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cityscape

the newsletter for City High School & Tucson Small School Project

Division II Students Connect with WWII Vets

10th and 11th graders are participating in a project documenting the experiences of World War II veterans. The Tucson-area veterans came to school in February to participate in interviews conducted by students. In March, they returned with memorabilia and personal photos. Students took portraits of the vets and photographed and scanned their artifacts. Three volunteers from Sarah Bromer's Humanities classes share their take on the Oral History Project thus far.

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*

The day that I met my veteran in February I was so nervous, I was actually shaking. But then I met him and started to ask him questions, just to get to know him at first, and the interview went ok. I liked talking with him. He was so understanding, and I didn't feel like I was talking to someone so much older. It was really exciting when he came back in March for Photo Day. He brought so much stuff to share with us it was amazing. The old photos were especially cool.

~ ILYSSA BUFFALO, 10th grade

The World War II Project has educated me on a subject I didn't even know I had an interest in until now. Because of the fun and personal approach, I now want to learn more about the war. The veterans' visits and story sharing opened up my eyes to a whole new

world. Far from the tedious textbook readings, it gave me new perspective and added a sense of reality to a subject that your average teen might find boring.

~ DAISY O'REAR, 10th grade

When we met with our veteran Bill, I found myself really thinking about and understanding his stories. In some situations I would even put myself in his place. I really enjoyed listening to him. It was amazing how involved all of the students were. And it was an opportunity for the veterans to talk about their experiences and express feelings they had never shared before.

~ CLAUDIA GARCIA, 11th grade

As part of the project, guest artists from Voices, Inc. are working with City High students to teach the processes of oral history and documentary photography. To learn more, visit www.voicesinc.org.



Student Kate Young reviews documents with one veteran as he describes a battle he survived (left). Student Ilyssa Buffalo listens as another veteran shares his personal photos from the war (right).

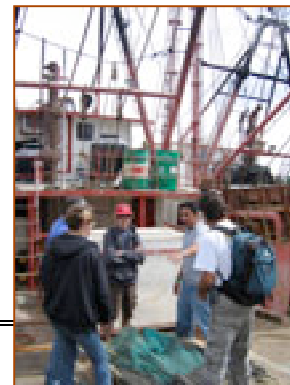
Parents Organize Work Day

The PTO group, City High Parents, sponsored the second in a series of "work days" on Saturday, February 18. Over 25 volunteers - including students, parents, and staff - came together for the Alley Work Day to spruce up the outdoor space for student use. They painted walls, installed bike hooks, planted flowers and cactus, washed windows, hung blackboards, and decorated outdoor tables.

City High Parents also launched the tradition of staff appreciation breakfasts this year, and the group is working with the TSSP Board on the spring fundraiser, City Highlights, to take place April 29.



Parents Trip McGrath and John Andrews install blackboards on the newly painted alley wall (left). Students on the CEDO field trip (right and far right).



We Couldn't Do It Without You

A BIG THANK YOU to RECENT DONORS ...

- Children's literature expert, **Eileen Burke**, donated a collection of **teen-oriented fiction** for the library.
- **Trader Joe's** and **Aqua Vita** made generous donations of **food items** for the field trip to Mexico. (And parent Noelle Shepherdson made it happen!)
- **Desert Waste Not** donated **six desktop computers** for student use in one of the math classrooms.
- **Arizona Friends of Chamber Music** and their board member **Joseph Tolliver** provided **80 tickets** to the winter festival student concert again this year.

Ninth Graders Travel to the Sea of Cortez

By Andres Cano, 9th Grade Student

After lots of anticipation and excitement, Division I students finally took their field trip south of the border to Rocky Point, Sonora. The trip lasted a total of four days, with more than thirty students and ten staff members staying at CEDO, a marine research center on the shoreline of Rocky Point. While there, students attended slideshow presentations, directed by CEDO staff, informing them of environmental facts and conservation efforts around the Sea of Cortez. Students also visited a local high school, CETMAR, whose curriculum focuses on marine careers in Mexico. The high school has an aquarium open to the public, which is managed by its own students. City High visited the aquarium and all left inspired by the experience. Division I student Billy McKale says the energy around him kept his attention at all times. Among other things, students got the chance to pet sea turtles and feed sea lions while visiting the CETMAR aquarium.

