

SUNSET CANYON ELEMENTARY

OCTOBER 2009



A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Sunset Canyon Families-

The school year is off to a great start; we had a wonderful first month of school! As most of you know, our kindergarten classrooms were well over capacity and we received the staffing to post for a new teacher. After sorting through close to 50 applicants, we are happy to announce that we hired an outstanding candidate, Mrs. Tracy Allen. Mrs. Allen comes to us with eight years of teaching experience in both Scottsdale and Paradise Valley School Districts. Welcome Aboard Mrs. Allen, we look forward to having you as part of our team!

Mrs. Hoffler

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FROM THE PTO

PTO Phone Number: (602) 449-5112
Email address: sunsetcanyonpto@gmail.com

***OCTOBER 2 - COOKIE DOUGH KICK OFF!!** Please note that this will be our **ONLY** major fundraiser of the year. We will not have a catalog sale. Orders & Money are due **October 20** and delivery will be **November 17**. More information to follow!

***Coupon Cards** are still available for \$5.00. It virtually pays for itself in just one use!

*Information about the first annual Sunset Canyon Cookbook will be forthcoming!

*Volunteers are needed for the bookfair at the end of October. If you're interested and have not filled out a volunteer form, please send an email to sunsetcanyonpto@gmail.com

PTO Volunteer forms are also available on the Sunset Canyon Website, in the PTO section!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER

6 Preschool Parent Orientation
9 Grading Period Ends
12 K-12 Recess
20 Cookie Dough Orders due
26 – 29 K-8 Parent Conference Week
28 – 29 K-8 Early Dismissal - Noon
30 K-8 Recess

NOVEMBER

10 Early Dismissal - Noon
11 Veterans Day Fall Recess
17 Cookie Dough Delivery
26 – 27 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

18 Semester Ends
Winter Break Dec 21 - Jan 1

JANUARY

Spring Semester, 2010

4 Classes Resume 8:30 AM
12 Early Dismissal - Noon
18 MLK/Civil Rights Day Recess
25 – 29 K-8 Parent Conference Week
28 – 29 K-8 Early Dismissal - Noon

FEBRUARY

9 Early Dismissal - Noon
15 Presidents' Day Recess

MARCH

12 Grading Period Ends
29 – Apr. 2 Spring Break

You are cordially invited to attend 6TH GRADE PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

Exploring your future in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program

- Find out about the program
- Receive an application packet

When: Tues., October 13, 09 7:00 p.m.; Wed., October 14, 09 4:00 p.m.
Mon., October 19, 09 7:00 p.m.; Thurs., October 22, 09 4:00 p.m.

Where: Vista Verde Middle School Library
2826 E. Grovers Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85032

QUESTIONS: Please email Robin Mahon, MYP Coordinator, Vista Verde Middle School rmahon@pvschools.net

You may also want to consult the website at <http://www.ibo.org>

2009-2010 STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS:

President: Justice Gonzalez & Mindi Wagner

Vice President: Chloe Dastan

Secretary: Logan Morrissey

Treasurer: Nicole Cervi



**PV MALL SHOP LOCAL, GIVE BACK PROGRAM:
SEPTEMBER 18 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1**

Paradise Valley Mall is helping the community and the PVUSD with the new *Shop Local, Give Back* program. Between September 18, and November 1, 2009, collect your receipts from any PV Mall retailer (including the new Costco) or mall restaurant and bring them to Guest Services. For each PV Mall receipt you will receive one token, for every PV Costco receipt you will receive two tokens that are then placed in one of three bins. Each bin represents a local charity. The charity with the most tokens will receive a \$3,000 donation, the second \$2,000 and the third \$1,000. One of the three organizations to benefit is The Foundation for Public Education supporting PVUSD.

PUT YOUR TAX DOLLARS TO GOOD USE

Making a contribution to receive your Arizona Public Education Tax Credit is simple. Download the PVUSD Extracurricular Tax Credit brochure: http://cmweb.pvschools.net/siteweb/pdfs/TaxCredit_Flyer.pdf

Print the brochure and fill out the response card, writing in the dollar amount, up to \$200 (or \$400 per married couple), that you want to contribute.

