

The NORTH CANYON NEWS

Paradise Valley Unified School District No. 69

1700 E. Union Hills Dr. • Phoenix, AZ 85024 • (602) 449-5000 • <http://cmweb.pvschools.net/nchsweb/>

Carol Pollack, Principal

“Student Learning is the Center of Everything We Do!”

September 2008

It Is a Team Effort ...

By Carol Pollack

Welcome! As the principal of North Canyon High School, I am very excited to welcome all parents to the 2008-09 school year, which I know will involve a variety of exciting challenges for your son/daughter. Many of us remember our learning in high school and know that it is much different than the learning that occurs in our high schools today. At NCHS, we value and embrace the new and exciting challenges that are involved with the teaching and learning for a 21st century learner. As outlined in the Guarantee (see insert in this newsletter) from the PVUSD, it is a team effort—school, parent, and student—for the success of all learners in our schools today. I would like to emphasize that whether it is the AIMS test, success in a core subject class, school attendance and/or preparation for future learning, it is truly a commitment from all the team members—school, parent, and student. As valuable team members for our learners, teachers at NCHS truly value and appreciate the components of the school commitment. As lifelong learners ourselves, our focus for this school year will continue to be to improve our instructional strategies to reach all 21st century learners. These instructional strategies will include differentiating the instruction in order to engage all learners. The differentiated in- *(Continued on Page 2)*

PVUSD Early Release Professional Development Days

Professional Staff Development consists of a quality training plan, focused on continuous instructional improvement with concentrated follow-up and support.

NCHS student dismissal will be at 11:30 a.m. for the following six Professional Development Days:

- 
- August 26
 - September 16
 - October 21
 - January 13
 - February 10
 - April 28

NCHS Parent Conference Night

Monday, November 3, 2008

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

(In Both Gyms)

Early Release Day

Due to Parent Conferences

Wed., Nov. 26, 2008 - At 11:30 a.m.



“FULFILL THE PROMISE!”

Stay Current on Grades!

Want to stay current on how your child is doing in class? You can check grades online. Simply to go the NCHS web site and look for the word “pOGB” on the upper left corner of the tool bar at the top of the web site. Click on “pOGB” and it will ask for your student’s name and password. If your child cannot remember the password then his/her guidance counselor will be able to help you with that.

This is an excellent way to have a discussion with your child about the specific details of each course. You can look at assignments, scores and even see attendance information. You can also e-mail specific teachers if you have further questions about what is posted on “pOGB.”

■ *Principal's Message*

(Continued from Page 1)

struction will include the use of appropriate technology, collaboration with other teachers, the use of Cornell notes in all subject areas, multiple opportunities for student success, meaningful homework to encourage real-world relevant learning, as well as two-way communication tools (pOGB, e-mail, phone calls, etc.) between school and home. I encourage you, as parents, to read and reflect on the parent commitment of the PVUSD Guarantee as well as the student commitment. We can "Fulfill the Promise" for our learners in PVUSD if we each take on our individual roles in order to create a successful team.

Please read through this newsletter for school events, new phone numbers, district information, as well as specific information for NCHS students and parents. Please also check our web site for up-to-date information for you and your student. Thank you for everything that you do as a valuable team member for the success of your son/daughter.

PVUSD Offers Expanded Drug Testing Program

The Paradise Valley Unified School District piloted an expanded drug testing program for students in our district during the 2005-2006 school year. This was as a result of survey data collected from parents of middle- and high-school students in the spring of 2005. Prior to the 2005-2006 school year, the only students who were part of our district's random student drug testing program were those who participated in activities sponsored by the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA). Nearly 90 percent of the parents and guardians who responded to the survey were in favor of expanding voluntary, random drug testing to the broader student population, with parent permission.

Based on the survey response, district personnel contacted the Maricopa County Attorney's office about funding an expanded program. The Maricopa County Attorney's Office provided such funding for the last three years for the expanded drug-testing program. We will continue the program this year as we have for the last three years.

If parents/guardians give their permission (*See newsletter inserts in English and Spanish.*), their high school student will be included in the random drug testing program, which is designed as a deterrent to drug use and as a tool for parents to initiate or continue discussions with their children. A positive test result will not result in disciplinary action and police will not be involved. The school principal and district director of student services are the only staff members who will receive test results and contact with the parents regarding test results will be made by the principal.

