

United Parent Council



Don't Miss our Sept. Program **Grant Writing 101**



Jocelyn Hanson, Director of Arts Education for the City of Phoenix, will speak about the ins and outs of grant writing and how grants can benefit your school. She will give helpful tips on how to prepare and write them so they are one more avenue of funding for your school.

Wednesday, September 16, 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...

Join us for our **October UPC meeting** when we will hear information about the vital and important **role of the School Council** at our sites.

— Tami Taylor taylorzona@cox.net

'09 Membership Update

Welcome back **UPC members** to the '09-'10 school year. We are looking forward to a productive and informative new school year. **Registration fee** for each school is \$75.00 to be paid by the school's parent organization (PTA, PTO, etc). A registration form needs to be **completed for each school** ([click here for form](#)).

Registered UPC members are privileged to be a parent representative for their school, given **voting rights** on UPC business issues, invited to serve on **district committees**, and involved with the **decision making** processes at the district level. The UPC directory will be available to all registered representatives and alternates. **General membership** is available for non school representatives at a fee of \$15.00.

Please feel free to bring the completed form with payment to the **September 16th UPC meeting** or mail to: **United Parent Council c/o Community Resource Center, 15032 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85032**. All completed registration forms with payment need to be turned in by **September 25, 2009**. Any questions, feel free to email: **Pam Hoffberg** at cali12a@msn.com.



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

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



Advertise Your Business in the New UPC Directory

We invite all UPC representatives, alternates, and general members to **place an ad in the UPC Directory**. This year our directory will be electronically distributed to UPC reps, PTA/ PTO presidents, principals and administrators. The **electronic directory** will enable live links to email addresses and websites. Ads will also appear in our **October newsletter**. Advertising in the directory encourages us to patronize our school community's family businesses. [Click here for ad form](#). **Deadline for the 2009/10 UPC Directory "Ad" Pages is Sept. 30, 2009.**



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

It is that time of year again, the start of school. It is always an interesting time for families who have school-age children. If your family is like mine, one child can't wait to get back into a schedule that is well-defined, and the other is already talking about next summer. **Balancing those differences is tricky for parents.** Addressing each child's individual needs while acknowledging them both presents challenges for us. Another difficult issue for our family this year is a child going into middle school. The unknown mysteries of middle school have been in the back of my son's mind all summer, and now is the time to confront all those unknowns and deal with them head-on. It is shaping up to be an eventful year for our family— full of new experiences for all.

The same can be said of the new era we are embarking on in the district. **With a new superintendent, Dr. Jim Lee, things will change...and they will remain the same.** There will be the same commitment to educating each student and holding the best interests of children as the top priority. But, how that looks may change as we face new leadership. Dr. Lee has put into place the development of a new Long Range Plan and initiated a book study with all district administrators of the book ***A Whole New Mind: Why Right Brainers will Rule the Future*** by Daniel Pink.

The Long Range Plan meetings have begun. For those of you who have been around since the last long range plan, this one will be the same but different. It will have **goals, objectives and action plans** but will also be a very focused document with accountability built in. **The part that will remain the same is committee structure.** The structure consists of a design team and a planning team. The **design team** is composed of the superintendent, the members of Cabinet, and stakeholder group presidents who have already met to develop the goals of the plan. A **planning team** includes 3 representatives from each of the stakeholder groups and this team will meet to develop the objectives of the plan.

Once these are developed, **each school site will develop a school action plan.** The school council at each site typically develops the school action plans. **The site plans will have a series of tiered goals and objectives.** It is critical parents are active participants in the process the school councils undertake to reach the goals and objectives for their site. **Pay attention to your school council meeting dates, attend them, and provide feedback to the parent representatives on the school council at your school.** Their job is to represent parents in their community.

As we deal with **new beginnings and change**, I am confident a cou-

ple of things will stay the same. The first is **UPC's commitment to the students and parents** of this district. Our organization strives to be responsive to their needs and will continue to do so.

