

A Musical Treat

If you pass room 755 in the music building of the Copper Ridge Middle School, you will be surprised to hear an array of instruments playing; clarinets and violins, guitars and harpsichord, percussions, trumpets, cellos, accordions. But yet a bigger surprise awaits you when you open the door. Everybody in the classroom plays the same instrument - electronic keyboard.

This unique opportunity to learn to play piano/keyboard in a group setting took Copper Ridge students under the direction of Sophia Greenberg, to a new level. Keyboard ensembles- **Blazin' Mixx'** and **Fun Keys** were created to enable students to perform different styles of music as an ensemble: from Bach, to Prokofiev, to contemporary jazz. Students learn to work on interpretation of music, make their own arrangements, compose music for a movie, and record their own CD's.



The huge success of the program, allowed students not only to participate at local events, but also at the Heritage Festival in Anaheim, California. Groups from all over the country perform in front of the judges and are judged by National Standards. Copper Ridge students were praised for their performances and for the last three years brought home three Gold and one Silver medal.

Blazin' Mixx' and **Fun Keys** welcome every opportunity to perform outside the school and share their love for music.

By Sophia Greenberg

Ms. Greenberg is a passionate Copper Ridge keyboard teacher who is originally from Russia.

Arcadia Dances for Darfur

We are busy preparing for our 3rd **Dance for Darfur** Event. To date we have raised over \$10,000 for the children of Darfur.

The dates are Thursday and Friday, November 20th and 21st at 7:00pm in the Arcadia Auditorium. Students from the AHS Dance Department and the STAND club (Students Taking Action Now Darfur) work together to coordinate this performance. Contributing to both a local and global perspective individuals are admitted by donating either 5 cans which are donated to Saint Mary's Food Bank or \$5 for the children of Darfur.

Grant Writing

At the November 4th Arts in Education Council meeting, Mandy Buscas, the Arts Learning Director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts spoke about arts learning grants that are available to our schools. Several AEC reps attended the informative meeting, learning about the new website and artists' roster that will be unveiled soon at www.azarts.gov. Janet Blum, SUSD fine arts coordinator, also spoke on behalf of the district regarding the grant writing process and the artist in residence guidelines. Mandy and Janet offered materials that will greatly benefit school grant writers. If you need to get more information, please contact Mandy at mbuscas@azarts.gov, Kim Willey (Mandy's assistant) at kwiley@azarts.gov or Janet at jblum@susd.org.

Patricia Krewson McClellan Memorial Scholarship Fund

Parents said: “It was a great learning experience...my daughter grew tremendously...the teacher pushed students further than they thought they could go.” “My daughter has taken classes before there but never learned this much—a great program.”

Students said: “I learned new songs and new techniques”. “A bass instructor helped with chords and I learned to play on new strings.” “The new things I learned were challenging, but still fun.” “I liked that the people were all different ages, and I made a lot of new friends.”

Teachers said: “Because the AEC scholars are thrilled to attend, they motivate others in our summer program.” “These students are really rewarding to work with, because they feel it’s a special opportunity and are motivated to learn.”

The AEC McClellan Fund provides intensive learning opportunities for fine arts students. This summer the Arts Council scholarships were awarded to summer programs at the SUSD band and strings camps and the Scottsdale Artists School.

The scholarships are available to students from district schools that have at least 20% of their students enrolled in the federal free/reduced lunch program. The students are selected by their teacher and principal on the basis of citizenship, participation, financial need and a willingness to bring new skills back to their district schools.

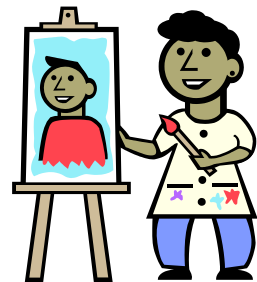
The Scholarship Fund was created a dozen years ago and awards 30 district students, one band, strings and visual arts student from each of ten schools. Over the years it has funded nearly 300 scholarships.

The McClellan Fund is supported through tax-deductible contributions by local individuals and organizations. As the Fund grows, it hopes to be able to add other fine arts disciplines to its awards.

The Arts Council feels that the scholarship program’s most important – and most heartwarming – aspect is the new dedication and leadership AEC Scholars bring to their school programs as well as the self-confidence built from success.

SUMMER CAMPS

Scottsdale Band, Strings & Visual Arts scholarship recipients had a wonderful time at the district summer camps this year! Nearly 30 children enjoyed a challenging and stimulating experience stretching their fine arts talents! Scholarship donations made to the AEC McClellan Fund helped ensure a lasting appreciation of the arts. Your donations are greatly appreciated to continue this wonderful summer tradition for deserving students – contact Lois Hench, AEC treasurer at loishench@cox.net to be a part of a young child’s fine arts enrichment education. To volunteer or learn more about our scholarship program contact Pam Krewson at pam.krewson@azmoves.com



Upcoming AEC Meetings

December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7 and May 5

9:30am at Mohave Middle School/Annex Building (Apache and/or Kachina Room)
8515 E Valley View Rd (near granite reef - South of McDonald Drive)

Join us to bring Arts in Education news and information back to your school campus.

We have volunteer openings in Grade Level Performance assistance,
Masterpiece Warehouse Print assistance and being an AEC rep on your child’s campus!