

United Parent Council



January Program ...

Infinite Campus

Join us for our January UPC Meeting when we will hear all about the design of our **NEW Student Information System, Infinite Campus**, from Beverly Kilgore, Assistant Director of Technology for PVUSD. She will present the components of this new program including online grade book, attendance and parent/school communication.

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

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

— 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**

Leadership
Ideas
Networking
Community

LINC 2010 Showcase



You are cordially invited to attend the **LINC Parent Group Program and Vendor Showcase** sponsored by United Parent Council.

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

6:30-8:00 p.m.

District Administrative Center

15002 N. 32nd Street

East/West Conference Rooms

- ☞ Mingle, talk, and discover what other schools are doing throughout the district.
- ☞ Meet with a variety of program/fundraising organizations that will be present at the Vendor Showcase.
- ☞ Hear remarks from Dr. James P. Lee, PVUSD Superintendent

Please remember to send in your completed school profile by Friday, January 22, 2010. This can be sent to jmozilo@cox.net or through District Interoffice mail.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Jen Mozilo, LINC Chairman at jmozilo@cox.net or 480-473-0701.



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

Can you believe 2010 is here? I sometimes have a hard time getting back into the swing of things after winter break and I know my children do as well. And let's face it, as parents; we are tired after the rush of the holidays and having the kids out of school. And as much as I love having my kids home with me, it adds another dimension to life: who wants to go where and with whom, how many friends are coming to the house to watch a movie, how late will they be staying and how are they getting home? But truth be told, I think my children were ready to get back into a schedule, and I am now equally as glad we have needed to do that.

The New Year is a time to take stock, think about where we are in our lives, and a time to recommit to the people and issues that are important to us. Many of us find this time of year to be a time of organization. Getting new bins for our stuff, filing all the paperwork lying around, and cleaning out closets to make room for the holiday gifts we really didn't need. But it also is a time to rethink and renew the commitments we have to others.

After every Community Legislative Network I attend as a parent representative, I often joke to the committee that I am thinking about moving to another state because of the frustration I feel with the political landscape we have in this state. After sleeping on it, I always resolve to fight the good fight and recommit myself to staying involved, being an active citizen of the democracy in which I live. I know this is a time of frustration, impatience, and grave concern in public education. I also know it is hard to stay committed to an issue that seemingly has little support from the people who make decisions.

I get the sense that many people in the nation are

feeling disenchanted by the national political landscape. We only need look at the television to find every possible viewpoint on the state of the union. So many people have so many opinions; it is hard for the average citizen to know what to think. The only thing I know is we will not be as strong a nation divided, as we will be united.

The same thing is true for our schools. We will not be able to give the most to our children—who are the reason we are all here—if we don't work together with our schools and our district to do what is best for THEM. It is easy to get caught up in only thinking about what is best for one child or one family but we are part of a larger group, or family, if you will. As we are likely heading into another very difficult budget scenario, it is critical we aim to work together for the benefit our students.

This year, I resolve to stay positive, involved and proactive in public school issues even when it seems like I will be fighting a losing battle. I may not be able to have a huge effect on how things are done at the state level (although I will try my best to), but I know I can help the district, our children's schools and the district staff as they also struggle with the current economic and political climate.

I know I have said this before and will probably say it again, but the volunteers in our schools can and do make a difference in the lives of our students. We need to continue to help our staff deal with the everyday issues, spend time in the schools doing whatever needs to be done, to fill voids when we see them, and support students wherever and whenever possible. As you struggle with all the things that make it hard to stay involved, as I do — always remember the reason we do what we do: the children.

A Word from PVUSD Superintendent, Dr. James P. Lee

This is a great time for Paradise Valley Unified School District as a result of the Maintenance & Operation Override approval by our voters. These are the worst economic times we have faced. Many of our patrons have lost jobs or wages, and taxes in general have increased. In spite of these circumstances, our community demonstrated its support of our schools and for public education. I am so thankful for this and I am committed to maintaining the fiscal responsibility we have demonstrated in PVUSD for years.

I want to assure our parents that I take very seriously the responsibility to allocate the funds provided by the override to the purposes that were put before voters. Specifically, those purposes are decreasing class size; offering competitive salaries to attract and retain highly qualified teachers and staff; providing instruction for technology, physical education and fine arts (with thoughtful consideration and input from school councils); giving additional assistance in reading, writing and math to students; and promoting safe and healthy school environments.

Even as I celebrate the passage of the override that will result in an increase of \$4.9 million in our overall budget beginning in July 2010, I must caution that we are not yet out of the woods financially. Late last fall the legislature made cuts to the state budget for this fiscal year and we estimate that our share of those cuts will be about \$5 million. We took that money from our soft capital budget, which normally would be spent for things like classroom supplies and textbooks, rather than cutting employee pay again or decreasing staff.

We are hearing that the legislature may make more cuts in this fiscal year that would result in additional reductions to the district budget. Continued declining enrollment is another factor that may have a sig-

nificant impact on our ability to fully fund all of the programs and initiatives in which we take so much pride.