The other thing I believe will stay the same is the **district administration's commitment to transparency and open communication.** Dr. Lee expresses a firm commitment to meaningful parent involvement at all levels. Part of my job will be to see that it is followed through on and all indications thus far point in that direction. I urge you to **attend a UPC meeting** so you can, first-hand, **experience the level of openness district administrators have to hearing from parents.**

The final thing I know is students will continue to be educated in a way that is **responsive to each student**, despite the challenges our teachers are facing this year. I know their dedication and devotion to students is the driving force in all they do. And I know **parents stand ready to help in any way they can.**



Julie Bacon with Dr. Lee holding a "Welcome to Paradise" sign at the Aug. UPC meeting

Vote Yes! for PV Students



on November 3rd

On November 4th of this past year, voters denied the renewal of a Maintenance and Operation budget override for the first time since 1988. PVUSD counted on that money for years and the loss, combined with other economic factors, is having a devastating effect on our schools:

Class sizes have grown to up to 36 students in elementary schools, 38 students in middle schools and 40 students in high schools.

219 fewer teachers, counselors, aides and administrators are employed.

Services, such as reading specialists, have been reduced.

Fees charged for extra-curricular activities have increased.

All PVUSD employees received a 2.62% pay cut.

The good news is that **we can do something about it**. The Governing Board has called for another election on **November 3rd**. If the override prevails, **PVUSD will use the money to:**

Decrease class sizes for more individual student attention

Provide **technology, physical education, and fine arts** (music, art, etc.) instruction to students

Provide additional **assistance in reading, writing and math** to students

Provide **competitive salaries** to attract and retain highly qualified teachers

Promote a **safe and healthy school environment**

It will do all this at a very reasonable cost as well. If this override measure is renewed, a homeowner will pay an additional estimated \$12 in taxes in 2010-11 on a home valued at \$100,000.

The district, by law, can't advocate for the passage of the override, so we are speaking for them – and for the **future of our kids**. PVUSD was forced to make difficult choices for the 2009-10 school year. The **failure of this fall's election will result in even more drastic reductions** that will threaten the quality of education our children expect and deserve.

This election matters. A lot. Please vote Yes! for PV students by voting YES for the override. Speak with your friends and neighbors and urge them to do the same. You can find us on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (yes4pv). Visit our website at www.yesforpvstudents.com to get more information and to learn about other ways you can help.

—Laurie Smith, Yes for PV Students Committee

It's August 23 . . .

Still We Wait for a Balanced 2010 Budget



This legislative session has been like no other. The legislature focused nearly exclusively on the budget beginning in January. On June 4, legislative majority leadership passed a partisan budget, but then refused to send the bills to the Governor.

Governor Brewer sued the legislature. The State Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution requires immediate transmittal of legislation, but it did not force transmittal in this case because the June 30 deadline (last day of the fiscal year) loomed.

As state government prepared to shut down, **legislators met in a 24-hour marathon session.** On July 1, they passed a number of trailer bills and transmitted those along with the June 4 budget bills to the Governor.

Governor Brewer promptly vetoed. She called the budget “fatally flawed” and stated that it included “**devastating cuts to education**, public safety, and our state’s most vital health services...” **She vetoed the entire K12 education budget bill** saying, “Improvements in education funding, however, will require significantly more legislative work.”

She called a special session, and

for the first time bipartisan talks took place. **Four bipartisan budget bills were passed and signed promptly in early July.** Unfortunately, bipartisan negotiations have not taken place since then. Democrats have been excluded from the process.

On August 20, the Legislature transmitted another set of budget bills that are practically identical to the June 4 bills. As we go to “press” those bills sit on the Governor’s desk. She may sign these into law, ending a special session that has lasted seven weeks. Or, she may veto some or all of the bills. Since the bills are so like the ones she vetoed on July 1st and they do not include the sales tax referral she has said she requires, Governor Brewer may do that. Or, she could simply allow the bills to become law without her signature.

