

EDUCATION MATTERS

in Tempe

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Spring 2012

Welcome!

This is the second issue of Education Matters, an e-newsletter designed to inform and engage the Tempe community about key educational programs and issues, as well as provide resources available to promote educational success.

As a Tempe native and a mother of two elementary school boys, I am honored to be the chair of the Education Partnerships Council Committee. We are dedicated to providing a platform for the community to work together. This type of collaboration will allow us to efficiently and effectively use our resources, foster the development of new ideas and maintain the high standard established by Tempe's educational system.

To help ensure we enhance quality education, the committee is made up of representatives from each of the educational institutions serving the Tempe area, along with education minded partners from the community.

We are fortunate to have many wonderful learning opportunities available in Tempe. Read about many of them in this issue of Education Matters.



City of Tempe Councilmember
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Tempe Elementary's Kindergarten Program Provides Advantages for Young Students

Tempe Elementary School District has offered free, full-day kindergarten at all of its elementary schools since 2000, far earlier than many other schools and districts. The program is based on years of experience in delivering a full-day curriculum, and the mission is to challenge every child, no matter his or her level.

All Tempe Elementary kindergarten teachers undergo hours of staff development above and beyond college coursework -- from literacy development to research-based teaching, student engagement to differentiated instruction. The kindergarten program is designed in a way that allows teachers to differentiate instruction so they can focus on the individual needs of each student. Children have unique learning styles, and Tempe Elementary teachers use the latest educational research and strategies to prepare a positive and engaging learning environment for every child.

Teachers not only strive to provide the most effective individualized instruction, they also nurture each child's unique talents and abilities to make sure each child feels special and loved. The kindergarten program focuses on teaching the "whole" child. Special subjects like physical education, music, technology, library, and art are offered as either stand-alone classes or integrated into content-area instruction, providing a fun and creative outlet for students experiencing a full-day kindergarten program.

The Tempe Elementary Kindergarten Program provides children with the foundation of skills and experiences needed to become a life-long learner. Teachers and staff promise to provide each student with a positive environment where he or she will thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

www.tempeschools.org • 480-730-7100



New Kyrene and ASU partnership encourages female students to discover engineering

Arizona State University's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering and the Kyrene School District have embarked on an exciting year-round engineering program designed for female students who want to learn more about the roles engineers and engineering play in our lives.

According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics at the National Science Foundation, only 11 percent of engineers employed in the United States are women. The new program, Girls in Engineering, is an opportunity for a select group of young women who began Kyrene sixth grade last fall to be part of a research study that is aimed at fostering female students' interest in engineering as an innovative, creative and exciting field.

Girls in Engineering students will engage in a variety of learning experiences designed to nurture their natural curiosity and will apply their creativity to solve engineering design challenges. Participants are required to take part in out-of-school activities throughout the program. Each year, students will experience a five-day, hands-on workshop in the summer before school starts; two to three Saturday events in both the fall and spring semesters consisting of workshops and field trips to science centers, museums or research laboratories; and a three-to-five-day workshop in the summer immediately after school ends.

Recruitment for this program is complete. For more information, contact Dr. Tirupalavanam G. Ganesh at tganesh@asu.edu, or visit <http://k12.engineering.asu.edu/gie>.



www.asu.edu • 480-965-2200



 **Kyrene School District**
www.kyrene.org • 480-783-4000

ASU joins TUHSD's No Parent Left Behind University

Tempe parents, are you looking for workshops for you and your teen that will leave you feeling connected, informed and empowered? If so, the No Parent Left Behind (NPLB) University is for you!

Tempe Union High School District established the NPLB University in 2004 in an effort to present a wide variety of workshops to teachers, parents, students and community members. Various topics include healthy relationships, paying for college, creative organization strategies, social media and college information and preparedness.

Arizona State University recently partnered with NPLB University to offer "MAPS: Mapping a Plan for Success – College Prep Workshops for Freshman through Seniors." Students and parents participated in various workshops, student panels and a question-and-answer session with representatives from ASU, The University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, Mesa Community College and South Mountain Community College.

