

ARCADIA NEWS

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THREE CHEERS FOR TAVAN!



These students at Tavan Elementary School have reason to be happy. Their efforts in the school's move toward sustainability and recycling earned Tavan \$15,000 in prize money as a national award winner. Story and more photos on page 18.

Arcadia doctor Brad Butler is moving from the neighborhood emergency room to a busier place, joining the Navy Reserves in a time of war in order to serve his country by healing the men and women of the United States military.

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Volunteers are vital to the success of a high school, and nowhere is that more evident than at Arcadia High. From the PTO to a variety of booster clubs to servers in the lunchroom, AHS volunteers keep the school humming.

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Third grader Alejandro Matamoros (above) talks about what we all can do to help the environment as he and his fellow Tavan Elementary students celebrated the school's grand prize award in the Google Bright Green Dream Challenge. Photos by Brant Clinard.



Tavan lands big greenbacks for green-school efforts

By Michelle Serna

One school in the Scottsdale Unified School District is setting the bar high when it comes to sustainability and helping to keep the earth a cleaner place.

Tavan Elementary School won the \$15,000 national grand prize in the Google Bright Green Dream Challenge sponsored by Lutron Electronics Company.

Lutron, which specializes in lighting that conserves energy use, awarded the school with a cash prize, which will enable school officials to purchase other materials to further implement its sustainability project.

Tavan also will receive a Lutron Greenovation energy efficient classroom lighting upgrade.

"The grant supports sustainability in our

school," said Ana McCrory, a speech and language pathologist at Tavan.

"It will allow us to purchase equipment such as light switches that are sensor activated, waterless urinals and low-flush equipment for the toilets.

"We are working on expanding our student and community awareness for recycling," McCrory said.

In addition to learning new ways to improve sustainability, the students of Tavan also work hard to spread the word to others.

Every Wednesday is Go Green Wednesday, when students write and say lines related to conservation.

"Last week we reported on the fact that the school uses over \$8,000 a month for electricity, and we challenged the kids

to turn off the lights without being told," McCrory said.

"We even set out to have teachers award the kids with a special prize if they are seen turning off the lights without being told," she said.

Newsletters go out to the students' families encouraging parents and the community to help conserve energy and recycle.

More than 50 applicants nationwide competed in the contest and news of Tavan's victory was met with great enthusiasm by staff, parents and especially the students.

"It was a very exciting day. It was huge," McCrory said of the Dec. 11 handing over of a \$15,000 check.

"We will soon be acknowledging the

kids and everyone who helped, such as the janitorial staff, teachers and the administration."

The prize will go toward buying water and energy conserving equipment. Representatives from Lutron will come to the school to see what equipment would best benefit the school and later install it.

McCrory said she hopes Tavan will set an example for other schools and hopes to challenge them to start leading a more energy conserving way of life and improve sustainability within the schools.

"The kids are becoming leaders when it comes to spreading the word about sustainability," she said. "I think it's a terrific boost to an effort that has been going on in our school for about three years now. We are all very proud."



Danielle Dozer Jenna Harrison Hannah Henderson Jacqueline Hulburd Kelsey Roderique Lauren Trobaugh Elaine Matteucci Natalie Plyman Julia Bonadio

Arcadia teens selected Board of Visitors flower girls

By Amber Tipton

For more than 100 years, the Board of Visitors, a Phoenix-based organization of nearly 200 volunteers, has been dedicated to serving the community's women, children and elderly in need, said board

member Pam Ward.

Each year, flower girls, or debutantes, are chosen to represent the Board and participate in charitable activities throughout the community. Of the 44 flower girls for 2010, nine are from Arcadia:

Elaine Matteucci, Natalie Plyman, Jacquie Hulburd, Julia Bonadio, Lauren Trobaugh, Hannah Henderson, Kelsey Roderique, Jenna Harrison and Danielle Dozer.

Activities have included a grandmother-mother-daughter tea, a gingerbread house

party and fashion show at the Arizona Biltmore. The two main upcoming events will be the father-daughter tea and the 95th annual Charity Ball on April 10 at the Camelback Inn, where the 44 flower girls will be presented.

Volunteers help keep Arcadia High School humming

By Michelle Serna

From raising money to serving lunch to helping out in the office, Arcadia High School volunteers, many of them parents, are on the job.

"We have a number of committees, including booster clubs that assist in fundraising for our various sports teams in addition to volunteers who help out at lunch and during sporting games," said Francesca Thomas, president of the Arcadia Parent Teacher Organization.

Volunteers do everything from working lunch carts to ensuring the lunch period is

a hassle free time of day for both students and staff.

"There is only one lunch hour for all 1,680 Arcadia High School students and the main goal is to get those students fed," said Thomas, who explained there are 35-45 volunteers during lunch to help and supervise students.

