

United Parent Council



Learn about the Role of School Councils at our Sites

Dr. Lil Baribault and Dr. Patrick Sweeney will speak about School Councils at our October general UPC meeting:

- What stakeholders are represented on the School Council?
- How is the School Council selected?
- When does the School Council meet?
- What topics are discussed at a School Council meeting?
- What guidelines are School Councils asked to follow?
- The Long Range Plan and the responsibility of the School Council

Wednesday, October 14, 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 **November UPC meeting** when we will have a Book Club discussion panel on the book **A Whole**

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

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

New Mind by Daniel Pink. Book orders are still being taken for this book. To order, please contact **Tami**

Taylor at:
taylorzona@cox.net.

Membership Alert!



Your school UPC membership form with payment is due now! To keep voting privileges and receive the on line directory, we need ASAP!!

Need a UPC Rep for Your School?

If your school is having a difficult time finding a UPC rep, let us know. We can help you locate a parent or have a parent from another school adopt your school. There is so much happening this year; your school cannot afford to be without a UPC rep! Contact Pam Hoffberg at cali12a@msn.com for more information.

What Does a UPC Rep Do?

Now that you are the school UPC rep, you maybe wondering what you do. Here are some of the responsibilities of the UPC rep:

1. **Attend monthly UPC meetings** or arrange for your alternate to attend.
2. **Carry back the information** on a regular basis to your parent group (PTA, PTSA, Booster Club, etc.) and/or submit the information to the school newsletter.
3. **Connect you parent community** to UPC resources: website, e-bulletins, meetings, etc.
4. Share your UPC knowledge with you school and parent community.

For more information about rep responsibilities, check your **"Start Up Package for School Representatives."**

For any questions about membership issues, or to confirm we have received your dues, contact Pam Hoffberg at cali12a@msn.com or (480) 335-9119.



President's Message — Julie Bacon

jwbacon@cox.net

As the school year progresses our children are getting more involved in school activities, studying for tests and hanging out with friends there are many things going on at a district level too. United Parent Council is actively involved in the development of the Long Range Plan and is seeking parent involvement in the CREST Specialty School. And UPC is, as always, committed to fostering meaningful parent participation in all our schools.

Our October program will give parents an overview of the school council concept in PVUSD schools. School councils work at each site as an advisory group to the principal and are composed of representatives from all stakeholder groups (certified staff, classified staff, parents and community members) in the school community. Dr. Lil Baribault and Dr. Patrick Sweeney will present the school council training that principals will implement at each site. The program will show parents how the councils should be run, the responsibilities of all members and the concept of shared decision-making process the councils should employ. Attending school council meetings is an excellent way for parents to stay abreast of issues, site level planning and new programming their school.

The Long Range Plan process is in full swing. We have three parents serving on the committee and they are in need of feedback for the committee. Parent input is critical in this process. The Long Range Plan is the “road map” the district will follow in the next five years. This plan will have a direct effect on our children and their educational experiences. Please read more on page 7 and take time send an email with your suggestions and feedback to the parents on this committee.

Planning for the CREST Specialty School has been in progress for some time and now the district is looking for participation on committees that will pave the way for the school opening in August of 2010. The CREST school will be on the campus of Paradise Valley High School. Students in the school will take classes both with the general student population of PVHS as well as within the CREST school. There are opportunities for parents and community members to serve on these committees. There will be curriculum committees in biotechnology, both R&D and sustainability, and in engineering. Marketing, STEM pipeline, and integration committees will also be formed. If you have interest in serving on a committee or know someone who would be a perfect match for one of these committees please contact me at jwbacon@cox.net

And finally, don't forget to vote Yes for the PVUSD M&O Override

on the November 3rd ballot. The passage of this ballot measure is critical to the future success of the district. For more information and ways you can help visit

www.yesforpvstudents.com.

Read it by Nov. 18th!

Our November meeting will be a book study of *A Whole New Mind*.

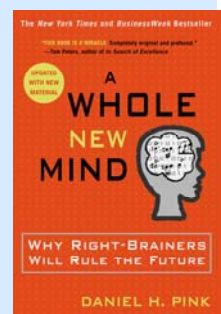
Please consider buying the book to learn all about this new way of educating and preparing our children in the 21st Century.

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.

**Loaner copies of the book will be available if you are unable to purchase at this time. Please see Tami Taylor or Julie Bacon for more information.*



PVUSD OVERRIDE ELECTION is November 3rd



... but early voting begins on **October 8th**. We need to get the Yes! for PV Students message out now. This is a grassroots campaign and **your help is needed**. Of course, you should register to vote and get to the polls on November 3rd. Better yet, use one of our forms to request an early ballot so that you can vote by mail.

