

January-February 2005
Volume 2, Issue 4

cityscape

the 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 in order to become active citizens and responsible stewards of our world.

Tucson Small School Project (TSSP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to founding City High School and to fostering smaller, more equitable learning communities for all students. An Arizona corporation since 2002, TSSP received 501(c)3 status in March 2004.

TSSP Board of Directors

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City High Students Create Art of All Kinds

Students are finding creative outlets through a variety of art forms at City High School. First semester arts electives included glass blowing, theatre, drawing and painting, photojournalism, poetry and creative writing, and guitar.

The theatre elective, led by Charles Schnarr, culminated in a performance of *Alice*, a play by Lindsay Price inspired by the story of *Alice in Wonderland*. The troupe put on three entertaining productions, one during a whole school meeting for students and teachers, an evening performance for friends and family, and another for a younger audience at Lynn Urquides Elementary School.

The teacher and cast put in lots of extra hours and effort to put on the play. Students designed the sets, created their costumes, and painted the beautiful backdrops with the help of muralist Leia Maahs.

Seven students had the incredible opportunity this fall and winter to take glassblowing classes at the Sonoran Art Foundation's glass studio. Founded by glass



artists Tom Philabaum and Dave Klein, the Sonoran Art Foundation is a non-profit corporation committed to promoting visual arts, with a special emphasis on glass art. This elective was funded, in part, by a grant from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona. We are working hard to secure funding to continue this special offering for City High School students.



The cast of "Alice" poses before their first performance (left).

Student Krystal Pacheco works with instructor Will Hamano at the glass studio of the Sonoran Art Foundation (above).

A Big Thank-You for 2004 Tax Credit Donations!

City High School raised \$12,000 in tax credit donations by the end of December 2004. This money will help to support extracurricular activities, including arts and fitness electives and after-school programs. All donors should have received a receipt and Arizona tax form 322 from us in mid January. If you have any questions about tax credit donations, please contact Brett Goble, 623-7223 x201.

Enrollment in Full Swing for the 05-06 School Year

Information sessions are being held throughout January, February, and March to provide prospective students and their parents multiple opportunities to visit the school, learn about the educational program, and meet teachers. See calendar (page 4) for dates and times. For further information about the enrollment process, please call Eve Rifkin, 623-7223 x301.

Community Works Day Engages Students in Hands-On Projects

Students and teachers at City High School had a special inter-session schedule the last week of January as a transition between first and second semesters. The week included academic, service-oriented, and community-building components. A highlight of the intersession was the "Community Works" day, which engaged students in a diverse range of hands-on projects.

One group of students headed north of Tucson to the Santa Cruz River to work on the Audubon Society's river restoration project. (See photo, page 3.) The bulk of the day-long trip was spent on the arduous task of planting trees. Students also had the experience of hiking and bird watching in the riparian area.

Another group took city buses to a nearby Head Start program to spend the morning in bilingual toddler classes. The City High School students paired up two to a classroom and spent time reading and playing with the younger children.

A third group visited the Armory Park Senior Center and participated in recreational activities with senior citizens. They played unusual games for the tech-savvy teenage generation, including shuffleboard, jigsaw puzzles and dominoes.

A fourth group stayed at City High School and worked on project crews at school, sprucing up the alley to be a hang-out space for students, painting accent walls throughout the building, and hanging art work in the halls.

Photos: Student Ryan McGrath entertains a group of toddlers at recess (top), while student Ben Acosta (middle) reads to another group at the Head Start program. Students Leigh Moyer and Candice Hill-Crouch team up to create a playful design while painting wooden tables for the City High School outdoor alley area (bottom).



Students Selected for ATC's Wasserstein Project

Four City High School students are participating this year in a special program sponsored by the Arizona Theatre Company. The program is the local version of the national Wasserstein Project. Started by playwright, Amy Wasserstein, the program is designed to expose high school students to theatre arts and theatre appreciation. Each year the Arizona Theatre Company selects ten Tucson-area teens to be a part of the program.

The group will attend seven theatrical performances sponsored by a range of local venues, including UA Presents, Borderlands Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, and Arizona Opera. Students attend the matinee performances for free and participate in a post-performance discussion.



Arizona Theatre Company's Education Director, Julie Vance (center), and City High School students (from left to right) Rachelle Barr, Paulina Marquez, Ivy Blanchard, and Emily Moe-Lopez attended the opera "Cosi Fan Tutte" at TCC in January.

Community Partners Receive Grant for River Restoration Project



A group of City High students visited the Audubon Society's habitat restoration site, along a northern section of the Santa Cruz River in Marana, as part of the Community Works Day. (See related story, page 2.)

City High School teachers and students will work together with a variety of community partners next year to explore the cultural heritage of the Santa Cruz River and to contribute to ecological restoration of the area. The Tucson Audubon Society took the lead on submitting a successful grant to the Southwestern Foundation, who agreed to allocate \$10,000 to support the project. Other organizations involved include Voices, Inc., Arizona State Museum, Santa Cruz Southwest Neighborhood Association, and Arizona Open Land Trust.

The work will likely be the focus of a City Works class for the 2005-2006 school year. The students involved will learn local history and ethnobotany, hone their photography skills to document the region, and participate in hands-on habitat restoration. The focus of the project will be near downtown, in the area around the West Branch of the Santa Cruz River, just south of A Mountain.

City High School Fundraiser Promises to be a Happening Downtown Event

* open house * raffle * food *

* tours of historic locales * live music *

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! April 30, 2-6 p.m.

CITY HIGH SCHOOL



learning. working.
creating. connecting.

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UPCOMING EVENTS (all take place at City High unless noted)

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| Feb. 1 | "Community Works" Day |
| Feb. 3 | 5:30 p.m. Tucson Small School Project Board Meeting |
| Feb. 9 | First Semester Report Cards issued |
| Feb. 15 | 6 p.m. City High School Information Session for prospective students |
| Feb. 22-23 | AIMS testing for 10 th graders |
| Feb. 24-25 | Rodeo Break - school closed |
| March 2 | 6 p.m. City High School Information Session for prospective students |
| March 3 | 5:30 p.m. Tucson Small School Project Board Meeting |
| March 5 | 8:00 a.m. Creating a Sense of Place Through Literature – conference at UA College of Education |
| March 10 | 10:30 a.m. Chamber Music Festival Youth Concert at Leo Rich Theater (Tucson Convention Center) |
| March 14 | 6 p.m. City High School Information Session for prospective students |
| March 15 | Open Enrollment Deadline for 2005-2006 school year |
| March 16-18 | Team of students and teachers attend workshop at High Tech High in San Diego |
| March 24-28 | Spring Break – no school |
| April 7 | 5:30 p.m. Tucson Small School Project Board Meeting |
| April 16 | Downtown Family Day – sponsored by City of Tucson and Tucson Downtown Alliance |
| April 23 | 9:00 a.m. Small Schools Symposium |
| April 30 | 2:00 p.m. City High School Community Fundraising Event |

If you do not receive the *cityscape* newsletter and would like to, email carrie@cityhighschool.org to have the mailing list updated. A Weekly Bulletin for City High School families goes home with students each week. The bulletin highlights activities, events, and issues related to student learning and the school program. Current and past newsletters and bulletins are available for viewing on the website.

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