



## MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER

Joel Klein, editor

### Message from the President

Let's "get our hands dirty" in support of our children's education:

When rhetoric just won't do.



As Kyrene prepares for a \$5MM budget cut, it's clear there are changes coming to our school district. Layoffs, classroom size increases and shorter school days are just some of the possible outcomes that will be determined by our Kyrene governing board. Once these cuts are made, there is sure to be plenty of rhetoric about how they will affect our children's education. At this crucial point in time, though, rhetoric is not enough. If we care and really want to make a difference - it's time to get our hands dirty.

How do we simply, yet, effectively get involved to give our children the best possible outcome given these inevitable budget cuts? Consider these options; volunteerism, private financial support, and advocacy.

#### Volunteer:

I remember years ago when my now 6<sup>th</sup> grade son, first entered Kyrene in kindergarten and I volunteered for the PTO to work at the annual pumpkin walk. I had just arrived at the event when I started lamenting to one of the PTO board members how difficult it was to volunteer because I was a working parent. The board member smiled, pointed to the volunteer group spread across the field and said, "I know, we're all working parents."

Time and again, I am amazed to see how much is accomplished by those who dedicate just a small amount of their time to volunteer in our school district. I cannot begin to quantify how many benefits my own children have received as a result of someone else's volunteer contribution. There are the parents who manage the reading wall - so my 1<sup>st</sup> grade daughter can proudly display her reading achievements and earn free books. Or the parents at the middle school who expend the energy to organize and run a dodge ball competition to raise funds - all while making school a fun place to be. And I can't forget to mention the parents who volunteer weekly in class to assist the teacher - freeing her up to plan more activities and work in smaller groups with the students.

If we all pitched in a bit more, imagine how much we could reduce the stinging impact of a classroom-size increase? The collective effort, if only 2 hours per month per family in a class of 30 could provide 15 hours a week of additional teaching assistance for our students. There are numerous school-based organizations in which to become a volunteer such as your PTO, the Kyrene Foundation, site council, Parent Superintendent Council and, of course, the **Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association (KMFA)**, to name a few.

### **Create Resources:**

School organizations are also effective at raising and supporting unfunded school projects, supplies and social events. These contributions are the glue that connects families with their schools. You may ask yourself, "Why should I contribute extra money"? In the past, I've often thought to myself, "Why should I donate when I pay taxes to fund public education?" And yes, it's true; our taxes should be enough to fund our child's public education. However, it's not enough to fund the best education. The financial strength of our school-based organizations determines how much more value we can add to our children's education experience. Take, for example, the top colleges in the country. Most of the schools on this prestigious list receive significant private financial support through endowment, alumni and grants that enhance the college's ability to provide top-notch education. Private and charter schools throughout Arizona often expect parents to raise funds to support many of their needs such as new facilities, arts programs and educational trips for their students.

Recently, the CEO and founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, made a \$100 million investment to the Newark, NJ public school system with the belief the contribution can help reorganize and improve a lower-performing school system. I can't imagine how many private school organizations must have approached him, yet he felt the best value of his contribution was to support a strong public education with a private endowment.

So the banker in me can't resist the calculation; if Mark Zuckerberg is currently worth an estimated \$13.5 billion - how much does his \$100 million donation translate to a middle-class family? Well, the answer is nothing less than shocking; \$135. Imagine if our entire community pitched in an additional private contribution to our Kyrene schools equivalent to Mark Zuckerberg's \$135 private donation. We could add over \$2 million each year to improve our schools.

Listed below are just a few simple ways to facilitate your donations:

- Make your annual tax credit donation
- Participate in your school's fundraising events
- Become a financial sponsor of the Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association or the Kyrene Foundation
- Vote in support of capital overrides

### **Become an advocate:**

Advocacy can be demonstrated in many ways, large and small. Most think of advocacy as something that requires them to become politically active, attending board meetings and sharing opinions with our elected officials. But lobbying is only one kind of advocacy. Advocacy can also be accomplished in the more simple ways listed below, too.

- Advocate for your child's fine arts education by ensuring they see a performing arts event this year.
- Send a note of support to your child's most influential teacher to let them know their hard work makes a difference.
- Support your school-based organizations enabling them to mobilize and build power in their communities. In example, the **Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association's** mission is to improve Kyrene students' educational opportunities in fine arts.

