

Summer 2006
Volume 3, Issue 5

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 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*

Event Raises Funds, Highlights Students

City High School held its annual fundraiser, *City HighLights*, on April 29. Hundreds of community members turned out to enjoy student performances, presentations, and artwork – and to help raise money for the school program. Over \$5,000 was generated through the event's ticket sales, silent auction, and raffle.

Downtown eateries including Chris's Cafe, Dizzy G's, Bruegger's, and Alejandros donated food. City High's jazz band (featured in photo, right) and the student band Dialectic provided the music. The silent



auction featured artwork by students, teachers, parents, and community supporters, as well as many donations from local businesses.

City High School Receives State Award

The Arizona Department of Education held its second annual Spotlight on Success Awards Ceremony in May. Thirteen schools and districts were recognized for implementing innovative and effective school-wide programs, including City High School, the only charter among the awardees.

City High School received a "High School Renewal" award for its exemplary staff development program and its overall efforts to design a school-wide professional learning community.

City High School places a high priority on fostering staff collaboration in order to achieve high levels of learning for all students. All

teachers meet regularly in a professional study group based on the Critical Friends Group model. Teachers collaborate across subject areas to examine student work, discuss school learning goals, review recent research in the field, and share effective teaching practices.

Other opportunities for collaboration include weekly grade level teams meetings that focus on individual student progress; staff retreats at the beginning of each school year; and team trips to professional conferences.

To learn about ADE's High School Renewal Initiative, visit www.ade.az.gov/asd/AZHSRI.

Tucson Small School Project Co-Sponsors Critical Friends Group Training

The seventh annual Arizona Critical Friends Group Institute takes place July 31-August 4 at the University of Arizona. The intensive training will teach participants how to create and facilitate collaborative professional study groups, called Critical Friends Group (CFGs). City High's academic directors, Brett Goble and Eve Rifkin, will lead this year's institute. For information about CFGs and reform efforts to create professional learning communities in schools around the country, visit www.nsrffharmony.org.

TSSP Board Launches Major Gifts Campaign to Support School's Growth

Phase 1 January-September 2006 Goal: \$50,000 Amount left to raise: \$12,000

The Development Committee of the TSSP Board recently launched a two-year fundraising campaign to support the school's expansion as the program grows to accommodate all grades, 9-12. We have received numerous donations from community supporters and are only \$12,000 away from reaching our goal for the first phase of the campaign. Gifts of all levels have helped contribute the campaign's success, with donations ranging in size from \$10 to \$10,000. For more details about the campaign and the school's funding needs, visit the City High website or call Jennifer Rosenthal, Development Coordinator, 623-7223. ***Join the list of first phase supporters to be published in the next newsletter.***

Donate now and help the board reach its phase 1 goal of \$50,000 this fall!

City High Hosts First Spring Formal

Students turned out dressed to the nines for the school's first formal dance on May 20. Titled "A Night with the Stars," the formal had a Hollywood theme. The event took place in the gymnasium of the Historic Y on University Avenue, which turned out to be a great venue.

The Student Voice Committee organized the dance with the help of the group's advisor, Kate Goldman. Karate instructor and disc jockey, Thomas Linebarger, spun the tunes. Lots of teachers and parents showed up to enjoy the evening as well. Parent volunteers helped with food, drink, and decorations.

All in all, the spring formal was a big success and the start of a new school tradition.



Candice Hill-Crouch, Abriel Thomas, Brittney Vega, and Margo Wallace pose for the camera (left). DJ Thomas Linebarger leads a line dance (below).



City Works Showcase Features Community Involvement

On the evening of May 17th City High School conducted its second annual City Works Showcase Event, an event which highlights student work on community-based projects conducted in our City Works classes. There were 8 City Works classes featured, 3 of them skill-building classes for freshmen and another 5 which were partnership classes for sophomores and juniors.

