



# City Academy

An Integral Approach to the Arts, Sciences and Citizenship

2416 East 1700 South Salt Lake City, UT 84108 (801) 596-8489

[www.centercityschool.org](http://www.centercityschool.org)

A Public Charter School Serving Grades 7—12

Winter 2004

## REFLECTIONS ON 2004

The holiday season and the coming new year beckon some reflection on our accomplishments as one of Utah's first public charter schools. Now entering our 5<sup>th</sup> year, we look with pride on our sustainability, growth and future vision. As is common with any new business endeavor, there have been many challenges along the way but in sum our successes and achievements far outweigh our problems. As a pioneering charter school, we literally started from scratch to develop an innovative curriculum, recruit top-notch teachers and establish a cost-effective school administration.

Our school community was shaken this year by the personal decisions of three of our teachers to make changes in their professional careers in the middle of a school year. This, as many of you know, is unprecedented in our school's history. Making change is not easy, but we take this as an opportunity to generate positive outcomes. We have already added Shawn Maxwell, an English teacher, to our staff to rave reviews of students and parents. Welcome Shawn!

I and the many dedicated City Academy teachers and staff value our relationships with each of you. We honor your trust by providing meaningful and personally challenging educational opportunities while preparing students for university study or any other post-high school endeavors.

As we enter 2005, our financial status is stronger than ever. Additionally, we have obtained several grants from prestigious local and national individuals, foundations and corporations that support our school's commitment to democratic education and project-based learning. We are humbled

and encouraged by the generous support of our many community partners. Finally, we are actively involved in creating opportunities to be good neighbors in our communities. As a First Amendment School ([www.firstamendmentschools.org](http://www.firstamendmentschools.org)) we are dedicated to open forum communication. We work together to solve problems and move on wiser and stronger. As we continue to build this school, challenges will persist but we view them as opportunities to grow and create better educational experiences for our students.



It is important for us to remember that City Academy is an organization with an intrinsic strength larger than its "problems." Let us keep our eyes focused on the school's mission to be a vibrant democratic learning community dedicated to developing students who are intellectually powerful, empathetic, creative, resourceful and active members of our school; enabling them to become lifelong learners and proactive citizens. If we believe in our purpose and work together we will continue to grow and succeed.

I am excited about City Academy's future because I firmly believe in the possibilities created by our mission. I am energized by the many stakeholders who continue to strengthen us and am personally committed to achieving ongoing success. I wish you all a peaceful holiday season and look forward to an amazing 2005 as we collaborate to build an unparalleled learning community at City Academy.

— *Sonia Woodbury, PhD*  
Executive Director, City Academy

# FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am pleased to join with Sonia in saying a few words to the City Academy family as we move into the new year with a great deal of optimism. The board has taken note of concerns that have been expressed resulting from the departure of three teachers and some other challenges this Fall. This is ironic in a sense because of the progress City Academy is currently making.

On behalf of the board of trustees, I would like to express our confidence in the administration and the teachers, and our pride in the wonderful group of students that attend City Academy. We feel that the challenges inherent in blazing a new path for public education and tailoring our academic environment to honor the individuality and needs of each student, are greatly offset by the creation of an exceptional project based learning environment which integrates the arts, the sciences and democratic responsibility.

I would like to emphasize, though, that the board is challenging the administration and teachers to be even firmer in ensuring that the nature of City Academy as a

learning community is enhanced, and following up with appropriate action if students do not comply with minimum behavioral and academic commitments they make upon entering the school. This is only fair to students who attend the school expecting to receive the enriched learning environment that we promise and are capable of providing.

As Sonia has alluded to in her letter, City Academy has continued the process of increasing its financial stability. In spite of a few blips on the radar screen this fall, every aspect of our mission and vision is in the process of being more fully realized.

As a board of trustees who are a mix of experienced educators together with individuals with a broad range of background in the community, we would like to encourage all of you to continue your terrific support in moving City Academy even closer to fulfilling its dream.

—John Kesler  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

## CITY ACADEMY WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

City Academy is pleased to announce that Susan Riggs Barrell has joined its Board of Directors. Susan is an artist and performing arts' administrator who earned a BA in Fine Art and English (Theatre emphasis) from Bucknell University. She has worked for many performing arts organizations nationally and locally. Her most notable service was with Repertory Dance Theatre as Company, Public Relations and General Manager during the 1970's; Executive Director of the now Sundance Film Festival during the formative first four years in Park City, Utah; and various positions, including the first female Executive Director, during fourteen years with Ballet West.

Susan has most recently been doing independent work as a consultant, artist and writer. She is married to Lighting Designer, Author and Arts' Administrator, M. Kay Barrell and has two sons, Ross and Ian, who attends City Academy. Her interest in alternatives to traditional education programs and her belief in the importance for the arts in a well rounded education, have made her eager to be able to serve on the City Academy Board. She is hoping her many years of experience in non-profit financing, fundraising and educational outreach programs can be of benefit to the Academy's current development.



