

Mary Jane's State of the School Speech

We combined Wednesday night's Senior Project Sharing meeting with the annual General Meeting for Kino Learning Center, Inc. Mary Jane opened the evening:

Led by an incredible group of teachers and staff, this has been a very good year for Kino. Not only did our teachers provide an excellent curriculum and learning environment for all of our students, but they continue to do so many extras, so numerous that for Kino they seem to be commonplace: there's the incredible amount of daily and extended field trips -- with one already planned for next year to travel from Tucson to Glacier National Park in Montana, visiting other national parks along the way; there is the recording and producing of a CD; preparing a Cinco de Mayo meal for the entire school; preparing and leading fall and spring plantings in the greenhouse and garden; putting on plays; organizing our first annual art auction; writing grants; and all the uncountable activities requiring the extra time, energy, and patience that are the essence and expertise of teachers. We are fortunate to have all of our teachers and staff returning next year, except for Anna, who will be married this summer and will be moving to Washington, D.C.

Along with our staff are the countless hours put in by parents and volunteers. The front of the school and the north playground have never looked better. Volunteers have also monitored, taught classes, gone on fieldtrips, helped with homeroom celebrations, assisted teachers, maintained the building and grounds, helped with the greenhouse, gardens, and animals, participated in fundraising events, and contributed their many talents and lots of time to the Kino community.

And finally, this evening's graduates. Their modeling of academic excellence and leadership in this community have not gone unnoticed and will be greatly missed.

Kino has been in existence for 35 years and we look forward to another 35 years of the joy of living and learning in a community.

Kino may not be wealthy or rich in things, but our values in people -- their talents and gifts -- is priceless.

The Montana trippers are raising money selling snacks during the lunch hour. Come buy otter pops, grilled cheese sandwiches, quesadillas, and Marjie Kosky cookies!

Planning Ahead to Next Year

Sometimes it is just more fun to think about what to do next year than to think about all that needs to be done to finish up next week (especially if you are a high school student with evaluations, essays, and home work to complete (a hint).

Next week junior high and highschool students will be having the traditional annual What Do You Want to Do and Learn Next Year meetings on Thursday afternoon. These are good not only for pie in the sky brainstorming, but also to start doing some practical thinking as well.

One fun thing that is already in the works is the **Great Montana Trip** for the last couple of weeks in September. Heather and Jennifer are the teachers planning it. They'll be taking students through Utah, seeing Bryce and camping at the great Salt Lake. They'll be camping in Yellowstone and hope to get all the way to Glacier National Park before driving back home through Idaho and Nevada.

Every year it seems there are a few staff changes and some sad good-byes. This year, we are very sad to be saying good-bye to Anna (see the article on the fourth page to find out what she's up to). Past that, you can expect to see all the rest of the Kino teachers and staff back again next year!



The glass studio field trip: Erik with a ball of molten glass

Erik Berrier

One of Erik's favorite memories is working in the garden at Kino at 5:00 in the morning— not just once, but almost every day the summer before his junior year. (Since he is the last person at Kino who was involved in the sustainable foods project, there is no one to challenge the specifics of this memory.) For this project, students tried



to see how much of their own food they could grow and raise. Erik says they decided to expand the food they could eat to include locally grown food, and that they stuck with it for six months. As part of the project they each raised a chicken, which they eventually killed and ate. Erik says, "It wasn't fun."

Erik has been a Kino student for six years. His friends agree he is one of the most considerate people they know, "though he tries to mask it with a fake macho persona," one of them adds.

Erik is also known for being smart. His intelligence manifests itself both in the ease with which he sails through class requirements and in his killer Scrabble skills. Last year he and Vanessa were so absorbed in their Scrabble competitiveness that games at school would be followed by games after school, to be followed by games in the evening over the internet. Erik says he has played at least ten different Scrabble games simultaneously using the internet.

