



Tom Horne Reports to Educators

Volume V, Issue VII May 2008

A Message from the Superintendent

APPRECIATION OF TEACHERS

May 6th is Teacher Appreciation Day. I do everything that I can to increase the public's appreciation of its teachers by emphasizing the positive news about Arizona education with the press, lobbying at the legislature for more resources, and emphasizing the theme wherever I go that we need to treat Arizona's teachers as the outstanding professionals that they are.

I have sought your input through MakeMyLifeEasier. So far, we have received over 800 emails and responded specifically to over 600. In the next month, we will have responded to all of them.

In addition, I will establish a webpage, for the public, sharing teachers' success stories. We will use stories that we have already printed under Triumphs and Tribulations as part of this newsletter, but would love to have more to include in the webpage for the public. Please email me at WhatsWorkingInAZClassrooms@azed.gov with stories about your successes. We need to share this important positive information with the public.

Thank you for everything you do. You are the heroes of our society.

Sincerely,

Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Dear Friend of Liberty:

Our rights and liberties are rooted in the cherished documents that gave birth to our nation, those being the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights. Those documents set forth the principles upon which our government is based. We as Americans enjoy our freedom and the rule of law through the founding documents that our founding fathers created. Informed and participative citizens exhibit that responsibility and civic competence which will insure the preservation of our form of constitutional self-government. The civic culture that defines the United States can be sustained as long as each generation develops a deep understanding and commitment to the principles of our founding documents.

As Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of Arizona, I believe it is a high priority that all Arizonians, with a focus on our youth, study and learn the contents of these founding documents. In order to promote and publicize Liberty Day, a national voluntary effort to educate all Americans about the contents of our founding documents, I have agreed to do a public service announcement for television and radio to encourage all people to get a copy of the Liberty Day pocket constitution book, to read and study its contents, and to teach their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other youth the contents of these precious documents.

In addition, I have agreed to do an e-mail blast to all superintendents of schools, principals, educators, and other contacts to ask them to obtain the Liberty Day book and 24 Q&A's on flash cards for their students, with a focus on 5th graders, for them to study and learn. These questions are all facts taken directly out of the text of the US Constitution. Our focus is on Constitution Day, September 17th, which is a federally mandated day for all educational institutions in the United States to hold an education program on the US Constitutions for their students. The Lions Clubs of Arizona have agreed to help facilitate and coordinate this effort statewide in Arizona. Any other group or organization that would like to volunteer their time and resources to help in this educational effort are welcome. Contact Liberty Day at: 1-866-718-3434 or libertyday@aol.com if you would like to help out!

~Tom Horne

2008 Educator Talent Pool

The State of Arizona maintains a talent pool that consists of a cadre of distinguished teachers and principals. These educators may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for recognition programs. Your recommendations will identify educators who will be of great value to your community and state and who may also ultimately receive prestigious recognition.

We are fortunate to have a rich base of veteran educators represented in our current talent pool, and they are a valuable resource in our state efforts. What is lacking at this time is representation from elementary educators (grades K-5), relatively new to the profession who demonstrate unusual instructional ability and strong potential for professional leadership and an inspiring presence that impacts students, colleagues, and community.

Do you know a relatively new elementary (K-5) educator that is illustrative not only of our state's, but the nation's best? Whose lessons provide models for others? Who has distinguished him/herself above and beyond established top-quality professionals in many of our schools? A minimum of five years in education is a must. Candidates are building level personnel. They are typically classroom teachers as opposed to specialists and are recognized by peers and supervisors as unique in their growth. Occasionally a principal or specialist is considered. Previous recognition is not required. In fact, of special interest are educators who are outstanding but have not received other recognition.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, July 25, 2008**. [CLICK HERE](#) for additional information, including details on this year's nomination process.

