

Kyrene Parent Network November 21, 2006 Meeting Highlights

Pam Krewson (Founder of the Arts in Education Council in Scottsdale), Tara Kissane (President of AZ Alliance for Arts Education), and Lynn Tuttle (Arts Coordinator for the AZ Dept. of Education) shared their passion and expertise for Fine Arts in education.

The audience was mesmerized by these women's message to all of us about how important it is for children to have exposure to these classes. The advantages of having an Art Coordinator for a District as well as a Parent's Art Council were discussed and many great ideas were shared as to how to get started. Grants which would assist Districts with the needed finances were also discussed.

One story shared, which really exemplified the advantages of having an Arts Coordinator, was told by Tara Kissane. Tara, as an Arts Coordinator, told of a music teacher who broke down and cried during her review. This surprised Tara, since the review was a good one for that teacher. When asked what was wrong, the teacher went on to say they were happy tears and she was just so grateful that someone finally recognized her strengths in terms of her specific expertise in music. No one ever had been able to examine her teaching in the detail that Tara had, and this really gave the teacher a strong sense of worth.

Many questions were asked and the time went much too fast for everyone, but all three of these special guests said they would be delighted to return at another time.