

Pathways

A PUBLICATION OF THE TESSERACT SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

FALL 2010 ISSUE



Tesseract Middle and Upper School Campus

Tesseract's growth over the last few years often comes up as a topic of conversation, even among the alumni. My youngest son attended Tesseract, joining the school when we moved to Arizona in August 2003, and leaving upon completion of eighth grade, one year before the new high school opened. Often his former classmates come to our home and reminisce, speaking fondly about their time at the Doubletree campus, which at that time housed the early childhood through eighth-grade students. They also share their admiration for the Shea campus—some of them wishing they could have enjoyed the new campus—and they are astonished at how quickly we have grown from 280 to 373 students.

The growth we have experienced—more than 33 percent in approximately three years—has been tremendous. With this growth comes new opportunities, such as our intention next year to open another “threes room” in our early childhood program, and to increase our middle and upper schools' enrollment to between 225 and 240 students in each, to total 480, over the next few years.

With this planned increase in students, the Building and Grounds Committee is continuing its work on an update of the Shea Master Plan, with the campus ultimately expected to include separate facilities for the fifth and sixth grades and the seventh and eighth grades; a multipurpose facility that will be utilized for assemblies and as a cafeteria and media center; a visual and performing arts center; and expanded athletic facilities, which will include a swimming pool and fitness room.

It is expected that all these additional facilities will be built over the next seven to 10 years, but the specific timing of each will be a function of funding being available, primarily due to the generosity of current and future Tesseract families and friends. The first project is expected to be the new fifth/sixth-grade village, which the Tesseract community will hear more about in the coming weeks.

As I share these exciting plans with you, and our alumni, I again want to thank you all for your support of Tesseract School. The last several years have been amazing; I eagerly look forward to what's yet to come.

Best,
Nigel Taplin
Head of Tesseract School ●

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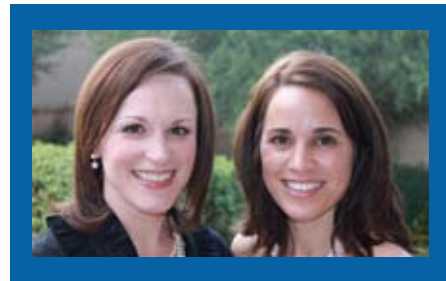
2011 GREEN TIE EVENT, BOURBON STREET BLUES

With a great new school year underway, it is time to think ahead to the exciting school events to come and the many ways in which we can support our school. After the Tiger Annual Fund, the annual Green Tie Event is the largest fundraising opportunity for the school. That is why we are so excited to announce the plans for Tesseract's 2011 Green Tie Event.

On March 12, 2011, Tesseract will present Bourbon Street Blues, a New Orleans jazz-themed event. The location for our fabulous fundraiser is The Venue in the heart of Old Town Scottsdale. The evening will be filled with live jazz music, great food from Executive Chef Tim Hobbler, silent and live auctions, a rockin' DJ, and last but not least, the Saints & Sinners casino room where you will be able to take your chances on blackjack, craps or roulette, or in a poker tournament. There may be a few other surprises in store as well...

There are many different ways in which you can lend your support to this event, even if you have limited time, from donating auction items to

joining one of the three event committees, to helping our "paper-pushers" crew stuff envelopes or bag items, or by helping with transportation and set up the day of the event. This will be an excellent opportunity for parents to make new friends, have fun, and feel good about working to support our children's school.



Co-Chairs Denise Voss and Heide McDermott

On September 28 at 9:00 a.m. at the Paradise Valley Country Club we will have a kickoff breakfast meeting for anyone interested in helping with the Green Tie Event. We will share event details, answer questions and talk about the different volunteer opportunities. This will also be a great chance to meet new people or catch up with old friends over coffee, pastries and fruit. If you are unable to attend, but are still interested in how you can help with this event, please feel free to contact Denise or Heide at BourbonStreetBlues2011@gmail.com.

Denise Voss and Heide McDermott
Co-Chairs, 2011 Green Tie Event ●

OCTOBER IS TIGER ANNUAL FUND MONTH

During the month of October, Tesseract School is looking for your gift of support to the 2010-2011 Tiger Annual Fund.

What is the Tiger Annual Fund?

The Tiger Annual Fund helps bridge the gap between tuition income and actual operating expenses. The Tiger Annual Fund is an essential component of our school's financial model and the largest source of unrestricted dollars that can be used to support our growing needs. Tuition covers roughly 80 percent of our budget. The funds raised from this campaign support the general operating budget including tuition assistance, faculty salaries and benefits, technology upgrades, new educational initiatives and professional development.

(continued...)

OCTOBER IS TIGER ANNUAL FUND MONTH (cont.)

Why is tuition not enough?

Generally speaking, all private independent schools have a gap between the cost of tuition and actual budget costs. Tesseract School relies on tuition and fundraising proceeds to meet their operating expenses. Tesseract remains committed to raising funds outside of tuition in order to retain our dedicated educators and continually strengthen our programs.

Who contributes to the Tiger Annual Fund?

Tesseract relies on funds from many different groups, including board members, the parents and grandparents of current and former students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the greater community.

We hope you will consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Tesseract School

2010-2011 Tiger Annual Fund today! Gifts of all sizes make a difference, so please know that every gift will make an impact. Please don't wait. Click here to donate today. ●

A NOTE FROM YOUR TIGER ANNUAL FUND CO-CHAIRS

It has been a great start to the school year and a roaring start for the Tiger Annual Fund. Already many of you have made your gift to this essential funding source. Thank you! Your contributions are already at work.

