

ARIZONA CHARACTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Mini-Grant Evaluation
Treasures of Peace
Alhambra School District #69
R.S. Simpson Middle School
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Project Description: The “Treasure of Peace” Mosaic is a 7’x35’ mosaic consisting of over 1850 4” square tiles. The tiles were made by students, parents and teacher as well as administration. The project helped make Character Counts visible and real to the students on campus. This project is a one of a kind piece designed by art teacher Denise Franczak-Johnson, students created personal tiles to represent the pillars of Character Counts. Eight grade students left their mark by creating many tiles and designing various sections. Artist Jane Metzger supported the process with expertise in the field of enlarging, drawing, glazing, grouting, mortaring and installation. Teacher helped with the process as well. The campus of R.E. Simpson will be enhanced by this project for years to come.

Activities Planned: For this project eight grade student were the core group and worked daily from start to near completion before their graduation. All student 4-6 in art created a tiles to express their ideas of Character Counts through caring, fairness, trustworthiness, respect, citizenship, responsibility. Teacher had an in-service afternoon where they were able to make a tile and administration and office staff were invited as well. There was a parent night held for students and parents to attend to create a tile. Over 200 people showed up that evening. Eight grade students had the responsibility of creating the figures and doves as well as glazing, mortaring and grouting, after graduation students attended to continue the efforts until its completion. Parent volunteered to come and help. There is a dedication Night planned in August during the Open House Night at the school. More details will follow on this night, time ect.

Project Evaluation: This project instilled in the students what the pillars of Character Counts are. The mosaic faces the playground where it is a visual reminder for the students to exhibit these traits. The project was a huge success. Students in summer school could not keep away from it and were seen looking for their own tile and their parents tiles. Parents were very enthusiastic in the creation of tiles and listening and learning to how the project is going to be created and installed. The only issue was that the project was planned to be smaller and kept growing, which is why the time allotted for completion was exceed. We started in March and completed it on June 12, 2010.

Budget Details: The awarded amount of \$3260 went directly to the artist Jane Metzger for he services of working with students to create and glaze tiles, working with teacher to create their tiles, firing, glazing, loading unloading the kiln, buying of supplies, figuring exact measurements

and cutting concrete boards, instructing students how to mortar and grout, instructing volunteers in the various processes, and installation and clean-up. Jane will also attend the Dedication Night. All supplies were purchased through various school budgets. Supplies exceeded in the amount of \$1200. All supplies were related to the project and its completion.

Documentation: Enclosed are just a few of the pictures taken but following the dedication evening a full collection of pictures will be sent on a CD, along with any pertinent articles.

Closure: The project was one of the best ever at Simpson school. Artist Jane Metzger and Teacher Denise Franczak-Johnson have worked together on other projects and this one is the largest. This project will be a central theme at the school for years to come.