



Tom Horne Reports to Educators

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A Message from the Superintendent

We have a major advance in technology-assisted education with the launching of IDEAL a service for Arizona students, teachers, administrators, and the public, all at a single web location or "portal."

Teachers and administrators who are certified can obtain their user ID immediately upon logging in, and will be e-mailed their password. Non-certified teachers in charter schools can do the same, if the charter operator provides names, birth dates, and last four digits of social security numbers, to LuSilva@az.ade.gov.

Teachers will also be able to use the IDEAL test engine. The test bank will house thousands of reading, writing, and math items that can be used to create individualized lesson plans for students.

As this project is expanded, students and parents will be able to access teacher messages about student progress, homework, etc.

The most immediate benefit to the public, is that anyone can go online and take an AIMS test on any subject at any grade level. This can be done at the Arizona Department of Education website www.ade.az.gov: click IDEAL in the middle of the page, then scroll down and click "Practice Test Items," choose the test you want to take, and then log in as a "guest." When you click "save my answers," the computer will correct your test and show you the right answers."

With the launching of IDEAL, Arizona leads the nation in technology-assisted instruction to individualize and, therefore, increase student learning.

Sincerely,

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Graphic Organizers By Oran Tkatchov

As students return from their summer vacation, many teachers wonder how much information has been forgotten over the break, and how much re-teaching will have to occur during the first few weeks of the new school year. One tool that can assist students in recalling existing information is the graphic organizer. A graphic organizer is an instructional tool used to visually illustrate students' prior knowledge about a topic and help them see how it is connected to other topics. While creating this visual image, they can make connections between existing words, phrases, and concepts while matching them with the newly learned information (Marzano, Pickering, and Pollack, 2001). In her book, *How to Differentiate Instruction in Mixed-Ability Classrooms*, Carol Ann Tomlinson advocates the use of graphic organizers for all students, no matter what ability level, due to its ability to organize the visual structure of a concept (Tomlinson, 2001). Research shows that once students are taught to use graphic organizers, academic success can increase in reading comprehension, science, social studies, language arts, and math, even for students with disabilities (Herl, O'Neil, Chung, and Schacter, 1999).

Graphic organizers are usually used to help students break down or organize information. For a problem/solution assignment, students can use the organizers to label the problem, and then visually break it down into smaller parts. Once this is completed, learners can look at the separate pieces and decide on a solution that encompasses all the parts of the problem. For a compare/contrast assignment, the graphic organizer can be used to find and separate the likenesses and differences among terms, people, events, or facts. These organizers can also help students sequence time by events or show the links between causes and effects of a certain event.

Graphic organizers come in all different formats and structures, including the Venn Diagram, Fishbone Chart, Mind Map, or T-Chart, just to name a few. Many can be found and duplicated via the internet at sites such as www.graphic.org/goindex.html.

Graphic organizers are fantastic tools that should be used in the classroom to help access prior knowledge as well as help organize thinking patterns. It is crucial that students are taught how to use graphic organizers before they are expected to use them (Clements-Davis and Ley, 1991). When introducing organizers to the class, encourage and assist students in using them by showing how this extra tool can increase their educational success.

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Juvenile Diabetes

Dear Educator:

Perhaps you know a young person who has type 1 (juvenile) diabetes. Thousands of students do in Arizona schools. Daily swings in glucose levels constantly impact the way students with diabetes perform in school, and the complications of this disease are devastating. The regimen of control for a diabetic—just to stay alive—is a daily assault on the body, and spirit, of these young people.

The promising news is that a cure is no longer a dream; it is a reality. Through a worldwide effort, advanced research is being conducted that will bring a cure to this chronic disease.

For these and other reasons, I have agreed to partner with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) and serve as the School Recruitment Chair for the **2005 Walk to Cure Diabetes**. The event will gather over 20,000 walkers on November 5th at Tempe Town Lake at 8:00 a.m.

I am asking all Arizona schools to participate in some form of activity with the Walk to Cure Diabetes. There are many ways to engage students in the search for a cure:

- Organize a district or school walk team and join JDRF on November 5th
- Hold a “Healthy Fun Run” or Kid’s Walk on school grounds
- Volunteer on Walk day and/or for pre-walk and post-walk needs
- Sell JDRF sneakers and/or bracelets at your school or conduct another fundraiser at the school
- Incorporate diabetes awareness into your curriculum

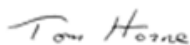
The feeling of giving time and resources to benefit fellow classmates will strengthen as our students mature into caring, responsible adults, especially when they realize their efforts helped find the cure.