## DID YOU KNOW ?



Each fall, The Coalition of Essential Schools (CES) convenes over 2,000 teachers, administrators, parents, students, and leading thinkers in education to exchange ideas, ask questions, and share insights from schools around the country. This year City Academy's Executive Director, Sonia Woodbury and social studies teacher Gareth Orr brought their talents and experience to share with participants at this dynamic 3-day national conference.

Gareth Orr presented some thought provoking information in his presentation "*Using Divisive Issues to Stimulate Authentic Learning and Essential Experiences in Democratic Citizenship.*" In this interactive and collaborative session, Gareth challenged participants to tackle the practical challenges of creating and managing learning through "hot topics" to help students "use their minds well" and learn and practice democratic thinking and behavior.

Sonia Woodbury shared her extensive knowledge as an administrator in her presentation "*Equitable Schools Develop Equitable Habits of Mind, Heart, and Action.*" She engaged participants in strategizing about the optimal characteristics of a school, its classrooms, and modes of instruction that support and sustain intentions for inclusive and equitable policies, practices, and pedagogies. In addition, Sonia shared her personal experiences of working on these issues at City Academy as part of the First Amendment Schools project.

For more information about CES visit their website at [www.essentialschools.org](http://www.essentialschools.org).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING....AT A GLANCE

## Language Arts

Students are producing contest essays and advertisements for the Utah Phoenix Alliance "Anti-Tobacco" campaign. Participants are eligible to win prize money for outstanding production ideas. Juniors and Seniors will also be composing essays for some challenging topics assigned by the Utah Humanities Council. Winners can win as much as \$500.

## Science

A 36 passenger diesel bus has been purchased for Shea's chemistry class. It will eventually be converted to run on biodiesel made from grease donated by local restaurants. This vehicle will provide an excellent example to the community about the possibilities of enviro-friendly transportation.

## Social Studies

Gareth's 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> graders are learning about the crusades of the Middle Ages and investigating parallels to the Post 9/11 world.

## Math

Michelle will be working in cooperation with Wells Fargo Bank to offer a Financial Literacy class to 10<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders in 2005.

## Professional Development

Jami's Division III seminar is connecting with local businesses to explore careers and learn job hunting techniques.

## The Arts

In November, 5 City Academy students went "on air" for KRCL's **Loud and Clear**, Utah's only all youth radio program—see [www.krcl.org](http://www.krcl.org) for details. Forrest Bennett shared his thoughts on the urban impact of the ranching lifestyle and Orson Taylor presented a piece on bees and honey.

## Community

- Flu shots will be available for \$15.00 on Wednesday, December, 15th from 2:30 – 5:00 PM at City Academy
- Students will be offering snow shoveling services to our elderly neighbors this winter.
- City Academy is holding a drive thru 12/15 to collect items for the homeless and less fortunate. Students will be collecting mittens, gloves, scarves, sweaters, socks, earmuffs, stockings (preferably stuffed with soap, combs, hairbrushes, toothbrushes, floss and paste, etc.) and small toys. Contact Deanna at [deesings@xmission.com](mailto:deesings@xmission.com)

## You Are Invited

Be our guest on the evening of  
January 11, 2004  
for a neighborhood  
meeting, dinner, and dialogue about a  
First Amendment School  
and its community.

### "City Academy, Community, and the Constitution"

Everyone is welcome  
Watch for more information

## SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

- ✓ Talk daily to your students about their work and their progress
- ✓ Volunteer
- ✓ Place orders on-line through [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com), select Center City School as the recipient of a donation by the merchants you purchase from
- ✓ Turn in box tops from General Mills, Campbells Soup labels, Cream of Weber milk caps, computer ink jet cartridges, and cell phones
- ✓ Give through shopping at Albertson's and Smith's grocery stores

## Supporting Education for Girls in Ethiopia

In the next few weeks, City Academy will become an official sponsor of the "Children of Ethiopia Education Fund", a Utah non-profit that provides education for girls in Ethiopia. Additionally, we will spearhead a "sister school" project with a new school there. See: [www.coef.org](http://www.coef.org) for more details. Deanna is making hats for the girls in sponsor villages and has started a fashion trend. Check out: [www.xmission.com/-bluesguy/ethiopia.html](http://www.xmission.com/-bluesguy/ethiopia.html) to see and purchase hats

## Thanks For Your Support

A special thanks to all who made City Academy's first annual fund raiser a great success! Held on October 23rd at the Alta Club, the event brought in thousands of dollars through its silent auction, sponsored tables, and participation by friends of City Academy. All proceeds from the event benefit the students of City Academy.

If you would like to donate to City Academy please call us at 801-596-8489



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