htm>

Kino students have the opportunity and the power to make decisions for themselves on many different levels. (The decisions will vary to some extent depending on age; children under 6 can't choose to go on the big kids' playground, for example.)

They choose what classes they will take and, within individual classes, they have a democratic voice in deciding

what the class will be like. They participate in decisions about which books to read and which topics to pursue. They design independent projects where they determine for themselves, using a teacher as an advisor, what they want to learn and how they will go about learning it. They have considerable freedom to organize their days. If they have not chosen to fill their schedule with classes, they have free time in which to decide to go outside, go to the art center, read a book, talk to friends (who may be teachers), work on a computer, make a movie, play the piano, build with blocks, play go or chess — the list is endless.

They have the power to make many decisions through school meetings, though for the past few years students seem happy with a gentle anarchy. (For example, the last time rules about talking in the library were proposed, the students decided that if someone needed the library to be quiet, he or she could ask others to quiet down and they should respect the request.)

In "Why and How to Let Students Decide," Alfie Kohn describes some of the most compelling benefits of giving children the power to make decisions for themselves.

Our ultimate goal for our children is not for them to be good at sitting still and doing what they are told. Rather, what most of us want the most of all for our children is for them to learn to think for themselves and to take responsibility for themselves. We want them to have good values and we want them act on those values. A school setting like Kino's, where they are given many opportunities to be responsible and to exercise a power to choose, provides a better preparation for the future we really want for them.

In addition to this compelling reason for giving students the power to make choices, Kohn lists and footnotes many studies that have shown that students are much more motivated to learn when they have more say in what they are learning. Similarly, teachers are happier when they are collaborating with students instead of controlling them. Finally, giving students opportunities to make their own decisions is respectful, and students are deserving of respect.



One of the choices students have at Kino is to teach a class themselves. This year, Sophia is teaching a class on Astrology

Playground Monitors ! Hooray!

It's traditional to start the year with a Kino Connection article encouraging people volunteer as playground monitors. We usually explain how it's a good way to hang out at school and get to know all the kids, that it is important for students to be able to play outside, that by having regular monitors students can exercise more choice in how they spend their day.

This year, we get to start the year with an enormous **Thank You!** Thank you to everyone for volunteering so readily! Kim reports that we have monitors outside nearly all day every day! This is so terrific!

It also makes a big difference to the volunteers who organize the playground monitors for us to have people who let them know they are happy to help out. We are going to need monitors all year long, so we can always use more. If you can do some playground monitoring, please call Patty O'Keefe-Downs, Ian's and Matthew's mother. Her number is 498-4982.

So a great big thank you to all the monitors, and to Patty for taking on the job of organizing them, and to Kim McClintock, Michael's mother, who is using her years of experience as our monitor organizer to get her started.

Do you enjoy selling stuff on e-bay?

Ed says that Kino has a variety of things, like video and photography equipment— that will bring a better price on e-bay than it will at a yard sale, but he doesn't have the time to take care of selling it himself. Is there anyone out there who would be able to take on this job for us? If you are interested, you can call Ed on his cell phone (349-8410) or leave a message with Diana (297-