So, my commitment is to focus on these three effective options; volunteerism, creating resources, and advocacy, to help be part of the solution in dealing with these painful cuts. In the upcoming years, I will be rolling up my sleeves, doing what needs to be done and "getting my hands dirty" in support of a complete and enhanced fine arts education for all students in the Kyrene School District.

Lesley Malmstrom  
KMFA President

# The Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association (KMFA) needs your support!

## Why?

Kyrene parents, educators and community members know that involvement in the arts is associated with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability critical thinking, and verbal skill. Arts learning can also improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork.

## What does KMFA do?

KMFA works closely with the Kyrene School District and supports arts education for students with activities such as:

- **Funding scholarships** to students with financial need to attend their school music trip
- **Funding supplies** for classrooms,
- **Funding arts events**
- **Advocating** for Arts in Education by attending student events, teacher meetings, Governing Board meetings, and conferences such as this year's American Music Educators Association conference. KMFA is a continual advocate for a strong arts curriculum in public education

## How can I help?

- Become a financial sponsor so we can continue and increase our support of our students' fine arts education. Sponsorships start at only \$10 and you can now contribute using any major credit card through our PayPal link!
- Consider volunteering or becoming a Board Member. For additional information about volunteering, contact Lesley Malmstrom at [info@kyrenefinearts.org](mailto:info@kyrenefinearts.org)

## **Yes! I want to be a sponsor for effective music and fine arts education in the Kyrene School District.**

- I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to KMFA this year.
- I would like to be a **general sponsor**, enclosed is my \$10.00 annual donation.
- I would like to be a **patron sponsor**, enclosed is my \$25.00 annual donation (Patron Sponsor names are posted in Newsletter, unless opted out – please check here\_\_\_\_ to remain anonymous.)
- I would like to be a **lifetime sponsor**, enclosed is my \$50.00 donation (Lifetime Sponsor names are posted in Newsletter, unless opted out – please check here \_\_\_\_ to remain anonymous.)
- I would like to be listed as a Vendor. Business card size ad in the Annual May 2011 Newsletter. Enclosed is my \$100.00 annual donation and card for scanning. **Ad cutoff date is April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year\***
- Please contact me. I would like to help as a volunteer.

\*KMFA reserves the right to reject an ad. If rejected, KMFA will refund the donation upon written request by the vendor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\*To receive our newsletters you must opt-in. Log onto: <http://www.kyrene.org/ksdportal/list/index.htm>  
To help sponsor, you may return this Registration Form with your check (payable to KMFA) to the address below, or for your convenience, log on to our website at: [www.kyrenefinearts.org/member.php](http://www.kyrenefinearts.org/member.php) We now accept membership donations via Paypal using one of your major credit cards. Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association, 8700 S Kyrene Road, Tempe, Az. 85284-2197

## About The Board

**Lesley Malmstrom** is KMFA's President. She has been in Arizona since 1987 and resides with her husband, Eric, and their two children who attend Kyrene schools. For the past 20 years, Lesley has been a banker and is currently Vice President and Commercial Banker at Bank of Arizona. Volunteer activities include KMFA, Kyrene PTO volunteer, and the East Valley Child Crisis Center.

**Musette Steger** is KMFA's Vice-President. Her daughter is finishing 1st grade in the Kyrene school district. Musette looks forward to her third year with KMFA and becoming more involved with the school district's community. She enjoys being on the board of KMFA and as a parent volunteer for the Arts Masterpiece program sees first-hand how important music and arts are to the district. As a parent, it is important to be involved in your child's school, along with the school district he or she attends. Being part of KMFA allows Musette to lend a voice to the ongoing needs of the Kyrene art and music teachers as well as the students and parents.

**Jason Boles** is a board member that does all of the graphic design for KMFA. He has two children that attend school in the Kyrene School District. Jason brings with him a lifetime of creative expertise from graphic design to music production. Jason owns a creative design business in Chandler specializing in Web and Graphic design. A guitar player since age five, Jason spent his early music career touring the west coast and now manages a local act in his spare time. Jason has two daughters ages 11 and 6 both whom are creatively inclined. Jason joined KMFA because he "felt there was a distinct lack of support for the creative arts in his kids' school system. He feels that in an effort to be more academically competitive, the kids are losing the artistic qualities that allow them to be expressive and well rounded.

