

The Kino Connection

Nov. 24, 2008
Vol. 19, No. 7

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Giving Thanks . . . for one another, for our opportunities, and for our time together here.

We are thankful for . . .

Friends and family - Rebekah

Tuesday and Thursday classes.
the library computers - Eli R
Jack Prohaska!
the metal shop
getting to work and play at Kino
Sometimes a Great Notion [they just finished
reading and discussing this book in Chris'
literature class]

jokes and frineds

Outside - Diego

a sanctuary, a friendship, a home - Rio

a moderately stimulating environment

all the great classes that Kino gives me the
choice of picking.

the cubbies Chris made - Matthew

Outside - Zach

my cats and dogs and Children's Memorial Park

my teachers and friends

here at Kino School

AJ's chai - Klair

being able to draw in the art center - Alex Vega

for Ann volunteering her time to Kino

friends and food and stuff - Austin

happiness

Lots o' books! I am thankful for the school library
-- Tyler

Trees - they give us air to breathe and paper - Ash

for playground monitors

cat, niece, family, computer, other stuff

the school

friends

I am thankful for the world.

Augustus the pigeon -- Alex Paige

for 'Gustus coming and I can feed him - Luka

Feeding Augustus -- by Luka



[There's a back story here. Augustus is a pigeon who used to live down in the chicken coop at Animal Center, but Libby rescued him and he now hangs out around the primary playground. While he isn't confined, he is so tame that kids can feed him from their hands. Last week, there was first one Cooper's hawk and then a pair who were hunting in the desert behind the school. Gus was nowhere to be found on Friday, and Libby didn't see him when she came up to school over the weekend. But there he was on Monday, safe and sound!]



Libby and MJ



I am most thankful for friends, for the food I get, for my family, and for the cool school I go to.

For the teachers who help you and tell
you where to go when you're hurt -
Ash

For my mom -- Lindsay
For my friends -- Phoebe



THINKING ABOUT KKS

We had a school wide meeting on Friday to talk about whether we should change our KK tradition.

We've been doing KKS -- Kris Kringles, or Secret Santas -- the same for as long as anyone can remember, which means we've been doing it this way at least 25 years. Within each homeroom, each student secretly draws the name of one other student. For the whole last week before winter vacation, five days, you bring a present a day for your KK.* The first 4 presents are supposed to be small, about a dollar, and the Friday present is a little larger. Some people don't stick to the dollar limit and some do, so it teaches people to be gracious recipients as well as thoughtful givers**.

This year someone suggested that we might think about doing KKS differently. Instead of spending money on presents for each other, we could use it to help people who are more in need. For example, at Casa Maria (the soup kitchen where we help) there isn't nearly enough food these days; people are being sent away hungry.

Everyone was at the meeting, which was held in Chris's home room area. Individual home rooms had already been discussing the question, so people came with a lot of good ideas and opinions.

For starters, students spoke about the purpose and the value of the KK tradition. As Jordan said (she wasn't there, but she told me on Thursday), "It isn't about receiving. It's about giving." Students who have been at Kino for years say it does make homerooms closer and does make you think about, and be more fond of, someone you may not have thought about before.

But in addition, it seemed that everyone at the meeting wanted to help people who are going without this year. Mary Jane pointed out that the money we spend adds up: even if we stuck to the dollar limit, that's about \$320 just for the first four days.

Pretty early on we all agreed that we wanted to do something different this year, either in addition to our regular KK tradition or as a modification of it.

There were a lot of great suggestions. Eli suggested that everyone give only handmade presents for the first four days. ("Who wouldn't love a pet rock?" he asked.) Chelsea suggested we could give presents that would be passed along as presents, in the spirit of giving a mitzvah. Others suggested that each homeroom could pick a charity or recipient for the first four days of giving and then give a KK to a homeroom member for the fifth day, or that the school as a whole could pick four charities for the first four days. People suggested many ways we could raise money before KK week.

After almost an hour of discussion, it was close to the end of the day and we needed to get to afternoon home room for at least a few minutes. Mary Jane said that it sounded like there was a consensus that we keep at least the last day before winter break for KK presents and a homeroom party, but that we were far from reaching an agreement about what else to do. She suggested that each home room could discuss this further, and that maybe each home room could come up with something different.

That sounded good to everyone.

* The terminology is odd because "KK" winds up referring either to the person giving the present or the person receiving it; you have to figure it out from context.

** Remember the year Felice decided her homeroom members need gracious recipient practice? She brought bags filled with miscellaneous trash and they practiced opening the bags, looking delighted, and saying thank you. It really helped!

Anatomy 101

Dottie, Frankie's mother, has been teaching primary children about their bodies. On Halloween they learned all about their bones. This week, for Thanksgiving, they learned about their digestive system, of course. They got to listen to their stomachs with a stethoscope.



This was the spot where I was going to write up my interview with Ethan, Erik, and Tyler about their experiences slaughtering, cooking, and eating their roosters as part of their sustainable eating project. But, as Tyler said, "I thought it was going to be a lot easier than it was." It's a good idea to remember to be thankful for the animals that feed us, but this is maybe not the time for a graphic description.

**No school November 26 - 28
Happy Thanksgiving !**