

4/10/09 *Notes from Nirvair*

It's great to be back at Khalsa Montessori School after travels to visit my daughter in India, and an extended weekend in Rome where I had been invited to teach a music workshop. Let me know if you want to see my pictures!

We are looking forward to Friday's staff development day when we will work and plan as we are taken through a dynamic process with drama teacher Paul Fisher. We are also busy planning for our spring arts presentations including lower elementary Peter and the Wolf with Dianna Bressler at River and Camden, and upper elementary student composed opera with Margie Kersey. Be sure to take a look at the tiles installed on their building by middle school students and art teacher, Patty Paluda. Middle school students have completed an immersion week exploring race, including a bike trip to BICAS to express their ideas through art with bicycle parts. We look forward to a continued relationship with BICAS, a local non-profit community cooperative dedicated to promoting and recycling bicycles, bicycle awareness and bicycle art and culture. Elementary and middle school students also enjoyed recent trips to New York for Model UN and Nashville for a national chess tournament, won awards at Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF), and took top honors at Arizona Sonora Desert Museum's annual River of Words poetry contest.

We are grateful for the support of parents who attended a rally at the state capitol in support of charter school funding. Charter schools such as ours are making a difference in education and we appreciate the efforts of the Arizona Charter School Association to raise awareness and government support. One ACSA project is a collection of advice from charter school students to President Obama. Here's the advice our middle school students will offer:

Kalina: "Always be determined and never give up."

Gil: "Think about your decisions before you make them."

Kate: "Before stating a problem, communicate soul to soul."

Maddie: "Always stay as people's hero, don't change your ways. Also can you visit our school? It is Khalsa Montessori School in Tucson, Arizona."

Noah: "End the war faster."

Liana: "Lower all groceries prices."

Sky: "Impress as many people as you can, sadly, as president that is what you have to do in your term if you want to get anywhere. We live to impress people and a lot of the time we have to. Also, I recommend that you read the book *Maximum Ride* by James Patterson."

Weston: "Don't let racism stop you from being the best president that's ever lived."

Logan: "Compare Montessori Schools with other schools to learn from them how they make their campuses safer."

Josh: "A lot of public schools aren't safe because of drugs and weapons. Charter schools are safer than public schools."

Chloe: "Obama should end the war because children have trouble understanding why they're gone and have trouble dealing with the potential loss of their mom and dad."

Santiago: "Taxes should be decreased so parents can pay for their kid's college education."

Erin: "More money should be put into programs to help kids from becoming homeless."

Nick: "Make sure something is done to stop kids from becoming homeless."

Ishmael: "Laws prohibiting alcohol and drugs on kids' playgrounds should be better enforced."

Marirosa: "There should be absolutely no tolerance for smoking on school campus."

Join us for our Spring Carnival April 25! Presented by a Camden-River Parent Partnership