Erik is planning to go to the University of Arizona next year. He's considering getting a degree in psychology or in pharmacology, but hasn't totally decided yet.

What else about Erik? He has worked for Habitat for Humanity and volunteered at the animal shelter; he goes rock climbing regularly; he can speak Spanish pretty well. Some of his favorite Kino memories include the Costa Rica trip with Senora Eyster, the New Mexico trip, and trips to the Chiricahuas. Some of his friends' favorite memories are the whale costume he wore one Halloween that allowed no movement of his arms or legs and him coming to school on Pajama Day in a pink bunny suit, complete with floppy bunny ears.

Griffin Jackmond

Griffin says he first became interested in ecology when he came to Kino as a 6th grader. At his former school, there wasn't much science offered to younger students, and he remembers the excitement of arriving at Kino and having "Science!" Kino teacher Ceal Smith introduced him to Marine Biology and organized a trip to CEDO, that is, the Centro Intercultural para el Estudio de los Desiertos y Oceanos, in Rocky Point, which is one of his favorite memories.



Though Griffin keeps a low profile, he has established a reputation at Kino for a number of things: his wicked sense of humor, his absorbing interest in natural history, his science fiction writing, singing, and photography, and wearing the same hat from the time he started at Kino until it mysteriously disappeared this year. He has consistently been a calm, steady presence, whether in homerooms or classes, and his presence in a class will encourage the teacher to make it more intellectually ambitious.

Some of Griffin's favorite memories include playing the drums and singing in the music concerts, the trip to Costa Rica, and the Chiricahua trips. Vanessa says, "Griffin still holds the record for the most leaps into the swimming hole on the South Fork trail: 14."

For the past year and a half, Griffin has been volunteering at Tohono Chul Park every Saturday. He spends his time mostly in either the propagation or the retail greenhouses, caring for the native plants they grow there. When he's in the retail greenhouse, he answers customers' questions. In the process, he says he has learned a lot.

Last week Alexander Paige, who is six, said, "I am going to stay here until I'm 18 because I want to be like Griffin because he's my favorite person in the whole school."

Next year Griffin will be a student at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, where he plans to study ecology. Evergreen follows a student-centered educational philosophy similar to Kino's that allows students to immerse themselves in their areas of interest. Griffin will likely arrive there with the same feeling of excitement he had when he came to Kino seven years ago: "Ecology!"

**Childhood is a journey,
not a race.**

Ariel Varner

Ariel Varner has been a Kino student for six and a half years, starting here in the middle of her sixth grade. She has been chronicling Kino for four years now as the editor in chief of the Kino yearbook.

Some of Ariel's favorite memories have been going to all the Arizona Theater Company plays with Judy. She also fondly remembers the field trips to the pumpkin patch and reading in the library. She appreciates the freedom Kino has given her to read the books she wanted to read. She has

especially good memories of "really in depth Harry Potter discussions in the library."

Outside of Kino, Ariel has been active with the Tucson Girls Chorus. With the Chorus she has traveled and performed in

Europe and sung in Carnegie Hall. Ariel was also a Girl Scout for eleven years.

Ariel's senior project is on special occasion clothing. She has spent the year doing figure drawings, designing clothes, and sewing. She has made a book to hold all of the photographs and drawings that went into her designs.

There is a theatrical thread in Ariel's interests. Next year she plans to attend the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, with the goal of getting a degree in theater costuming. Her dream job would be working in the wardrobe department at Disneyland.

This summer, Ariel will again be traveling with the Tucson Girls Chorus. They'll be touring and performing in Alaska and Canada. She plans to spend her 18th birthday apartment hunting in Los Angeles!



Klair Gardner

Klair Gardner has been a Kino student since she was 10, transferring to Kino in fifth grade after her older brother Ben (who graduated from Kino two years ago) looked at Kino for high school. She says, "I think it was the goats that sold

me."

