

The Innovator



Winter Break Issue

*A message from
Principal
David Diokno*

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Scales Innovator! This is one of the many ways that we keep you informed. There are so many positive things to share, and many questions have been asked about our new school. It is moving right along and we will be all set to start out as **Scales Technology Academy in August of 2008-2009!** As a staff, our commitment to excellence and achievement for every child is paramount in all that we do. We are looking intensively at student achievement data and ways that we can continue to help each child succeed. Continued on pg. 2...

Scales Students Decorate the Holiday Tree at Tempe Schools Credit Union



By special invitation, Scales students continued Tempe School Credit Union's tradition of having students in the Tempe Elementary School District decorate their holiday tree.

Decorating the Holiday Tree

By third grader, Alejandra Benites

My class went on a field trip to the Tempe Schools Credit Union on December 6th to decorate their holiday tree. Our Assistant Principal, Mr. Whitney, went with us and brought his guitar. When we first got there, we sang Christmas Carols like the Little Drummer Boy, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, and Jingle Bells.

Next, we decorated the tree. We hung pretty angels, round shiny fish, and cute cats. After that, we ate doughnuts and drank chocolate milk. Everything was sweet and delicious. After the tree was decorated, we gave holiday hugs to all of the nice people at the Credit Union. Last, but not least, we said a huge THANK YOU!!!

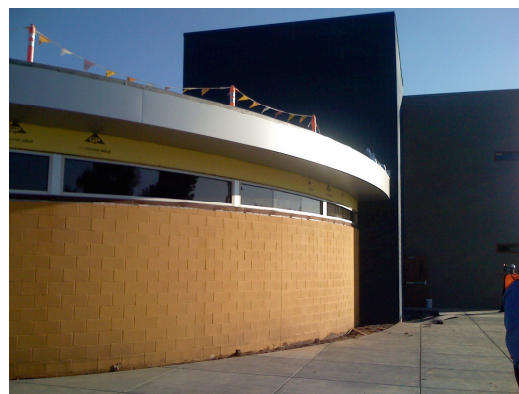
SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

David Diokno continued from pg. 1...

Technology is infused into every day learning and is making a difference in our classrooms. Students are starting to take "WebQuests," create PodCasts, and visit many far away places online. The power of the Internet is providing opportunities that were not available just a few years ago. All of this information and technology does bring some risks. It is important for all of us to ensure that we are vigilant in monitoring children's computer use and helping them to verify the information they find. It is so easy to say, "I found it on Google." But the learning must not stop there. WE NEED TO VERIFY THAT THE INFORMATION IS CORRECT, AND THEN CITE THE SOURCES THAT WE USE. We also need to ensure that children are visiting appropriate websites.

Here are some photos of our new school. One photo is the entrance to the main office, and the other is the front of our Library Media Center. The building should be complete in approximately 45 days, and teachers will move in sometime in June after we finish the school year. A lot will happen between now and then: professional development for staff, enrollment for the upcoming school year, moving, integrating technology into the curriculum, and much more behind the scenes. If you get a chance, drive or walk by our new school.

Over the holidays, please take care of yourself and your family. Every day we have together is so precious. Take time to tell your family how much they mean to you and how much you love them. Rest, relax, and keep learning. Vary your activities and provide opportunities to enrich your mind. Take trips to the zoo, science museum, parks, and the library. Practice writing and math, and read a good book! Come back energized and ready to learn in the new year! Many blessings to each of you for a very safe and happy holiday season! Warm regards to all!



The front curved wall of the Scales Library Media Center



The main office entrance to Scales Technology Academy



A NOTE FROM THE NURSE

Dear Parents,

If your child needs a vision screening and you are unable to pay for one or do not have vision insurance, please contact me at 480-929-9909, ext. 6903. I will be glad to assist you in obtaining the exam and glasses for your child.

***Halyna Chirovsky, RN, BSN, NCSN
Scales School Nurse***

SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH MR. WHITNEY, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

GREETINGS PARENTS-Being involved in your child's education is one of the best ways you can influence his or her future. By reading with your child at night, checking homework, or making regular contact with teachers, your effort will make a huge difference in your child's success. As we get closer to moving to our new building, there will be many new and wonderful opportunities to learn and give service. Get involved with the PTA, Site Council, Saturday Computer Camp, or become a volunteer at the school. Your efforts will pay off for your family and for all students at Scales Technology Academy.

