

THE KINO CONNECTION

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AUCTION TALK

The Silent Auction is the main Kino fundraiser of the year. The funds we raise from this year's auction will be contributed to the cost of our new Kino van. "The World Is Our Classroom." We really mean it. We have been lost without our vans and our field trips.

The Silent Auction is critical to our fundraising. However, the auction also provides an opportunity for the entire Kino Community to come together not only for a common purpose, but also to socialize and have fun.

We have some incredible packages for you to bid on:

Two Southwest Airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States with no blackout dates.

A one-week timeshare in Hawaii.

Two all day park passes to Disneyland.

Four-night stay in a waterfront home in San Carlos, Mexico.

A basketball autographed by the Arizona Wildcats.

\$75 gift certificate to Bellissimo Ristorante.

Sunday brunch for two at the Tequila Factory and Mexican Restaurant.

Assorted art work.

A full set of china.

Gift certificates from Bookman's.

Handmade theme baskets created by each homeroom.

A \$500 cash raffle.

And much more.

How can you help make the auction an even greater success? Do you have goods or services you could donate? We can offer items for bidding such as interior decorating, massage therapy, house sitting, dog walking, professional photography, painting, landscaping, legal services, catering . . . What else can you think of? Call Lisa Watmore at school or on her cell (661-1139). She would love to hear your ideas.

You can help by picking up invitations and brochures at school to hand out to your friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

You can help by attending the auction, finding something wonderful to bid on, and giving your financial support to this major fundraising event.

The spirit of the Kino Community is not only created by students, teachers, and staff—but also by the families and friends of our students, teachers, and staff. We hope you will set aside April 26 as a special day to show your commitment to Kino's philosophy and to your children—our students—who grow and learn here.



KINO ARCHEOLOGY

We're not going to mention any names, but we recently received a *big* box of Kino library books from the father of an old Kino student who recently cleaned her room. The books seem to represent about six years' archeological strata, from the top layer of senior year to, hypothetically, mid-junior high, which must have been when she *last* cleaned her room. Here is a list of the artifacts: *Complete Works of William Shakespeare; Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft; The Iliad; The Quran; Child of the Wolves; Walk Two Moons; Hank the Cowdog; Star Wars Episode 1; The Devil's Arithmetic; The Castle of Llyr; The Great Gatsby; What Life Was Like in the Age of Chivalry; The Renaissance; The Coffin Quilt: The Feud Between the Hatfields and the McCoys; The Dancing Bear; The Odyssey; Bellwether; Animal Farm; Twenty and Ten; Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life; Time Cat; Huckleberry Finn; Romeo and Juliet; A Separate Peace; Gulliver's Travels; 2001: A Space Odyssey; The Wonderful World of Henry Sugar; Vanity Fair; Star Wars; Robert Frost's Poems; The Black Cauldron; Worldly Goods: A New History of the Renaissance; Thomas Moore's Utopia; The Book of Three; and Star Wars: Jedi Apprentice.*

NO YARD SALE THIS SPRING

Kino School will not hold the Great Kino Yard Sale this spring. So hold on to your stuff for next fall if you can.

We are putting all of our energies into the Silent Auction. The preparations are going strong and we have lots of wonderful items for you to bid on.

Remember that the Silent Auction will take place on April 26, not April 12.

SCHOOLS IN FINLAND

Finland has been in the news recently because its students came out on top in an international assessment of teenagers in math and science. They also have ranked top in the world in literacy.

While undoubtedly a number of factors play a part—and we wouldn't want to fall into the post hoc ergo propter hoc fallacy—the features of Finnish schools that have been discussed in the news sound like Kino:

Finnish students spend the first 9 years of school, from age 7 through 15, in the same school. Teachers and students get to know each other well, since students grow up there.

Teachers in Finland are given great latitude to modify curriculum and teaching styles, so they can adjust their teaching to best suit the students.

Schools are not ranked or compared with each other. There are no standardized tests until students are older than 15.

Children are not separated from each other based on academic ability.

Learning is valued for its own sake, not as a means to get a job or get into the right college.

And "Teachers are revered!"

The articles I read can be found on line:

Walt Gardner, "Lessons from Finland: The Way to Education Excellence," Common Dreams News Center (Feb. 27, 2008)

Sean Coughlan, "School That Becomes a Family," BBC News (Nov. 23, 2004).

Ann Davis