**Joel Klein** is a board member that acts as KMFA's Marketing and Communications Director and Photographer. He has 2 children in the Kyrene School District that play Violin. He has a diverse background having worked in the Electronics Industry for 25 years, a photographer for over 48 years and experience in program and Project management. Joel believes that the foundation for a strong nation is based upon education and cultural diversity. He is currently in business for himself and donates a lot of his time to the school and other board activities.

**Paige Peterson** is KMFA's Treasurer. Paige currently teaches Business classes at Desert Vista High School. Prior to his commitment to education, Paige started his career in public accounting and then worked for the Phoenix Suns for twelve years. With the Phoenix Suns, Paige supervised the daily operations of the US Airways Center and assisted with the operation of Chase Field and Dodge Theatre. At the time Paige chose to leave the Suns organization, he commenced his role as the Treasurer for KMFA. His financial background made the transition easy and he still serves in that role today. Paige is married and has two boys who currently attend school in the Kyrene School District.

**Suzanne Whitaker**, is KMFA's Secretary and mom to two children that attend Kyrene district schools. She moved to Ahwatukee with her family from Cincinnati, Ohio five years ago. Suzanne is owner/artist of "Passion 4 Murals LLC," painting murals for eighteen years and specializing in Children's Rooms. Suzanne with the help of Kyrene staff and students painted Sierra's multi-purpose room in 2008 and, just recently, Ninos' library. Suzanne holds a Fine Arts Degree from the University of Cincinnati, wrote the book *Creative Kids' Murals You Can Paint!* and is featured on Cox Cable Channel 7: "Fine Wine and Design" in Arizona.

# Kyrene District-Wide Music and Fine Arts Events

## KMFA played a role during Celebration Night at the Kyrene District Art Show Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 2011

The Kyrene District Art Show was held April 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> at the Kyrene District Office. On Celebration Night, which was Tuesday, April 5, over 500 visitors came to view student's artwork displayed throughout the district office. While parents, grandparents, governing board members, and district personnel were viewing student's artwork, the Desert Vista High School Byers String Quartet played in the lobby. Kyrene's superintendent, Dr. David Schauer, spoke briefly and congratulated all of the students and their teachers for the outstanding artwork. Special thanks to the art teachers, Cassidy Parker, Jennifer Pooler, and Janet Klein, who coordinated this special annual event. Kyrene Community Education volunteered to help direct the traffic flow.

This year, KMFA took a more active role at Celebration night in support of Kyrene fine arts programs. KMFA sold Papa Murphy's pizza, Yoasis yogurt, and drinks in the Atrium Courtyard, which gave Kyrene families an opportunity to eat and socialize in the Atrium Courtyard.

KMFA also sponsored a mini-grant raffle. Students were able to enter their art teacher's name in a raffle that awarded 5 teachers a \$75 stipend to be used in their classrooms. All proceeds raised at Celebration night will be used to support fine arts programs in the Kyrene District. KMFA Board members and volunteers worked on the campus from 3:00p.m.-8:30p.m., partnering with the District, to make sure the evening was huge success.

Congratulations to our winning art teachers!

**Meg Baumgart**  
**Kristal Hoeh**  
**Sonja Murphrey**  
**Jennifer Pooler**  
**Stephanie Yorio**

**Sereño**  
**Brisas**  
**Esperanza**  
**Niños**  
**Milenio**



KMFA set up to accept new sponsors and sell tickets for food and raffles



Visitors entering the art show



Viewing the artwork

Photos: ©Joel Klein [www.anotherbries.com](http://www.anotherbries.com) All rights reserved

## **KMFA awards ten Kyrene students the 2010-2011 Dan Neville Memorial Scholarship**

The KMFA Board is aware there are students in the district that meet qualifications for out-of-state music trips, but do not have the financial means to participate. It's for that reason the Dan Neville Memorial Scholarship was created.

Dan Neville taught band at Kyrene Middle School for several years after which he went to the Kyrene district office to work in the technology department. He became the Kyrene fine arts liaison for several years, served as the Kyrene Music and Fine Arts Association (KMFA) liaison, and helped to implement state of the art technology in all fine arts classrooms. For several years, he was the coordinator of Arizona Music Educators Association solo and ensemble and was also the conductor of the Ahwatukee Foothills Band. He passed away on April 11, 2009 after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Dan touched countless lives with subtle humor, vast intelligence, and a passion for music, teaching, and an endless quest for knowledge.

