

United Parent Council



December Program ...

What is PVEA?

Now that we have rolled out our introduction of the Daniel Pink book, *A Whole New Mind*, our subsequent meetings will weave the ideas presented in his book.

Join us for our December UPC Meeting when we will have the opportunity to hear Chris Maza, President of the Paradise Valley Education Association, tell the story about PVEA and how this organization relates to our teachers.

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

- 8:45 a.m. Meet & Greet
- 9:00 a.m. Superintendent's Remarks
- 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting
- 10:15 a.m. Program

Looking Ahead...

At our January UPC meeting, Bev Kilgore, Assistant Director of Technology will speak to us about the new Student Services program "Infinite Campus" and how the "roll out" will affect operations at our schools in the coming months. Most importantly how it will affect the student online grading systems. By next fall, the design of this new system will allow parents, teachers and administrators to communicate within the schools

much more efficiently.

—Tami Taylor

taylorzona@cox.net

UPC meetings are open to the public and are held at:

PVUSD Administrative Center
East/West Conference Room
15002 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix, AZ

Special Education Committee Parent to Parent Support Meeting

Please join us at our next meeting

Wednesday, December 16th

— 12:30p.m. —

Einstein's at 64th and Greenway in the Safeway shopping center

Questions??? Contact Allison Cahill at aecahill@cox.net.





President's Message — Julie Bacon jwbacon@cox.net

The M&O Override passage on November 3rd was a huge boost for the students of this district. The \$5.3 million dollar cut the district had to make this school year after the override loss in 2008 will be made up next school year. We are not, however, out of the woods. The increasing state budget deficit will have implications for school districts across the state. Legislators last week cut \$144 million in soft capital expenses for school districts. And more cuts are anticipated as the new calendar year approaches. It is critical we keep our focus on talking to legislators about the difficulty schools face in these lean economic times.

Schools not only have to deal with the cuts they are receiving but are also struggling to help students whose families are experiencing financial crisis. Students who not only have basic needs like food and clothing but who also have to cope with the emotional and social issues related to financial need look to our schools in times of need. Schools have been, and will always be, one place where students and their parents look to for help. And, as much as possible, schools and districts help those in need by providing stability and normalcy in a world that is rapidly changing for these students and families. The question is, "How long will schools and teachers be asked to do all they do with shrinking resources?"

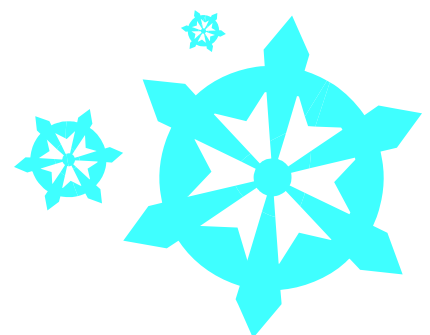
The budget process for the district this year is likely to be difficult again. As we know last year there were many cuts made including class size increases, employee salary cuts, extracurricular activity fee increases, and

cuts to all levels of administrative departments. There will assuredly be many of the same difficult decisions to make for the 10-11 school year. Our superintendent, Dr. Lee, has publicly stated the intentions of the override will be honored but has also noted cuts to the budget for next year are certain. The district will look at creative ways to cut the budget and promised transparency during the process.

Parents can be informed of the budget issues through a variety of methods. The first is to attend UPC meetings monthly. UPC will continue to inform parents of budget issues during those meetings and via our electronic "E-Bulletin". Governing Board meetings and study sessions are also excellent ways for parents to learn. Attending the school council meetings at your school also provides another avenue for information. Again this year, I will caution parents to ask the right people the right questions if they want information.

Despite the difficulties we face this is a good time of year to remember the blessings we have. Take the time to spend time with family and friends during the winter break. Make sure to tell those important to you why they are and how much they impact your life. It is a time to take stock, count your blessings and enjoy the spirit of the holiday season.

“Despite the difficulties we face, this is a good time of year to remember the blessings we have.”



Voters say YES! for PV Students

On November 3rd voters approved renewal of the Maintenance and Operation budget override with 61% of the voters voting YES! We could never have achieved this great victory for our children and our schools without your help.

We told you in August that winning approval would take hard work and a costly campaign. Thanks to your help and the generosity of parents, employees, community members, and businesses in our district, we reached our fundraising goal. The steering committee implemented campaign strategies that were far different than ever before. Countless volunteers pitched in to help. 135,000 registered voters were educated about this critical ballot measure. Volunteers:

- Knocked on 1500 doors
- Phoned 5000 voters
- Distributed literature and made presentations at school and community events
- Offered pro arguments for the Informational Pamphlet and submitted editorials to numerous local newspapers
- Created and maintained a campaign website
- Published four editions of an electronic newsletter sent via email
- Established and updated Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Produced a TV commercial
- Recruited 600 parents and employees to add to the Permanent Early Voter List

In addition, campaign funds were used to:

- Design and mail three different pieces of literature
- Place four automated phone calls
- Procure TV air time
- Purchase road signs, yard signs and bumper stickers

An analysis of the voter data shows that the override passed at every single one of the 25 polling places across the district, a great show of support from our community. Only one of five voters cast their vote at the polls on Election Day; four of five were early vote by mail ballots. Voters will continue to be added to the Permanent Early Voter List (PEVL). What we have learned is that campaigns will need to focus on the PEVL and get the message out by the first of October since early voting begins a month before Election Day. Over 70% of the ballots were cast by voters over the age of 50. What we know is that the campaign message must speak to voters who no longer, or perhaps never, had children in our schools.

