

The Kino Connection

March 6, 2009
Vol. 19, No. 15

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Lego Legends

"Children have more need of models than of critics."

-- Joseph Joubert

Mark B brought in his utterly cool Lego replica of the Hotspur to show the Pirates class a couple of weeks ago. The Hotspur is the 20 gun sloop captained by Horatio Hornblower in some of his earlier adventures, written by C.S. Forester. Mark designed the model himself, using the ship from the television version of the Hornblower stories for his references. He said he started the project towards the end of Christmas vacation and finished it February 12.

You can see lots of details -- like into the gun deck, (because the main deck lifts off!) and close ups of the characters by going to brickshelf.com and searching for the member SGlumberg. Or you can follow the link on the Kino blog.



Max's letter to the editor appeared in the March 4 **Arizona Daily Star**:

Litter begets litter, so please stop

Scientists have reported that signs of disorderly behavior — like graffiti and litter — trigger more disorderly behavior and lead to neighborhood decay. Walking along North First Avenue to Kino School, we found the path was a mess, littered with everything from pieces of shredded tire to broken beer bottles. It was a disgusting and unsafe place, especially for people in sandals.

We decided to keep track of the weight of trash we collected, and found that approximately 2.2 pounds of litter appeared per week. In addition we picked up 3,623 cigarette butts in two-tenths of a mile on one side of First Avenue, an estimated 18,115 butts per mile along one side of First Avenue.

We hope people will realize how big a problem littering is for our Tucson neighborhoods and think before they toss out trash and cigarettes for other people to walk through.

Max Hassen, 11

Student, Kino School, Tucson

Georgiana Boyer

Retired medical research, Tucson

Do Remember:

Big Clean Up day tomorrow at the Animal Center. Bring your work gloves!

A recent **New York Times** article by Tara Parker-Pope, "The 3 R's? A Fourth is Crucial, Too: Recess," may be of interest. It relays the result of a study reported in the journal **Pediatrics**: "Play and down time may be as important to a child's academic experience as reading, science and math and that regular recess, fitness or nature time can influence behavior, concentration, and even grades."

You can read more about the study, which looked at the behavior of 11,000 children ages 8 and 9 in February 24, 2009, New Times archived on the internet, or you can see it on the bulletin board in the front hall.

"There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life."

--- Sister Mary Rose McGeedy

So Much Going On

"If children grew up according to early indications, we should have nothing but geniuses." -- Goethe

The student teacher ratio that you get just by dividing the number of students at Kino by the number of teachers is an impressive enough 7 to 1 – but it doesn't begin to describe the wealth of choices and individual attention we're able to give students.

The primary program is especially enriched this year by the participation of lots of parents, students, and other volunteers.

For a primary student, the day begins in homeroom, of course. At 9:00, the Primary Language Arts center gets into full swing with Libby and Mary Jane. They usually start with talking – students may bring in things to show, or just talk about what's on their minds. Libby or Mary Jane will read a story, they may all sing songs, and there will be an activity that enhances the story, which might involve drawing or writing. This week they've been reading stories about butterflies; Libby had butterfly puzzles and butterfly manipulatives illustrating the butterflies' life cycle.

While there are set times within the week for math (Mary Lou and Heather), science (Heather), Spanish (Marielena), and music (Lisa), all of these teachers are often also available when kids just want to drop in. Judy is always in the art center, ready to suggest art projects or help students follow their own interests. Lisa also always welcomes primary students to come into the music room. Mary Lou is busy with older students in the mornings, but Heather is available for math then, and Mary Lou has time on the afternoons for math games and activities. Being outside is an important part of the day. The Primary students have their own back yard, complete with chicken. As long as a grown up is available to monitor, they may choose to play outside. Joel Rubin has been volunteering regularly this year to help out with that. While students are making choices all over the school, Mary Jane then has time to work with students individually with reading and writing. Marilena often has a fun activity— cooking, making something, singing— that incorporates Spanish.

This semester, Al is spending time in all the centers, working with small groups as well as individuals. On Monday afternoons, primary students hike in the desert with Heather or work on their treehouse. Other afternoons, Heather usually has something going on that is sticky or gooey, or that requires safety goggles – that is, Science. But every week offers something new. For example, this week, Anna and Jennifer included Primary students in the gardening they were doing with the middle level students. There are special field trips just for younger students, like a trip to Mount Lemmon to

play in the snow, or younger students might go on a trip with an older group – like with Anna's high school biology class. Sometimes younger students visit Ed in the metal shop.

On Wednesdays, Julianna's parents, Leah and Sam, come to school with a cooking project. Caroline's mother Elaine, who is an early childhood teacher, works with Mary Jane in the mornings. Frankie's mother Dottie has been coming to school once a month gradually teaching children all about their bodies.

The high school students who are taking Child Development are also important. As part of the class requirements, Ashley, Lindsay, and Ian each spend 2 hours a week working with Mary Jane in the Language Arts Center, and Jonna works with Heather.

In this article, I've not been trying to describe what primary students do but rather to marvel at the number of people who are available to help them. The times when a child is doing something independent of grown ups, either alone or in a group, can be the most valuable. With so many choices, and so many grown ups available to watch and ready to help, the primary program has exceptional flexibility. Primary students are often free to choose whether to work with a teacher or not. They have time to use their imaginations and use the resources of the school. They pretend, they build, they create their own games, they learn to get along with each other.



Square dancing at the Rodeo cook out



Reading to Effel in the big chair



Playing chess