If you would like to **receive legislative alerts and tips for lobbying your legislators** from the **Community Legislative Network**, please send an email request to:

subscribecln@gmail.com.

CLN

Attend the Annual President's Exchange by LINC

Leadership

All presidents/parent group leaders are welcome to attend!

Ideas

Wednesday, September 16th

Networking

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

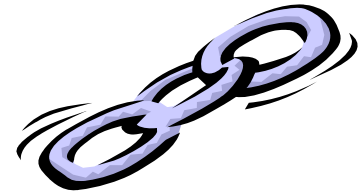
Community

District Administrative Center

15002 N. 32nd Street

You will not want to miss this great event!

- Learn about United Parent Council (UPC)
- Talk, listen and share with other presidents



Questions? Contact **Jen Mozilo** at jmozilo@cox.net or (480) 473-0701.

Directory News Directory News Directory News Directory News

New this year, UPC will distribute the directory **electronically** (via email) to all our UPC representatives, alternates, general embers, PTA/ PTO presidents, principals, and administrators. The electronic directory will help UPC be "greener" by significantly reducing our paper usage, and most importantly will allow **live links to email addresses and websites** to make communicating and networking more efficient. You will be able to save the directory file and print all or any of the pages as you choose to. We will print a few copies, so if you would like a hard (paper) copy please email your request to pkogan122@hotmail.com.

Parent Volunteers in the Classroom

This class is being offered by Mrs. McGhie, first grade teacher at Whispering Wind Academy. We will be looking at the structure and operation of a successful classroom volunteer program with a special emphasis on the role of both the teacher and the volunteer. Due to recent budget cuts, and the resulting cuts in support personnel, the support of parent volunteers in the classroom is especially critical.

Date: Tuesday, September 8th

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Place: DAC West



WORKSHOP

Special Education Committee Offers Support, Resources

We have monthly **parent-to-parent support meetings** to discuss current issues and resources available to parents and their children. There will also be several **presentations** this year in the evening at Horizon High School. Further information regarding these presentations will be forthcoming.

The **parent-to-parent support meetings** will be held at **12:30**, at **Einstein's** located at **64th and Greenway**, in the Safeway Shopping Center.

Meeting dates:

August 26th

September 30th

October 21st

November 18th

December 16th

January 27th

February 24th

March 24th

April 28th

Please RSVP to Allison Cahill at aecahill@cox.net.

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*

Happy New Year! (No, I have not lost my mind--yet.) But for our children, it is the start of a new school year. Some will start to school for the first time, and their parents

will be teary-eyed as their babies board the bus. Others will confidently strut down the sidewalk and never give Moms and Dads a second glance of goodbye. And some will throw open the door of their senior year, without a clue that their families are anxiously awaiting graduation day. Regardless, **everyone looks forward to a new year and formulates resolutions.**

Granted life is ugly right now. The downturn of the economy has affected all of us. And while it is easy to be negative, a new year brings hope. It reminds us that we have the self-control to institute change.

So as we embark on this new year, I share my resolutions:

I will be politically active.

When I registered to vote almost forty years ago, I signed on as an Independent. I have protested the Viet Nam war, I have been to the restroom with Barbara Bush, and I have shaken hands with several presidential and gubernatorial candidates. While these experiences have served to make for interesting dinner conversation, they pale when

compared to the power of emailing, phoning, or talking to legislators that have the lives of our children in their hands.



I will be wary to support fundraising activities.

I am tired of coupon books, wrapping paper, magazines, and change collections, for all of these demand an overhead fee. Why should I buy \$25 dollars worth of candy bars, when the school will only realize \$10-12? Since my charitable-donation budget has shrunk, I shall give my pittance directly to the school, the principal, the teacher, or the child in need.

I will volunteer. Now, that does not mean I will run the copy machine, reshelv library books, or cut out cardboard letters. But I can read to a child, help another with his/her writing, or chaperone a dance.