Your feedback (the good, the bad, and the ugly) and suggestions for future campaigns are welcome and may be sent via email to Laurie Smith at JLSmith7017@aol.com or Julie Bacon at jwbacon@cox.net.

Again, thanks to everyone for your contributions and for your belief in our schools.

— submitted by Laurie Smith, Yes! for PV Students Committee

Thank you!



Directory News Directory News Directory News Directory News

The UPC Directory is out! The first week of November UPC e-mailed the Directory to our UPC reps and alternates, general members, parent group presidents, principals, and some administrators.

If you did not receive the electronic directory and think you should have please contact Directory Editor Pam Kogan pkogan122@hotmail.com, or UPC President Julie Bacon jwbacon@cox.net.

Hard copies of the Directory were distributed at the November general meeting to those who signed up for one. If you signed up for a hard copy and didn't receive it, please contact Pam Kogan to arrange delivery.

To everyone who received the electronic or hard copy Directory, please review your personal information and let Pam Kogan know if there are any

corrections or additions. I will "publish" a corrections/ additions list in January.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all the UPC Reps, Administrative Assistants, and other people who helped gather people's information, who helped encourage parents to volunteer as Reps for their school, and who accurately filled out Membership forms and collect fee payments from their schools. And a special THANK YOU to Pam Hoffberg and Julie Bacon for their continued assistance in this huge task. This was truly a collaborative effort!

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

Pam Kogan, Directory Editor



Let's Talk! Elaine "Kiki" Whissen is a former teacher and administrator, UPC officer, and school volunteer. She consults, works with student teachers at ASU, and is an AZ School Solutions Team Member. The opinions expressed are her own, written to urge us to Talk! EKWhissen@cox.net

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." —Anne Frank

How did we UPC Members, super volunteers, become so altruistic, selfless, and caring? We learned from role models to give of ourselves to serve others. Now we have the opportunity to pass these giving attitudes and actions along to our children. Here we parents are again, our children's ultimate teachers and role models!

There was research presented at Stanford University in 2008 that very young children are naturally helpful and have an inborn altruistic nature. "From when they first begin to walk and talk and become truly cultural beings, young human children are naturally cooperative and helpful in many... situations," Dr. Michael Tomasello, a developmental psychologist and anthropologist, gathered from his studies. He noticed that small children would help pick up a piece of paper or open a cabinet door to help someone. And, they wouldn't ask for anything in return. But, as children grow older, his research reported, they are influenced by their environment and other issues take precedence. So, it's important for parents to help children further their natural altruism, their compassion for others, and their desire to give service.

Dr. Peter C. Scales, a developmental psychologist, said, "children need a sense of personal power along with compassion...the sense that I can make a difference." Children need guidance on how to give of themselves and on the actual projects they choose. The more the child buys into a pro-

ject--the more energy the child will give to it. Parents should discover what the child is interested in and what abilities/special skills the child has. And, parents need to know what they themselves are willing and able to support with time and energy.

Here are some simple ideas that parents can explore when helping their children to choose to serve others—for a lifetime!

Money: The child can choose a cause he/she is passionate about. Then select and/or decorate a charity jar and regularly put portions of allowances or earned money into it. Be sure the child gets to deliver the contribution, if possible. Parents may want to match the child's charity jar amount.

Military: There are email addresses that can be used to send messages to U.S. military men and women (americasupportsyou.com; amilionthanks.org).

Animals: Buy dog or cat food and take it to an animal shelter (search Arizona Animal Shelters). Walk or play with an elderly or ill neighbor's dog. Pet stores many times have volunteer opportunities posted.

Food: Deliver a child-written notice and bags to neighbors/friends about a food collection to occur on a certain date. Collect the food and take it to a local food bank (search Association for Arizona Food Banks).

PVUSD: Check out the Electronic Backpack on the PVUSD site, Parents. You'll sometimes find community flyers for volunteer opportunities. Barnes and Noble at Desert Ridge is collecting new books (purchased anywhere)

through Dec. 31 and contributing them to PVUSD's Title I schools. Also, teachers need supplies all year such as stickers, pencils, markers, paper, classroom books, etc.

Outdoors: Take bags and a long handled grabbing tool to pick up trash on a nearby trail or quiet road, a park, a school playground, etc. Also, parks and recreation departments ask for volunteers to help with outdoor projects (<http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/volunteer/youthcorpsinfo>; <http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/volunteer>).

Let's Talk: Please email Kiki with service your children have accomplished or are working on. She'll share some of these in her next UPC article.



Paradise Valley Unified School District

United Parent Council

PVUSD Community Resource Center
15032 N 32nd Street
Phoenix AZ 85032

“Standing for Children”



Visit our website!

www.pvupc.org

Seasons Greetings

Calendar of Events

- Dec. 3 Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. DAC
- Dec. 9 UPC General Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
East/West Conference Rooms DAC
- Dec. 16-17 High School exams and early dismissal
- Dec. 17 Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. DAC
- Dec. 18 9-12 Recess
- Dec. 21 Winter Break, school resumes Jan. 4

2009-2010 UPC Officers

- President: Julie Bacon
- 1st VP Membership: Pam Hoffberg
- 2nd VP Programming: Tami Taylor
- Secretary: Molly Mudick
- Treasurer: Sandy Ditsch
- Email: upcmail@hotmail.com
- Newsletter : Stacey Huscher
stahuscher@cox.net (602) 485-5935

Check out the PVUSD website at www.pvschools.net