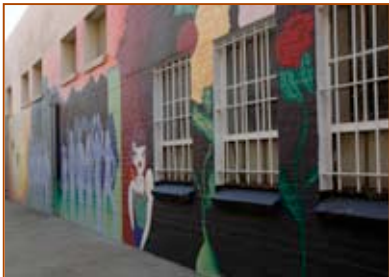
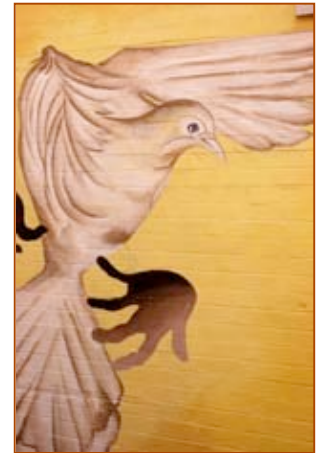
In case you're wondering, City Works classes are classes facilitated by a City High staff member and a community based partner that develop and produce work of value to our community. The classes are as diverse as the partners. A few examples include working with the Tucson Audubon Society to help a local neighborhood restore its riparian resources, working with Pan Left Productions (a local video production non-profit) to make video documentaries on issues of concern to local teens, and working with the University of Arizona's Flandrau Science Center to build an alternative fuel vehicle.

At the Showcase students presented their projects to family, friends, and community members following the format of a professional meeting. Each class made a series of short presentations, with questions and answers from the audience. Some of the presentations were planned especially for the Showcase, while others were just one of a number of public presentations the group made. For example, the Audubon class built an exhibit that has subsequently been displayed at the University of Arizona, while the Pan Left video documentaries premiered earlier in May at a local movie theatre.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER ...



The **MURAL ARTS ELECTIVE** class created a uniquely beautiful painting on the alley wall along the west side of City High School. The process of creating the mural involved a lot of planning. Students explored murals in the Tucson area, surveyed their peers to get ideas from the whole school community, and spent considerable time reaching consensus on the design. The group was led by mural art teacher **LEIA MAAHS**. Photos of the mural were taken by student Cailin Holmes.



Check out the mural next time you're on Pennington Street. To read about an article in the Arizona Daily Star about the painting and the process, visit www.cityhighschool.org and look for the "In the News" links.

Humanities Teacher and Academic Director **EVE RIFKIN** participated in an invitational statewide conference of teacher leaders in June. The four-day event was held here in Tucson at the Westward Look Resort and was sponsored by the Arizona K-12 Center. Participants came from the ranks of some of Arizona's most accomplished teachers, including National Board Certified Teachers, Rodel Teachers, and Arizona Teachers of the Year. Eve received National Board Certification in 2003.

Visit <http://azk12.nau.edu> to learn more about the K-12 Center that sponsored the conference.

Students **IVY BLANCHARD, ALEX NOELKE, ISABELLA SOTO, and WILLOW WELLS** participated in Voices, Inc. after-school program and had articles and photographs published in the latest edition of *110°: Tucson's Teens Tell Tucson's Stories*. The magazine was released to the Tucson community with the Arizona Daily Star on June 2. Visit www.azstarnet.com/sn/110degrees to check out the articles and photos.

Student **ANDRES CANO** was selected as a member of the Governor's Youth Commission. The Governor's Youth Commission includes forty commissioners from across the state, and advises the Governor on issues affecting youth in Arizona. Visit www.volunteerarizona.org/gyc/gyc.htm to read about the Commission.



The **AUDUBON CITY WORKS** class created a traveling exhibit of photographs and interview excerpts featuring life along the West Branch of the Santa Cruz River, just south of downtown. The exhibit premiered in May at City High School, traveled to the University of Arizona's Student Union gallery in June, and is currently being displayed at the Mission branch of the Tucson-Pima Public Library. The group was led by teacher **ELLIOTT LAX** and had support from community instructors, **JOSH SCHACHTER, KIMI EISELE, and MIKE SPIELMAN**. Student Erin DenBaars' photo (left) was featured on the exhibit invitation.

Check out the exhibit at the Mission Library. To read articles in the Daily Wildcat and other publications, visit www.cityhighschool.org and look for the "In the News" links.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...

JULY
7/26 9:00-2:00 Student Registration
7/27 9:00-2:00 Student Registration
7/31-8/4 City High School Co-Sponsors
Critical Friends Group Institute

AUGUST

City High School featured on the Spanish-language show "Conexión 12" on Channel 12, all month long, Monday and Wednesday evenings @ 8:00 p.m.

8/3 5:30-7:00 p.m. TSSP Board Meeting
8/7 8:00-5:00 Student Registration
8/8 8:00-5:00 Student Registration
8/8 6:00-7:00 p.m. "City High Parents" PTO Meeting
8/15 Orientation Day for New Students
8/16 1st Day of School for All Students

SEPTEMBER

9/4 Labor Day – School Holiday
9/12 6:00-7:30 p.m. Back-to-School Open House
9/21-22 Parent-Teacher Conferences; Half-Day School Schedule

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