

## Museum School Tours and Educational Outreach FY 2010

The Capitol Museum remains a premier educational field trip destination. School Tours had an outstanding year, increasing visitor numbers during the year to nearly 26,000 - an increase over both 2009 and 2008 numbers. In addition, and more importantly, we have been able to give a higher quality experience to those schoolchildren who visit us. Included below is just one of many examples we had the opportunity to be a part of last season:

### Horseshoe Trails Elementary – Cave Creek

On Wednesday April 7 we had an opportunity to do something special for a school group. In planning a tour for Horseshoe Trails Elementary School in Cave Creek, we discovered that we were full on the date and time they wanted to come. The assistant principal then informed me that this trip to the capitol was to be a prize as part of their school program “Character Counts.” This class of (30) 1st graders turned in the most voter registration forms as well as requests for early ballots from their parents. At that point we knew we had to get them in somehow. We went back and forth on dates and times until we scheduled them for April 7th at 11:30.



**Secretary of State Ken Bennett addresses first graders from Horseshoe Trails Elementary in Cave Creek.** Photo by Marion Shepherd

The tour coordinator then e-mailed the Voter Outreach Director in the Secretary of State’s Office informing them of this special tour that was coming in. We told them that they might be interested in knowing about this tour and that if they wanted to stop down to greet these kids they would be very welcome. The message was passed to Secretary Bennett and his assistant called me to let me know that Secretary Bennett

would be there. The principal was called back to let her know that we had made special arrangements for her. In addition, Secretary Bennett was going to be taking time out of his busy schedule to come and speak to her group because he felt what they had accomplished deserved to be recognized.

Secretary Bennett arrived promptly at the arranged time and spent almost 45 minutes speaking to the kids. He was a fantastic speaker. The students presented him a framed certificate from their school and a booklet they had made compiled of letters from the parents regarding the Character Counts program. This school, I found out, also participates in the Student Mock Election Program.

The principal, teachers, parents and students were all thrilled, appreciative, and were made to feel very special. This was the first time this school had visited us. The principal told me they would definitely be back next year.

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## **Arizona Capitol Museum Outreach FY 2010 Overview & Seriously Fun History**

### **FY 2010 Overview**

From September 2009, to May, 2010, Arizona Capitol Museum Outreach took the stories of Arizona to 9,365 students and adults through 195 presentations for schools, Rotary groups and senior centers. Students from kindergarten through high school attended Outreach programs in their classrooms, cafeterias and libraries. Special need students enjoyed programs adjusted to their learning paths. Especially fun was a hands on program about the State Symbols for deaf young adults at the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf.

In FY 2010, Outreach celebrated three years of visits to schools such as Bologna in Chandler, John Jacobs in Phoenix, Park Meadows and Arrowhead in Glendale. Madison Park added 2 programs for their 7th grade students in addition to scheduling programs for their 4th grade classes. A trip through southern Arizona included schools in Sahuarita, Tucson, Benson and Bonita.

### **Seriously Fun History**

Laughter may be the best medicine, but it is also a great teaching tool. Outreach's goal is to present seriously fun history to engage the interest of students and adults through

the programs offered by the Arizona Capitol Museum. Does it work? The numbers tell the tale. Outreach contacts grew from 1,156 in FY 2007 to 9,356 in FY 2010.

Interesting stories, period photographs, emphasis on family history, wars and politics and how it ties to the students opens the student's eyes to a world of history beyond dates and memorization of important people. It makes history come alive. It ties the past to the present. Students learn, ask questions and retain information.

Outreach's goal is not just to supply information, but to foster an atmosphere of learning that encourages students to think and question. Another goal is to reinforce classroom teaching to aid students in reaching the performance objectives of the State Standards.

The Arizona Capitol Museum is Arizona's Museum. Outreach takes the museum to many people who otherwise would not have access to its exhibits and stories of Arizona and her capitals. Outreach makes Arizona history real to her students and future leaders.



**Alice Duckworth, in period costume, gives a Capitol Museum presentation to the Mesa Rotary.  
October, 2010.**