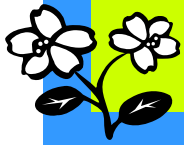
I promise that we will be transparent and open about the budget challenges we face, and all stakeholders will have the opportunity for input before I make final recommendations to the Governing Board regarding the 2010-11 budget.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the parents and employees who have been part of the Community Legislative Network (CLN), who I believe were instrumental in garnering support for public education at the legislature in the last session. I encourage all of you to become familiar with the work of the CLN and to participate in its continuing efforts. You can find more information about the group, and sign up for legislative updates via e-mail, at this website, <http://cmweb.pvschools.net/siteweb/legislative.htm>.

I want you to know that I believe good things are happening in our classrooms and schools, and that we remain committed to the quality of education that our parents and community expect. There is much evidence of this, including the fact that 22 of our schools are Excelling, eight are Highly Performing and others are receiving higher labels than they did the year before. There also are no Underperforming schools.

I have complete confidence that our dedicated staff that will continue to do great things with our students, in spite of the budget situation we face as a district.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, our schools and our district.



Teacher Appreciation 2010 Forms Available Now

It's time for UPC's annual teacher appreciation program... our way of recognizing teachers who have made a difference. Parents and students are invited to submit the name of a teacher who has earned their appreciation during the 2009 – 2010 school year. Maybe it is because of a special action, ongoing dedication to students, or excellence in teaching. Nomination forms and instructions can be downloaded from the UPC

home page (www.pvupc.org).

Award recipients will receive a special surprise of appreciation from UPC along with the nomination letter.

Copies of the letter will also be forwarded to the individual's principal and the superintendent. Names of the honorees will be posted on the UPC web site.

School reps, we need your help in advertising this program at your school. We also need 3 to

4 reps to sit on the committee to help in the selection process.

We're also asking you to collect completed forms at your site, if needed, and return them to the Teacher Appreciation Chair, Jennifer Dziuk, or to the UPC mailbox via interoffice mail. Nominations are due by March 17th, 2010. Feel free to contact Jennifer Dziuk with questions at jen.dziuk-12634@cox.net.

Special Education Parent-to-parent Support Group Meeting

Wednesday, January 27th at 12:30

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

Directory News Directory News Directory News Directory News

A revised edition of the UPC Directory will be electronically distributed in late January. The revised edition will include updated new information for some schools and general members, as well as some corrections. Please delete your old Directory file sent in early Nov. '09 and save the new "revised" Directory file.

If you have questions, please contact Pam Kogan at pkogan122@hotmail.com

The Doctor Is In —*Sue Skidmore has a doctorate from ASU in educational leadership and has been on the PVUSD governing board for more than eight years. The opinions expressed are her own. Email her at: skidaz@cox.net*

Thirty years ago, I bought my husband a cassette video recorder-player for his birthday which cost over \$400. Its format was Beta. As the years progressed, we upgraded to VHS format, and today our house is filled with a DVD player with surround sound, a television with a built-in DVD player, an airline-approved portable DVD player, and a Blu Ray DVD player. The total cost of all of these new devices was approximately the same amount as the antiquated Beta model!

Today, I can no longer rent DVD's at the local video store. It's closed. Rumors swirl that another large video rental store conglomerate will be bankrupt in the near future. These businesses have fallen on hard times as every grocery and pharmacy now has video rental kiosks. DVD rentals are readily available on the Internet, and cable companies allow one to simply download a movie with the press of a button. Short-sighted investors thought the local video rental store business would go on forever, just as the railroads thought they would remain the pri-

mary haulers of people and freight. Just as the American automotive industry thought no one would buy foreign cars. Just as the steel industry thought it would have everlasting life.

As the new decade begins, the survival and sustainability of companies will depend on vision, creativity, and innovation. Copious amounts of money will be spent on research, design, and marketing. Similarly, education can learn some lessons from business if it wants to remain viable. Has education truly changed in thirty years? The answer is both yes and no. Certainly more students, e.g. disabled, second language learners, minorities, and women, have access to education. A myriad of services have been added to provide for the emotional, social, and medical well-being of children. Diagnostic testing and prescriptive instructional programs have improved individual student success. But essentially, the classroom looks the same as it did thirty years ago: desks in rows, teacher at the front, workbooks and pencils. Oh sure, there are computers, but many school buildings are in need of repair, teacher salaries remain miniscule, and no

school board has enough money to lengthen the school day, school year, or make research-based, systemic changes to the instructional program.

Now as this new decade begins, Paradise Valley School District is engaged in developing a five-year, long range plan, entitled COMPASS. (Once I knew what the COMPASS acronym stood for, but at my age, I can't remember.) This is a monumental task, fraught with challenges. Yet, it is my hope that this new document will be visionary, creative, and innovative--and free of tired, educational clichés and worn-out methodology. Our children no longer live in a Beta Blockbuster world. We must develop strategic and cogent educational plans to ensure their success. We owe them no less.



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



Calendar of Events

- Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL
- Jan. 20 UPC General Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
East/West Conference Rooms DAC
- Jan. 28-29 Early Dismissal K-8, conferences
- Feb. 3 LINC Showcase, 6:30-8:00p.m., DAC
- Feb. 4 Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. DAC

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