NPLB University workshops are offered throughout the school year at various TUHSD high schools. For a complete list of upcoming workshops and registration information, visit www.tuhd.k12.az.us/surveys/Nplbprereg.htm.

You can also follow NPLB on Twitter: @TUHSD_NPLB.



www.asu.edu • 480-965-2200 www.tuhd.k12.az.us • 480-839-0292

Rio Salado College teacher prep program receives \$1.2 million Noyce grant to train science and math teachers



Tempe resident Ernest Palomino was an engineer who wanted to become a teacher. A move to Arizona and a distressed economy spurred his decision to enroll in Rio Salado College's Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation Program. Two years later, Palomino saw his goal become a reality when he began teaching math at Dysart High School this past fall.

For more than a decade, Rio Salado College has been a leading provider of teacher preparation in Arizona and

has helped students with bachelor's degrees prepare for certification. Recently, Rio's teacher preparation program received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program award of nearly \$1.2 million to support the recruitment and training of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professionals like Palomino who are interested in becoming a science or math teacher for grades 7-12 in Arizona.

"The need for inspiring teachers in STEM-related subjects is critical for the future of Arizona's economy, and experienced professionals in these fields have much to offer students," said Dr. Chris Bustamante, President of Rio Salado College. "Rio is honored to be one of the few community colleges in the nation to receive a Noyce grant and be a part of this important initiative."

The Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program award will fund tuition, textbooks, fees and technical support for qualified students. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, Arizona residents and have a minimum of three years' experience in a STEM-related field. A bachelor's degree in a STEM discipline and commitment to teach for two years in a high-need school is also required. The application deadline for the second cohort is June 1, 2012.

Successful Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program participants will complete a comprehensive 15-month teacher certification program with online course instruction and on-site teaching experiences in conveniently located school districts. Rio will also provide mentoring and professional support to students as they fulfill the required two-year teaching commitment.

Of his experience with Rio Salado College's teacher preparation program, Palomino said, "The way Rio structures the program really prepares you for the next step. You begin with core classes, next practicums and then student teaching. They also go beyond academics and teach practical things like control of the classroom."

For more information about the teacher preparation program or the Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program award, contact Karen Nave, Noyce Grant Scholarship Manager, at 480-517-8743 or Karen.Nave@riosalado.edu.



Parents are a Child's First Teacher

Families have an amazing opportunity when they welcome a new child into their home. Children are born ready to learn. New community programs are helping parents learn to be their child's first and best teacher. Early literacy skills, healthy social and emotional development and access to basic health care provide the foundation for children to explore, enjoy and learn. That's why First Things First starts early and uses a number of different approaches—at home, in class and on video—to help parents foster a love for learning.

One of the programs available in the community through First Things First is Tempe Communities in School's Thrive to Five program. The classes offered through Thrive to Five stress reading, talking and singing as critical ways to build relationships with young children. The Thrive to Five program also offers parent

educators who provide a wealth of information to support early reading as part of children's emerging communication skills.

Children who develop a love of reading put energy and enthusiasm into their learning—and build exciting futures along the way. First Things First remains committed to helping kids establish a relationship with literacy that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

For more information about Thrive to Five, contact Isela Blanc at isela_blanc@tempe.gov or visit www.thrivetofive.org. For more information about First Things First, contact Courtney Riddle at criddle@azfff.gov

www.azfff.gov



Tempe Coalition Launches Underage Drinking Reduction Campaign



The Tempe Coalition, whose purpose is to help youth reach their full potential by reducing underage drinking and drug use, launched a city-wide underage drinking reduction campaign, 21 or Too Young, in December 2011. The goal of the campaign, which will run through April, is to educate the community about the harmful effects underage drinking has on youth.

The coalition has developed a pledge for parents, adults and youth to sign saying they will not support, provide for, or participate in the act of underage drinking. In addition, Tempe Coalition has made video public service announcements which will

be shown on Tempe's Channel 11, in Tempe Harkins Theatres and on the Tempe Coalition website. Two billboards in Tempe are currently featuring the campaign.

