

On December 2, 2011, our cross-campus community outreach project began with a “kick off” assembly on stage at Marley Park Elementary. Historical re-enactors John and Joye Kohl, from our sponsoring organizations, appeared in costume and performed as renowned Arizona architect Mary Jane Colter and as two prominent Union soldiers from the Civil War skirmish at Picacho Peak. AAUW President Harriett Grau and WVGS Centennial Chair, Arlene Sampson were also present. Fifth grade students from Canyon Ridge and sixth, seventh and eighth grade learners from the Cambridge Academy synthesized their previous internet historical research with facts, perspectives and tales offered by the presenters. The classes from our respective campuses will share this information with one another via student e- mail and the Edmodo internet based communication tool.

The stage show concluded with an informative and satirical skit about Arizona’s first governor, George W.P. Hunt and his greatest “modern fan.” Seventh grade Cambridge students, Ashley McCarty and Taylor Tracey had the audience smiling and laughing in delight. All performers then circulated amongst the seated audience and responded to a series of higher order thinking questions that had been prepared by each learner.

The Canyon Ridge cougars, and their teachers, will again visit the Marley Park mavericks on Statehood Day; February 14, 2012. At that time our combined Centennial team will participate in an art walk of winning entries from the drawing and essay contests, preview the student generated documentary and share a bar-b-que lunch. Performers and representatives from the WVGS and the AAUW will again be with us and some of our learners will dress as Arizona historical figures and perform for our visitors.

Our combined teams will culminate the celebration of 100 years of statehood by constructing a float and marching in the Sun City West Arizona Centennial Celebration Parade on Monday, February 20, 2012. Winners of the art and writing contests will be honored at a meeting of the West Valley Genealogical Society in April 2012.