I have enclosed a fact sheet with information on type 1 diabetes, JDRF and the Walk. I also encourage you to visit the official JDRF website, jdrf.org, to understand the impact this disease has on us as educators.

For more information and to get your school involved with the program, contact: Janice Jones, JDRF Schools and Outreach Coordinator at 602.224.1819 or email to azschools@jdrf.org.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. Together, we can tell the students of Arizona that we are making a difference.

Sincerely,



Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

TYPE 1(JUVENILE) DIABETES:

- Is a disease that strikes children suddenly, leaves them insulin-dependent for life, and carries the constant threat of devastating complications
- Is the most common chronic childhood disease
- Is growing at an epidemic rate: 3% a year
- Is diagnosed in 36 children in Arizona every week; average age at diagnosis is 10
- Is not cured with Insulin--it is only life support

PHOENIX WALK TO CURE DIABETES:

- Is the largest family friendly walk in Arizona. The entire route is stroller and wheelchair accessible. Entertainment includes, two entertainment stages with live music and dance groups, lunch, clowns, face painters, art projects and more. All activities are FREE to walkers.
- Goal for 2005 is to host 20,000 walkers and raise \$1.6 million.
- The 2004 Walk raised \$1.450 million with 17, 000 walkers
- Will be on November 5, 2005 at Tempe Town Lake at 8:00 a.m.

KIDS WALK TO CURE DIABETES:

- Through the support of Coca-Cola, schools are able to host their own Kid’s Walk with special planning curriculum.
- Schools can host a variety of fundraising activities at a time convenient for each school. Here are some of the most popular and successful:
 - Kid’s Walk on school grounds
 - Sell rights to wear caps for a day
 - Sell JDRF sneakers and/or bracelets
 - Raffles-with a variety of prizes

Got a Story Idea?
We would love to hear it!

Email us at:
ADENews@ade.az.gov



Program Description

This program honors high school and college aged students who exemplify leadership, dedication and creativity. Each of the individuals honored display a commitment to improving the communities in which they live through creating community betterment programs. The Arizona Cardinals will award \$20,000 to the winners of the program. No more than \$5,000 and no less than \$1,000 can be awarded to one winner/project, which translates to a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 20 winners. The Arizona Cardinals will have the flexibility to decide on dollar amounts awarded based on quality and quantity of applications received.

Eligibility

- Applicant(s) must be a U.S. resident from 13 to 21 years of age. (Applicant(s) must be 21 years or younger by December 31, 2005).
- Each individual or group must have created a new community betterment project or are working to sustain a project they have already initiated.
- Applicant(s) must be responsible for the creation, organization, management and evaluation of the project or program. (Persons who volunteer or participate in projects organized or managed by other individuals or groups are not eligible for consideration).
- If applicant(s) are working with a partner organization(s) they must be non-profit 501(c)3 organizations

Deadline

- All applications must be submitted by November 8th, 2005.

For More Information

Visit www.azcardinals.com, click on the community tab, click programs and information, click "Junior Community Quarterback"



College Goal Sunday



What Arizona program has aided 21,000 students and their families complete that 8-page, fine print FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid form) over the past 9 years?

Last year alone, 3,262 students and parents were served at College Goal Sunday and 54% of these were 1st generation college-going families. 35% of the families indicated they had an annual income of \$30,000 or less. The Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education will celebrate the 10th annual College Goal Sunday on February 12, 2006 from 2-4 p.m. at 27 sites throughout the state! This event is designed to help students take the first step towards postsecondary education by completing the FAFSA form.

This FREE event can compliment the work of school counselors to help high school seniors and their families realize that postsecondary education is possible. How can you help?

- Promote College Goal Sunday to college-bound seniors and their families (research tells us that a large number of participants learned about the event from their school counselor)
- Distribute flyers and other promotional material that can be found at the College Goal Sunday web site www.collegegoalsunday.com
- Add a link from your school web site to www.collegegoalsunday.com
- Volunteer for College Goal Sunday - over 250 volunteers helped at College Goal Sunday in 2005. More are needed this year to help with the expanded number of sites. Students and their families can benefit from your expertise - or simply help with the event logistics!

Attending this event is the ticket to a student's future. The FAFSA is the first step to determine the amount of financial aid a student may be eligible to receive and by attending College Goal Sunday, students will not only complete the FAFSA form and take that first step, they will also have the chance to win thousands of dollars worth of scholarships and prizes. Last year many lucky attendees won scholarships and college savings accounts totaling more than \$16,000.

For more information on College Goal Sunday, or to download promotional items such as event flyers, posters, and articles which can be included in your school's newsletter, visit our website, www.collegegoalsunday.com or call the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education at 602-258-2435.