



The Wildfire Blaze

The monthly e-newsletter of Wildfire Elementary School
Paradise Valley Unified School District

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day Recess
- 4 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 10 Nights Out at Islands/Barnes & Noble
- 12 Jamba Juice 2:45 – 3:20 pm
- 16 Early Dismissal
- 17 School Council Meeting***
PTO Meeting***
- 18 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 25 Individual and Class Pictures
- 26 Scala's Italian Ice 2:45 – 3:20pm
- 30 K-12 Recess

OCTOBER

- 2 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 4 5th Annual Desert Trails/Wildfire
Wormburner Golf Tournament
- 8 Grading Period Ends
- 9-10 K-12 Recess
- 15 School Council Meeting***
PTO Meeting***
- 16 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 20-24 Book Fair
- 21 Early Dismissal/Walk to School Day
- 29-30 Early Dismissal
- 31 K-12 Recess

** PVUSD Governing Board Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the District Administrative Center at 15002 N. 32nd Street

*** School Council meetings are held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Wildfire Media Center. PTO Meetings are held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Wildfire Media Center.

Get Wildfire News on the Web....

In an effort to “Go Green,” and also to minimize the number of inserts you find in your child’s backpack, this year’s Blaze newsletter will be published in its entirety on the Wildfire website, and also distributed via e-news.

A “condensed” *News Brief* version of the newsletter, which is limited to one page, will be sent home in hard copy each month. We hope that when your copy of the *Blaze News Brief* comes home each month, you are reminded to log on to the site to read about everything that’s happening at our school!

We encourage you to bookmark our website now and to visit it often, since we are adding and updating information there on an ongoing basis! Copy <http://cmweb.pvschools.net/wfesweb/> into your browser and bookmark it as a favorite today!

Note: Limited copies of the full Blaze newsletter will be available in the school lobby each month for those families that do not have email or internet access.



PTO News

Join Wildfire PTO

Being an active PTO member helps build our community and supports numerous programs for our children and our school. Membership dues are \$20 and include a School Directory. The School Directory will also include our own Business Yellow Pages that will provide an opportunity for Wildfire families to list services they provide. For more information about joining PTO or adding your listing to the directory, please contact Curt Black at curtblack@cox.net.

Win a Classy Closet at PTO Meetings!

Classy Closets will be giving away a free 6-8 foot wall closet valued at \$300 at each monthly PTO meeting this year! You can enter to win at each PTO meeting you attend, and the winner will be drawn at the end of the meeting. Each winner can choose the wall closet, or a gift certificate valued at \$300 to add shelving to their existing Classy Closet.

For details, contact Kathy deStefano at kdestefano@cox.net.

PTO Liaisons Needed

The Wildfire PTO is recruiting parents to act as PTO Liaisons for their child's classroom. Each classroom at Wildfire needs a volunteer.

PTO Liaisons help the teacher with organizing forms and donations for fundraising events. They also help organize parent volunteers from the class to assist the PTO with special events such as Country Fair and the Silent Auction.

For more information, contact Stefanie Wallerstein at stefwallerstein@yahoo.com or download the Volunteer Form on the Wildfire website.

PTO Committees Looking for Volunteers

It's that time of year again when we need to recruit volunteers for our various PTO committees. Some of the committees looking for volunteers are:

- Copy Cats (2 hours per week, mornings or afternoons) Contact Becky Obal at raobal@aol.com.
- Parking Lot Safety (1/2 hour, one morning per week) Contact Cindy Adams at cradams65@cox.net.
- Art Masterpiece (docents needed to bring art and art history information into the classrooms- no experience necessary!) Contact Margaret Montgomery at gangof4@cox.net or Brenda Herrick at bh@marshallresources.com.
- Silent Auction (May 2, 2009) Contact Lynn Walsh at lwalsh@childmusephx.org or Todd Mabrey at tamabrey@qwest.net.
- Country Fair ((February 27th) Contact Steph Bartels at stephbartels@cox.net.
- Read-a-thon (March 2-6) Contact Lyn Blakemore at Blakemores@qwest.net.
- Book Fair (October 20-24, and May 11-15) Contact Wendy Jones at cwjones9@cox.net or Michelle Silva at monte8m@yahoo.com.
- Bingo Night (Nov. 14) Contact Melinda Kennedy at chrismelindakennedy@juno.com.
- School Dance (Jan. 23) Contact Melinda Kennedy at chrismelindakennedy@juno.com.
- Concessions (during PTO events) Contact Tom Marlowe at marlowes@cox.net.
- Yearbook (ongoing) Contact Jani Pankoff at jpankoff@cox.net.
- Enrichment (ongoing) Contact Melinda Kennedy at chrismelindakennedy@juno.com.