- Indicate the school you would like to support as Sunset Canyon. Make the check payable to Sunset Canyon.
- Check a box of an activity category. If you'd like to support all activities just check the "Any Extracurricular Activity" box.
- Fill in your name and address.
- Drop off the form and your check to the Sunset Canyon office and pick up your receipt. If you prefer, you can mail the check to the school. Your tax credit receipt will be mailed directly to you.
- You can take a dollar-for-dollar reduction on your Arizona State taxes (or receive an addition to your refund) for that same year. A donation can also reduce your taxable income for your Federal tax return.

Donations deadline:

Mailed-in donations must be postmarked by December 31.

**SUNSET CANYON IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL (PDS) PROGRAM**

What is a PDS? A Professional Development School (PDS) site is a district-based, teacher education program that is fully delivered in a university/district partner school. Future teachers are immersed in the real world of teaching – and learn from real world, highly experienced teachers.

**PVUSD OPEN ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 2009
October 1 – December 1**

Parents interested in Open Enrollment are invited to pick up a district-level Open Enrollment application for the 2010-11 school year at the District Administrative Center reception office beginning October 1, 2009. Applications can also be downloaded from the district Website (www.pvschools.net). Applications must be returned in person or by mail by 5 p.m. on December 1, 2009.

Only schools determined to have capacity for more students will participate in Open Enrollment. Students currently attending a school under the Open Enrollment process do not need to reapply, but those open-enrolled students moving on to middle- or high-school next year must apply. Applications for siblings of students currently participating in Open Enrollment must be submitted for consideration.

CALL A TEACHER'S VOICEMAIL DIRECTLY



To leave a voice message for any teacher dial 602-449-7779 and enter their 5 digit extension. You will be able to bypass the front office and go immediately to that teacher's voice mailbox. This will save you time!

**NOMINATE A SPECIAL TEACHER FOR THE
SILVER APPLE AWARD**

Students are encouraged to nominate their favorite teacher for the Silver Apple Award, sponsored by Phoenix's 3TV and Ace Air. This award highlights those special teachers who deserve a little extra recognition.

Any students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade may nominate their teacher. To nominate a teacher the student must complete the nomination form, have it signed by their school principal and then either mail or fax it back to 3TV by March 5, 2010. Awards are given each month from October through May. The Silver Apple teacher receives a Silver Apple and \$500 for use in his or her classroom. http://azbloggers.com/passiontoaction/?page_id=16

HEALTHY SUGGESTION



In addition to considering the seasonal flu shot and H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available, it is vitally important to take the proper hygiene measures to protect against the H1N1 virus such as covering your cough with a tissue or sleeve, washing your hands often or using antibacterial cleanser and avoiding touching your eyes, mouth or nose. Most importantly, stay home if you are sick and encourage your loved ones do the same. For more information about the illness and prevention, please visit www.stophespreadaz.org

OUR TEACHERS IN THE NEWS

MR. BEATTY

PVCC appreciates Beacon Teachers:

Paradise Valley Community College has chosen **Blaine Beatty**, a kindergarten teacher at Sunset Canyon, as their Elementary Beacon Teacher of the Year. The Beacon Teacher Program is designed to place PVCC's future educators with the most passionate and highly-qualified teachers in the PVUSD. The shared goal is that students see and experience best practices and developmentally-appropriate lessons and gain a realistic perspective of what being a teacher really means.

MS. PERDUE

Ms. Perdue and six other PVUSD teachers attend the Sally Ride Science Academy:

This past summer, seven lucky Paradise Valley teachers were invited to attend the inaugural Sally Ride Science Academy. The Sally Ride Science Academy provided training and materials to help the teachers learn how to ignite students' interests in science and science careers. Research supports that introducing young students to the wide variety of science careers available, the many paths to becoming a scientist and the vibrant women and men working in science today fuels their interest and makes the study of science more meaningful to them.