



Tom Horne Reports to Educators

Volume III, Issue V May 2006

A Message from the Superintendent

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Teacher Appreciation Day is a very special day.

Arizona teachers are under appreciated, and I am pledged to do everything I can to increase this State's appreciation of its teachers.

As I have written before, it is extremely important to bring home to the Arizona public that Arizona students perform above the national average on every single broad-based nationally normed test: the Terra Nova (which almost all of our students take), the SAT, the ACT, etc. Considering that Arizona is 49th out of 50 states on what it spends per pupil, these test results are a tremendous tribute to you and your efforts, and one of the many reasons you deserve to be more appreciated!

- My top priority with the legislature this year is to use a reasonable portion of this year's budget surplus for an increase in teacher compensation.
- Our discipline initiative urges school boards to support you 100 percent in imposing the classroom discipline which is a necessary pre-condition to academic achievement.
- Wherever I go throughout the state, I focus on busting negative myths about Arizona public education, and spotlighting the positive. It's nothing more than telling the truth.

Happy Teacher Appreciation Day!

Sincerely,

Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Tribulations and Triumphs

STANDARDS BASED TEACHING AND LEARNING ADOLESCENT LITERACY AWARDEE

Phoenix Union
High School District
4502 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012



Dr. Raj Chopra, Superintendent
Dr. Jean Anderson, Director of Curriculum
Ms. Kate McDonald, Language Arts Content Specialist
Ms. Mary Harth, Staff Development Specialist
Ms. Cheryl Sims, Reading Chair

Phoenix Union High School District incorporated Scholastic's READ 180 program into reading classes at all ten of its comprehensive high schools and one alternative high school in school year 2003-2004. Now in its third year of implementation, the reading program, which serves primarily freshman, has produced significant increases in the reading ability of high school students. In the first year of implementation, 67 percent showed at least one year's progress, 57% gained two or more years, and 34% jumped four or more years. Approximately 3600 students each year are enrolled in the program. Both ELL and the special education population are included in the classes. The district has invested both monetary and man-hour resources in supporting READ180. At the onset of the program, the district either hired reading endorsed teachers or paid for reading endorsement classes at ASU for current teachers to ensure that all READ180 classes were taught by qualified teachers. With 57 teachers and a full-time instructional specialist at each site, strong implementation is a priority. In addition to ongoing support by Scholastic, PUHSD offers summer training in Read180 to all teachers. The ongoing cadre of READ180 teachers has a district web board for sharing and discussion.

Congratulations Phoenix Union!

Got a **Tribulations and Triumphs** story? We want to hear from you! Email us at ADENews@ade.az.gov

RandomKid.org

LOG IN AND BE COUNTED !!!! On the one year anniversary of the day hurricane Katrina hit the gulf region, a non-profit organization called "RandomKid.org" will be releasing to the national press how much school children across the United States raised for hurricane relief. So far, they have over 6 million reported.

Please click on the following link to report your school's total for hurricane relief now:
www.randomkid.org/rallyForm/rally.php

It only takes a minute. With your help, we can make a great showing for the state of ARIZONA in the national tally of schools reporting from coast to coast.

Celebrating Education

Congratulations to Horizon High School Senior, Kaitlyn Meiss. Kaitlyn was recently awarded the 2006 AXA Financial, Achievement Scholarship. The \$10,000 AXA Scholarship is awarded to one student from each state including Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Jasmine McCullom, from Peoria High School has been awarded a full four year scholarship worth \$70,000 from the Careers through Culinary Arts Program (CCAP). Jasmine was one of only 3 Arizona students to receive the prestigious scholarship and will attend the Art Institute of Phoenix in the fall. Congratulations Jasmine!

West Sedona Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind team will represent Arizona in the World Championships held in Des Moines, Iowa. The team used creative thinking skills and worked together to solve problems, propelling them through the Regional and State Championships. Congratulations and Good Luck!