Permission forms to include non-A.I.A. students in the district's random drug testing program are now available at all PVUSD high schools for parents to pick up or request their student bring home. The form must be signed in the presence of a school employee and a picture ID presented. The form may also be notarized and must be delivered or mailed to the school. Forms will not be accepted from students. Parents may rescind this permission at any time, in a letter addressed to the principal.

Parents and guardians may also request a home drug testing kit from the principal. This kit tests for marijuana (THC), cocaine, opiates (heroin) and meth-amphetamines and is done in the privacy of your home. Although the home drug test kit is not as expansive as a laboratory test, it does allow for a drug test to be completed in the privacy on one's home.

Parents may also request a voucher from their school's administration for Southwest Labs, which offers a more expansive drug test. With this format, the parent can take their student to a laboratory near 40th Street and Bell Road and will receive the results of the test from their principal within three to five school days. Additional information on this program is available from your school's administration or counseling department.

Mr. Craig Lahlum
Grade 9

Ms. Anita Stulc
Assistant Principal - Grade 10 - "L-Z"

Mr. Arthur Greenway
Assistant Principal - Grades 11 & 12

Mr. Eric Comer, Dean of Students
Grade 10 - "A-K"
Attendance - Grades 9-12
AIMS Coordinator

YOUR VIEWS

**2008
SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING**

**NCHS Media Center
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

Monday, September 15, 2008

Monday, October 13, 2008

Monday, November 17, 2008

—No meeting in December—

Fulfilling the Promise

The Governing Board, district administrators and the teachers and staff at North Canyon High School believe we are fulfilling the promise of improving student achievement. Over the summer, the District took the bold step of adopting the *Fulfilling the Promise for Individual Excellence Guarantee*, which appears on the inside front cover of the new Parent-Student Handbook.

In a nutshell, the *Guarantee* tells parents and students that, if they fulfill certain commitments and the school fulfills certain commitments, the District can guarantee achievement for every student. If a student does not, at the minimum, Meet the Standards or achieve one year's growth in math, reading and writing on the state AIMS test, the District will offer free, additional extended learning opportunities to reach AIMS proficiency.

For your convenience, we have provided an insert of the English/Spanish version of the *Guarantee* as an insert in this newsletter.



2008-09

NCHS Counselor Domains

602-449-5015

Cindy McShane - 602-449-5077

Last Name: Ki - Mc + AVID
IDL for Counseling Department
AVID Counselor Grades 9-12
Freshman Topics
Threat Assessment
Grade 8 Registration Coordinator

Lisa Connor - 602-449-5083

Last Name: A - Can + ELL + Quest
Personal/Social Domain - Maintains Files
of Personal/Social/Agency/Outside
Referral Sources
504 Coordinator/District Liaison
Career Domain - Sophomore Career Unit
Counselor for ESL Students
Ace Succeed Program at PVCC
AZ Quest Program Site Coordinator
Learning Connections Committee at PVCC
Refugee Student Liaison
Sophomore Credit Checks/Family Connections

Sam Costanzo - 602-449-5089

Last Name: Cap - Gra
Academic Domain - Shared
In-state Universities and Colleges
Technical Schools
Senior Awards Night
ASVAB Testing for Juniors (Fall)
AZ High School Counselor Rep
PE Test-out Coordinator
Student Tutor Program Coordinator
Senior Credit Checks/Family Connections

Lisa Maciorowski - 602-449-5085

Last Name: Me-Sa
Career Domain - Sophomore Career Unit
College & Career Center Liaison
Naviance/Family Connections
Site Administrator
Alumni Return Day
NCHS Prevention Coach
Sophomore Credit Checks/Family Connection

Manny Rivero - 602-449-5080

Last Name: Sc - Z
Academic Domain - Shared

(Continued on Page 8)

School Culture and Environment

***By Arthur Greenway,
Assistant Principal of Educational
& Student Services - Grades 11-12***

As we begin a new year at North Canyon, it is important to remember how important our school culture and environment is to the success of our school. North Canyon has a rich and diverse population of ethnic and cultural groups. It also has a varied range of academic programs including: International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, AVID, ELL, and Special Education in addition to mainstream classes. Rigor is implemented in all strands. Emphasis is placed on academic achievement and involvement in extra-curricular activities including an extensive list of clubs and sports. Students from different social and economic backgrounds learn to live and work with one another. Understanding and acceptance are emphasized. North Canyon places an extremely high value on student engagement as well as staff development. Our school provides a safe haven for students to learn academically, in addition to growing socially and emotionally. The end result is providing students with the preparatory life "tools" they will need in both high school and after graduation.