CUB SCOUTS- Mrs. Lynn Shepherd is proud to announce that the first pack meeting of Scales' Cub Scouts was a success! She handed out many new patches and awards to the new Cub Scouts! If you are interested in having your son join, please contact Mrs. Shepherd at 480-332-5935. Meetings are held in the Scales Library on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

LANGUAGE ARTS CORNER

A Recipe for Reading Success

BY MARGARET AREVALO, Title I Reading Specialist

"When parents are involved in their children's education at home, their children do better in school. And, when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better." (Henderson & Beria, 1994)

A home environment that encourages learning is the most important ingredient in your child's success in school. Research shows that success in reading leads to success in other academic areas. Here are three things you can control which will help encourage this learning:

- 1. Make sure your child comes to school on time every day.*
- 2. Read, read, read with your child. Go to the library and check out books or build your home library by buying his or her favorite books. It doesn't matter what language you read to your child in. It is just important to read.*
- 3. Turn off the TV.*

Remember, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Your attitude and behavior about school will directly influence the attitude and behavior of your child. Be positive and encourage your child to succeed!

Tempe Elementary School District No. 3

Mission Statement--To assure that all students reach their achievement goals.

Goals--

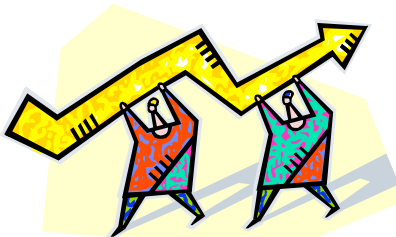
- Increase **student achievement** in every classroom, for every student, in every subject, everyday.
- Provide **exceptional service** and **support** to all.
- Provide a culture of **innovation** and **risk-taking**.
- Provide **outstanding facilities** and **technology**.

Scales Art On Display by Ms. Kelly Higgins

Many of our third grade artists have work on display in the Art One Gallery at the Tempe Market Place on Rio Salado Parkway, just west of the 101. This is a gallery that showcases Tempe student art. Mrs. Bosen's and Mrs. Gregory's classes built models of Ancient Greek Temples using recycled materials. Children from Ms. Higgin's room have their self-portraits displayed through December.

SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Call today to find out how you can contribute to Scales School. Take advantage of Tempe Schools Credit Union's interest free loans (480) 967-9475. **HELP US EXCEL!**



What will Scales do with these extra dollars? **We enhance the learning of all our students through extra-curricular activities.**

An update on Tax Credits: Donate until Dec. 31st! Help us meet the \$50,000.00 Challenge! by Principal Diokno

There are only a few more days left to make a tax credit donation. Did you know that you can make a contribution to our school through the Tax Credit Program and receive 100% of your dollars back when you file your taxes and claim a state tax credit? You can reduce your tax liability by up to \$400 (\$200 for single or \$400 for a married couple filing jointly) or claim an additional refund of up to \$400. Check with your tax consultant to see if you are also eligible for a deduction on your federal taxes to the Internal Revenue Service.

What will Scales do with these extra dollars? We will enhance the learning of all our students through extra-curricular activities. This year our tax credit contributions helped fund: 1) Mallet Madness, 2) 2nd Grade Reading Club, 3) Kindergarten Reading Club, 4) Saturday Technology Camp, 5) 5th Grade Math Club, 6) 3,4,5 Literature Club, 7) Fitness Club, and several different trips and activities. These dollars are essential to help us provide extra learning opportunities for each child.

I have challenged our school to raise \$50,000 through the Tax Credit program. With your help we can do it! You may pick up Tax Credit applications at the school. Be sure that your application names Scales School as the beneficiary of your contribution. Take as many forms as you like and share them with friends, family, and co-workers, as many people aren't even aware of how they can help. **It won't cost them a dime.** The Tempe Schools Credit Union (Mill Ave. and Alameda Dr.) will even lend you the money at no interest to take advantage of this opportunity.

January Calendar

- 7- Welcome Back
- 10- Site Council 5:30-6:30 p.m.
in the Scales Library
- 10- PTA Mtg. 6:30 -8:00 p.m.
in the Gililand Gym
- 18 and 25- 5th grade Honor
Choir rehearsal from
1:30-5:00 p.m.
- 21-MLK Day- no school
- 29- Kindergarten Roundup

Happy Holidays!



Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the Innovator:

Writers- David Diokno, Matt Whitney, Margaret Arevalo, Halyna Chirovsky, and Kelly Higgins

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We appreciate you!

Rachel Trim, Editor

Library Media Specialist