Congratulations to the 2006-07 Robert C. Byrd Scholarship Recipients. Over 300 superb students applied for the \$1500 per year college scholarship with 149 students selected as recipients. Please visit www.ade.az.gov/byrd/winners.asp to view a list of awardees.

Bisbee High School Celebrates Centennial!

In 1906 Bisbee High School graduated its first class, consisting of only 4 individuals! On May 24th, 2006, Bisbee High School's 100th Senior class will receive their diplomas!

Congratulations to Bisbee High School on this amazing milestone, and best wishes for 100 more years!



Photo of the Month

Roadrunner Preschool in Phoenix, received a 2006 Garden Grant from the National Youth Gardening Association. Students prepare the soil, plant seeds and care for the garden throughout the school year. Roadrunner Preschool is partially funded through state Early Childhood Block Grant funds.



In Recognition of

Teacher Appreciation Day



Arizona McDonald's Owner/Operators are inviting teachers to enjoy their new Asian Salad.



Beginning in May, school districts will be distributing coupons for a free McDonald's Asian Salad to all Arizona teachers.

Coupon valid through May 31, 2006

The Role of Professional Development in School Success

By Oran Tkatchov, Director of Academic and Instructional Support, ADE

Professional development plays a crucial role in assisting schools to meet today's challenging academic standards. Per No Child Left Behind legislation, professional development activities can include items that facilitate the following:

- * Improve and increase teachers' knowledge of the academic subjects the teachers teach, as well as improve classroom management skills
- * Are part of broad school-wide and district-wide educational improvement plans
- * Give educators the knowledge and skills to provide students with the opportunity to meet academic content standards
- * Are classroom-focused, sustained, and intensive- not short-term
- * Advance teacher understanding of effective instructional strategies for all student groups
- * Offer technology integration and use data to inform educational decisions
- * Improve family involvement

Research shows that high quality or research-based professional development creates gains in student learning. Teachers who understand their content and understand effective classroom practices have the greatest impact on student learning (Killion, 1999). Research also states the most important factor in student achievement is teacher quality (Hanushek, Kain, & Rivkin, 1998, Darling-Hammond & Youngs, 2002).

So what can schools do to ensure that high quality professional development is being offered? When considering what professional development activities to present teachers and staff, the Arizona Department of Education recommends schools and districts follow the standards set by the National Staff Development Council (NSDC, 2001) and the U.S Department of Education (USDE, 2000). Based on these documents, high quality professional development should include the following:

- * Focus on teachers as a crucial component of student learning, but include all other members of the school community
- * Require considerable time and resources
- * Be driven by a coherent long-term plan and provide follow-through opportunities
- * Be evaluated by its impact on teacher effectiveness and student learning
- * Build knowledge, awareness, and practice in new content and approaches
- * Present opportunities for teachers to develop pedagogical practice
- * Provide job-embedded topics relevant to the participant
- * Promote the academic standards
- * Utilize the most current data-based research in education

For more information about the types of professional development offered by the Arizona Department of Education, please visit:

ADE Calendar of Events:

www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/calendar/RenderCalendar.asp

School Effectiveness Professional Development/Technical Assistance Catalog:

www.ade.az.gov/schooleffectiveness/schooleffectcatalog.pdf

The Governor's Youth Commission Seeks New Members!!!

The Governor's Youth Commission has openings for new memberships and is encouraging youth who will be high school sophomores or juniors in the 2006-2007 school year to apply!! Please forward this information on to candidates who may be interested. You are welcome to visit our website at: www.volunteerarizona.org for more information or to download the application. Applications must be submitted no later than May 15, 2006 at 3:00pm.



The 9th United Nations International Peace Pals Art Competition & Exhibition
CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Arizona and STARSHINE ACADEMY in Phoenix are honored to host the North American Region, including Canada and Mexico

2006 International Host: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

SPONSORS

The Goi Peace Foundation
The United Nations Global Teaching & Learning Project (UN CyberSchoolBus)

PARTICIPATION

Children throughout the world ages 5 -15 are invited to participate.