This year we are designating October as Tiger Annual Fund month. This will ensure your gift will make an important impact from the beginning of the school year.

If you have not already responded to the recent mailing regarding your contribution, Tiger Fund room reps and parent volunteers will be out in full force in October to remind you of the importance of your contribution. We will also be having fun activities to encourage 100 percent participation at each grade level, culminating in a fall harvest celebration for the class with the highest percentage of giving at the end of the month.

As you may already know, tuition covers roughly 80 percent of our annual expenditures—the Tiger Annual Fund covers the rest—everything from band to computers to sports activities. Your contribution is significant and essential to this remarkable school and your child's education.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Phillip Baker
Tiger Annual Fund Co-chair

Shawn Richter
Tiger Annual Fund Co-chair

You can make your contribution right now by clicking this link!
<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=c6aea4> ●



Phillip Baker
2010-2011 Tiger Annual Fund Co-Chair



Shawn Richter
2010-2011 Tiger Annual Fund Co-Chair

ARIZONA STATE TAX CREDIT



Robert Engelman
NVEP – Tesseract School Board Member,
Tesseract Trustee

Arizona is unique in many ways. One of the most creative and valuable from an education perspective is the fact that Arizona allows its citizens the opportunity to direct a portion of their state income taxes (up to \$1,000 for married couples, \$500 for individual filers) to private school financial aid programs. This year Tesseract will grant almost \$700,000 in

total financial assistance. This represents 12 percent of tuition revenue and provides need-based financial aid to upwards of 20 percent of Tesseract families.

It's simple: When you give to the New Valley Education Partnership (NVEP) - Tesseract School, you will get a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your Arizona state tax liability. There is absolutely no cost to you, and you may also be able to take a federal charitable deduction for the same contribution. Tesseract's scholarship fund allows many deserving children to have an educational experience that is unparalleled in the Valley, and your contribution, through NVEP – Tesseract School, helps make this possible.

A good portion of the money needed to fund this program comes from current Tesseract students' families, and their relatives and friends, all allocating part of their state tax payments to our New Valley Education Partners (NVEP) program. Unlike many such programs, more than 98 percent of the funds collected by NVEP are used directly to fund student aid payments.

To make an online donation by credit card, go to www.tesseracttaxcredit.org. If you would prefer to use a check, click [here](#) to download a contribution form, or visit our Web site, www.tesseractschool.org. Please pass this information on to other members of your family and your friends and colleagues who may not be supporting such a program for another private school. This program is open to all Arizona state tax payers, has no cost to the individual, and provides tremendous benefits to our Tesseract School community.

Thank you so much for your support,
Robert Engelman
NVEP – Tesseract School Board Member,
Tesseract Trustee ●

Love Your School? Tell A Friend!

When we meet with prospective families, we always ask how they found out about Tesseract School. While we receive a variety of answers, the one we are the most pleased to hear is "From a friend."

We truly appreciate your support, and hope that you will continue to share your love of Tesseract School by encouraging friends, relatives and others you know to contact us if they are looking for a school for their children.

Thank you! ●

Tesseract Philosophy of Giving

As a member of the Tesseract School community, trustees, parents and employees are expected to contribute by giving their time, talents and/or assets. It is through all of our community giving 100 percent to Tesseract's campaigns, funds and special events that we enhance our ability to provide the highest quality education for our students and further our mission of academic excellence. ●

THE TOP TEN REASONS FOR GIVING TO THE 2010-2011 TIGER ANNUAL FUND

{1} Our Students

A Tesseract education prepares our students to become listeners, writers, speakers, readers and mathematicians. Students learn to communicate and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, adopt innovative thinking and become confident and reflective learners with a global perspective.

The Tiger Annual Fund directly benefits the classrooms our children attend each day and the programs that encourage their learning.

{2} Whole Child Approach

Tesseract is deeply committed to preparing every student to go beyond academics to develop the whole person.

Your gift to the Tiger Annual Fund is tax-deductible.

{3} Leaders for Tomorrow

Tesseract provides a 21st century education emphasizing the skills and experiences necessary for students to excel in college and beyond. Tesseract administrators dedicate their time and energy to ensure that the school is fiscally sound and all income is used wisely.

The Tiger Annual Fund covers about 20 percent of the operating budget not covered by tuition.

{4} Forefront of Learning Curriculum

Tesseract engages minds by incorporating the latest in teaching techniques such as Jolly Phonics, Habits of Heart and Mind, River City Project, portfolio assessments, integrated classrooms and technology.

{5} Excellence in Academics

Tesseract sets high academic standards. The school adheres to a rigorous and well-rounded academic curriculum.

The Tiger Annual Fund aids Tesseract in continuing to expand our vision of offering the very best in education.

{6} Educators

Tesseract educators are researchers and planners, learners with learners, committed to our students, each other and the school. They bring passion to the classroom.

{7} Professional Development

Tesseract supports a high quality education by investing in meaningful and ongoing professional development for its educators.

A gift to the Tiger Annual Fund ensures Tesseract will employ the very best educators and provide a quality education for our children.

{8} A Solid Foundation

Tesseract administrators dedicate their time and energy to ensure that the school is fiscally sound and all income is used wisely.

{9} School Accreditations

Tesseract is accredited by the North Central Association and the National Association of Education for Young Children.

Having 100 percent parent participation in the Tiger Annual Fund is critical to receiving outside funding and future school accreditations.

{10} A United Community

The entire Tesseract community is dedicated to providing the very best in quality education.