Strategies to Assist Students with Vocabulary
By Oran Tkatchov and Shelly Pollnow,
Academic and Instructional Support Unit

Many teachers search for strategies that will aid their students in developing a rich vocabulary and raise the students' comprehension and academic achievement. Researcher and author Dr. Anita Archer postulates that "**explicit instruction**" in vocabulary will achieve positive results for our diverse populations of students (Archer, 2007). Research shows that orally tested vocabulary was a significant predictor of reading comprehension ten years later (Cunningham & Stanovich, 1997). By the third grade, students with limited vocabulary have waning comprehension scores in the later elementary years (Chall, Jacobs, & Baldwin, 1990). Dr. Archer suggests the following strategies to implement throughout **all** content areas:

Before Reading the Passage:

- The teacher should introduce the **pronunciation** of words that are important to the passage and provide simple examples of meaning for these words.
- Provide engaging instruction on **selected vocabulary**. These words should be words that are important to the topic, but also words that students will see again, even in other subjects. **Asking students to find the definitions of words in a dictionary is NOT engaging**. Studies have shown that around 60% of students incorrectly use a word if only a dictionary definition is given (McKeown, 1993). Make sure any definitions provided are in student-friendly terms.
- Teach or activate **background knowledge**. What are some items the students will already know about the subject? Try to tie in previously known information that is relevant to the new concept.
- Assist the students in **previewing** the chapter. Previewing can be done by having the students read the headings and subheadings. This can assist the student in understanding the information that will be covered.
- Help the students establish **purpose** for reading.

During Passage Reading:

- Ask **questions** or have students generate questions. Generating questions about the reading helps students attend to the content, and self-check if it is being understood (Palincsar and Brown, 1984).
- Provide a **study guide** for use by the student or partners.
- Introduce **strategies** that students can utilize during reading (note taking skills, organization, mapping).

After Passage Reading:

- Assist the students in using or creating a **graphic organizer** to summarize the information they just read.
- Provide engaging **vocabulary practice** for selected words. The more times the students use the words, the more chances the teacher has to correct the usage.
- Support students in **completing assignments** by presenting strategies to assist in the learning.
- Teach students how to write a **summary**.

"I DO IT, WE DO IT, YOU DO IT" -
Anita Archer

Archer, A. (2007). Competent Students, Competent Teachers. Paper presented at the Struggling Adolescents conference. Available at: http://www.schoolsmovingup.net/cs/az/view/az_in/15

Beck, I.L., McKeown, M.G. & Kucan, L. (2002). Bringing words to life: Robust vocabulary instruction. NY: The Guilford Press.

Chall, J.S., Jacobs, V.A., & Baldwin, L.E. (1990). The reading crisis: Why poor children fall behind. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Cunningham, A.E., & Stanovich, K.E. (1997). Early reading acquisition and its relation to reading experience and ability 10 years later. *Developmental Psychology*, 33, 934-945.

Vocabulary measurement: Techniques and major findings. *Elementary English*, 42, 82-88. National Reading Panel. (2000).

Teaching children to read: An evidence-based assessment of the scientific research literature on reading and its implications for reading instruction. Washington, DC: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (2000).

NOMINATE A STUDENT FOR THE 2008 LINKING SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The 5th Anniversary Linking Sports and Communities Community Leadership Awards 2008 will be presented at the Linking Sports and Communities Awards Banquet at US Airways on September 4, 2008. Linking Sports and Communities is an annual conference, which enhances the relationship among athletes, sports organizations and the community, hosted by The Leadership Consortium (TLC), a statewide non-profit organization.

The Linking Sports and Communities Community Leadership Award is presented annually to organizations and individuals. The criteria to nominate a student is as follows:

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT (is a full-time student, 12-21 years old, who participates in a sports-related activity):

1. Has put service to others above personal interests
2. Has shown creativity and leadership in providing service to others in the community
3. Serves as an excellent role model to other youth
4. Has demonstrated an early commitment to equal opportunity for all regardless of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender or sexual orientation.

Please complete the Individual Nomination Form and:

Fax to: Denise Meridith at 602-222-9072

OR

E-mail to:

denise@leadershipconsortium.org.

OR

Mail to: TLC, 1928 E Highland, Ste F 104, #441, Phoenix, AZ 85016

The nomination forms must be received no later than **June 15, 2008**.

