

The Kino Connection

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A Time to Remember to be Thankful

We've been getting into the holiday spirit by thinking about who and what we are thankful for.

Ian is thankful for Kino and for Community, and he says so in big colorful letters. Alexander is thankful for red jelly beans. Matthew M is thankful for cell phones, Lilli for cakes, and Kaelan for his parents.

Maya is thankful for life and friends. Alex V is thankful because "I make a heart for my mom." Josef is thankful for time and for shoes, "'cause without them my feet would hurt."



Luka is thankful he's still alive; Ariel is thankful for the time she gets to spend with the people she loves.

Matthew D is thankful for family, firends, and video games.

Someone anonymous is thankful for a bunch of things: "for the friend who just brought me a book and one of ther pencils; for my sense of empathy; and that I inherited her father's sense of humor."



Griffin is thankful for the world.

Lela says, "I'm thankful for my friends, family, and my dog and chickens, and Ox my doll and Daffodil my doll."

... And Enjoy Being a Community

We are celebrating Thanksgiving next week with a school wide potluck feast on Tuesday.

Members of Heather's and Jack's homerooms should bring something that's like a main course. Judy's and Anna's homerooms should bring side dishes. And Vanessa's and Jennifer's homerooms should bring desserts.

The dishes only need to be enough to feed about 6 people. They should be table ready -- that is, we can't cook or heat things up here.

Family members are welcome to join us. We'll be starting at the regular lunch time -- 11:30 -- and everyone will help clean up.



Checking out the recyclables at Speedway Recycling

Welcome to The Living Tree

Mishka's mom, Marta, and Julianna's mom and dad, Leah and Sam, would like to invite the Kino School family to visit their new store: Living Tree Metaphysical and Healing Arts Center.

They say, "Catering to Body, Mind, and Spirit, our goal is to do our part to bring peace, health, and joy to the human family."

Through 2009, they are offering the Kino community a 20% discount on any of their many services! Just let them know when you come in and/or call to book a session.

They are located on Oracle, north of Ina by Sprouts. Check them out at livingtreecenter.com.

What You Might Have Missed At Project Sharing (Even If You Were There)

Did you see the hollow pennies made by the Chemistry students? Did you take the "Are You Smarter Than An Algebra Student?" challenge put together by the Algebra I class?

If 5 chihuahuas equal 1 dog, then how many dogs does 36 chihuahuas equal?

Casey's Electronics Project (and what happened to it)

Casey's been steadily learning about and experimenting with electronics since last year, when he made his first crystal radio. Two of his projects were on display at Project Sharing this week: a wind generator and a much more complicated radio.

Over the summer Casey got interested in generating electricity with wind power. This involves lots more than just making cardboard blades that spin: he wound coils of copper wire which, when rotated past magnets, generate electricity. He experimented with the number of coils, the size of the coils, and their positions vis a vis the magnets until he found the most effective configuration. The wind generator on display at Project Sharing is capable of generating 1.5 volts.

Also on display was something that looked like a cardboard box filled with plastic pieces playing KJZZ. It was Casey's AM / FM radio. He put together the radio from scratch using snap-together components -- resistors, transistors, capacitors, etc. -- modifying schematics he found on the internet. He made a speaker from a styrofoam bowl and hand wound coils.

Next to the radio there was a sign written by Ed: "This radio was working great before I dropped it but now it's all in pieces. I'm sorry, I'm sorry." (The snap couplings come apart easily, he explains, and he had caught his backpack on the radio and pulled it onto the floor.)

But when Casey showed up for Project Sharing around 7 o'clock, he wasn't worried. He simply said, "I think I can put it back together again." Even though he didn't have the circuit diagrams, he was able to rebuild the circuits from memory. Ed says, "Some radios can be simple, but that's not the case here. This story is especially impressive when you know how complicated the circuitry is in Casey's radio."



Update on the Trash Project

Last week, after students tracked and sorted their trash for a whole week, it was time for a field trip! An article in the Green Times about Fairfax, a recycling company, caught Jennifer's eye, so they took their recyclables to its recycling center / landfill and had a tour with Jason Tankersley, the CEO.



Feeling like Wall-E at Speedway Recycling

Then it was time for the real fun -- quantifying and graphing what they learned. You can see their graphs in the front hall. There are giant bar graphs showing what each person used. Some of the bars are so long they snake across the ceiling, the opposite wall, and the floor, back to the graph. (The bar for Patrick's total is especially long, but so is the bar for his compostable garbage.) Liam, Patrick, Diego, and Kaelan did the math to make a pie chart showing the percentage of kinds of trash everyone brought in, and Emerson made bar graphs to show the change in trash collected from day to day.

It would be a math problem in itself to figure out how many different things students learned in the course of this cool project!