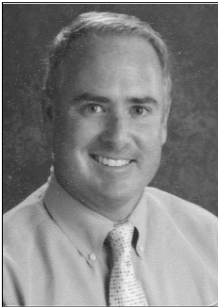


From the Desk of Liberty Elementary School Principal Drew Davis

THE PATRIOT

January 29, 2010

A Publication of Liberty Elementary School • Paradise Valley Unified School District



Drew C. Davis
Principal

Happy New Year!

Happy 2010, Liberty families! We are off to another successful start to a new semester, and Liberty is a very busy place. Here are some important headlines:

District Budget Situation: in the shaded box at the right, you will find a letter from school superintendent Dr. James Lee. If you have been following the news and the budget situation at the state, you are aware of the 3.5 billion dollar

state deficit and the impact this may have on K-12 education. Dr. Lee outlines some implications to our district in this letter.

PVUSD Board President: Tom Ohmart has been elected as the Board President for calendar year 2010.

Tax Credit: Good news! We raised over \$8,000 in tax credit donations during our end-of-the-year drive. This money supports our PBIS, extracurricular, and tutoring programs. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in allocating your tax dollars directly to Liberty.

Haiti Relief: The 1st Grade would like to invite Liberty to participate in the Soles4Souls shoe drive at Liberty. Please bring any gently used shoes to Liberty by February 4th and they will go towards this national drive. Special thanks to Lukas Johnson, Sandra Kotzambasis Johnson, and Mrs. Stanton for their efforts in organizing this event!

Infinite Campus: The Paradise Valley School District is in the process of implementing Infinite Campus, a new software program that will manage student information, attendance and report cards, and will secure online grade viewing from home. During the transition, our current system "Homeview" will go dark. Be on the lookout for information regarding how to access the new and improved system in mid to late February.

Field Day: Weather permitting, Field Day will be held on Friday, February 12. If you would like to volunteer, contact Coach Rhonemus at jrhonemus@pvschools.net.

Help Wanted! There is a crossing guard position available at Liberty; please contact the front office if you are interested or have questions. You can apply online anytime at www.pvschools.net.

Honor Roll: Congratulations to all the students whose report card marks earned them inclusion on the Honor Roll or Principal's List. We are proud of you! See a complete listing of these students on the back page.

January 15, 2010

Dear Parents:

This is a great time for Paradise Valley Unified School District, as a result of the Maintenance and Operation Override approval by our voters. These are the worst economic times we have faced. Many of our patrons have lost jobs or wages, and taxes in general have increased. In spite of these circumstances, our community demonstrated its support of our schools and for public education. I am so thankful for this, and I am committed to maintaining the fiscal responsibility we have demonstrated in PVUSD for years.

I want to assure our parents that I take very seriously the responsibility to allocate the funds provided by the override to the purposes that were put before voters. Specifically, those purposes are decreasing class size; offering competitive salaries to attract and retain highly qualified teachers and staff; providing instruction for technology, physical education and fine arts (with thoughtful consideration and input from school councils); giving additional assistance in reading, writing and math to students; and promoting safe and healthy school environments.

Even as I celebrate the passage of the override that will result in an increase of \$4.9 million in our overall budget beginning in July 2010, I must caution that we are not yet out of the woods financially. Late last fall, the Arizona Legislature made cuts to the state budget for this fiscal year, and we estimate that our share of those cuts will be about \$5 million. We took that money from our soft capital budget, which normally would be spent for things like classroom supplies and textbooks, rather than cutting employee pay again or decreasing staff.

We are hearing that the legislature may make more cuts in this fiscal year that would result in additional reductions to the district budget. Continued declining enrollment is another factor that may have a significant impact on our ability to fully fund all of the programs and initiatives in which we take so much pride.

I promise that we will be transparent and open about the budget challenges we face, and all stakeholders will have the opportunity for input before I make final recommendations to the Governing Board regarding the 2010-11 budget.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the parents and employees who have been part of the Community Legislative Network (CLN), who I believe were instrumental in garnering support for public education at the legislature in the last session. I encourage all of you to become familiar with the work of the CLN and to participate in its continuing efforts. You can find more information about the group, and sign up for legislative updates via e-mail, at this website: <http://cmweb.pvschools.net/siteweb/legislative.htm>.