Again this year, band, orchestra, and chorus students at all seven Kyrene middle schools had an opportunity to perform at Disneyland. With funds raised from our sponsors, KMFA awarded 10 student scholarships to cover a portion of their trip expenses. Over the past few years, KMFA has received feedback from several of the families whose student was awarded the scholarship. In that correspondence the families reiterated the critical role the scholarship funds played in enabling their child the opportunity to attend the trip.

With your continued sponsorship, KMFA hopes to maintain and increase Dan Neville Memorial scholarship funding in support of a complete fine arts education for all of our Kyrene students.

## **Kyrene Music Festival 2011**

Parents and Community members and Kyrene district administrators were treated to performances by Kyrene's 214 Orchestra and Band students on March 7 at the Tempe Center for the Arts. During the day, the band students had the privilege of practicing their numbers under the direction of ASU band conductor, Dr. Gary Hill. Students arrived at 9:15, set up and then practiced until lunchtime. Students brought sack lunches and were able to eat them outside Tempe Center for the Arts overlooking Tempe Lake. After lunch, the students rehearsed their program with Dr. Hill and then traveled back to their schools. Band students and Orchestra students arrived that evening for the night performance. The Kyrene Festival Orchestra performed Dragonhunter by Richard Meyer, Gauntlet by Doug Spate and Gypsy Rover by Elliott Del Borgo. The orchestra then combined with Corona del Sol Orchestra and performed Mabel Creek Overture by William Harbinson. Before the combined performance, Corona's outstanding

orchestra, conducted by Alex Dudley performed Passacaglia for Violin and Cello, Pasa Doble from Espana Cani and then Danny Boy. During the intermission, a strings ensemble from Marcos de Niza, whose members play under the direction of Ellen McCurdy, performed in the lobby.

After the intermission, the Kyrene Festival Band, directed by guest master conductor, Dr. Gary Hill, ASU, performed Military Escort by Harold Bennet, Two British Folk Songs by Elliot Del Borgo, Great Locomotive Chase by Robert W. Smith and Shaker Variants by Elliot Del Borgo.

Michael Krill then directed the amazing Desert Vista Jazz Band as they performed Basie's Blues, Goodbye Porkpie Hat and St. Thomas.

Congratulations to our outstanding musicians from Kyrene School District and their fantastic orchestra and band directors: Diane Grieser, Sam Weissberg, Alicia Epping, Jane Barbe, Will Norris, Tracy Werner, Michael Krill, John Pitner, and Greg Adam.

## **Kyrene String Students Performed With the ASU String Project May 7<sup>th</sup> 2011**

by Margaret Schmidt, Ph.D. Associate Professor, String Music Education School of Music, Arizona State University

Fifteen Kyrene string students performed with the ASU String Project on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2011. These students have worked hard to prepare their music. Their performances were free and open to the public.

**KMFA** had a table set up during all performances asking for support in the way of donations and new sponsors. <http://www.kyrenefinearts.org/index.php>

Students who had been taking private lessons performed solos in one of two recitals, held at 1:30 and 3:00 in the Fifth Floor Recital Hall at the ASU School of Music. Spiritoso, Allegro, and Presto classes, along with the Fiddle Band, that performed a group concert at 5:30 in Katzin Concert Hall at the School of Music. Approximately 160 families attended the performances.

The ASU String Project offers low-cost class and individual instruction on stringed instruments: violin, viola, cello, and bass. Instruction is provided by ASU music education majors under the supervision of Dr. Margaret Schmidt, faculty in the ASU School of Music, and Mrs. Linda Levy, string teacher in the Gilbert Public Schools. The purpose of the program is to support existing public school string programs and to provide string education to those enrolled in schools where no program is available. The ASU String Project is a member of the National String Project Consortium, a group of nearly 40 universities nationally who offer similar programs.

Performers will include:  
6 students from Pueblo MS  
2 students from Brisas  
2 students from Kyrene MS  
1 student from Aprende MS  
2 students from Akimel A-al MS  
1 student from Altadena MS  
1 student from Paloma

For more information on the ASU String Project, visit  
<http://communityschool.asu.edu/music/string/> or contact [marg.schmidt@asu.edu](mailto:marg.schmidt@asu.edu)

# Education and Advocacy

## Parent Art Ed 101

by Suzanne Whitaker

Let's say you're a big left brain "numbers guy" and you find yourself staring in the magnificent face of your artsy crafty kindergartner, this creature who constantly amazes and astounds you with her wonderful creativity, who holds before you her recently completed prized possession: her school art project. You know it's good. You know it's like nothing you've ever seen. But, you don't know how she came up with it or why... or, frankly, why it's even important. You scratch your head and mumble to yourself, "Gosh, I hope she can support herself someday."