Exploring the area's unique marine ecology was a big part of the trip as well, with activities such as tidepooling. "I've never really been interested in the things we did on this trip," says Brittney Barr, "but it was different going with the school and enjoying the time we had tidepooling." Barr is one of a number of students who said camping and tidepooling were among their 'first times' doing such things. Students also got a first hand tour of a Mexican shrimp boat, which was led by an actual shrimp trawler. Students got the chance to ask many questions and see the inside-and-out of the boat. An additional highlight of the trip was visiting a local bakery, where a Rocky Point man has been baking fresh bread and pastries, in the same brick oven, for more than fifty years.

Humanities Teacher, Eve Rifkin, says the trip was an amazing opportunity to spend time with students outside of the classroom. Students agree. Desiree Marcus states she enjoyed the bonding moments the trip allowed students to have. "We were able to get to know and talk to some of our peers that we might not have had a connection with." Jeff Hartman, Science and Math Teacher, says he is proud of all staff and students who helped each other out and stepped up to the occasion. "This was a pioneering trip and I think with the success we had, we can do it again next year," he explains.

The trip was an unforgettable experience, allowing everyone to have fun and learn at the same time. "It was a one-of-a-kind trip," says ninth grader Danielle Gonzales, "and it was loaded with lots of enjoyable times."

COMMUNITY PARTNERS SUPPORT CITY HIGH STUDENTS ...

EVERY VOICE IN ACTION contributed to City High School in a number of ways this year. The Tucson-area foundation provided a \$5000 grant to support the City Works program that engages students in community projects. In addition, they joined the school as a community partner for one of the City Works classes. Foundation staff Ed Mercurio-Sakwa and Lauren Shebuski used the curriculum of their successful after-school Youth Crew program to develop a school-based course on youth philanthropy. Every Voice in Action also gave the school a \$2000 grant to do a literature-based drama project called Stories that Soar in humanities classes. And two City High students, Margo Wallace and Abriel Thomas, serve on the foundation's city-wide Youth Crew. The foundation's mission is to ignite and support youth voice, infusing the community with the unique perspectives of young people. They have certainly stayed true to their mission in their work with City High students and teachers this year, and we are grateful for all of their support. www.everyvoiceinaction.org.



Division I students got an inside look at the **TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART's** recent exhibit, **Bird Space**, thanks to a museum residency coordinated by TMA Education Director Stephanie Coakley. Ninth graders spent part of each day for three weeks in the museum galleries and classrooms with Artists-in-Residence Catherine Nash and Robert Renfrow. Students explored the artwork of internationally recognized contemporary artists and created their own large scale cyanotype banners now on display at City High School (photo above right).



KORE PRESS is piloting an all-girls literary activism group with City High students this semester. The group meets weekly at Casa Libre, a writers' retreat on Fourth Avenue. Participants are exploring critical questions about their lives and the world through their own writing and by reading the works of other women. Leading the workshops are writer-teachers Debra Gregerman and Judy Sensibar. The girls will have a reading of their own work on April 4 (time TBD). Thanks to Kore Press for creating this unique opportunity. www.korepress.org.



VOICES, INC: COMMUNITY STORIES PAST & PRESENT is more than just a roommate with us at our downtown location in the historic Cele Peterson building. Voices, Inc. is an educational non-profit that shares with City High School a commitment to inspire in young people a sense of place and a deeper understanding of one's own community. The group sponsors both in-school and after-school programs. Voices is partnering with City High as they expand their in-school World War II Oral History Project to high school age students and document the curriculum for future distribution to other schools. (See article, page 1.) In addition, this year four students from City High School were accepted into Voices' highly competitive after-school documentary arts program, 110°: Tucson's Teens Tell Tucson's Stories. Tenth graders Ivy Blanchard, Alex Noelke, Izzy Soto, and Willow Wells are learning the documentary arts alongside professional mentors and will have their photography and writing published in the Arizona Daily Star in June. www.voicesinc.org



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...

MARCH
3/29 6:30 p.m. Community Advisory Council
3/30 6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Session

APRIL
4/4 AIMS-Math and Terra Nova Tests
4/6 5:30-7:00 p.m. TSSP Board Meeting
4/10 - 4/14 Spring Break
4/20 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parent Workshop
4/22-23 Fiesta Grande – City High Booth
4/29 4:00-7:00 p.m. City Highlights Event

MAY
5/10, 6:30 p.m. Community Advisory Council
5/13 (proposed) Spring Formal (time TBD)
5/17 6:00-8:00 p.m. City Works Showcase
5/19 WWII Oral History Project Website
Release Party (time TBD)
5/26 Final Day of School Year