

A promotional banner for the Ford Fusion. On the left is the Ford logo and the text "BOLD MOVES Arizona Ford Dealers". In the center is a red Ford Fusion sedan. On the right, text reads "FUSION ranked 'Most appealing mid-size car.'**" and "J.D. Power and Associates 2006 Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout Study™". A "LEARN MORE" button with a right-pointing arrow is in the bottom right corner. The background is a dark red with white sparkles.

Ford
BOLD MOVES
Arizona Ford Dealers

FUSION ranked "Most appealing mid-size car."**
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Scottsdale center makes arts accessible

By Lindsay Butler
Tribune

A warm November sun. Cool Rastafarian beats. Fresh cut grass. The rigors of school seemed worlds away for the students deliriously taking in the sights, sounds and smells of this year's Celebration of the Arts for Children with Disabilities. The Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts hosts about 500 students from schools all over the Valley each year at the celebration, which is meant to promote a spirit of accessibility to the arts, said Linda Jane Austen, center director of education.

"If you look out there, you can see the results," she said Tuesday, motioning toward a field full of children spinning and dancing.

The students represented a variety of ages, spanning kindergarten and eighth grade, with differing disabilities.

Joni Welsh teaches seventh- and eighth-grade students with emotional disabilities, which she described as children with normal IQs who exhibit behavior that gets in the way of their education.

Welsh said her often defiant students showed little enthusiasm last year about the celebration, but that changed.

"Once they got here, they wanted to participate and help the younger children," she said.

It was also a chance to look beyond the classroom, Welsh said.

"It gives them a chance to see other individuals with disabilities," she said.

The morning's events included crafts, stories, watching a puppeteer and dancing to the RastaFarmers.

Balsz Elementary School sixth-grader Alex Burke, 11, proudly showed off his handiwork.

"I made a dinosaur - a pterodactyl - a rocket ... I'm going to put it up next to my bed, and this," he said, holding up a peace sign decorated with markers and glitter, "I'm going to give this to my mom."

Monte Vista Elementary School teacher James Hummert said he takes his third-, fourth- and fifth-graders on a lot of field trips, but that the arts celebration is unique.

"There's so many hands-on kinds of activities," he said.

Austen said the center spends about \$5,000 on supplies for the annual celebration, but that so much more work goes into preparing for the day on behalf of the staff and volunteers.

"In part, there's a sense of giving back to the community at large," she said.



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