Entries will be divided into three age categories for the awarding of prizes:

5-8 years, 9-12 years, and 13-15 years.

THEME depicted in the Design of the Artwork:
LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE AND HARMONY
Building a CULTURE OF PEACE, a world where cooperation, interdependence, cultural and spiritual diversity is interwoven by understanding, acceptance and celebration throughout our homes, schools, communities and global family of nations.

Lesson plans for this activity can be downloaded at:

www.artscare.org/peacepals.shtml

North American entries must be received by June 15th, 2006

Winners Will Be Announced During A Ceremony On September 21, The United Nations International Day Of Peace

For contest rules and mailing information please visit:

www.starshineacademy.org ;
www.worldpeace.org ; or
<http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/>
or call (602) 957-9557

TeachSpace 2006

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, in Prescott, is pleased to host two TeachSpace workshops this summer (June 7-11 and July 12-16). Oriented towards High School teachers, these workshops provide teachers experience in developing and implementing lesson plans rich in space-exploration and utilization content. TeachSpace addresses key NASA educational objectives and the national "No Child Left Behind" Program. Please refer to our website: www.erau.edu/teachspace

for more information and to submit your nomination. This information may be forwarded to science, math, and technology teachers.

As a participant, educators with a track record of curricular innovation and peer leadership, selected through a nomination process (ending May 17) by their administration, learn how to introduce space exploration and human space-flight topics to math, science, and technology students.

Participants receive: text, instructional materials, and access to the TeachSpace curriculum website; free room and board and a \$100 daily stipend (for a total of \$300); and one graduate-level credit awarded by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In addition to academic and professional development credits, each participant is inducted as an honorary university alumnus and is empowered to grant \$1000 annual scholarships to their students who wish to study an aerospace-related major at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott or Daytona Beach, FL, campuses).

For more information, contact:

Ms. Teresa Ochoa,
TeachSpace Coordinator
(386) 226-4995
teachspace@erau.edu
www.erau.edu/teachspace

Arizona Project ChalleNGe accepting applications for next class session

Arizona Project ChalleNGe, a leading voluntary educational program for high school drop-outs, is looking for young people who want a second chance at completing their education.

The 22-week residential program has a high success rate for helping drop-outs finish their education and become productive citizens. Seventy-five percent (or more) of those who voluntarily enter the program successfully earn their General Equivalency Diplomas (GEDs). Enrollees must be in the age range of 16 to 18 years old on the first day of classes, though they can turn 19 during the class session.

Arizona Project ChalleNGe offers a new beginning and a brighter future to Arizona's drop-outs. Located in Queen Creek near Phoenix, the program runs two class sessions per year, with no charge to the student or his/her family.

"We are providing a second chance for many young people," said Don Smith, interim director of the program. "It's exciting to see them go on to further their education, or enter the job market as more mature, prepared, and capable members of society. In just under six months, these young men and women experience an incredible transformation, mentally and physically as a result of the program's dedication to education, life skills, volunteerism, and health awareness."

Smith also noted:

- Over the past 12 years, Arizona Project Challenge has graduated 25 classes of students; the 26th will graduate on June 10.
- While at ChalleNGe, students contribute voluntary service to the community.
- 100 percent of our graduates who are 18 years of age or older register to vote.
- Arizona Project ChalleNGe saves the taxpayer an average savings of \$29,000 per student, per year, based on an annual cost of \$14,000 per NGYCP enrollee vs. an annual cost of \$44,000 per youth in a correction facility.

Applications for the next class session are due by June 30. More information is available by phoning 480-988-4100, extension 258, or on the Internet at: www.azpc.org.

Missed an issue?

You can find all issues of Tom Horne Reports, including printable versions on our website at: www.ade.az.gov/newsletters

Got a story idea, picture or celebration?

We'd love to hear from you!
Email us at:
ADENews@ade.az.gov