

2/20/08 *Notes from Nirvair*

This week the Science Fair came to Khalsa Montessori School, River campus. Parent volunteer, Gary Burchard organized the fair along with administrator Datta Kaur and a team of parent scientists who have volunteered their time and expertise to support the teachers, students and projects. Science projects from each level will be selected to represent Khalsa School at the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair, SARSEF, next month. Some of the projects will remain on display if you haven't had a chance to visit the fair.

We are grateful for the contribution made by the active community of families at both campuses. This week parent volunteers also delivered Pizza Day, met as a Camden-River team to plan the Spring Carnival, made work for the classrooms, helped in the library, drove and chaperoned field trips, helped with the Model UN car wash fundraiser, finished a new wall for the tortoise habitat, did laundry, shared snack and birthday treats, supervised children on the playground, raised money, decided how to allocate funds to school projects, bought supplies for the classrooms, provided a teacher appreciation lunch on Monday's staff planning day, offered technical support, networked with each other to build community, recommended Khalsa Montessori School to a neighbor or friend, supported a child who needed help.

Parent volunteers are a vital part of the Khalsa Montessori School culture. Together we make Khalsa School a special place to be as well as an excelling learning environment for the children. Your expertise and talents are welcomed and appreciated. "Research based" practices are the buzzword in education these days. In addition to identifying the effectiveness of instructional methods (Montessori's approach has been shown to be very effective), research has also demonstrated that children learn best in a positive learning community where they feel caring and support, and when they see that their parents are involved and care.

We are grateful for all that you do and invite you to participate with us as we build the parent volunteer program for next year and beyond. The Khalsa Community Organization, KCO at the River School, and the Parent Teacher Organization, PTO, at the Camden School are the heart of parent participation at Khalsa School. If you aren't yet involved, watch for meeting announcements or ask Lee or Linda in the office how you can get connected. There are plenty of big and small ways to participate and you just might be the one we've been waiting for!!

We value our parent-school partnership as we work together to prepare our children today for the world they will inherit tomorrow.

*Thank You!*