- Holiday Shoppe (December 8-12) Contact Melina Coon at melinacoon@yahoo.com.
- Teacher Appreciation & Hospitality (ongoing, and May 4-8) Contact Melinda Kennedy at chrismelindakennedy@juno.com.

Get involved! We would love to meet you! All Wildfire parents are welcome and encouraged to participate!

School Supply Drive

The 3rd annual school supply drive to benefit less fortunate students in our school district was a big success! Thanks to your generosity, we collected over 650 school supply items for donation, including 18 backpacks! It's amazing to see how one small act of kindness, when multiplied by many families, can add up to such tremendous results!



Over 650 school supplies were donated to help children in the district.



Upcoming Events

Mark the Date- Family Night Out - Books and Burgers

Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Come and join the Wildfire families and friends for our Family Night Out Books and Burgers event on Wednesday, September 10. Islands Restaurant will donate 20% of proceeds from Wildfire students and families. Barnes and Noble will donate 15% to 20% back to Wildfire PTO based on our proceeds of books purchased. Look for the Island's flyer and Barnes and Noble vouchers in your students PTO correspondence.

Barnes and Noble will have wish lists from the Wildfire teachers for books they would like for their classrooms. The teachers truly appreciate the donations to the classrooms from their students.

Take a night off of cooking to enjoy dinner with your Wildfire friends and then head over to Barnes and Noble for reading fun.

Questions? Contact Lyn Blakemore at blakemores@qwest.net.

5th Annual Wildfire & Desert Trail Wormburner Golf Tournament

We want YOU to be a part of the 5th Annual Wormburner Classic! The tournament is Saturday, October 4, 2008 at Stone Creek Golf Club and is hosted by the PTOs of Wildfire and Desert Trails Elementary Schools. A shotgun start is at 7:30 a.m.

Registration is happening now. Fees are \$95 per player if you register by September 8, and \$100 thereafter.

There are ways to get involved even if you don't want to play:

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For more information, visit the Wildfire Elementary website at <http://wildfire.pvusd.k12.az.us>

- Donate your player spot to a teacher
- Have a business? Donate prizes and giveaways!
- Have sporting tickets? We would love to have tickets to a game as a prize!!

For more information, contact Louise Mandrola at 480-563-1985.



Fundraiser Updates

Please Send in Your PTO Pledge Form!

The Wildfire PTO Pledge Drive is off to a good start. So far, we have collected over \$6,000 in donations. We are grateful for the support we have received, but we still need your help to reach our goal of \$25,000! Please support your school by pledging. Can't find your pledge form? No problem! You can print one off of the Wildfire website.

The dollars we raise go towards enriching our children's school experience with things like Accelerated Reader, Study Island, classroom materials such as books, Core Knowledge curriculum support materials, books for the library, playground shade structures, and so much more!

Remember, this pledge drive is replacing the three "door to door" sales fundraisers we had done in the past. Please help support our school! Don't want to write a check? No problem! You charge your pledge to your credit card by writing in your credit card # and expiration date!

The classroom for each grade level with the highest amount of donations will receive an ice cream party! All donations and pledges for donations must be received by September 30th.



Start Clipping those Boxtops!

Please remember to cut out the General Mills Boxtops for Education on the products you purchase at home. Send the Boxtops into your child's classroom each month, and they will be turned in for cash to help our school.

Boxtops has helped America's schools earn over \$200 million in the past 11 years. For each boxtop you donate, Wildfire will receive 10 cents. Visit boxtops4education.com for a complete list of participating products.

The class that collects the most boxtops during the month of September will get to keep the Chick-fil A cow in their room for October and each student will win a prize. Monthly contests will continue through April and the classroom who collects the most throughout the entire school year will earn a special lunch.

Shop and Earn!

