

SUNSET CANYON ELEMENTARY

September 2009



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Sunset Canyon Families-

I would like to thank all of our students, parents and staff for a very successful beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Despite the challenges presented by budget issues, it was reassuring to see the excitement of our students as they began the new school year. As a student-centered school, the staff of Sunset Canyon will continue to do our best to provide a safe, enriching and challenging learning environment for all of our students.

Please make sure that you have established arrangements for your child's arrival and departure from school. Remember that supervision of children begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:45 p.m. daily. Children should not be on campus outside of these hours unless a parent accompanies them. Students may report to breakfast in the Cafeteria beginning at 8:00 a.m. daily. Thank you for watching out for our children and observing traffic and parking rules to ensure the safety of all of our students, families and staff. Please look for an updated/revised drop-off and pick-up procedures in the upcoming newsletter.

During the first week of each month, we will publish our school newsletter online. The newsletter will highlight pertinent school information and upcoming events. This is Sunset Canyon's way of "going green" by saving paper and printing supplies. Thank you for your support of our efforts to provide a quality educational experience for our students.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FROM THE PTO:

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

- * Look for the PTO section on the school's website for Meeting Agendas and Updates as well as links to other Parent Connections.
- * Sign up for the PTO email to receive the Meeting Agendas and Updates sent right to you! sunsetcanyonpto@gmail.com
~ This email list is for PTO use only as a quick & effective way to relay school-related information. We will not sell or distribute your email address.
- * To receive United Parent Council E-bulletins sign up at www.upc.org
- * Reminder: **15 mph** in the school zones! It's against the law to speed in those zones. Watch for children!!
- * **COUPON CARD CONTEST!!!!** The top 3 sellers from each: Primary (Pre-k-3) & (4-6) will win lunch, provided by PTO, with Principal Hoffler!!!
- * COUPON CARDS are still available and on **sale** for \$5.00! Get **UNLIMITED** use from the 18 vendors until March 15, 2010.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

15 Early Dismissal - Noon
28 K-12 Recess

OCTOBER

9 Grading Period Ends
12 K-12 Recess
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
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

* Sunset Canyon Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has free membership and every parent @ SCES is automatically a member so why not try attending a meeting? Parents who pick students up after school, just come to the library, there is FREE childcare. We understand not all parents are able to attend so we have posted the Meeting Agenda as well as an Update after the meeting on the school's website as well as emailing them directly to the PTO email list.

* The PTO would like to express our gratitude to our wonderful Front Office: Kathy & Marcy for your constant support and guidance. You do so much for us "behind the scenes" and we want to take this opportunity to let you know how much we appreciate both of you! Thank You!!!

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER

Let me introduce myself. My name is Hillary Resnick Kaminsky, and I am now the social worker at Sunset Canyon Elementary School. This is my sixteenth year as a social worker for the Paradise Valley Unified School District. For the past three years, I was full time at Eagle Ridge Elementary School. This year, I am assigned to two schools, Sunset Canyon and Eagle Ridge Elementary School. My assigned days at Sunset Canyon are Tuesdays and Thursdays and alternating Fridays.

I look forward to working with your children, the staff and faculty at Sunset Canyon, as well as being of support and assistance to parents. During these first few months, I will be working closely with Mrs. Hoffer and the school staff as we define and determine how my skills and services can be provided within this schedule.

I am available to students in need, as well as parents. You can contact me by e-mail at hkaminsky@pvschools.net or by calling 602-449-5100. I look forward to becoming a member of the Sunset Canyon community.

GOING GREEN

The Paradise Valley Unified School District and Sunset Canyon Elementary are making the 2009-10 Parent / Student Handbooks available online for access throughout the year. Be sure to visit our website at sc.es.pvschool.net to review these handbooks with your child.

Printed copies are available from the school for parents or students who do not have online access.

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Early release days for students allow schools and the district to offer specialized professional growth opportunities for teachers. The research is clear; the most important factor affecting your child's learning is the teacher. Knowing this, we want to ensure that we have effective teachers producing the engaging learning environments. Research also tells us that successful professional development is "on the job learning" that is also "on-going and continuous." Teachers grow professionally by doing and reflecting on their experiences. This is another reason why early release days are essential. They provide teachers with time to share and discuss new concepts, new instructional strategies, review research, analyze data together, assess student progress and learn new approaches to integrate into their practice.

Strengthening curriculum is time-consuming, thoughtful and labor-intensive work that our teachers should engage in to produce greater gains in student achievement, ultimately benefiting both teacher and students.

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!

NEW TO OUR STAFF

Mrs. Abalos: I have been teaching for 30 years, teaching Special Education, Gifted, and regular classroom. I am happily married with three step daughters and a 20 month old grandson. I am very happy to be the Math Specialist at Sunset Canyon.

Mrs. Roberson: Hi! My name is Jamie Roberson and I am the Instructional Coach this year. This is my 13th year teaching in the PV School District. I have taught Kindergarten, 2nd grade and ESL at Echo Mountain Primary, as well as worked in an administrative role at Wildfire. I am excited about my new position at Sunset Canyon this year. It's going to be a great year!

Ms. Davis: I taught in the PVUSD for 20 years. Prior to being a reading specialist, I taught grades 3-5. I am looking forward to working with your children here at Sunset Canyon.

Nurse Shepherd: My name is Donna Shepherd and I'm happy to be your new School Nurse. Originally from Boston, I've been in Phoenix for 20 years and have 4 children who have attended PVUSD. My hobbies include quilting, travel, and swimming. I'm excited to be part of the Sunset Canyon community. Please stop by and say hi!

Mrs. Sabin: I have worked in the PV School District for about 6 years. I have a BA in Political Science from Pace University and an MBA from Pepperdine. I am very active in the community having been elected a precinct committeeman in District 7 for the past 10 years.

Ms. Groff: I am a paraeducator in Mr. Beatty's Kindergarten classroom. I have spent many years as a para at Foothill, Aire Libre and Greenway Middle School. Thank you for welcoming me to your Sunset Canyon family. I look forward to getting to know you and having a great school year.

NURSE'S NOTES:

It's cold and flu season again! Influenza and some diseases are contagious. This means that when a child is sent to school sick it spreads to the other children and soon everyone is sick.

Please do not send your child to school if she/he has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or a communicable disease such as chickenpox, strep throat, pink eye, impetigo, etc. Students should be without fever for 24 hours before returning to school. This means no fever without the aid of Tylenol or Ibuprofen. Also, children should be free of vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.

Just a reminder: The Health Office does not provide any over the counter medications to students. If your child may need Tylenol, cold/allergy medicine, etc. please bring it to the office and sign a permission form. Students are not allowed to carry any medicines, vitamins, or cough drops with them, for safety's sake. I'll be happy to answer any questions, and I am grateful for your donations of tissues, disinfecting/cleaning wipes, and hand sanitizer. Thank you!