Klair is a wonderful writer, with plans to become a writer someday, so it's fitting that most of this profile is in her own words. I asked her about favorite memories of home rooms, field trips, and classes. She writes

"The favorite home room I've been in is Heather's. She has the patience of no one else I've ever met when it comes to rowdy little kids, and she's so creative with the letters she sends at the beginning of the school year to let students know they're in her homeroom. My brother Ben once got his note baked into a fortune cookie, last year I got a message in a bottle, and this year I got a hollow decorated egg with confetti and a note inside of it.

"I loved going to the Chiricahua mountains, but I think my favorite field trip was one I took my first year. It was a 2 day backpacking trip on some mountain (I forget exactly). I'd never done anything like it, and I was amazed that teachers did all that just for me and the two other students that went.

"Ed once held an impromptu thumb twiddling class when he substituted for my homeroom teacher a few years ago. I cherish what I learned in that half hour. I really liked psychology with Jack, and Chris made math fun for me (which is a big accomplishment). My most meaningful class was this year, co-teaching Jack's writing class. Even though I wasn't a student in the class, I learned a lot about teaching and about the kids in the class."

This semester, Klair is taking classes at Pima College as well as working on her senior project, a collection of short stories. She has just been invited by her writing teacher at Pima to be one of the hand picked students for his advanced fiction writing class next year! She is also interested in studying psychology, with the plan of studying both psychology and writing, transferring to the U of A, and eventually combining psychology and writing for her career.

Book Review:

The Kino Yearbook

If you like books that make you feel like you are part of a fully realized world, populated by people so realistically portrayed that you feel like you know them personally, then the Kino yearbook is the book for you. It has a cast of over 100 colorful characters engaged in adventures and hi-jinks. There are friendships, achievements, and moments of quiet beauty.

This is the fourth year that Ariel Varner has taken on responsibility for the yearbook. Every year they get bigger, more colorful, and more professional looking. The yearbook includes many photographs taken throughout the year.

This is the third year that Ariel's aunt, Rori Grosse, has very generously donated the entire cost of printing the yearbook! At her suggestion, the proceeds from the yearbook sales go into a special yearbook fund that will be used to help underwrite future yearbooks. Thank you so much!

The yearbook is all in color. You can buy a copy by talking to Ariel, Nancy or Lisa Watmore. The cost is \$35 if you buy your book ahead of time. Once they show up next week their cost goes up to \$40. Checks should be made out to Kino School.

Graduation: Friday, May 28, 7 pm Don't Miss It!

Kino graduations are always a very special time for the whole community and we hope everyone who can will attend. For parents of younger students, it can be reassuring and moving to see the wonderful young adults who have grown up at Kino. It is clear from the speeches of the teachers and the students what a close and affectionate community we are.

Even if you do not feel like you know any of this year's graduates, your children have gone to school and been friends with them all year. Their attendance at the graduation will be meaningful to them and to the graduates, too.

We always tell older students what important role models they are for the younger students. This was brought home on Wednesday morning, after the seniors described their senior projects to the assembled school. A group of primary students later got to work with scissors, crayons, leaves, and flowers to get started early on their senior projects.

Good-Bye to Anna

We should all be thinking of Anna on June 19. That's the day she and her fiance Kyle will be getting married in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After their honeymoon, they will be living in Washington DC. Kyle has been interning with NOAH this past year while Anna stayed in Tucson, but now that Kyle has completed his PhD in environmental sciences and NOAH offered him a permanent job, Anna has decided it is time for her to move as well.

Next year Anna hopes to get a teaching job in the DC area, but she is also thinking about working at the National Marine Fisheries or being a docent with the Smithsonian. Washington is full of opportunities and Anna seems to be capable of nearly everything (in a good way).

We were fantastically lucky that she chose to stay in Tucson this year. She has been a wonderful home room teacher and a great math and science teacher.

We will miss you!

Andrew G says for his senior project he will try to clone Anna.



Lorakeets at the ostrich farm