

The Kino Connection

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The Writers' Retreat



Last week nine Kino students (Andrew G, Drew, Caroline, Jordan, Maddie, Zoe, Ian, Daniel, and Griffin) and two chaperons (Vanessa and Ian Johnson) made their way to the Chiricahua Mountains for the annual writer's retreat. Vanessa has been giving high school students interested in creative writing the opportunity to go on a four-day-long retreat for three years now, and they were a feature of Chris's and Felice's creative writing classes before that.

The retreats takes place in Paradise, in the Davis' two cabins nestled into the Chiricahuas mountains. These cabins are available for all kinds of Kino field trips. They have all the amenities of home (complete with beds, kitchens, and bathrooms) but their isolated location allows students to be only steps away from nature.

During the trip, students had the opportunity to write, go on hikes, and bond with their fellow classmates. Students were responsible for all the food preparation and cleaning. They did an excellent job of working together to make these events go as smoothly as ever.



Each day there was a morning and evening meeting to discuss goals, participate in writing activities, and have writing critiques. During the day, students would be at their leisure to write, read, or walk around the property. A small library was available for students to read during the trip, and several heated games of Scrabble were played. As is traditional, we took a trip to South Fork for a short hike leading to a freezing pool of water, where the brave of heart could jump in (the record is 14 jumps)!



The students are what makes these trips a success, and this year the students did not disappoint. Everyone pitched in, behaved maturely and responsibly, and utilized their time there wisely. Our only complaint was that we couldn't stay another day!

Vanessa described just a little of the writing done during the retreat: One of the morning exercises was to draw the name of another person out of a hat and then write a journal entry from that person's point of view. Caroline drew Ian J' name and revealed that he was really a robot in disguise. Zoe, inspired by the trip to the Paradise graveyard, wrote a story about the life of a couple buried there. Ian D wrote a science fiction story, and Griffin continued to work on a long short story that has grown out of a character profile exercise the class did earlier in the year.

Congratulations Drew (aka Andrew P5) for being accepted by The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington!

A Bit of Italy Tomorrow!

March 13, 6 - 9

Bring your extended family and all your friends and help us make it the most successful auction ever!

The menu should be enough to bring in the crowds. In addition to lasagna (both vegetarian and with meat), Caruso's is providing antipasto, rotellini primavera, and garlic bread. For desserts there will be Marjie Kosky's chocolate things, cheesecake bites, mini canolli from Roma's, and tiramisu cupcakes made by Io's mom Elena.

Admission is \$20; for children who are 10 and under it is only \$10. Look on our website for a list of some of the items you can bid on.

Project Sharing Night: March 24

Parents are invited to come up to school on March 24, a Wednesday, at 7 pm to see their own children's work displayed, talk to teachers, and see what the rest of the school is up to.



Junior High students enjoyed a joint Photography / Spanish field trip to the Barrio Viejo last week, where they learned more about Tucson's history and Mexican heritage. Students photographed houses, architectural details, murals, cars, cacti, and each other. Don't miss the bulletin board with some of their photos in the front hall.

Home Depot Provides \$500 for Gardening Supplies

Kino's Living Laboratory, which incorporates our greenhouse, gardens, Animal Center, and water harvesting system, has been awarded a Youth Garden Grant from the National Gardening Association. The grant provides a \$500 gift certificate from Home Depot to buy gardening supplies. We will also receive educational materials from the National Gardening Association.

The awards go to "exemplary school and community projects [that] engage children and young people as learners, explorers, leaders, and nurturers in outdoor garden settings."

Big thanks to the National Gardening Association, which administers the grant, and Home Depot for providing the gift certificate!



Biology in the Field

Students in the Field Biology class hypothesize that the size of cacti is affected when there is less rain. To test this hypothesis, they decided to measure a sampling of cacti now, after a season of heavy rain, and then remeasure the same cacti in April and May. They picked out two barrel cacti and two saguaros and decided to measure their height and girth.

"It's a lesson in how scientists do science as much as anything else," says Anna, who co-teaches Field Biology with Jack.

One challenge was to figure out how to be sure the measurements are reliable, so that any changes can clearly be attributed to the cacti themselves. That's why you will see cacti around Kino tied with a pink string.