I will share my stories about

our third daughter. (Yes, we have two, natural daughters, but six years ago, I signed on as a Quest Mentor. This is a seven-year, commitment to mentor a child from 5th through 12th grade.) Denice, a junior at Paradise Valley High School, is an integral part of our family. We have done the normal things of laughing, sharing, and crying together. We have attended her dance recitals, watched her play junior varsity softball, stolen her on a school day to attend our eldest's college graduation, and held a sixteenth birthday celebration at *The Lion King*. She and I have eaten far too many *In and Out Burgers* and french fries than we care to admit. As we get closer to graduation, I will share more of how she changed our family forever.

The Roman God, Janus, is depicted with two faces. Scholars say he was looking backward with pride and forward with hope. Thus, the first month of the year, January, bears his name. Janus never knew that school years (in Arizona) begin in August. **PVUSD must look forward with hope for our children.** And it is imperative that I do not dismiss my "new year's resolutions."

Read it by November 18, 2009!

Dr. Lee and all the administrators of the district, including school principals, **will be reading this book** and spending most of the year discussing its relevance to our district and **how we teach our students.**

UPC has decided to make this book a focus of our year as well. Our November meeting will be a **book study of *A Whole New Mind* with Dr. Lee.** This is different kind of program and we are excited to be offering it to parents across the district. We are thrilled to be able to study, at the same time as our principals and administrators, **a book that very well may lead the way in terms of educating students in our country.**

Please consider buying the book to learn all about this **new way of educating and preparing our children in the 21st Century.**

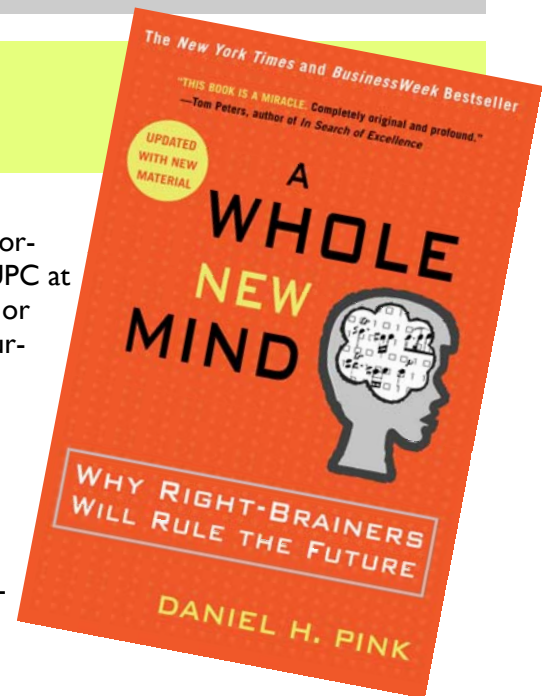
You can get the book through us by emailing Tami

Taylor at taylor-zona@cox.net, borrowing one from UPC at our next meeting, or purchasing one yourself.

Cost: \$11.00

(We will accept cash or checks payable to United Parent Council)

Orders will be taken at the August, September and October general UPC meetings.



Sign up to receive UPC's Monthly E-bulletin

Do you receive the monthly electronic news bulletin from UPC?

If not, go to the UPC website and sign up today! E-bulletins contain information about district staffing, funding and programs, as well as updates on education issues at the state legislature. UPC programs, services and information are also included. A sign-up link is provided on the home page of the UPC website.



Sign up today! www.pvupc.org

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

EXPECT MORE ARIZONA

Ready Kids ♦ Ready Graduates ♦ Ready Workforce

ExpectMoreArizona.org

Calendar of Events

Sept. 3	Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. DAC
Sept. 7	Labor Day, NO SCHOOL
Sept. 15	Early Dismissal
Sept. 16	UPC General Meeting, 9:00 a.m. East/West Conference Rooms DAC
Sept. 16	LINC President’s Exchange, 6:30 p.m., DAC
Sept. 17	Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. DAC
Sept. 28	NO SCHOOL

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