

Help Us Spread the Word! We Need Your Help.

By Laurie Smith

The new Volunteer in Paradise (VIP) program in the Paradise Valley Unified School District is coming to two of our PV schools, Mercury Mine and North Ranch, in the 2013-14 school year! We are looking for dedicated, high-quality volunteers from the community. Do you know someone who might be interested?

Our VIP volunteers will provide one-on-one and small group instruction to children in grades K-6. Volunteers will be paired with teachers based on their interests and schedules, and will receive the training they need to become effective, confident tutors.

Our schools have always welcomed and relied upon our parent volunteers and will continue to do so. Their contributions are invaluable. But we recognize that there are other experienced and talented adults in our community who have much to offer our students. They may not yet have a relationship with our schools. We want to welcome them in to our schools.

A short pilot of the VIP program concluded recently. Here is what one of the participating Mercury Mine teachers had to say about the benefits for her students:

“The relationship that developed in the few weeks that our students worked with the volunteers was significant and impactful. Not only did the students benefit from the small group intensity and focus in their academic pursuits, they appreciated the “VIP” treatment and attention! They also felt a sense of pride that the broader community respects their effort in school, and considers it worthy of the support of adults not already in their circle. I feel certain that a yearlong opportunity will provide even greater results.”

When surveyed, every teacher involved reported that they are likely to participate in the program next year and to recommend the VIP program to their colleagues.

Volunteers were equally enthusiastic; all said they were likely to recommend the program. They felt welcome in the school and in the classroom, and students looked forward to working with them.

Do you know someone looking for an opportunity to make a meaningful difference? We are confident that the Volunteer in Paradise program will provide them with a rewarding volunteer experience.

Prospective VIPs are invited to attend a volunteer orientation to learn more about this promising new opportunity.

Visit our website at pvschools.net/VIP to get more information and to register for an orientation. Questions may be sent to Laurie Smith, VIP Coordinator, at VolunteerInParadise@gmail.com.