To join the cause and support the reduction of underage drinking in Tempe, go to www.tempecoalition.org to sign the 21 or Too Young pledge. You can also visit Tempe Coalition at Diablo Stadium during a spring training game on March 15 to learn more about the campaign and receive a 21 or Too Young wristband.

If you have questions or would like more information, you can reach the coalition at tempecoalition@tempe.gov



Trust and communication key to keeping Tempe's kids safe

Providing a secure and safe community for children is one of the Tempe Police Department's main priorities. One way this priority is met is through collaboration with Tempe school districts on the School Resource Officer program.

Tempe schools have the opportunity to proactively pursue and apply for federal and state grant funding to dedicate a police officer to their campus. Currently, seven Tempe middle and high schools have secured the needed funding for School Resource Officers. SROs teach safety (subjects such as internet tips and how to deal with bullying), enforce laws, perform criminal investigations, participate in emergency response planning, counsel and mentor students and implement early intervention and crime prevention programs.

The importance of these efforts was demonstrated in an incident that occurred this past fall. In September, two students at Kyrene Middle School were approached by a suspect in a vehicle who attempted to engage them in conversation and lure them to his vehicle. The students immediately ran to the school, found Tempe SRO Randy Scott and told him about the incident.

Within minutes, all police units on patrol, neighboring police agencies and school staff had been notified of the suspect's description. Tempe Police worked with the

school district to issue a press release to the media, and a community alert was sent to neighborhood groups in the area. School administrators issued a notification to parents and other schools. The suspect was subsequently identified, located and arrested.



The positive relationship that the SRO had established with the students created an environment in which they felt comfortable coming directly to him for help. Without that relationship in place, the students may not have been comfortable reporting the incident as quickly, if at all. Through the trust built between students and SROs and the network of communication built by Tempe Police and Tempe schools, children and the community at large were protected.

For more information on the School Resource Officer program, contact Sgt. Josie Montenegro at 480-350-8460 or josie_montenegro@tempe.gov.

TUHSD students and staff champion causes through volunteering

Students and staff in the Tempe Union High School District share a passion for giving back to the community. Each year, they devote hundreds of hours of community and charitable service to make a difference in the lives of others.

At Tempe High School, students from Jobs for Arizona Graduates (JAG) raised money to support research to end juvenile diabetes, the Spanish Honor Society sponsored a family in need through St. Vincent De Paul and the H.O.P.E. Medical Academy held a food drive to benefit St. Mary's Food Bank.

Students from McClintock High School and Peggy Payne Academy Spanish classes assisted with client interviews for the annual Salvation Army Christmas Angel Program. Additionally, the school worked with other TUHSD schools to hold "Smiles for Christmas," an event that provides a day of fun for local elementary students.

Students and staff from Marcos de Niza High School held a bonfire which collected more than 600 canned food items for submission. These items, along with items collected by their National Honor Society, were donated to St. Mary's Food Bank. In addition, over 90 students participated in a blood drive sponsored by Key Club and the HERO Club created "spirit links" for homecoming, with all proceeds donated to the homeless.



Students and staff from the Compadre Academy collected eight food boxes and \$2,187 for the United Food Bank. The Indian Education Club joined in to make and sell fry bread to raise additional money for the cause.

Corona del Sol High School Junior Katie Wilkinson started the very first Red Kettle Club in the nation, working in conjunction with the Salvation Army



to organize volunteer bell ringers to operate Salvation Army Red Kettles at a local supermarket. All money raised will stay in Tempe to benefit the less fortunate. Students from Corona's National Honor Society also collected around 100 packages of diapers and wipes for the TUHSD Teenage Parenting and Pregnancy Program.

DECA students from Mountain Pointe High School visited residents at Friendship Village to play board games, Ceramic Club students conducted a workshop for local boy scouts to help them earn their pottery badges and the Support our Soldiers Club collected items to send to the troops for the holidays.

Desert Vista High School Latin Club students volunteered at the MS Walk at the Phoenix Zoo. Joining with other valley schools, these Latin Club students not only cheered in Latin, but provided song and dance while dressed in togas to inspire and entertain walk participants.

For a comprehensive report on TUHSD volunteer activities, visit www.tuhsd.k12.az.us and click on the newsroom section.



