

Fall 2007
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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*

Renovation Celebration a Success for PartnerShip 48 and Building OUR Future

On Friday evening, October 12, 2007, the Tucson community joined PartnerShip 48—a creative and strategic collaboration between City High School and VOICES, Inc.—in celebrating our recent renovation of 6,200 square feet in the building's lower level. The renovation features an open construction and use of polycarbon panels, moveable walls, and natural lighting. The renovation resulted in three new classrooms with integrated technology, a newsroom, multi-media lab, library, and student lounge at a cost of \$450,000.

PS 48 provided the community with tours of the lower level, appetizers from Café 54, and student musical performances. Noted guests included former owner and Tucson's beloved entrepreneur and fashion diva, Cele Peterson, who built 48 E. Pennington back in the 1950s as the downtown fashion destination for haute couture. Other notable figures in attendance included Dianne Bret Harte, Executive Director of the Southwestern Foundation, City Councilwoman Karin Uhlich, City Councilwoman Elect Regina Romero, State Legislator Steve Farley, and Tucson developer Tom Warne.



Cele Peterson with Regina Kelly, Executive Director of VOICES, Inc. tours the lower level of her former landmark store.

Photo by Hector Moreno

The PS48 Celebration on October 12 marked the kick-off for VOICES and City High School's joint capital campaign, Building OUR Future. The capital campaign goal of \$1.5 million will fund completion of the building's renovations, provide cutting-edge technology for youth projects, and establish an operating endowment for both organizations.

Partnership 48's Building OUR Future campaign is leveraging recent major successes, including VOICES being chosen as the first recipient of the new local philanthropic effort, Social Venture Partnership of Greater Tucson and City High School's recent designation by the Arizona Department of Education as a highly-performing public high school.

Look for updates on the Building OUR Future campaign, or contact Grants and Development Coordinator, Jennifer Camano at 623-7223 ext. 301 for ways to give.

~Carrie Brennan, Principal



DRACHMAN INSTITUTE PROVIDES CITY HIGH SCHOOL WITH A MASTER PLAN OF COMMUNITY GARDEN

This fall, City High School is partnering with the Drachman Institute at the University of Arizona to develop a master plan for our school garden located south of downtown along the banks of the Santa Cruz River. The Drachman Institute is a research and public service unit of The College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at The University of Arizona dedicated to the environmentally sensitive and resource-conscious development of neighborhoods and communities. The planning process involves multiple stakeholders, including:

- professors and students from the Drachman Institute;
- staff and students from City High School;
- staff from Ha:san Tribal Leadership and Preparatory School,
- and the Paulo Freire Freedom School (both of these schools participate in the garden);
- individuals who live in the Southwest Santa Cruz Neighborhood (where the garden is located);
- as well as individuals who work for Pima County in a variety of capacities (Flood Control, Cultural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Real Properties).

In recent weeks, we have had two public meetings at our school: the first to hear background research conducted by the Drachman Institute and to make suggestions prior to any design work. At the second meeting, stakeholders looked at preliminary design work conducted by the Drachman Institute and provided further feedback on design elements. The third meeting will be held at City High School just before Thanksgiving Break and will include a final presentation by the Drachman Institute. These meetings are open to any and all members of our City High community. If you are interested in learning about the Master Plan for the community garden, make sure to check the school's website for details or contact Elliott Lax for more information (elax@cityhighschool.org or 623-7223 ext. 201).

~Elliott Lax, Community Partnerships Coordinator



Photo By Kimi Eisele



Teacher Michael Herzog participates in Make A Difference Day at the City High Community Garden.

Photo By Courtney Hayward



Elliott Lax Community Partnership Coordinator plants trees & shrubs along with City High students Austin Dail & a volunteer from The Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona.

Photo By Courtney Hayward

Ninth Graders Engage in “River of Words” Unit

Division I students were involved in a 2-week interdisciplinary study of water that took them on field trips throughout the Tucson area. Some of the locations they visited include the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Agua Caliente Park, the Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant, the U of A Poetry Center and the Center for Creative Photography. In addition to the scientific study of water in the desert environment, students created art and poetry on the topic. Their artwork is on display at City High School, with an exhibit opening that took place on October 25. The River of Words project was a collaboration with the Pima County Parks and was funded by a grant from the Central Arizona Project.

~Jeff Hartman, Math & Science Teacher

We Are Underway with Year FOUR!

Whole School Retreat

Starting each academic year with whole school retreats has become a City High School tradition. On August 30, all 170 students took to Mt. Lemmon. They participated in community building activities with their Advisories, including a blind trust walk, a balloon race, and human bingo. On the second day, students got comfortable with downtown as a backdrop for school and learning by participating in a citywide scavenger hunt and holding theatrical performances.

National Grant Awards for City Works and Senior Internship

City High School's innovative City Works program has just been awarded a \$10,000 Learn and Serve America grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Our Senior Internship program also received a \$5,000 award from Learn and Serve for its efforts to pair students with mentors in the community. Both awards offer several opportunities for students to present their service-learning projects to other high school youth throughout Arizona at statewide and regional conferences.

City High School has continued to improve upon our innovative service-learning program by adding a foundations course for Division I students, expanding our connections in the community, and providing students greater opportunities for developing leadership skills through projects that benefit the community. This is the fourth year in which City Works has been awarded the Learn and Serve grant. This year's community partners include Tucson Pima Arts Council, Pan Left Productions, Pima County Native Plants Nursery, Ha: San Leadership Academy, Paolo Freire Freedom School, Casa Maria, Community Food Bank, Z Mansion, Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona, KXCI Community Radio, and local artists-in-residence.

~Jennifer Camano, Development Coordinator

Whole school retreats allow students and staff to begin focusing on school culture by working together to accomplish common goals, exploring their community, reviewing behavioral expectations and school norms, and providing students with activities that require them to get acquainted with one another.

~Jennifer Camano, Development Coordinator



*City High School students & staff at the whole school retreat on Mt. Lemmon
Photo By Jason Marrano*

Senior Update

At City High, seniors are required to take an internship, to gain real work experience. But the class isn't all about discussing our jobs and what we did at the business we work at. In the class we're applying to colleges, learning about finances and preparing ourselves for the future beyond high school. At times the class goes off on tangents, but we always come back to what we need to learn.

~Ben Acosta, Senior

*If you haven't taken advantage of your Arizona School Tax Credit,
Please DO SO TODAY!!*

*Check out our website at www.cityhighschool.org and donate via paypal
OR detach the form below and mail in with a check.*

*If you have any questions, call Jennifer Camano,
Grants and Development Coordinator at (520)623-7223 ext. 301*



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...

NOVEMBER

- 13th City High Parents" PTO Mtg 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 14th Community Advisory Council Meeting 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 22nd-23rd Thanksgiving Holiday – No School

DECEMBER

- 6th TSSP Board Meeting 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- 11th "City High Parents" PTO Mtg 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 19th Community Advisory Council Meeting 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 21st End of 2nd Quarter & Fall Semester
- 24th- JANUARY 4th Winter Holiday – No School

JANUARY 2008

- 3rd TSSP Board Meeting 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- 7th-11th Intersession Week
- 8th "City High Parents" PTO Mtg 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 9th Career Day (PLEASE CONSIDER COMING IN AND SPEAKING)
- 10th-11th Semester Roundtables
- 20th TPAC Family Arts Festival 11 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- 21st Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School
- 30th Community Advisory Council Meeting 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Check out the school website for updated event info.

www.cityhighschool.org