Members of Arcadia's PTO also raise money for a variety of materials that benefit the school and staff, as well as students. The group raises about \$50,000 annually, all of which is given back to the school and used toward purchasing school supplies,

furniture and even a comfort zone.

"We recently purchased a large shade structure for outside of the school. That made lunch a lot nicer and more comfortable for the kids that have lunch in the Arizona sun," Thomas said.

PTO members raise money for teaching tools for the classrooms and the instructors, and host breakfasts and lunches during finals weeks or in-service days.

Maggie Stinson, an AHS parent and chairwoman of the staff appreciation committee said, "We help the teachers by providing them with a lunch when they normally would have trouble finding the time to fit a lunch break into their busy schedule."

While the committee has a budget for such events, they also rely upon the local community for donations.

In addition to private donations, the committee receives gifts from companies including pizza and coupons from a fitness center.

Stinson currently is working on

collecting donations for holiday gifts for each teacher.

"It is just a little something to show that they are appreciated in the school," she said. "We are there for them because they are there for our children."

Lisette Murney, vice president of volunteers for the PTO, said the group is always happy to get more volunteers.

A food handler's license is needed if someone wishes to volunteer serving lunch or operating food carts and it's preferred that volunteers be a part of the PTO. Interested people can visit the Arcadia PTO Web site at www.arcadiapto.org.

Thomas said she enjoys her role in the Arcadia PTO and wants the act of volunteering to spread.

"People are surprised at how rewarding volunteering can be," she said. "The parents that do volunteer on campus are sending a message to the kids that their education is important to us so we spend time at the school helping them. We do it because we really get something out of it."

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School News

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Languages galore

The Scottsdale Unified School District wants to expand its World Language offerings and is considering including Arabic, Farsi, Hindi, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese and Russian.

Tim Wong will share his knowledge about teaching and learning in Mandarin from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Education Center, 3811 N. 44th St.

He will also address the importance of being multi-lingual and will answer questions about the study of world languages in general.

RSVP to Sharon Grant at slgrant@susd.org or call 480-484-6192.

SUSD gifted programs

Tours of three schools in the Scottsdale Unified School District offering gifted programs are offered through April.

The Comprehensive (Self-Contained) Gifted Program offers a complete gifted curriculum and is designed for students who have extraordinary academic needs, abilities and intellectual potential found in the top three percent of the population.

Scheduled tours are 1:30 p.m. Feb. 24 and April 14 at Redfield (formerly Zuni) Elementary School; 9:30 a.m. April 7 and May 12 at Mohave Middle School and 2 p.m. Jan. 20, March 17 and April 28 at Desert Canyon Middle School.

RSVP to Robin Madison at 480-484-4009.

SUSD Foundations awards mini-grants to teachers

School News

Scottsdale Unified School District Foundation is awarding more than \$50,000 in mini-grants to 24 teacher recipients.

More than \$100,000 has been awarded during the past three years.

The grant recipients include Monica Bellanger, Pueblo Elementary; Christina Carlson, Cherokee Elementary; Jackie Zaccarria, Redfield Elementary; Monica Bellanger, Pueblo Elementary; Bryan Wright, Navajo Elementary; John Balles, Tonalea Elementary.

Also Cynthia Krauss, A.N.L.C.; Marlene Smith, special education; Isabelle Caspari, special education; Christine Bonow, Supai Middle; Meggen Ross, Pueblo Elementary; Cara Carson, Cocopah Middle; Jennifer MacColl, Chaparral High.

Also Denise Rapp, Arcadia High; Grace Althoff, Sierra Vista; Jennifer Lazenby, Cocopah Middle; Gloria Vargas, Hohokam Elementary; Christina Haas-Smith, Pima Elementary; Christopher Brandt, Saguaro High; Margaret Hall, Jennifer Dukelow, Arcadia High; Katie Nowak, Arcadia High; Gayl Howell, Supai Middle; Mary Ellertson, Supai Middle; Cynthia Gagea, Desert Canyon Middle.

Also Elizabeth Missal, A.N.L.C.; Greg Sackos, Arcadia High and Chaparral High; Alison Iaboni, A.N.L.C. (two grants); Jillian Gramer, A.N.L.C. (two grants); Kathleen Mason, A.N.L.C.; Susan Keegan, A.N.L.C. (two grants).

Also Juri Yamashita, Yavapai Elementary; Shaun Holmes, Navajo Elementary; Michelle Landreville, Coronado High; Karen Batson, Sierra Vista; Stacey Pasquel, Tonalea Elementary; Lynn Tardie, Hohokam Elementary; Roni Scholz, Hohokam Elementary.