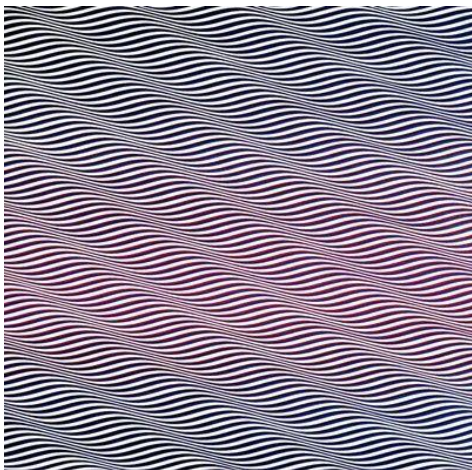
Or, maybe you just simply need a little clarification on what your child is learning. As a Kyrene parent and a professional artist, I'm passionate about taking the mystery out of the process, dispelling any myths that creating art is random and willy nilly, and, most importantly, showing its significance in your child's education. Sometimes, parents don't feel all that creative themselves have never had an art class, or are embarrassed to ask questions because it seems so esoteric.

Recently, I went to the experts, our Kyrene Elementary Art Specialists, and asked them what they thought were the fundamental concepts their students need to grasp.

To begin, Meg Bomgardt of Manitas and Sureno schools and with the district since 1997 laid the groundwork by explaining what is essential in the Kyrene curriculum, from Kindergarten to Fifth Grade. At every level, it's important to know the *Elements* of art which are the basic marks artists use: Line, Shape, Color, Texture, Value (tones from darkest to lightest), Form, and Space, and, secondly, the *Principles* of art: Pattern, Rhythm, Movement, Balance and Contrast, which are how artists organize the elements in order to produce a desired effect.

So, following just one of these concepts through, Line, for example, how would Ms. Bomgardt teach this concept? "In order to [introduce and] develop an understanding of lines in kindergarten, we talk about what a line is, as well as how lines can look different, from straight to zigzag and everything in between. Then, we pretend to be a variety of different kinds of lines by walking around the art room like a swirl or a dotted line. Finally, we make our basic marks on paper to create a simple line art work."

"However, with fifth grade students, we'd use lines in a more advanced way. We might study the art of Bridget Riley, an "Op Artist" (Op Art is a form of abstract art that gives the illusion of movement by the precise use of pattern and color), and examine how she developed her art by carefully arranging lines together in a way that develops a sense of rhythm and, ultimately, dizzying examples of Op Art. Then, we would attempt to create our own examples of Op Art."



So that sounds fun but some analytical thinking parents might still wonder why that's even important in our children's academic experience. Maureen Sousae, who has been teaching and observing our students at Kyrene for fifteen years and travels between Cielo and Mirada, offers this passionate, yet grounded, perspective on what she believes, is most gained by art education in the classroom:



“Art is essential for children. It teaches important skills, both physical and social. It inspires imagination, abstract thinking and problem solving. Exposure to Art Education promotes self-directed learning, improves school attendance and sharpens critical and creative skills. It offers an avenue for individuality and creativity. Art does not teach a child what to think, it teaches them how to think... While it is important that schools perform well on high stakes tests, it is equally important that children are provided with a well rounded, diverse education to facilitate their intellectual growth.”



So, rest assured, there's a method to our art teachers' "madness" and a very intentional process behind that refrigerator masterpiece. While your child is hopping, skipping and jumping to success he's doing it with drawing utensil in hand and growing the right side of his brain all the while.

## **What Obstacles do Art Teachers Face & How Can Parents Help?**

by Suzanne Whitaker

It's no secret art programs struggle to remain a viable part of our children's education across the country. Barb Maki-Teidi, a 19 year art teacher with Kyrene serving at Sierra, loves her job and feels very fortunate to be a part of Kyrene. However, Barb explains that the art teachers are often overworked and logistically, "full time teachers are carrying class loads of 800+ students in a week. And, with the addition of Kindergarten this year it has created more need for lesson planning and collaboration, but there is less planning time during the week to do these sorts of things." She added that many teachers are traveling between schools to pick up the few classes they need to be considered 'full time.' And, in one day a teacher could likely have all six levels and have to take more time to organize supplies that vary between projects and their corresponding grade level.

