



TESSERACT STUDENTS WIN AWARDS AT THE 2009 ARIZONA STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA—January 27, 2009—Tesseract School, a non-profit, independent private school—preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural 10th-grade class starting fall 2009—announced today that three of its sixth-grade students won awards at the 2009 Arizona Student Film Festival. In the grades six-through-eight short category, Remi Harazim won second place for his film, “Cathy May and the Invisible Tablet” and Elizabeth Knapp, won third place for her film, “Realization.” In the grades six-through-eight microshort category Noah Brodie, won third place for his film, “The Secret of the Truth.”

The Arizona Student Film Festival contest is open to students enrolled in third grade through college who have produced public service announcements (PSAs), films, videos or documentaries. Tesseract students in fifth grade through ninth grade submitted films to this year’s contest, with 18 of those films being selected to run the night of the festival.

Tesseract students in fifth through ninth grade wrote, directed, edited and acted in a variety of PSAs, short and micro-short films. Tesseract’s ninth-grade students developed their films in their dramatic film class, one of Tesseract’s high school electives. The story lines for the fifth and sixth-grade students’ films were written in their language arts classes and then adapted for film. Harazim’s film, “Cathy May and the Invisible Tablet,” is about a girl who is picked on and gets back at the bully by making him become invisible; Knapp’s film, “Realization,” is about a brother and sister whose parents abandon them, and how they cope with this situation; Brodie’s film, “The Secret of the Truth,” is about a boy who gets caught stealing, and is then sent to live with his grandparents for the summer. While there, he learns they are not as they seem.

“I am very proud of all our students’ work,” said Ted Strickland, Tesseract middle school educator. “The process of creating these films included a great deal of teamwork, planning and execution on their part, not to mention the writing process and the decision-making that went into choosing storylines and actors, and going through the editing process.” In addition to working with students on the filmmaking process in class, Strickland also guides Tesseract’s after-school movie club, which culminates with a showing of the club’s feature-length film on the big screen at a local movie theater, and teaches the popular digital filmmaking class for Tesseract’s summer program.

About Tesseract:

Tesseract School is a non-profit, independent private school for students in preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural 10th grade class starting fall 2009. All grades, preschool through 12, will be available fall of 2011. Tesseract School has high academic standards, thematic learning and more than two decades of academic excellence. Tesseract fosters each student’s intellect, love of learning and strength of character in an innovative and collaborative environment. It prepares students to excel in college and beyond, lead lives of purpose, and become ethical and compassionate citizens with a global perspective. Tesseract’s lower school is located at 4800 East Doubletree Ranch Road, Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253. Tesseract’s middle and high school is located at 3939 East Shea Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona, 85028. For more information visit www.tesseractschool.org or call 480-991-1770.