You can help earn money for our PTO by simply shopping at your favorite stores! We receive money from Target, Fry's, Albertsons, and Bashas. For more information, visit the Wildfire website. Click PTO, and then Events & Fundraisers, and go to Rewards to open the page containing all the details!

Brick Pavers on Sale

Want to help support our school programs and leave a lasting impression for the future? The PTO is selling Laser Engraved Brick Pavers that will be customized with your family's name. The bricks will make up a beautifully designed walkway at the front entrance of the school. Each brick costs \$100.00 and will be approximately 4 x 8 x 2 1/4 in size. Pave the way for a brighter future and support this special event! Visit the Wildfire website to print out your order form today!



School News

Attention all Wildfire Parents: Kiss-n-Go needs your help.

We greatly appreciate your support. To keep our program running smooth for all our parents and students we need ONLY 10 volunteers for one day a week to make sure it stays that way. Please email Cindy Adams at cradams65@cox.net with "Kiss-n-Go" in the subject line for more information and which day you are available.

Art Masterpiece Presenters Needed

We are looking for parents (or grandparents) to participate as Art Presenters for our Art Masterpiece program. You don't need to be an art major, a teacher, or even be well versed in art. All you need is ENTHUSIASM! For about one hour of your time, once a month, you can bring art appreciation lessons to our students. This program supplements the Core Art program, and introduces art from the masters; Van Gogh, Picasso, Vermeer, Monet, and Bruegel to name just a few. Lessons are preplanned and supplied for each grade level. Hands-on activities implement the elements of art into one-of-a-kind art by our students. If you like, you can even observe a class in action, taught by an experienced Art Presenter.

Join us for an informational meeting on Wednesday, August 27 at 3:05 p.m. in the Art Room!

For more information, contact Brenda Herrick at bh@marshallresources.com. We need your assistance to help expand this valuable program.

Show Your School Spirit!

During the upcoming 2008-2009 school year, every Friday will be Spirit Day at Wildfire Elementary. Students are encouraged to wear the school colors and show their Wildfire spirit. Wildfire t-shirts, caps, and water bottles are on sale now. Get yours today and show your Firebird Spirit!

District Fine Arts Council

Are you interested in supporting the fine arts programs in the Paradise Valley School District? The Paradise Valley Arts Education Council (PVAEC) is a newly formed group whose purpose is to ensure that the arts stay alive and well in the PV school district. This parent group will work to articulate the value of keeping and growing the arts in our schools. The council would like to have at least one parent from every school in the district serve on the committee. The mission of the group is "Quality Arts for All." Goals of the PVAEC include the following:

1. Communicate with administrators, reminding them of what a difference participating in fine arts makes in the lives of our students.
2. Launch a "Spotlight on the Arts" newsletter to celebrate and share arts-related successes that occur throughout the district.
3. Facilitate the creation and execution of a survey that gathers data on the perception of the value of the arts in our district to be conducted by the University of Arizona.

Meetings are held once a month and any parent of a PVUSD student who is concerned and interested in keeping arts strong in our district is encouraged to join the council. Please contact Nancy Sowers (Wildfire general music teacher) if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Yearbook Update

Last year the Yearbook Club came up with a few themes for the 2009 yearbook. The students at Wildfire voted at the end of last year and the winning theme is: Flight of the Firebirds. We will kick off the yearbook sale this month. Cost per book is \$18. Watch for an order form to come home or you can order online through the link on the Wildfire website.

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Information about signing up for the after school Yearbook Club will be sent home later this month to 5th and 6th graders.

Also, if you are available during the school day to take pictures in the classroom, please contact Jani Pankoff at jpankoff@pvschools.net.



Classroom News

Second Grade

Second grade is excited to begin learning about nutrition and the human body. We'll also study addition facts and strategies this month. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Third Grade

Third grade has been amazing! The students have worked very hard in just the few days that they have been at school. They've been traveling the World by using maps and compasses to locate the seven continents and four oceans. They have now learned that a fifth ocean, the Southern Ocean, has been added!

The students have also been studying the three branches of our government. They understand that our government has checks and balances and that people in America do have a say in who is elected into office. In contrast, as the class follows the Olympic games, locating the countries and graphing the medals earned, they are realizing that not all countries are as fortunate and have the freedom that Americans enjoy.