

## UPC Snapshot

December 2009

### Project Zoo Lab

Michael Linn from Community Education spoke at the start of the meeting about a new class being offered at all the elementary schools in the district for grades 1 – 4 this spring.

Community Ed has partnered with the Phoenix Zoo to offer an interactive class where the first 30 minutes of class will have a live interactive feed from a zoologist teaching the kids about a particular animal. The remaining 30 minutes will be spent working on a project related to the lesson which will be sent to the zoo that week. The fee is \$49 and that will include a t-shirt and a field trip to the zoo on 4/10/09. For more information, please see the Community Ed catalog.

### Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Lee spoke about the challenges the district faces this year with budget cuts from the state. Despite the override passage, class size reductions may not be possible because of the impending cuts. His focus will be to maintain the quality of education with what we have – there is a need to be more efficient with class size. He praised the staff for their professionalism in the face of higher class sizes and lower salaries this year. He believes that salaries cannot be reduced anymore. There were questions from the group about new online and “virtual” classes in the spring. Dr. Sweeney spoke about a pilot program next year which will introduce online classes to a small group of “regular” students at all the high schools (not a credit recovery program). These classes will be taken at school, but the teachers will be in a remote location.

### UPC Business Meeting

- Pam Hoffberg emphasized that memberships will still be accepted from schools that have not sent them in yet. There are also several print copies of directories available.
- Tami Taylor reminded the group that January's program will be about “Infinite Campus” and a program about “healthy lifestyles” is being developed for February. Each presentation for the rest of the year will be correlated to a “sense” in Daniel Pink's book *A Whole New Mind* (handouts will be available).
- Jen Mozilo reported that the LINC vendor showcase will be at the DAC on 2/3/10 from 6:30 to 8:00pm (vendors for fundraising or programs that benefit the school). She brought some examples of posters that schools brought to last year's event which illustrate what kinds of things schools do.
- Long range plan (COMPASS 2015) committee members gave updates on the following committees: *Technology, Curriculum, Special Ed., Assessment, Community Ed, Gifted, Career/Technical Education, Human Resources, and Operations Oversight.*
- Horizon High School will have a presentation on “sexting” (**for parents**) by Sgt. Stephanie Molina from the Computer Crimes Division of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Dept. on 1/11/10 from 6:00 – 7:30. A flyer is available on the website [www.pvupc.org](http://www.pvupc.org)
- A donation box was available to donate new athletic shoes to Shoes That Fit for the PVUSD Shoe closet.

## Presentation – Chris Maza, President, Paradise Valley Education Association

Before the presentation began, Dr. Skidmore advised the group that this was a significant historic event: the first time a representative from PVEA has addressed the UPC – the beginning of a new era!

Mr. Maza began by telling the story of how he came to his current position. A product of parochial schools, he began his public school teaching career at Shadow Mountain High School as a French teacher. He talked about the history of teaching associations/unions:

- NEA (National Education Association) was founded in 1847 by an Act of Congress and was involved in such things as the women's movement and Brown vs. The Board of Education.
- AEA (Arizona Education Association) was founded in 1892.
- PVEA (Paradise Valley Education Association) was founded in 1974.

Mr. Maza explained that he is an employee of the district and is still considered a teacher within the district. The district pays for a portion of his salary, and the PVEA pays for the remainder. He explained the kinds of things he does in his capacity as president of the association and the value it brings to the district. He encouraged everyone to educate themselves about the PVEA and to join his Facebook page for updates and information about what is happening. Mr. Maza took questions from the group about various employment issues around the district.

Tami Taylor passed out a reference sheet correlating today's presentation to Daniel Pink's (*A Whole New Mind*) idea of the "sense" of STORY – context enriched by emotion. The handout is available on the website [www.pvupc.org](http://www.pvupc.org).

*Snapshot Editor: Molly Mudick*