

Winter 2008

Volume 5, Issue 2

cityscape

the quarterly newsletter for City High School & Tucson Small School Project

City High School strives to be a community of learners in which all members use their minds well. We engage with challenging academics and the unique resources of our city and region to become active citizens and responsible stewards of our world.

Tucson Small School Project (TSSP) is dedicated to supporting City High School and to promoting professional development and community dialogue that foster smaller and more equitable learning communities for all students in southern Arizona. TSSP is a nonprofit corporation with 501c3 status.

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**learning. working.
creating. connecting**

City High Participates in MLK Community Events

City High School students, parents, staff, and friends joined hundreds of participants to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 21. The day started with a rally at the University of Arizona mall. Elected officials and dignitaries welcomed the walkers, encouraged us with quotes of Dr. King's, and kicked off the three-mile Freedom March to Reid Park.

City High School recently received a grant the Arizona Civil Rights Project to participate in the national MLK Day of Service program. Designed to improve students' understanding of poverty and hunger, the grant focus at City High School is on the Culinary Arts City Works class. Throughout the year, students will be engaged in service activities in honor of Dr. King, beginning with the kick-off event of the MLK Freedom March last month.

Sporting special City High t-shirts with the MLK Day of Service logo, the City High group distributed breakfast snacks and water bottles to Freedom March participants, as part of the school's acts of service for the day. Recipients of the water bottles



were excited to get "real" bottles (not disposable) already full of water instead of the usual (empty) promotional bottles handed out at similar events.

On January 23, the Culinary Arts class participated in a Hunger Banquet, a provocative activity that taught students about Oxfam America, global hunger, the purpose of a fast, and how they can contribute to ending global poverty. Future projects will help students to increase their knowledge of food cycles and food security, hunger, poverty, and how they can make a difference through service learning.

*~Cathy Hammer, AmeriCorps
Staff Member*

Fall Enrollment in Full Swing

Tucson eighth graders are busy exploring high school programs at this time of year. With the TUSD desegregation policies in transition, open enrollment between and among districts is on the rise; meanwhile, many families continue to include charter schools in their list of options. Students have more opportunities open to them now than ever before.

City High School is increasingly one of the top choices for many Tucson families. The 9th grade class

will increase to accommodate 55 students next year, and these spots are quickly filling up. For the upper grades, there are limited spots available for transfer students. All interested students need to submit an enrollment form by March 1 for the first round of enrollment.

The next Visiting Day for interested students is March 28 (RSVP required). The next Open House will be April 15 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.; no RSVP needed.



Photos: Students hike Mt. Lemmon on Tuesday (top); Junior Katie Lewis discusses her work at her semester roundtable; in attendance are her parents, advisor, a teacher, and a friend.



Intersession Week: A Time to Reflect and Reconnect

City High School held its fourth annual Intersession Week January 7-11. Intersession serves as an important time between semesters for school-wide activities that focus on academics and community-building.

On Monday students worked on portfolios, attended workshops, and participated in outdoor game competitions in advisories. Students chose from a variety of field trips and activities on Tuesday, including a Mt. Lemmon hike, kite-building, knitting, and volunteering at a preschool.

The 2nd annual Career Day took place on Wednesday. The day kicked off with a keynote address by Miguel Ortega, Aide to City Councilwoman Karin Uhlich. Many community members representing a wide range of fields presented in smaller workshops throughout the

day, including City High parents Scott Griessel (photographer) and Roy Martin (lawyer). An addition to the Career Day program this year was that seniors presented on their internship experience alongside the invited professionals.

Roundtable conferences took place on Thursday and Friday during Intersession Week. These conferences are a way for students to showcase their first semester accomplishments with their advisor, teachers, peers, and parents. Thanks to a school-wide effort in classes and advisories on student portfolios this year, students were better prepared for roundtables than ever before with more work to share as evidence of their learning.

~Carrie Brennan, Principal

STAFF UPDATES

Jennifer Camano Moves On

Grants and Development Coordinator, Jennifer Camano, recently left her post at City High School to become the Development Director at the Tucson Children's Museum. Jen was part of the founding staff at City High and helped to build the program from its earliest stages. With her many areas of responsibility, Jen worked closely with parents, board members, staff, students, and outside community supporters over the years. **We wish Jennifer the best with her new endeavor!** (Photo: Jennifer Camano, right, with Academic Director Eve Rifkin at a fundraiser.)