Also, art supplies are costing more and with everyone feeling the crunch, the "supply wish list" donated by families in Kyrene has dwindled some. And, at each school the financial support seems to vary. There are many schools that do not even get extra supply money or monies toward artists in residence and field trips that PTO's generally help out with.

Many parents are wonderfully mindful of the supply list at the beginning of the school year. But, a small yet helpful solution to defray some of the out of pocket costs your school's art teacher accrues quarterly is offering a Michael's or Target gift card in any amount. This simple show of support can go a long way. Also, with some direction, parents could help with organizing and stacking supplies in the classroom. Ask your art teacher what would be most helpful.

Not only does emphasis on the financial aspect of our arts programs help but expressing interest and concern as a parent in the Kyrene community can change the equation. Maureen Sousae, art teacher in the Kyrene district for fifteen years and traveling between two schools, says, "Often budget makers and politicians see Math and Reading as the standard of education, but fail to see the enormous benefits of Art Education. So, it's important that parents become advocates for the Art Education of their children. They need to get involved to make it known that they will not let Art Education be pushed behind the curtain when it comes to the education of their children.

And, of course, at the heart of the matter, Ms. Sousae sums up why we value an art education at all, "In a community as diverse as ours, Art serves as the bridge across language and cultural differences. It becomes the shared link, the glue that shapes our understanding of how we see ourselves and each other. When we give children the materials and the freedom to create, we celebrate our children, our families, (and) the schools they attend."

## Kyrene Fine Arts Educator Makes the News

### Altadena Music Educator is ASU Mentor Teacher of the Year

by Coty Dolores Miranda - Jan. 29, 2011 06:40 AM Special for the Az. Republic

For 16 years, Will Norris has taught thousands of band students at Altadena Middle School in Ahwatukee. David DuPlessis and Brandon Burr, band directors at Corona del Sol and Marcos de Niza high schools, respectively, credit Norris' teaching for influencing their career paths. Other students have also benefitted from Norris' counsel and teaching styles, including Arizona State University student teachers and students.

Now, his mentoring has earned him this year's ASU Mentor Teacher of the Year Award.

Jill Sullivan, associate professor at the ASU Herberger School of [Music](#), said in her 11 years, Norris was always amenable to mentoring.

"The ASU students greatly value their learning experience with him. I always know he'll provide a [safe](#), educational and inspiring environment for our music student teachers," she said. "Besides Will's outstanding teacher qualities, he's an outstanding musician and continues to make music outside the school as a professional musician."

An additional benefit is his example of teaching "more than just reading band music".

"I'm thrilled to walk into his classroom and see his students improvising their own solos, and loving it. Will's a master teacher and I think he deserves this award for always agreeing to share his expertise with our music-education students.

He exemplifies an outstanding mentor and music teacher," she said.

Norris, who garnered two degrees at ASU before earning his master's degree at Northern Arizona University, said he was surprised to learn of the award that will be presented during the Arizona Music Educators Association Conference on Feb. 4.

"I think if you hang around long enough, you get these awards," said the self-deprecating Norris, who last year was awarded the association's O.M. Harstell Excellence in Teaching Music Award.

"I've been teaching these young adults a long time and I'm privileged Arizona State sends them to me," said Norris, who served as commander-conductor of the 108th Army Band of the Arizona National Guard until his 2003 retirement.

Casey Ehrler, founder of Olympian Performing Arts, knows Norris as his band teacher and as a mentor. Ehrler, a Desert Vista High School alumnus and winner of the 2010 ASU Outstanding Student Achievement Award for the College of Education, studied trumpet with Norris.

"As a sixth-grader walking into his class, I was intimidated out of my mind. My 4-foot, 80-pound self had no idea what to expect from this giant of a man with graying hair and a military history," said Ehrler, who played in Norris' [concert](#) band and jazz band.

"Since observing him as his student teacher, it became clearer he's not just a teacher or band director; he's also a mentor and father figure to every student coming through his door, he added," "Because of this, his students show him great respect."

Burr, who plays trumpet to accompany Norris on the French horn in the Salt River Brass Band, calls Norris a "passionate educator and inspirational figure who initiated the love of music" in his life.

