



**Tesseract School**  
*Engaging Minds. Inspiring Dreams.*

## TESSERACT SCHOOL ANNOUNCES FIFTH ANNUAL MEXICAN MERCADO

PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA –May 19, 2009—Tesseract School, a non-profit, independent private school— preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural tenth-grade class scheduled for fall 2009—announced today the fifth annual el Mercado de Tesseract will be held on May 22 from 9 -11:45 a.m. on the school's new middle and high school campus.

After months of preparation, study and work, Tesseract's seventh and eighth-grade students have created a Mexican mercado based on the markets in Oaxaca, Mexico. They have been responsible for planning, organizing and implementing the festivities for the event.

"This has become an event that we all look forward to every year," said Nigel Taplin, head of Tesseract School. "El Mercado is always a spectacular event, both visually and in terms of illustrating what the students have learned, from foreign language and economics to history and culture, in a practical manner."

The eighth-graders have created their own companies and participated in all aspects of business planning and marketing for the event, including the research of Mexican folk art, which they have created and will sell at the market. The seventh-graders have been identifying and researching traditional Mexican games and toys, and will be responsible for running information, game and food booths at the market.

Students in preschool through sixth grade will serve as the buyers at the market, and will each be given 10 dollars of pretend money to purchase food, play games or enter the dance booth. In addition to the food and games, the folk art that the eighth-graders have made will be on sale for real money with all the profits going to UNICEF.

While participating in the market, students will be dressed in mercado-style clothing and will be allowed to converse only in Spanish. The students have been rehearsing dialogue in their Spanish classes—children at Tesseract begin learning Spanish at the age of three—so that they will be able to implement the language to purchase and sell items.

"El Mercado de Tesseract is a fun, educational event that engages students of all ages," said Jessie Soto-Tolman, Tesseract Spanish educator. "Year after year el Mercado provides students with a wonderful opportunity to use their language and cultural knowledge in an authentic and meaningful setting."

### **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 of 2009. The



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school's inaugural ninth-grade class started September 2008, along with the opening of its new middle and high school campus. 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](http://www.tesseractschool.org) or call 480-991-1770.

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