The learning environment on our campus is undoubtedly a positive one. Teachers strive toward building relationships with students to foster academic involvement and experience success. Students have a wide range of classes to choose from

over their four years. Student achievement is stressed in everything our school stands for. Everyone from administration, counselors, teachers and classified staff strive to make daily contact with students starting with basic greetings of "Good Morning," "How are you today?" or "It's good to see you!" just to give a few examples. These informal, sincere acknowledgements of students go a long way towards building positive staff-student relationships. It also promotes modeling behaviors that reinforce how students can acknowledge their peers and initiate dialogue on campus. In fact, research shows that "students who believe that their teachers care about them perform better on tests" (Ryan & Patrick, 2001). Should this be a surprise? Absolutely not! It is what schools that foster and value caring connections with students do. It is what our school continues to practice on a routine basis.

Is there room for improvement? Definitely. We are never content to rest on past achievements. We continue to develop new strategies for academic instruction as well as student engagement. Teacher development and support are an ongoing process. Professional Learning Communities, in-services, and access to the latest educational trends are provided for certified staff. The cultures of students do change and so must the educational institution if it is to remain vibrant and relevant to students.

There is a formal mission statement in place that guides our actions. However, the best way to sum up what happens on our campus is our tag statement, "Student Learning Is the Center of Everything We Do!"

Success Is a Journey, Not a Destination

By Eric Comer, Dean of Students

It is my pleasure to welcome back the entire North Canyon High School community for the upcoming school year. Mr. Arthur Ashe once said, "Success is a journey, not a destination." The doing is usually more important than the outcome." I am sure many of you have been watching the Olympic events recently. There are so many great athletes and the competition has been fierce. Last night the 50 m Men's Freestyle had its final. Absent from these Olympic Games was Gary Hall Jr., or the gold medalist in this event four years ago. In fact, Mr. Hall did not even make the Olympic team this time around.

My first thought was what a tough break. He worked so hard and yet was denied the opportunity to compete. Despite the fact that he earned a gold medal four years ago, he was unable to qualify for the team this year. Some would say that Mr. Hall wasn't successful and some might even say that he failed.

In our daily pursuits, we often focus on the end result and rarely on the process. As an educator though, I have learned that the process is just as important as the end result, if not more important. The pursuit of a gold medal is just as important as the gold medal itself. Consider for a minute, that the vast majority of the athletes participating in the Olympic Games will not win a gold medal. Regardless of this fact, no one will be (Continued on Page 7)

During the 2007-2008 school year, the North Canyon Area Dollars for Scholars (NCADFS) awarded more than \$32,000 to NCHS students pursuing many different types of post high school academic experiences, including Trade and Vocational schools, Community Colleges and 4 year Universities.

Macy's Shop for a Cause

Enjoy a day of shopping while giving back to Dollars for Scholars! Purchase a Macy's discount card for \$5 and receive 20% off almost all regular and sales price merchandise or 10% off furniture, mattresses and rugs. **All** proceeds from ticket sales benefit our North Canyon scholarship winners.

When the discount ticket may be used: On or during the week before Sat, Sept 20th. **Where they may be used:** Any Macy's Store in the U.S. **How to get one:** Call 602-363-3487 or send an email to ncadfs@cox.net.

Annual Casino Night and Auction

It's never too early to donate auction items for the major fund-raising event of the year—preparations have already begun. NCADFS benefits from your contributions, which can be auctioned off at Casino Night to generate student scholarship proceeds. Ideas for auction donations include restaurant coupons, gift certificates, artwork, event tickets,

(Continued from Page 6) able to take from them the experience of being an Olympic athlete. Nor will they be able to take from them all that was learned during the four years leading up to the Olympic Games.

These athletes learned what it means to work hard for something; the dedication, drive, and persistence necessary to achieve success. They learned and then experienced what it means to be part of a team and the discipline necessary to succeed at a high level. All of these skills and others generated from these experiences will help win the most important event—life.

We can't all be gold medalists, but we can all be successful. The following are some helpful hints to facilitate success here at North Canyon High School:

merchandise, etc. Stay tuned for more information on the event, which includes both silent and live auctions, dinner, casino gambling, and a good time had by all!

