

The Kino Connection

September 5, 2008
Vol. 19, No. 1

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

So Far So Good

We're only a week into school and already so much has been accomplished. We started with a clean, freshly painted school, thanks to a lot of hard work over the summer and at the Saturday clean-up day. We've been making new friends, trying to fit as much as possible into class schedules, and having fun.

Heather's homeroom started the year by writing notes to their future selves. The notes were all placed in a bottle and buried in a safe and secret place. They'll dig it up at the end of the year and reread what they wrote.

This morning midlevel students harvested prickly pear fruit, which they will use to make prickly pear jam. Working with both Heather and Jennifer, combining science and language arts, they will be learning about the desert and also writing their own books about the desert.

Libby and Mary Jane have been reading stories with the primary students that can be sung: My Favorite Things, Getting to Know You, and You Are My Sunshine. Today they had their first end-of-the-week celebration, enjoying fresh bread and fruit and a successful week of getting to know each other.

The History of Film class started the year learning about some of the earliest inventions for making moving pictures. People made their own live action flip books with photographs.

The Pirates class is watching Pirates of the Caribbean slowly, stopping it frequently to discuss clothes, ships, fighting styles, and anything else that prompts discussion.

Lots of kids are in Jack's I Hate to Write Class. By doing fire drills, where he says a word and students write down whatever pops into their heads (and then have fun sharing what they've written), Jack says students have fun writing without thinking they can't do it. It works!

In the Humanities center students have been hand building with clay, sewing, and doing origami. Julianna is making a flannel quilt for a new rabbit.

What else? Stay tuned next week.

Parking Lot Rules and Reminders

The most important reminder: We have lots of little kids. Go Slow! And some of those kids are no higher than a bumper, so please be very careful.

There's plenty of extra parking in the corral. The road to the corral is to your right as you are exiting the school. Please don't block the road by parking there.

Also remember -- the entrance is on the north and the exit is on the south. Our mailman needs to get to the mailbox, so don't park in front of it.

New Use for Old Money

Last year we collected over \$180 for the greenhouse and garden just by asking people for spare change. Chris says the money was used to buy 5 steel 2x4s and 150 feet of wire fencing. If you happen to have spare change, we are still collecting it. Look for the jar on the front desk just as you come in the front door.



Signing up for classes at High School orientation -- too many to choose among.

Book Breakfast: Saturday, September 20, starting at 9 am

The Book Dinner was a Kino tradition for more years than anyone can remember. A few years ago we tried something new — having a Book Breakfast instead. It seemed to suit everyone's schedules and appetites, so it's become the new tradition.

Each person brings a book for the Kino library. In exchange for the book, you'll get a great pancake breakfast cooked by the teachers and a chance to visit and get to know other members of the Kino community.

We encourage everyone who is interested to come join us, from friends and family members to old students who want to stay in touch. If you know someone who would like to join us, bring them along (with a book).

Don't know what book to donate? If you bring us something you think we'll like, a book you or your child would love to share, or a book on a topic your child is interested in, chances are we'll love to have it. Or you can donate money and let the teachers pick something out.

Coming Up

Sept. 20	Book Breakfast	9 am
Sept. 27	Library work day	9 am
Oct. 6	Board meeting	6 pm
Oct. 16 -17	No school -- Parent / Teacher / Student conferences	

Keep in Touch With What's Going On

Look for a paper Kino Connection coming home with your child most Fridays. If you don't get one, check the Kino website where the old Kino Connections are archived. You can also get the news about what's going on by checking the blog--- there's a link at www.kinoschool.org. And if Nancy has your e-mail address, she will remind you of important dates and events, and she will make sure you're among the first to know if anyone has lice. (No lice last year!)

If you ever have any questions, just ask! Homeroom teachers are often the best first people to talk to when you or your child has a question or problem, but everyone here is happy to help.

Kino Needs You!

One of the central tenets of Kino's philosophy is that we are truly a community and, as a community, we are dependent on the participation, cooperation, and contribution of every member. Students take on the responsibilities of being community members in a variety of ways, from making community decisions (drinks on the carpet!) to doing their share when it's time to clean up.

Kino families are community members too. When you sign the registration form, you promise that your family will help out at Kino at least 4 hours a month. We ask this for a number of reasons — it means we all get to know each other better; the school is enriched by the interests and talents of a bunch of amazing people; and kids get a lot out of seeing their parents' interest and involvement in their school. Plus, we keep tuition as low as possible and rely instead on families for lots of stuff, including playground monitoring, periodic cleanup days, and fundraisers.

It's not always easy to get involved at a new school. A good way to start is to be a playground monitor. Playing outside is very important: some of our most valuable learning occurs outdoors— playing, exploring, making fairy houses, experiencing the environment. Children also need time outside to renew their concentration for indoor classes. Other easy ways to help are to shelve a few library books when you are at school or help put away chairs after special events.

If you have time during the school day to monitor, please call Patti O'Keefe Downs, who is masterminding the playground schedule this year. Her number is 498-4982. Your help is needed and appreciated!