Tempe Elementary Students Test World Geography Knowledge



Do you know what the name is for the largest water body in Asia that lies 92 feet below sea level? Some Tempe geography students do.

On Wednesday, Feb. 8, fourth through eighth grade students from TD3 schools were put to the test with difficult global questions like this one at the 2012 Tempe Sister Cities and TD3 Geography Bee.

15 student participants gathered in the Tempe City Council Chambers to test their knowledge and Jacob Bimrose, an eighth grade Connolly Middle School Student, placed first. Sean Myers of Broadmor Elementary School received second place and Nahti Keo of Gilliland Middle School finished third. (Pictured left to right: Keo, Myers & Bimrose.)

Congratulations to all of the participants! And in case you were wondering... the answer is The Caspian Sea.

Tempe Kid Zone Coordinator Receives Award for Excellence



For many parents, finding an after-school program that is affordable, safe and educational can sometimes be challenging. For parents in Tempe, great after-school care is a little easier to find.

Kid Zone is an enrichment program in Tempe that provides before and after-school programming for children in Pre-School through 8th grade.

Existing in 18 Tempe and Kyrene schools, the Kid Zone program offers a safe and educational environment for children requiring out-of-school care.

What makes Kid Zone special even more than its programming, are its staff. Jeremy King is one of those people. Assistant Recreation Coordinator at the Kyrene de la Mariposa Elementary School, King works tirelessly to make sure children are provided with an after-school home away from home.

King was recently recognized for his accomplishments at The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence's Spotlight on Afterschool Excellence Awards. He received the award for Outstanding Afterschool Professional for his commitment to all 140 of his Kid Zone students.

Having worked in the before-and-after-school arena for over 12 years, King knows the importance of such programs. He serves close to 175 families throughout the week and works to "create memorable childhood experiences for every student, every day."

The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence is a state-wide organization serving as an advocate and information resource for afterschool programs. Their mission is to improve access to high quality and safe learning programs outside of the classroom. They recognize individuals who make such afterschool programs a possibility. For more information, visit www.azafterschool.org.

www.tempe.gov/kidzone



Tools for Success

Have Library Card, Will Succeed

Do you know how powerful your Tempe Public Library card can be? With that small rectangle of laminated paper, you can unlock all of Tempe's resources to help students succeed. From computers to homework assistance, make sure you and your children use your library card to take advantage of the following free resources and services this school year and beyond:

COMPUTERS

The Tempe Public Library has more than 100 public-access computers available for youth, teens and adults to navigate the web and complete homework assignments. Computers are conveniently located throughout the library and are available during regular business hours, seven days a week.

HOMEWORK AIDS

Whether for research projects or casual study, K-12 students can search digital databases, encyclopedias and a variety of other useful reference material, simply by visiting the Homework Help section of the Library's website. With a library card and PIN number, students can even access these resources from home.

RECOMMENDED READING LISTS

To encourage your child's love for literacy or to help keep him on top of classic literature, the Library provides recommended book lists by age group. A few clicks

of the mouse will bring you to lists for toddlers, preschoolers, K-5, middle schoolers and high school students.

GED ASSISTANCE AND MORE

The Library subscribes to a database service called LearningExpress Library, where all ages can gain access to practice tests for the GED exam, college prep tests and information on jobs, skills and U.S. citizenship. All you need is a library card and PIN number!

ADULT LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Another digital service the Library provides is Tell Me More Language Learning. With this digital resource, you can practice speaking, comprehension, reading and writing in the following languages: English (ESL/ESOL), Spanish, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese.

www.tempe.gov/library • 480-350-5500



City Ordinance Passed to address issue of Underage Drinking

Tempe is the first city in the East Valley to pass the Social Host Ordinance as a review of the Tempe City Code relating to Large Parties, Gatherings or Events. The revised ordinance, Article 3. Nuisance Parties And Unlawful Gatherings, went into effect February 2012.

