

September-October 2004

Volume 2, Issue 2

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 School Begins First School Year

Opening Retreat

Students and staff started the year with two days of off-campus exploration at Tucson Botanical Gardens and the Tucson Museum of Art. As they studied native plants, observed hummingbirds in action, analyzed paintings, and created art, students also got to know classmates and teachers.

“Radisson High”

Regular classes convened after Labor Day, but construction delays required that the first two weeks of school be spent at an alternative location: the Radisson Hotel downtown. Students and teachers took the unusual location in stride,

turning conference rooms into classrooms. Everyone appreciated the sofas in the lobby, and the La Placita courtyard turned out to be a nice outdoor location for lunch and other activities.

Settling In

With interior renovations nearly complete, classes moved to Pennington Street on September 20. Teachers and students are using the new school space and resources to their fullest, conducting labs in science, creating paintings in art classes, and using laptop computers and cameras in a variety of classes.

~ Carrie Brennan



Teacher Elliott Lax leads a group of students in a team-building activity under a ramada at the Tucson Botanical Gardens on September 2, the first day of school (left).

City High School students and staff gather for a whole school photo in front of David Tineo's mural at the Tucson Museum of Art on September 3 (right).





Ninth-grade students Margo Wallace and Ashleigh Read.

Students Selected to Join Youth Crew

Ashleigh Read and Margo Wallace were accepted to participate in VisionMark's Youth Crew Program for the 2004-2005 school year.

The 12-member Youth Crew consists of high school and college-aged students. The group receives training in the area of grantmaking and is responsible for distributing \$50,000 to youth-

related programs and services in the Tucson area.

Youth Crew members review proposals, conduct independent research, interview prospective grantees, and make site visits.

We're excited to have Ashleigh and Margo representing City High School in this worthwhile community endeavor.

~ Carrie Brennan

School Receives Grant from VisionMark

VisionMark, a private foundation committed to improving the quality of life for youth in the Tucson area, recognized City High School as an educational program with great potential when it granted the school \$5000 to help cover general operating costs for the first year. VisionMark was especially impressed by the diversity of the student population and the community-based approach of our small school.

The mission of VisionMark – “to ignite and support the conscious, creative and healthy

development of young people” – is an inspired mission that aligns well with the goals we're trying to achieve with our students at City High School.

To learn more about VisionMark and their efforts to support youth in Tucson, visit their website, www.VisionMark.org, or their new location at 2851 North Country Club Road during their open house on the afternoon of October 21.

~ Eve Rifkin

Starting a new school is an enormous undertaking that requires the help of many hands. This month we owe a special THANK YOU to ...

CHRIS LEIGHTON and the **City of Tucson's ParkWise Department** for creating the drop-off zone in front of the school building and for giving the school 10 new bike racks.

RACHEL YASEEN and **BILL MACKEY**, owners of the **Monkey Box**, for donating a piano, including moving costs and tuning services.

Father-son team, **WAYNE** and **ROBERT CLAUSSEN**, a City High School parent and student, for installing our new bike racks on the sidewalk in front of the school.

BETTY and **BOB GOBLE** for responding to our need for an additional refrigerator.

ANYA PETERSEN and **JUDY SENSIBAR** for volunteering to tutor students once a week after school.

ELIZABETH and **ROSS HUBER** for their donation of bookshelves for the library.

The **MANY CITY HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTERS** who made donations during our summer fundraising drive. Donation confirmations and thank-yous will be sent in mid-October.

Beyond the School Day at City High ...



Student Kim Epperson, pictured here with her brother Joey, and teacher Eric Freund, with sons Zoe and Andres, helped to organize the Buddy Walk at Reid Park on Oct. 2. The event raised funds for Down Syndrome awareness. Other City High School students and teachers participated in the walk and staffed a school information table.



Two weeks into the school year, a group of boys took the initiative to form the first sports team. Students Jeremy Hall, Laurance Antonio, and Morgan Franz confer at half time during their first basketball game of the fall season on September 25. Enthusiastic fans included teachers, classmates, and family members.

City High School Wish List

- Electronic typewriter for office use
- Fiction and nonfiction books and bookshelves for our library
- Folding tables and chairs for large-group gatherings

Tucson Small School Project (TSSP), the nonprofit organization that oversees City High School, has 501(c)3 status. Donations of goods, such as the items listed above, are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information or to coordinate a drop-off, contact Brett Goble at bgoble@cityhighschool.org or 623-7223.

Innovative City Works Program Takes Off
Students Take Their Learning Into the Field

Students are engaging with the local community through the City Works program. Many City Works classes have begun by preparing students for community-based education. In **Fox Theatre Archives**, students are learning how to record and analyze oral histories. They have also toured the partially-renovated historic Fox Theatre and are learning about its rich history.

In **Studio Arts**, students visited local galleries and museums to examine art in its context, as well as the principles behind curating an exhibition. In **Science Center Design**, students are learning how to create surveys in order to assess interest throughout Southern Arizona for the new science center. They spent time at University of Arizona conducting practice surveys on UA students. They also assessed the Flandrau Science Center during a recent tour.

In **Teen Nutrition and Exercise**, students visited the Southwest Preventive Health Center to establish baseline data on personal health and fitness, which they will compare with data gathered throughout the year. They are also investigating their own kitchens and will visit local supermarkets. In **Community Technology and Mapping**, students toured the Tucson Fire Department, participated in software training sessions for Arc View and Map Guide, and worked with Global Positioning System units. They have used this information to map the Public Works building, the library, the Rialto Theatre and Hotel Congress.

Look for City High School students out in the community on Wednesday afternoons as they take their learning into the field.

~Jennifer Rosenthal

- City Works Classes 2004-2005
- Science Center Design
- Teen Nutrition & Exercise
- Fox Theatre Archives
- Studio Arts
- Community Technology & Mapping

CITY HIGH SCHOOL



learning. working.
creating. connecting.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

9/20 Classes begin at 48 E. Pennington location

OCTOBER

10/7 Tucson Small School Project Board Meeting

10/14-15 High Tech High Teacher Residency

10/21-22 Student Conferences (half-day schedule)

NOVEMBER

11/4 Tucson Small School Project Board Meeting

11/5 End of 1st Quarter

11/15 1st Quarter Report Cards issued

11/11-12 School closed

11/11-12 Coalition of Essential Schools' Fall Forum

This issue and past issues of *cityscape* are available on the website. If you do not receive the newsletter and would like to OR if you currently receive the newsletter and would prefer not to, email Carrie Brennan at carrie@cityhighschool.org to have the mailing list updated.

A Weekly Bulletin for City High School families goes home with students every Monday afternoon. Intended to encourage regular communication between the school and parents, the Weekly Bulletin highlights recent or upcoming activities, events, and issues related to student learning and the school program. Weekly Bulletins are also posted on the school website.

TUCSON SMALL SCHOOL PROJECT
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