Then, **be an ambassador**. We are counting on our parent leaders to communicate with others in the community.

Go to our website and **sign up to receive our electronic newsletter**. But, don't stop there. When you receive the newsletter, forward it to everyone in your personal address book. Don't forget your friends whose children are in preschool and your neighbors with grown children.

Invite a Yes! speaker from our speaker's bureau to attend your school's next parent meeting. Fill out the Request a Speaker form on the website.

Join us as we go door-to-door to talk with registered voters on Saturday, **October 3rd and 10th**, at **8:30 a.m.** On Oct. 3rd, we will meet at Paradise Valley High School and the Walgreens parking lot at 32nd St. and Shea. On Oct. 10th, we will meet at Paradise Valley High School and Shadow Mountain High School. You may bring your own buddy or we will match you up with one. We provide the maps, addresses, a script and handouts. Two hours is all we need.

Participate in a phone bank. These will be held in homes in our community from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. every evening the week of October 5th. You bring

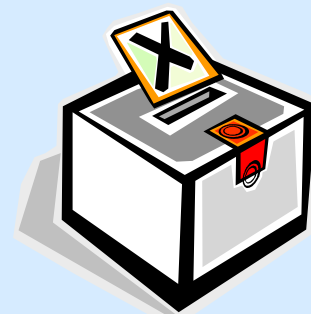
your cell phone; we will provide scripts, call lists and dinner.

Remember, a **YES vote on November 3rd will allow the district to:**

- ✓ **Decrease** class sizes for more individual student attention
- ✓ **Provide** instruction for technology, physical education and fine arts
- ✓ **Give** additional assistance in reading, writing and math
- ✓ **Offer** competitive salaries to attract and retain high qualified teachers and staff
- ✓ **Promote** a safe and healthy school environment

Please visit www.yesforpvstudents.com for more information or contact Laurie Smith at JLSmith7017@aol.com.

—submitted by Laurie Smith
Yes for PV Students Committee



President's Exchange Connected Leaders

Leadership

Ideas

Networking

Community

LINC held its first event, The President's Exchange, on September 16th. There was a great turn out! Parent Leaders had a chance to hear welcoming remarks from Dr. Lee, an opportunity to learn more about UPC and the resources that are out there and of course a chance to share with one another. We look forward to keeping the line of communication open for leaders to share ideas, have questions answered and be the resource for their respective communities.

Save the date for the next LINC event which will be a vendor showcase, Wednesday, February 3rd. More information to follow soon!

For more information or questions please contact Jen Mozilo, LINC chair at jmozilo@cox.net.



Parent leaders gather together at LINC event



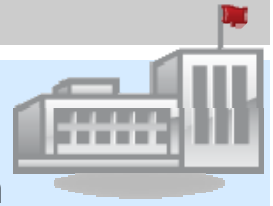
Special Education Support Group & Events

Our next parent-to-parent support group meeting is **Wednesday, September 30th** at 12:30 at Einstein's located in the Safeway shopping center at 64th and Greenway. We will have Susan Raad talking to the group about **The Clubhouse Innovative Therapy Center**. Any questions-please contact Allison Cahill at aecahill@cox.net.

On **November 12th from 6:30-8:30** Raising Special Kids will be presenting an **IEP workshop** at Horizon High School's Media Center. **Please RSVP to Allison Cahill at aecahill@cox.net.**

Arizona State Legislature

Wraps Up Third Special Session



This legislative session was like no other.

The budget was not passed until two months after the start of the new fiscal year. Still the budget is not balanced as is required by state law. This budget has a shortfall of nearly \$1 billion, but it looks as though the legislature will not meet again until the new session begins in January. It seems certain that mid-year budget cuts will be made then.

The process was not transparent. Not only were citizens excluded, but many would tell you that rank-and-file legislators were, too. Even the lobbyists grew tired. While in Tucson on Wednesday Governor Jan Brewer was quoted as saying, "It's a great relief, to say the least, to get out of that hellhole in Phoenix." *The Arizona Republic* reported that, according to Brewer's office "she was referring to the Capitol and the infernal budget battle that has taken place there."

Public education supporters do thank Governor Brewer for her line item veto of two bills that deal with K-12 education funding. As a result, **cuts were not as severe as they might have been.** The base support level does include an increase and the soft capital budget was not cut. Keep in mind, though, that **mid-year cuts are expected.**

The Governor also vetoed Senate Bill 1025. As a result, the county equalization tax, which was suspended for three years, will return. It

will once again generate revenue of approximately \$250 million per year.