Under the ordinance, anyone providing alcohol to a person younger than 21 can be held responsible. If the host providing the alcohol to underage youth is younger than 18, the responsible party also includes the juvenile's parents or guardians. A police service fee of \$250 will be issued upon first response, though offenders may be eligible for a substance use education class at a lesser cost in lieu of the first-time police service fee assessment. On the second offense, a \$1,000 police service fee will be charged. Any further offenses will result in a \$1,500 police service fee.

Information provided by the Arizona Youth Survey and data from focus groups with local youth indicate that most young teens obtain alcohol from their home or from the home of a friend. In order to address this, the Coalition determined that holding adults responsible for youth's access to alcohol in private homes could reduce this dangerous trend.

The Tempe Coalition believes that the Social Host Ordinance will increase awareness of the harm underage drinking can have on youth, and will improve the future of our community as we continue to fight for reduced drug and alcohol use among Tempe adolescents.

www.tempecoalition.org



Cinderella Affair Annual Free Prom Dress Giveaway

The 11th Annual Cinderella Affair boutique and free dress giveaway will take place on Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31 at Pyle Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. Female junior or senior high students may attend this event and select one dress and accessories free of charge.

The boutique will be open on Friday, March 30 for Tempe Union High School students from 3-5 p.m. and will be open for all other students from 5-8 p.m. Saturday's hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for all students.

Last year, nearly 1000 girls were fitted with the perfect dress, so to make your Cinderella Affair experience easier, visit the Cinderella Affair website prior to the

event and come early, wear sunscreen and bring water and patience! To offset operating costs, tax deductible monetary donations are appreciated and may be mailed to Tempe Community Council (Cinderella Affair in memo line) at 34 E. 7th St., Tempe, AZ 85281.

For additional information, visit www.cinderellaaffair.org, e-mail tccinformation@tempe.gov or call 480-858-2300.

www.cinderellaaffair.org • 480-858-2300



Resource Centers Offer Aid to Tempe Students and Families

In addition to providing children and teens with a quality education, Tempe and Kyrene school districts also want students to succeed outside the classroom. To ensure that all students and their families have access to resources to meet their basic needs, several resource centers are open on the campuses of Tempe schools. These centers are made possible through various community programs, and offer families seeking assistance with a variety of necessities and vital services. Find out more about these resource centers by reading below:

Thrive to Five Family Resource Centers of the Tempe Elementary and Kyrene School Districts

A project of Communities In Schools of Tempe and Kyrene – a program of Tempe Community Council – and funded by First Things First, these resource centers provide family support services to parents and/or caregivers of children aged birth to five years old. Parent liaisons work within the resource centers as a direct contact for parents in their community. Available services include free parent/caregiver classes, medical insurance and state programs application assistance and a monthly dental clinic. All Thrive to Five services are offered free. All resource centers are available throughout the school year and are open during normal school hours.

- **Aguilar Family Resource Center:** 5800 S. Forest Ave., Tempe 480-897-2544
- **Frank Family Resource Center:** 8409 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe 480-897-6202
- **Holdeman Family Resource Center:** 1326 W. 18th St., Tempe 480-966-9934
- **Kyrene Family Resource Center:** 1330 East Dava Dr., Tempe 480-783-3172

- **Lagos Family Resource Center:** 17001 S. 34th Way, Phoenix 480-783-1400
- **Wood Family Resource Center:** 727 W. Cornell Dr., Tempe 480-838-0711

Teen Resource Center

Located on the campus of Evans-Compadre Academy, 4525 S. College Avenue, Tempe, the Teen Resource Center is another project of Communities in Schools of Tempe and Kyrene. This resource center provides free clothing, shoes, hygiene products and school supplies for teens ages 12-18. Hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. Call Lynette Stonefeld at 480-858-2300 for more information.

Kyrene Family Resource Center

In addition to being a Thrive to Five Resource Center, the Kyrene Family Resource Center, located on the campus of Kyrene de los Niños Elementary School, 1330 E. Dava Dr., Tempe, also provides access to food, clothing, shelter resources, legal support, resource referral, scholarships and after school programs for families in need. Kyrene families experiencing homelessness or needing assistance are welcome to drop in at the resource center on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Summer hours are limited and by appointment only. Call Khalid Jenkins at 480-783-3172 or visit www.KyreneFRC.blogspot.com for more information.



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