

EXPLORER

SCHOOL OF
TECHNOLOGY

RED RIBBON
WEEK!

OCTOBER
26-30, 2009



Explorer Haunted House
Hauntingly Successful!

Explorer MS SuperNova Students of the Month for October

Drum roll for Cassidy Albright. Respectful? Check. Hardworking? Check. Optimistic? Check. Intelligent? Check.



Cassidy Albright embodies all of these characteristics, making her the SuperNova student of the month for October. In her classes, Cassidy is representative of a model student, working hard to accomplish her goals

and always willing to lend a helping hand. Her teachers enjoy seeing her smiling face and chipper attitude throughout the day.

At Explorer, Cassidy enjoys all of her classes, saying that she really doesn't have a favorite. More specifically, she loves the fact that she has lots of friends around her as well as great teachers. She is also involved in SkitZos. Her favorite part of SkitZos is acting and hanging out with her friends. When it comes to acting, Cassidy's favorite part is making new facial expressions and moving her body. If she were to give advice to Explorer's students, it would be to always do your best and stay on task. In her spare time, Cassidy takes pleasure in reading (her favorite book is Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls:

The New Girls by Meg Cabot), playing on the computer, and watching television, especially funny shows. Cassidy is also very athletic; she likes to play volleyball and swim. Watching football with her dad and brothers is also a way she spends her time. Family is very important to Cassidy. Her parents, Denise and Al, are her heroes because they help and support her whenever she needs it. She has two brothers; both are seniors at Pinnacle High School. When she grows up, Cassidy wants to be a teacher. Some options she is considering are a pre-school or kindergarten teacher, like her mom, or a P.E. teacher because she is athletic. Without a doubt, the SuperNova team is so very proud of Cassidy Albright. In the classroom, she is a model student. Outside of the classroom, she is a model young woman. Keep up the good work, Cassidy!

Andrew McMillian was born on April 1, 1997. His earliest memory is a trip to Disneyland where the world was full of innocence, fun, and laughter. Despite this, Andrew was all too aware in later years that the world is not always this way. New to the district this year, Andrew came to us from Fayetteville, North Carolina. Challenges are no deterrent for Andrew who has already battled through the uncertainty of whether the doctor's report would diagnose his mother with breast cancer. She is by far the most influential person in his life as she viewed herself, not as a victim, but as an overcomer. Her strength resounds in the

heart of her son. One of his favorite quotes is by William Wallace, "Every man dies. Not every man really lives." Andrew has demonstrated leadership by leading in helpful ways while empowering every member of the group to have a voice. On his tombstone, it might read: "Here lies a man who would rather be hated for who he was than loved for who he was not." Andrew insists that honesty is the most important attribute to have as a human being. On this note, his heart is not about the material world we live in today. In fact, if he could have anything at all, it would be a little brother. But he does have something to say about our current national challenge: "I think that here in America we depend too much on credit cards to pay for the things that we want but don't need. We buy things when we actually don't have the money to pay for them. What I really want to do is to repay my mother and father by becoming successful in life."

To close, Andrew abides by this quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better."



Explorer MS Elite Students of the Month for October 2009

The Elite team has a fantastic group of students this year. Elite teachers are very impressed by their students' motivation to learn and stay focused. Of the numerous students who have consistently demonstrated excellent effort in both words and action, Gui Isnard and Samantha Bayer stand out for this month's selection of Students of the Month for September.



Gui Isnard is a great example of student excellence, first, for persistent effort. He practices good habits of staying aware of what is due each day and always turns in his assignments complete. "Gui often goes beyond expectations on his assignments. He is very thorough in all his work," says Ms. Suchin, his Social Studies teacher. Gui is also known for staying actively involved in group activities, and is an important part of any team work done with classmates. His Science teacher, Mrs. Montana notes that "Gui has a positive attitude and a great sense of humor in class time activities." Gui's good attitude makes him approachable and easy to get along with, and his fellow students know they can rely on him to participate to the fullest extent possible in group activities. Finally, Gui has shown a strong sense of honesty in situations where he could have been tempted to cheat for his own benefit. In keeping to a high level of moral values, Gui has shown himself very trustworthy

While there are many students like Gui on the Elite Team, Gui particularly stood out because he moved here from Brazil only a few years ago. Although, he has learned English from a young age, we are most impressed with Gui's ability to transition into and excel in an English

speaking school so quickly. Congratulations, Gui! Your efforts will produce much success in your future studies.