There were many policy changes. One bright spot of particular interest to us in the PVUSD is that the Technology Assisted Project Based Instruction Program (TAPBI) is finally open to all districts. For many years, the pilot program was limited to just a few districts and charters. The program was renamed Arizona Online Instruction (AOI).

Unfortunately, extensive, far-reaching **changes were made in school personnel policies.** Districts are not allowed to give retention priority to teachers based on tenure or seniority. Re-employment decisions may not be based on seniority. Deadlines and restrictions for offering contracts and making salary reductions are removed. Districts are not allowed to compensate teachers for professional association activities.

To receive CLN updates, please send an email request to:

subscribecln@gmail.com.

—Laurie Smith

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

While 2009 doesn't offer a General Election it does offer PVUSD parents a dynamic opportunity to show their children how to participate in government. It involves a voting opportunity—a very interesting topic of discussion that children can be included in: **the PVUSD Maintenance and Operations Budget Override.** *This is not an article championing a Yes or No vote on this November's ballot.* It is an attempt to help parents use the election as a way to help their children learn the importance of making decisions, voting, and ultimately being a part of the local governance that greatly affects them—their school district. Hopefully, it will also help remind parents that they are the most important role models in their children's lives.

Below is a very simple 'lesson plan' of sorts on how we parents might use the Override Election to teach our children the importance of involvement in government. Parents, add your own ideas and adapt for the ages of children. You are the ultimate teacher!

A Simple Lesson Plan for Parents Objectives:

Our children will participate in the decision making process in order to vote Yes or No on the November PVUSD ballot. Some of the AZ State Standards that may apply are:

- ◆ Our children will practice examples of democracy in action
- ◆ They will analyze the role of local governments (such as a school district)
- ◆ They will see the importance of citizens (their parents) being actively involved in democracy through voting. This should be fun!!!!

Rationales for the Lesson:

- ◆ To involve our children in a discussion and ultimate vote that affects them, their parents, and their community. Because the vote has to do with their schools children can more readily relate.
- ◆ To help our children see (through our actions) the importance of participating in government.
- ◆ To have our children see the most important role models, their parents, participating in government.
- ◆ To help parents understand that voters are not born, but are made—through schooling and role modeling.

Background History:

- ◆ The U.S. is one of the richest nations, yet its voting turn-out is not among the highest of democracies voting for presidents. The voter turn-out in non-presidential election years is even lower.
- ◆ The fight to vote in the U.S. has been long and hard. In 1776 when the colonies declared independence only white males of a certain age and owning property could vote. In the 1880's certain religious groups still could not vote. And not until 1920 did women win the right the vote.

Activities:

- ◆ List the pros and cons of the Override Election. Put them into simple to complex terms—depending upon the ages of the children. Ask them for their ideas.
- ◆ Discuss the pros/cons—based on information. Listen to the children.
- ◆ Discuss how each choice (Yes/No) will affect your children, you, and the community.
- ◆ VOTE (decide): You at the polls or through early balloting, and your child at home.
- ◆ After the election discuss the outcome, your child's feelings, etc.

Rewards:

The reward to parents for having enhanced and completed this "simple lesson" with our children is that we have served as positive role models for decision-making, voting, and citizenship. Let's pat ourselves on the back!

The reward for children is that parents listened to their ideas, helped them find information for all sides of the issues, and saw their parents as positive role models in their participation in a government entity so close to home and influential—their school district-PVUSD!



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

Long Range Plan Needs Your Input

New PVUSD Superintendent Dr. Jim Lee has brought together representatives of the stakeholder groups in the district to develop a new long-range plan to give district officials a roadmap for planning and implementation of district initiatives for 2009-2015.

Three goals--Instruction, Operations and Human Resources--were developed by the Design Team, and the Long Range Planning committee has been asked to develop objectives for these goals. The parent representatives on the committee are **seeking feedback from the parent community**. If you have ideas, concerns or suggestions for objectives in the three goal areas identified please contact them. These committee members want to know what is important to parents and are committed to representing the parent community at large. Comments are needed ASAP, however, so contact these committee members with your thoughts: Pam Hoffberg, cali12a@msn.com; Mark Lane, mlane19@cox.net; Jen Mozilo, jmozilo@cox.net.

Calendar of Events

Oct. 1	Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. DAC
Oct. 12	K-12 recess, NO SCHOOL
Oct. 14	UPC General Meeting, 9:00 a.m. East/West Conference Rooms DAC
Oct. 15	Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. DAC
Oct. 26-29	K-8 conferences
Oct. 28-29	Early dismissal
Oct. 30	K-8 recess, 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