United Way and Donations by Check

If your employer sponsors an annual giving campaign through United Way, you can designate your contribution to North Canyon Area Dollars for Scholars directly. The NCADFS United Way agency number is 2188974, and below is the address and contact information. The address below can also be used to mail a donation check.

North Canyon Area Dollars for Scholars
P. O. Box 31771
Phoenix, AZ 85046-1771
Mary Martine (602) 404-8251

North Canyon Dollars for Scholars is a tax-exempt, charitable organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3).

Do you have a Safeway Club card?

Log on to www.escrrip.com and designate your funds to NCADFS, or renew your designation. **All previous designations must be renewed by Nov 1st** or they will be cancelled. The NCADFS Group I.D. is 2071608.

Volunteers and Contact Info

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our organization. To volunteer, for Macy's "Shop for a Cause" tickets, to contribute auction items or for other questions or donations, email ncadfs@cox.net or call 602-363-3487.

- ✦ Maintain a positive attitude and attend school regularly—absenteeism effects student performance.
- ✦ Arrive to class on time and complete and turn in all assignments.
- ✦ Effort and Hard Work –There is no substitute for doing your best at all times.
- ✦ Take and review your notes—we employ the Cornell note-taking method at NCHS.
- ✦ Seek out extra help when necessary—teachers, counselors, administrators, parents.
- ✦ Get involved and participate in extra curricular activities (i.e. athletics, drama, clubs).

Again, welcome to the new school year and please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions.

2008-09 PVUSD Calendar

FIRST QUARTER

Aug. 11 Classes Begin
 Aug. 26 Staff Development Day -
 Student Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
 Sept. 1 Labor Day - No School
 Sept. 16 Staff Development Day -
 Student Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
 Sept. 30 K-12 Recess - No School
 Oct. 8 First Quarter Closes

SECOND QUARTER

Oct. 9-10 K-12 Recess - No School
 Oct. 21 Staff Development Day -
 Student Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
 Oct. 27-30 K-8 Parent Conferences
 Oct. 29-30 K-8 Early Dismissal
 Oct. 31 K-8 Recess
 Nov. 11 Veterans' Day - No School
 Nov. 27-28 Thanksgiving Recess - No School
 Dec. 17-18 Gr. 9-12 Early Dismissal/Exams
 Dec. 19 9-12 Recess/Second Quarter Ends

THIRD QUARTER

Jan. 5 Third Quarter Begins
 Jan. 13 Staff Development Day -
 Student Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
 Jan. 19 MLK/Civil Rights Day - No School
 Jan. 26-30 K-8 Parent Conferences
 Jan. 29-30 K-8 Early Dismissal
 Feb. 10 Staff Development Day -
 Student Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
 Feb. 16 Presidents' Day Recess - No School
 Mar. 13 Third Quarter Closes

FOURTH QUARTER

Mar. 16-20 Spring Break - No School
 Apr. 10 & 13 Spring Recess - No School
 Apr. 28 Staff Development Day -
 Student Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
 May 25 Memorial Day Recess - No School
 May 26-27 Gr. 9-12 Early Dismissal/Exams
 May 27 Last Day of Classes
 K-12 Early Dismissal
 High School Commencement

2008-09 NCHS Counselor Domains

(Continued from Page 3)

Testing Co-coordinator (AP + PSAT + SAT)
 Financial Aid Counselor
 AIMS Tuition Waiver
 District Crisis Team Member
 Junior Credit Checks/Family Connection

Kim Storer (Kryder) - 602-449-5086

Last Name: Gre - Kh

Academic Domain-Shared
 Testing Co-coordinator (Plan + ACT)
 Test Prep Courses
 PVCC Early College
 Freshman Credit Checks/Family Connection

Ralph Vallecorsa - 602-449-5084

Last Name: IB Grades 9-12

College and Financial Night
 Senior Awards Night
 Out-of-State Colleges
 Foreign Exchange Students
 Freshman Credit Checks/Family Connection
 College Trips for Juniors/NCAA Liaison

Joni Baumhoyer - 602-449-5051

College and Career Specialist

2008 GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS

September 4	November 6
September 18	November 20
October 2	December 4
October 16	December 18

All Governing Board Meetings are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the PVUSD Governing Board Rm. located at 15002 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85032.

PTSA MEETING—Supporting and representing all parents, students, teachers, and staff at North Canyon High School.

Monday, September 8, 2008
6 - 7:00 p.m.

Teachers' Cafeteria

For more information,
<http://cmweb.pvschools.net/nchsweb/>

GET INVOLVED!