I want you to know that I believe good things are happening in our classrooms and schools, and that we remain committed to the quality of education that our parents and community expect. There is much evidence of this, including the fact that 22 of our schools are Excelling, eight are Highly Performing, and others are receiving higher labels than they did the year before. There also are no Underperforming schools. I have complete confidence that our dedicated staff will continue to do great things with our students, in spite of the budget situation we face as a district.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, our schools, and our district.

Sincerely,

James P. Lee, Ed.D, Superintendent

Congratulations to Principal's List and Honor Roll Students!

Each quarter, we recognize in our newsletter those students whose report card marks have earned them placement on the **Principal's List** (all A's) or the **Honor Roll** (all A's and B's). The purpose of the Honor Roll and Principal's List is to recognize students who excel academically in school and reward them for their efforts.

Students in 4th, 5th and 6th grades are eligible for the Honor Roll and Principal's List as long as their grades (including special area grades) are consistent with expectations and they have no "minuses" on their report card.

Congratulations to the following students who earned academic honors for the second quarter of school:

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(Received All A's on Their Report Card)

6th Grade

Alexis Bankston
 Kyle Berry
 Noelle Cobham-Morgese
 Alaina Dennehy
 Sam Hostetter
 Lisa Illgen
 Molly Jama
 Stefanie Palma
 Alex Rudnick
 Olivia Schanafelt
 Dylan Smith
 Marissa Smith

5th Grade

Alexis Barilla
 Nick Berger
 Elena Buehler
 Charley Collins
 Max Goodman
 Cami Illgen
 Carl Jones
 Meghan
 Lyskowsky
 Matt Moroneso
 Tony Pacheco
 Jacqueline Parr
 Ellie Przybylinski

4th Grade

Jasem Amoudi
 Claire Casebolt
 Kyle Chinnock
 Tommy Fike
 McKenna Fuhriman
 Maia Hayes
 Kiersten Hellestrae
 Anastasia Krueger
 Jenna Parkhurst
 Isabella Redpath
 William Sarratt
 Ei Ei Sin

HONOR ROLL

(Received All A's or B's on Their Report Card)

6th Grade

Rachel Anau
 Nicole Barela
 Austen Brown
 Kendall Coraggio
 Layne Elder
 Paige Elder
 Hannah Fitzgerald
 Lyndsey Garrison
 Matt Gallagher
 Madi Geith
 Lydia Hermida
 Kevin Hurley
 Rachael Katz
 Gabby Lyman
 Mitchell Mallinak

Sally Miller
 Derek Nalette
 Nick Radulovic
 Hannah Risley
 Braxton Rowley
 Tyler Sabo
 Ernie Saiz, Jr.
 Ian Sanger
 Hailey Shisler
 Hayden Siros
 Katelyn Vaiasicca
 Garrett Warren
 Sami Wells

5th Grade

Austin Allmeyer
 Andrew Asmus
 Brittany Brown
 Darby Brown
 Ethan Cameron
 Phil Chandler
 Zoe Colwell
 Terrell Danner
 Cameron Doherty
 Betty Duarte
 Brian Grobmeier
 Collin Hainsworth
 Cody Hamrick
 Colin Harris
 Charlie Hazen
 Garrett Hicks
 Carly Jama
 Dalton Johnson
 Charlie Hazen
 Skyler Keller

Annika Koch
 Gabby LaMountain
 Mackenzie Laverty
 Kim Le
 Natalie Lucier
 Hunter Lyon
 Makenzee McBride
 Makenna Miller
 Danielle Millett
 Karina North
 Katie Norton
 Donovan Parr
 Isabella Roessle
 Meghan Shelton
 Jade Shields
 Dani Smith
 Kalli Smith
 G'Naya Walker
 Kayleigh Williams
 Jared Witte

4th Grade

Jude Barbano
 Nicole Barbano
 Dylan Berry
 Colton Breul
 Wyatt Canez
 Andrew Castillon
 Addison Demas
 Everett Garrison
 Peyton Haack
 Louis Hermida
 Natalie Holmes
 Ryan Kennedy
 Cailee Kersh
 Hannah Krater
 Noah Koehler
 Alyssa Langley
 Zoe Lyman

Cassy Lytle
 Akshay Malladi
 Jacob Morales
 Sofi Peresandi
 Joey Prossi
 Kaitlyn Rudnick
 Catherine Rushing
 Alec Sanchez
 Katherine Schanafelt
 Jonathan Schroeder
 Miranda Souder
 Morgan Toia
 Hansen Tonn
 Danera Wendling
 Grayson Wilcox
 Jacqueline Zienty