Like Gui, Samantha Bayer, shows student excellence for persistent effort. Samantha has demonstrated an ability to learn and apply good habits, like



writing down all assignments due, and reviewing carefully what she doesn't know. The Elite team is most impressed with the ownership she takes to make sure she is doing what is expected. She doesn't hesitate to ask for extra help and clarification from her teachers. "Sammy shows a clear sense of responsibility for her own work," says Ms. Johnson, her English teacher. "I have no doubt that Sammy is doing everything possible to complete her assignments to the best of her abilities. She strives like no one else." She is very conscientious and self-motivated. There is no doubt that Sammy's continued hard work will reap major benefits in the future, both in building reliability and overcoming hard tasks.

In addition, Sammy is a valued "team player" among her classmates. She is enthusiastic about working with others to learn during cooperative, in-class activities. She is organized and polite during class, and shows a good sense of humor and creativity as she contributes to various projects and assignments. Her contributions have been valuable to her whole class's ability to understand lessons.

When asked what she thinks makes an excellent student, Sammy says you need to be, "organized and pay attention in class." Congratulations, Sammy! You are a benefit to every class you are in.

Red Ribbon Week!

Red Ribbon Week brings millions of people together to raise awareness regarding the need for alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention, early intervention, and treatment services. It is the largest, most visible prevention awareness campaign observed annually in the United States.

Monday, 10/26: Wear RED! Pledge Signing 1st hour - students will sign pledge cards to be drug free.

Monday, 10/26: Student posters are due on to Mrs. Hansen. Votes will determine the best posters and an announcement will be made at the end of the day. Prizes include music CD's, snack shack bucks, and recognition.

Monday, 10/26 through 10/29: Secret Spooks (Similar to Valentine Grams) - Will be sold at lunch on the 26th and 27th, and before school on the 28th and 29th. Grams will be delivered 8th hour on the 29th.

Tuesday, October 27: "Being Drug Free is NO SWEAT" day. Students wearing sweats will receive a lollipop. NotMYKid Student Presentations on Substance Abuse

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment enables Arizona students to attend public elementary schools (grades K-8) or high schools (grades 9-12) outside their attendance areas or their districts in an effort to give them a choice in school selection. Applications for Open Enrollment in the Paradise Valley Unified School District are accepted at the District Administrative Center October 1 through December 1 each year, and all other times for out-of-district students at the schools – if the school is determined to have capacity for additional students by the receiving school administrator.

Fall Festival

Huge Success

Special thanks to all of our parent and teacher volunteers who gave of their time and talents to help with this year's P.T.O. Fall Festival. Our P.T.O. planning committee did an awesome job and included student survey results in creating a Fall Festival that our students wanted to attend.

We are very lucky to have such wonderful students, teachers, parents, and community members, and everyone enjoyed three hours of fun under the lights, stars, and moon.

Special thanks to our Media Production Crew for the HUGE promotion of the Fall Festival

October

14

NotMYKid Parent Presentation
Media Space, 7 PM
Cyber Bullying & Internet Safety

23

Fall Festival and Haunted House
5:30 - 8:30 PM
Explorer Campus

26-29

Parent & Teacher Conferences
Grades 7/8 4:30 - 8 PM
Gymnasium
10/26: A-L 10/27 M-Z

November

10

Early Release
Professional Development Day
1:00 PM

11

Veterans' Day!
No School for All Grades

23

Piano Recital
7 PM, Cafeteria

December

8

EMS Spelling BEE

10

Holiday Concert
Chorus and Strings
7 PM, Cafeteria

15

Band Concert
7 PM, Cafeteria



Οπα!!

Efxaristo Ευχαριστώ (thank you) to Explorer Middle School 7th grader Anastasia Deffigos who performed with former EMS student Alexa Furlis at the recent three day Greater Phoenix Greek Festival. The beautifully costumed young ladies and men performed in over 7 performances at the 49th annual Greek Festival that featured wonderful Greek dancing, festive music, delicious food and other wonderful demonstrations of Greek culture and arts.

Anastasia has been dancing since pre-school and is a veteran of many festivals. She says being with her friends, the music, and traditional foods (especially the SAGANAKI -GREEK FLAMING CHEESE) make these festivals so much fun!