

# The Kino Connection

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## What Have We Been Up To (Part II)?

Here's a continuation of last week's list: What teachers told me when I asked what they are doing these days.

Vanessa's Classics class is finishing *Wuthering Heights*. Their next book may be *The Bell Jar*.

The Rigorous Writing class is through with personal essays for the time being and has begun to work on research papers. Soon the class will take a field trip to the Main library downtown to check out its resources.

In History of Cinema, students recently watched Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*. For their weekly reflection essay, Vanessa has asked them whether it was in poor taste, considering what was happening for real in Germany at the time it was made. Today they had a spirited discussion about why people laugh at slapstick humor.

Vanessa says that students in the ceramics class are finishing up big projects that can't be described here because they may be presents.

Chelsea was in charge of the Figure Drawing class last week and, Vanessa says, did an fantastic job.

Each of the students in the Trials and Tribulations class has created the facts for a criminal trial, including crime scene reports, witness statements, and in some cases physical evidence. The class has already conducted four trials, each ending in an acquittal. Since Ethan has amiably played the role of the defendant in each of the trials, it looks like the crime wave will continue until one of the teams of lawyers gets a conviction.



Contemplating the lapse rate formula

Last week Johnny's pre-Algebra class took an overnight camping trip to Mount Lemmon. Planning a trip involves a lot of math! To come up with a budget for the trip, they needed to figure out the miles they'd drive and their gas mileage. They needed to price food (adding the tax, which means percentages), figure out number of servings, and modify recipes. They used the lapse rate formula to forecast the weather for a higher altitude.

Now will Johnny be able to think up an equally fun way to learn about proportions, their next topic?



What we learned at the Dinosaur Museum

## What Have We Been Up To (Part II)? (cont.)

The World History class is well into 19th century Russia. Some students have decided to read War and Peace. The Iliad class is, well, reading the Iliad.

Ed says kids in the shop have been messing around in a variety of ways: inventing vehicles, blacksmithing, grinding knives, woodturning, and working with brass.

For the Algebra class, Johnny has been relating simple trigonometric ratios to real life triangles. For example, they've been looking at the distance and elevation change in the stairs of the north porch.

Earth class has most recently been learning about the way the drug trade in Afghanistan funds terrorists. They are talking about making a video with characters from all of the countries they have learned about so far.

Students in Chris' Journalism class have each chosen a topic about southern Arizona and are working on writing long articles. Chris was amazed at how much they learned on their field trip to the Arizona Historical Society.

The skits class was brainstorming about making a stop action movie loosely based on Star Wars. Someone mentioned that the storm troopers looked a lot like marshmallows. Once they decided that rebel alliance could be made out of graham crackers, the title practically wrote itself: *Star S'Mores!*

Chris says there's been a lot of work on the greenhouse lately, with lots of kids working on the time consuming cobbling.

After building some models, the Boatbuilding class is now cutting out the parts for a 14 foot rowboat. They are also doing some rope work.

Marine Biology students are working on individual projects, learning about the trials and errors of research.

Jack says the I Hate to Write Class has expanded into reading, also. Classes often start with fire drills, which he calls, "the weightlifting exercises of writing." Someone will suggest a word, and then everyone will write down whatever comes to mind. After a minute of writing, people share what they've written.

The timing for offering a class on Pirates couldn't have been better. Jack says the class talks at least once a week about what is going on with the Somalia pirates. They are also learning pirate history and will be focusing on specific pirates.

Kino students got front row seats at the ATC matinee of Hair this Wednesday. For the finale everyone got up on stage and rocked out with the performers!

## Help Chris Provide a Santa's Workshop

Next week Chris is setting up a craft-y center where kids can make presents and ornaments. You can help by donating any supplies you think might be useful or inspirational -- popsicle sticks, yarn (for god's eyes and other things), styrofoam balls, beads, baubles, pine cones, clothes pins, glitter, sequins. and so on.



It takes cooperation to build a maze

Jennifer and the middle level students have been reading **The Tale of Despereaux**, whose mouse hero winds up in a rat-infested dungeon that contains a maze. One thing leading to another, they decided to build a maze to test the intelligence of Lovely, our mouse, and Blanche, the rat. Apparently Lovely is the smartest; she refused to have anything to do with it.

### Coming Up

Dec. 19	Last day of school before Winter Break
Jan. 5	Welcome back to school!
Jan. 12	Board meeting 6 pm

**Our Winter Music Concert is December 17, starting at 7 pm. It will be a musical feast, featuring students of all ages!**