

KYRENE MUSIC AND FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

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KMFA Position on K-8 Changes

With the Kyrene Governing Board's decision to implement District K-8 program changes, the Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association Executive Board believes it is appropriate to comment and discuss future organization plans.

When KMFA was founded more than ten years ago, the district and our educational environment was very different. Some district music programs were strong and growing, others such as orchestra were extra curricular activities. Art was not even a special activity in the K-3 grades. As a district partner, KMFA has secured grant monies for consultant studies of the District's Fine Arts Programs, funded development of a music library, helped sponsor and facilitated the annual Music and Visual Art Festivals, served on the Fine Arts Steering Committee and enjoys an effective working relationship with the Governing Board, District and School Administrators and Fine Arts Educators in every school. The organization is widely regarded in the local and regional community as an effective partner and arts advocate.

Today, the educational setting has changed. The District is no longer in a high growth situation, AIMS testing and No Child Left Behind legislation, competition from private and charter schools have changed the financial and academic landscape. The K-8 Study was created to address these issues and develop recommendations for the Administration and Governing Board. Without doubt, this process while efficient did not foster effective communication to parents and the larger

community. We believe that some viable models and alternative suggestions did not receive a thorough review and the impact of the recommended changes is not certain. Regardless, a board decision has been made and we think it is time to move forward in our role as fine arts advocates.

Recent meetings with Dr. Menconi, District Staff, Principals and fine arts educators reaffirm the importance of our organization as the recognized parent and community partner for the fine arts. Within this role we have the ability to influence decisions, sponsor initiatives and promote programs to strengthen the creative aspects of education.

Already ideas are being developed to focus attention on 4th and 5th grade students introducing them to the benefits and rewards of participation in middle school performing arts.

Our plans are to focus on supporting the classroom educators with their classes, offer assistance and advice to the district leadership and monitor the program quality and commitment to the State and National Education goals. We look forward to building the KMFA membership and accomplishing this important work.

New Membership Drive

This month KMFA begins our annual membership drive. Flyers that include membership information are going home with district students and will be available at fine arts events. Please consider joining our organization if you are not now a member and encourage friends and supporters of arts in education to also join. Together we can make a difference in the district and in the lives of our children.

KMFA meets regularly throughout the school year in the Furlong Education Center Kyrene District Office. If you need additional information or would like to join, email us at info@kyrenefinearts.org

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A Note on Concert Etiquette

With the beginning of the fall concert season, the KMFA Board thought it would be helpful to provide some concert etiquette notes to share with your children

Guide to Good Concert Manners

What is Good Concert Etiquette? It is the behavior that is considered appropriate and polite while enjoying a live musical performance. Good concert etiquette shows respect for the conductor and performers, other audience members, and the music being played.

These are some concert "Do' s and Don' ts" for you to practice:

DO sit quietly and wait for the concert to begin. You may talk softly while you are waiting. You will know it is time for the concert to begin when the musicians come out and the concertmaster tunes the band or orchestra.

DO remember to turn off all electronic communication devices (cell phones, two-way pagers etc.). Turning these devices off is important because even the vibration mode can be overheard and is disruptive.

DO applaud when the conductor comes out onto the stage. This shows respect and acknowledges the conductor's leadership. The musicians stand to show their respect to the conductor as well.

DO sit quietly during the performance. Talking and lots of movement may distract the conductor or musicians, and may disturb other audience members. Opening gum and candy wrappers is extremely annoying and should be done during the intermission. If you must leave the room while the music is playing, please leave quietly. You should wait at the back of the

room until the music stops before you return to your seat.

DON'T applaud in between movements of a piece of music. Some pieces of music are divided into sections called movements. These movements are noted in the program. You should only applaud when a piece of music is completed.

DO applaud very loudly when the concert is over. Note this is applause that does not include yelling and hooting that more correctly belongs at a hockey match. The musicians have worked hard and practiced to present a good concert. Applause shows your support and acknowledgment of their hard work and is appreciated!

Notes and Activities from the District's Fine Arts Classrooms

In November Kyrene Middle School will be displaying artwork in the District Board room during the month.

In October and into November Art students from Kyrene Middle School will have artwork celebrating Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) at both Rosita's Restaurants in Tempe and Mesa. It is great to see our student's artwork out in the community. We have done this for over 5 years. One year we made the evening news. This is a celebration of the ancestors that came before us and is a happy celebration. Skeletons are depicted as doctors, nurses, artists, gardeners, musicians, cowboys... This experience helps us embrace diversity.

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In the fall students at Kyrene Middle School study Art Careers and participation in a poster contest sponsored by the National Career Association has become an annual event. Although all participating students receive a certificate, last year a KMS student, Uriah Valenzuela won first place for the Middle School category in the state of Arizona. Uriah is interested in becoming a professional artist as a career choice.

Akimel A-al Middle School art department is looking for brown paper grocery sack (Safeway, Frys, etc) to use in an art project this year. If you have any taking up space in your pantry, please drop them off at the Akimel office.

Akimel Art Club is beginning to organize activities for this year. The AMS Art Club is currently working on a community project that will benefit the AMS Library. If there are parents who would be interested in assisting the Art Club with sewing banners, please contact Karen Hiller at 480-783-1665 or email at khille@kyrene.org.

CI Waggoner: Each year students in Mrs. Pope's art class create a permanent artwork for their school. This has ranged from murals, mosaics and fabric banners. Last year, students created a "Tree of Life" out of terracotta clay. The tree represents the growth of the students during their years at Waggoner. The tree is made filled with colorful leaves, animals, ladybugs and other items created in relief by each of the 5th grade students. The area around the tree is filled in with ceramic tile. The tree is displayed by the school library.

Cerritos: The Ahwatukee Family Pages sponsored a contest open to all Ahwatukee area K-6 schools to find a new design for their cover. The winner has his/her art reproduced for their cover and receives a \$100.00 prize. Second and third place winners receive \$50.00 and \$25.00 respectively. Cerritos students submitted between 65-70 entries.

Fine Arts Events In Our Schools

Schools	Events	Dates	Time
Altadena	Choir Concert	Nov 4, 2005 Dec 13, 2005	7:00pm 7:00pm
Brisas	Third Grade Music – The Circus	Nov 22,2005	9:00am & 7:00pm
Colina	Third Grade Music	Dec 8, 2005	
KMS	Chorus Concert – Blast From The Past Chorus Concert – Handbells and Harmony	Oct 5 & 6, 2005 Dec 8 & 9, 2005	7:00pm 7:00pm
Mirada	Fifth Grade Music Choir Tour Choir Concert	Dec 5, 2005 Dec 9, 2005 Dec 12, 2005	6:30pm 6:30pm 6:30pm

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