

# Paradise Valley Unified School District

“Where individual excellence is our goal”

## “HIDDEN HILLS FAMILY-BE IN IT!” A 2008 A+ School!!

July 2009

Dear Hidden Hills Parents and Students,

Happy New Year!!!! Welcome back to the Hidden Hills family! If you are new to our school this year, you will soon discover why we are proud of our school motto, “Hidden Hills Family”. We hope you have had a wonderful, restful summer and are anxious to return to school with a fresh start.

If you are trying to contact the school, please note that the school phone system has changed!! We ask that you use the attendance line exclusively to call in all absences. This will streamline the work of the office staff and keep them available for other duties. The attendance line has detailed instructions as to what information you should leave regarding your child’s absence. You may dial a teacher’s voicemail directly by calling 602-449-7779 and following the voice prompts. You must know the extension of the person you are calling to access a voice mailbox. We will be sending out a Voice Mail Directory in the Monday Folder your child will be receiving on the first day of school. Teachers will also be giving out their extension numbers at Open House and all numbers will be available via our website soon.

Our main contact numbers are as follows:

602-449-3100 Front office  
602-449-3103 Nurse

602-449-3101 Attendance Line  
602-449-7779 Voicemail Line, then extension

This year, we are exceptionally proud of the recognition Hidden Hills has received in the **Phoenix Magazine’s Best Schools** issue. Our Olweus Bully Prevention program, the Outdoor Learning Environments (gardens and habitats) and our parent volunteer opportunities are highlighted in the August 2009 issue. We are also a 2008 A+ school, which brings to light the positive stories and successes happening in public schools every day. Once again we received numerous awards at the 2009 Arizona State PTA convention. Congratulations to Mrs. Carol Bartels, first grade teacher who was recognized as runner up for Educator of the Year; to Karen Dayton, our reading aide, who received the award for Support Staff of the Year; and to Elaina West, who was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award!!!! Our school also won the award for Local Unit of the Year, highlighting our community nights and parent involvement. Our PTSA Fundraiser, our Read-A-Thon, was a great success last year and we are anticipating an even better program this year. Imagine supporting your school, while encouraging your child to read more! Watch your child’s Monday Folder for information regarding ways you can volunteer and be a part of the Hidden Hills Family.

We had several staffing changes over the summer. Mrs. Donna Murphy, Mrs. Gail Barbera and Mrs. Ellie Gersten have all retired. The district was so pleased with the progress some of our third graders made in the “Dots” math approach that Mrs. Sandy Ermel will be teaching other teachers how to use the program and Mrs. Kerrie Kruse, our Speech teacher has been reassigned. With these changes, we also had several teachers who traded jobs: Mr. Rob Dawson and Mrs. Megan Bird will be teaching third grade; Mrs. Donna Brown will be teaching Art; Ms. Katie McPherson will be teaching Computers; and Mrs. Brooks Martinez will be teaching second grade. We do welcome three new staff members, Ms. Jan Bustos is our new half-time music teacher, Ms. Sarah Comerchero is our new Speech teacher, and Mrs. Melissa Holderman is our new kindergarten teacher. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, we will no longer have a social worker on campus and Mrs. Julie Kautenburger, who has been our Reading Specialist for years will now only be at Hidden Hills half of the week.

We know the children are anxious to find out who their teacher is, which friends are in their class and what their room looks like. We have scheduled our annual **School Warming** on **Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 –2:30**. Although the children are very excited, the teachers need every extra minute to prepare, so please try not to arrive early. **Class lists will be posted on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> after 4:00 PM**. Bus schedules, supply lists and the district calendar will also be available. A great deal of time is spent in the spring to establish what we feel are “balanced” class lists. Much thought goes into balancing academic abilities, special needs, gender, and behavior situations, as well as “clustering” for gifted in the first through fourth grades. For your child’s sake, we ask your cooperation in helping to set a positive tone regarding your child’s class placement. This is an opportunity for your child to meet new friends, experience a new situation and different teaching styles. Children are very flexible, and with positive encouragement from parents, they will embrace the new year with excitement.

I often tell the children that our early dismissal days for Staff Development are set-aside as days for the teachers to learn and this year we will be continuing to focus on technology and student engagement. Although these half days are sometimes difficult for our families to make childcare arrangements, it is a valuable time for teachers to stay current with educational research and we appreciate your support. Please review the district and Hidden Hills school calendars to mark important dates on your home calendar, including half-days (dismissal at 12:00), holidays and special school events. Our first Early Dismissal/Staff Development Day is also our **Open House/Curriculum Night on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **5:30**. This informational evening is for parents to meet with teachers and receive information regarding curriculum, behavior plans, and classroom routines. We encourage all parents to attend this most informative evening, which will lay the groundwork for understanding your child's classroom.

5:30 – 6:00 PM	Beginning Band Parent Meeting in Band Room
	Information Booths open in Media Center – enter Drawings!
6:00 – 7:15 PM	Meet the <u>Special Area Teachers</u> in their classrooms (art, computers, PE, <u>Special Education, Honors Teacher</u> in their classrooms. Speech Pathologist and Nurse will be in their offices.
6:30 – 7:10 PM	Classroom presentations – Session I *
7:15 – 7:55 PM	Classroom presentations – Session II *
7:15	Prize Drawings from Information Booths

\*Teachers will be doing the same presentation at each of the sessions.  
Two sessions are provided for parents to attend different grade level presentations.

On the first day of school, your children will be bringing home an information packet prepared by our PTSA. In this packet, you will find information on important issues such as, the voice mail directory, the school crisis plan, behavior policies, dress code, calendar and general information about Hidden Hills' policies. Please take a few minutes to review these important documents. At Hidden Hills, we pride ourselves on being a community school, where the door is always open to family and friends, a warm, welcoming environment, where the concerns of the whole child are considered. Whether it is the academic, emotional or physical needs, our children come first!

Happy New Year!!!

Lynette S. Geake, Principal

**Important Dates to Remember:**

Friday, August 14 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 – 2:30 PM	School Warming – Come meet your teacher! Join our award winning PTSA!
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Monday, August 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:25 – 2:30 PM	<b>First day of school</b>
	8:25 – 12:00	Kindergarten Parent Orientation Kindergarten Parents attend with children!!
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Tuesday, August 25 <sup>th</sup>	12:00	Early Dismissal – Staff Development
	5:30 – 7:30 PM	Open House for grades 1 – 6
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Monday, September 7 <sup>th</sup>		No School – Labor Day
Tuesday, September 15 <sup>th</sup>	12:00	Early Dismissal – Staff Development
Thursday, September 24 <sup>th</sup>		School Picture Day

**Hidden Hills Elementary School, 1919 E Sharon Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85022**  
**602-449-3100 Office / 602-449-3101 Attendance / 602-449-3105 Fax**  
<http://hhes.pvschools.net>