To download the nomination form, [CLICK HERE](#).

In Recognition of

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK



The Arizona McDonald's® Owner / Operators would like to recognize you during Teacher/PTA Appreciation Week.

We invite you to enjoy a FREE Smart Choice Meal, with our compliments.



Beginning in May, school districts will be distributing coupons to all Arizona teachers for a FREE Smart Choice Meal.

Coupon valid through June 30, 2008

Chipotle



In honor of National Teacher Day, Tuesday, May 6, all Chipotle Mexican Grill locations in Arizona will participate with a highly educational lesson plan: any Arizona teacher who shows a teacher or staff ID will receive a free burrito, bowl, tacos or salad during store hours all day long - 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Chipotle Mexican Grill only uses ingredients that are sustainably grown and naturally raised with respect for animals, the land and the farmers who produce the food.

Visit www.chipotle.com for locations



Kids Voting General Election November 4th, 2008



Kids Voting Arizona is providing the opportunity for every school in Arizona to participate in the 2008 General Election. Kids Voting Arizona will provide curriculum and activities, ballots and other materials and support to minimize the

cost and work of conducting the election on your campus. Preparing kids to be active and engaged citizens is crucially important to sustaining our democratic republic, and Kids Voting provides kids on your campus with a relevant opportunity to experience the power of casting a ballot.

Students can vote:

Online: Students can use their voter registration cards to cast an early ballot or to vote on Election Day through the Kids Voting Arizona website.

Paper Ballots: Kids Voting Arizona will provide paper ballots and voting materials for each student at your school. Students can cast ballots in class, or at a campus polling place in your library, media center or gym. Kids Voting Arizona will work with your campus to arrange volunteers for a campus polling place or for ballot tabulation if needed.

Through a generous contribution by the Phoenix Association of Realtors, each student will receive an "I voted" sticker!

Kids Voting Arizona will also send your school a disk of Kids Voting activities as well as registration cards for each student in your school. Please reply before May 30th, 2008 to assure that materials will be shipped to your school at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.

To register, visit www.kidsvotingaz.org and fill out the registration form! For more information, contact:

Phone: (602) 340-7357
info@KidsVotingAZ.org

June 9-13 "We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution" Summer Institute. 42 professional development hours for 5th -12th grade teachers

A rigorous program which allows teachers to work with constitutional scholars from a variety of disciplines, but also offers interactive lesson plans and mentoring. As a culminating activity, teachers participate in a simulated congressional hearing just like their students would do.

For more information or to apply, visit www.azflse.org/wethepeople

The Governor's Youth Commission Seeks New Members!

The Governor's Youth Commission (GYC), a diverse and representative body of Arizona high school students who advise Governor Napolitano on important youth issues, is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 year. Membership in the GYC is determined through a competitive application and interview process. Applications and instructions are available online at:

http://gocyf.az.gov/CYD/BRD_AGYC.asp.

All applications must be received no later than **Friday, May 16, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.**, and should be mailed, faxed or delivered in person to:

Christopher Bodington
Youth Development Program
Administrator
Governor's Office for Children, Youth
and Families
State Capitol, Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street, Suite 101
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: (602) 542-3422
Fax: (602) 542-3423
(please call to confirm your application has been received)

2008 Butler-Cooley Excellence in Teaching Award

Turnaround Management Association (TMA) is now accepting applications for the 2008 Butler-Cooley Excellence in Teaching Award, which recognizes teachers who have changed the lives of students and communities in which they live.

The program, funded by the John Wm. Butler Foundation, provides \$5,000 cash stipends to three to five public or private school teachers and travel and lodging expenses to TMA's 2008 Annual Convention and 20th anniversary celebration in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 27-29.

Applicants must be licensed and active elementary or secondary school teachers employed by accredited schools for at least five years. Teachers may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. The deadline is **May 1, 2008**.

Guidelines, applications, and a list of previous winners are available at:

www.turnaround.org/about/awards.asp

Got a story idea, picture,
or celebration?
We'd love to hear from you!
Email us at: ADENews@ade.az.gov