

Spring 2009

The Future of Education NOW

Are your teens bored with school? Are you seeking a school that offers challenges, fun, rigorous expectations and more? Northpoint Expeditionary Learning Academy may be the public high school your family needs! NELA is going strong and has the public support of the voting members of the Prescott Unified School District Governing Board. Yes, Northpoint offers an excellent college prep, educational program that has been recognized nationally. With the fourth year of classes ahead of us, we are excited about our first graduating class, accreditation, high AIMS scores and an excellent teaching staff. Join us as we continue the progress.

Q- How can I learn more about what they do at NELA?

A- Call or stop by to arrange a student-led tour. The students will show you classrooms, talk about their experiences and answer your questions. Stay as long as you like, our educational process is engaging and open for all to observe.

Q- We live far from the high school?

A- The district offers busing to many outlying areas.

Some families arrange car pools as needed.

Q- Will my student take "regular" classes like at other high schools?

A- Students at NELA take the traditional academic courses (Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, Art, and Foreign Language) but all courses are integrated around a theme (the expedition) which helps students to understand the way learning applies to real-life!

Q- What about textbooks, materials, computers and costs?

A- Northpoint students use laptop computers to access current information to apply to the daily learning. Some courses use textbooks, current periodicals and applicable novels. There is not a textbook fee, but there are other costs associated with NELA registration.

Q- Where can I learn more?

A- Visit the website at www.prescottschools.com/northpoint or stop by 551 First Street in Prescott for more information.

Mrs. Geneva Saint-Amour, Director

Graphic by Freshman Bryce Schuler



Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior Expeditions

At our Celebration of Learning, students share their work that represents classroom and field learning. Freshmen will be featuring a series of three to seven minute iMovies and other presentations that show final products from the expedition called: *Terror, Terrorist, Terrorism*. Films include documentary style pieces about gunpowder and weapons, fear and hysteria as a human response, historical fear-steeped situations, the current conflict in Israel and Palestine, terrorist incidents around the world, and much more.

Juniors have been immersed in an expedition called *Terrorism: Apathy is not an Option*, and are creating an original production about terrorism based on some of the content they studied in

multiple courses. The production will include both performance and interactive Q and A sessions. Students will invite questions from the audience, and these students can handle some pretty tough questions.

The sophomore expedition is called *Compassion, Complexity, and Fear: An Exploration of Immigration in the United States*. Students will create a magazine with sections from four classes: Social Studies, Science, Spanish, and Language Arts. The magazine will include stories on the roles of compassion, complexity and fear in relation to illegal immigration. In addition, poetry and photos will be interspersed throughout.

Learning Target:

- *I can create conceptual photographs that convey a non-literal sense of fear as inspired by actual phobias.*



During a recent fieldwork experience in Tucson, students photographed planes at the Pima Air & Space Museum, created long exposure photographs while visiting the University of Arizona Observatory, and photographed their fun and learning processes everywhere in between.

Northpoint Becomes an Accredited High School!

On April 6th, Northpoint hosted a Quality Assurance Review, the last step to becoming an accredited high school within PUSD. The Quality Assurance Review Team is a peer evaluation team trained through NCA CASI, the public school accreditation organization through AdvancED. Staff, students, parents, and community members all participated in the process through interviews with the team members, while the school provided artifacts and evidence of the school's mission/vision, standards, policies, and processes. In order to earn and maintain accreditation, a school must meet the AdvancED standards for quality schools, engage in continuous improvement, and demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review. It is with pleasure and pride that Northpoint can officially say that we have been recommended to the state for accreditation. Northpoint has come a long way in the last 2 ½ years and is grateful for the hard work and accomplishments of the leadership, staff, students, and parents. A report is available for viewing in the office.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for our **Expo Night** on Monday, May 18th from 4-6pm and welcome back our community of returning students.

Learn first hand about their studies and field work from: the pacific coast in Marine Biology; Architectural Design research and models-Who will be the next Frank Lloyd Wright?; Math and how students worked hand-in-hand with ERAU faculty and staff to learn the physics of flight; the Foundations of Permaculture Design and its positive impact within our communities; Partner Dancing the Salsa with residents from our local retirement villages and elementary schools; meet students who had the honor to meet with a Holocaust survivor; and much more. We are looking forward to all they are learning as future leaders in our local and national communities.



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