This article can also be found at:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/2011/01/28/20110128altadena-asu-mentor-teacher.html> and <http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/2011/01/28/20110128altadena-asu-mentor-teacher.html#ixzz1GnzfueQr>

# Wall of Success: Other Kyrene Fine Arts Events

## Pueblo MS 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Concert

By Jane Barb, Pueblo MS Music Teacher



The Pueblo Middle School band and orchestra students performed their fourth quarter concert Tuesday, March 29th at Pueblo's outdoor amphitheater. The students demonstrated skills they gained both musically and as a team while family and friends sat on the lawn and enjoyed the wonderful music along with our great weather. The event included an art show by our very own Pueblo students along with an ice cream social that was provided by our PTO.

Jane Barb, Pueblo MS music teacher Conducts students at the concert  
Photo ©Joel Klein [www.anotherbries.com](http://www.anotherbries.com) All rights reserved

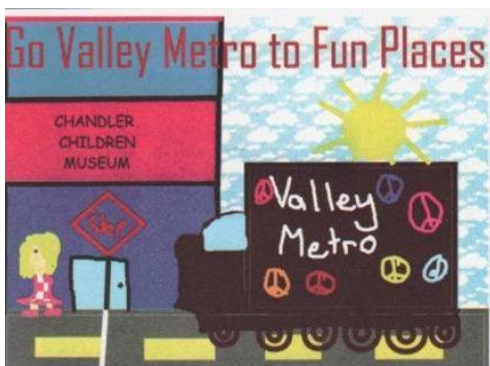
## Kyrene Artists Recognized on State Level: Cool Bus Stuff Art Contest and the *Grand Canyon State Games* *Art Contest*

By Maureen Sousae

Maya Peat from Kyrene de las Brisas Elementary, and Alex Vrbas from Kyrene del Cielo Elementary, were top winners in the Cool Bus Stuff Art Contest sponsored by Valley Metro. Both have their art featured in Valley Metro's 2011 community calendar. There were over 500 entries and Kyrene had 2 of the 12 top winners!

Maya created a digital computer drawing during Mrs. Kristal Hoeh's art class. Ms. Maureen Sousae is Alex's art teacher and his was created with marker. The contest was open to 3rd grade students.

Both artists won a prize package complete with gift cards and an art box filled with supplies to continue making their masterpieces! A representative from Valley Metro came to the schools and presented the awards and also provided calendars for their entire classes. Way to go!



Maya Peat 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Kyrene de las Brisas

Alex Vrbas 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Kyrene del Cielo

Maya Peat from Kyrene de las Brisas Elementary, and Alex Vrbas from Kyrene del Cielo Elementary, were top winners in the the Cool Bus Stuff Art Contest sponsored by Valley Metro.

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## **Grand Canyon State Games Art Contest**

Out of 1,075 national entries in the Grand Canyon State Games Art Contest Kyrene had four winners! At Kyrene de las Brisas Elementary, **Mrs. Kristal Hoeh** assigned 4th and 5th grade students to illustrate a life skill, like how they show respect or responsibility in their own lives. In 4th grade, **Nikki Clark** and **Kacie McCain** earned Honorable Mentions. **Sara Chapa** in 5th grade class earned a 2nd place Silver. Also in 5th grade, **Sydney Millerwise** won an Honorable Mention. Winners statewide will be honored at a special awards banquet that was held in April.



**Sara Chapa**  
Silver Medalist  
5th Grade



**Sydney Millerwise**  
Honorable Mention  
5th Grade



**Kacie McCain**  
Honorable Mention  
4th Grade



**Nikki Clark**  
Honorable Mention  
4th Grade

## Ninos Elementary Showcases Library Mural

by Staff

Recently, Niños Elementary commissioned local artist, Suzanne Whitaker, of “Passion for Murals” to paint a colorful, whimsical mural for their library. Principal Dr. Ana Gomez Del Castillo initiated using remaining funds from the school’s legacy wall project, a Site Council undertaking. After Ms. Whitaker developed the mural design, which was loosely based on a favorite book containing brightly colored southwestern images, librarians Holly Johnson, Sara Berns and Linda Ham collaborated with Suzanne in executing the final painted designs. The staff agrees that having something so special and colorful in their everyday environment has positively and profoundly affected the spirit of the school. And, the painting was completed just in time for Arizona Author Conrad Storar's visit in early March!



**Before Suzanne’s talent**



**After her creation!**

If interested in mural painting or mural workshops in your school, contact Suzanne at [suzanne@passion4murals.com](mailto:suzanne@passion4murals.com). View her website at [www.passion4murals.com](http://www.passion4murals.com).

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