Hiring Information for 2008-2009

City High School seeks creative and committed teachers to further develop its educational program as the school enters its fifth year. Current openings include math (9th grade algebra) and humanities/social studies (background in political science and economics required). Candidates are invited to a JOB FAIR at City High School on March 8, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. City High School seeks to have an adult staff that reflects the diversity of its student population; minority candidates are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit <http://www.cityhighschool.org>.



JOB FAIR @ CITY HIGH

Join us on
Saturday, March 8
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Meet staff ...
Submit your application ...
Have an interview ...
Tour the school ...

IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY ...***Radio City Works Class Invites the Community to Hear Stories***

Over fifty guests showed up on the evening of February 13 to hear stories from the Radio CityWorks class. The event highlighted audio stories students have been working on since the fall. The stories covered a range of topics, including childhood memories; gender identity; and the closing of Simply Convenient, a beloved downtown business. "I am so proud of how honest the students were. The students worked so hard to create stories that were entertaining, thought-provoking, and true - which isn't an easy combination to create," commented Sarah Bromer, the Radio City Works Teacher.

A partnership with community radio station KXCI-FM is in the works to more widely broadcast the student stories later this spring. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the radio pieces can contact instructor Sarah Bromer at sarahb@cityhighschool.org. (Photo right: Students Ethan Olson and Shawn Thiel work on their recording downtown.)

***COMMUNITY ADVISORY
COUNCIL MEMBERS***

Trevor Badger (student)
Mary Barreras (parent)
Francisco Blue (parent)
Carrie Brennan (staff)
Andres Cano (student)
Ernie Galaz (parent)
Danielle Gonzales (student)
Scott Griessel (parent)
Jerry Farnsworth (parent)
Jeff Hartman (staff)
Rebecca Hill (parent)
Jerry Holmes (parent)
Katie Lewis (student)
Leia Maahs (community member)
Dirk Matthias (board member)
Ann Modica (board member)
Eve Rifkin (staff)

Community Advisory Council Helps to Hone Program

City High is actively committed to making sure students, parents, staff, and community members have an active role within our school environment. For four years, the Community Advisory Council (CAC) has brought together all stakeholders to provide feedback and guidance on our school goals. This year the CAC has been meeting to discuss progress on school-wide AIMS scores, curriculum development, and school culture issues such as discipline. The group meets regularly throughout the school year-- all are welcome to attend. The next meetings are March 5 and April 23 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. For more information or to get involved, contact the CAC facilitator Jeff Hartman, jeffh@cityhighschool.org.

"Art in the City" Class Exhibits Pieces at Dinnerware

Students created collage portraits during first semester that they displayed for community viewing at Dinnerware's new gallery on Congress Street. The life-size art pieces were inspired by the Day of the Dead and were exhibited in November during the All Souls Procession. The collages are now on display in the City High School event space. The Art City Works class focuses on creating art with community artist Cristina Cardenas and on using art as a way to engage the public regarding teen issues. This semester the class has created linocut prints that will eventually be published in book and postcard format. (Photo left: Student Mara Balfe curates the exhibit in the gallery's storefront windows.)



CITY
HIGH SCHOOL



TUCSON SMALL
SCHOOL PROJECT

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maureen Cain
David Chandler
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Jerry Farnsworth
Mary Jo Ghory
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Ann Modica
Mae Lee Sun

Carrie Brennan, Ex Officio

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...

FEBRUARY

9th TSSP Board Meeting
10th Open House for Prospective Students
12th 8th Grade Visiting Day
19th 8th Grade Visiting Day
21st-22nd Rodeo Break
26th-27th Reading & Writing AIMS

MARCH

1st Deadline for 2008-2009 Enrollment
1st Volunteer Work Day
6th TSSP Board Meeting
8th Job Fair at City High 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
For more information about current openings for 2008-09 and the hiring process, visit

<http://www.cityhighschool.org/job.html>

20th-24th Spring Break – No School; River Raft Trip
28th 8th Grade Visiting Day

APRIL

1st-4th Division I Trip to CEDO/Rocky Point
3rd TSSP Board Meeting
8th-9th Math & Science AIMS; Terra Nova Test
15th Open House for Prospective Students
17th-18th Parent-Teacher Conferences;
18th half-day schedules for students
Prom at Hotel Arizona

MAY

1st TSSP Board Meeting
26th Memorial Day Holiday
27th-30th Exhibitions Week
31st 2nd Annual Graduation Ceremony!

Check out the school website for updated event info.
www.cityhighschool.org