



The Wildfire Blaze

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

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

- 1-11 Toys for Tots Drive
- 2 PTO Family Night at The Office 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 3 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 4 Cold Stone Creamery 2:45 – 3:20 p.m.
- 7-11 Holiday Shoppe
- 7 Strings Concert at 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Strings Performance at Desert Ridge 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- 9 Winter Choral Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Chorus Performance at Desert Ridge
- 15 Wildfire Spelling Bee
- 17 Mollen Clinic at Wildfire
PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 21-4 Winter Break

JANUARY

- 4 School Resumes
- 12 Early Release 12:30 p.m.
- 13 School Information Night 6:30 p.m.
- 14 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 18 Civil Rights Day/Recess
- 20 School Council Meeting***
PTO Meeting***
- 21 Activities Pictures
- 25-29 Parent Conference Week
- 28 Early Release 12:30 p.m.
- 29 Early Release 12:30 p.m.

** 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.

From the Principal...

Engaging Students to Increase Achievement

Tony Wagner, in his book “The Global Achievement Gap” identified seven 21st Century Skills including *Effective Oral and Written Communication*. From his book, I found the following quote: “The biggest skill people are missing is the ability to communicate: both written and oral presentations. It’s a huge problem for us.” (Annmarie Neal, Vice President for Talent Management at Cisco Systems)

My first thought was, “Wasn’t this skill essential for success in the 20th Century, too?” I know, maybe a little sarcastic. As I reflected on Ms. Neal’s premise, I thought about the need to effectively communicate through oral and written presentations in *cross cultural settings*. We must acknowledge the global economy and talk about how our children will compete with children from other parts of the world for high demand jobs. Therefore, the oral and written skills needed are for a larger and broader audience than had been anticipated for us as children.

Through the deep rich content in Core Knowledge, we are providing today’s children with specific knowledge about world culture, customs, and history. Through the use of our writing program, “Write from the Beginning”, we teach children how to brainstorm and map their ideas with details and strong vocabulary. This specific writing process is also a tool to prepare for oral presentations. In addition, teaching children how to write and communicate effectively through the use of technology is part of our charge. With background knowledge about the people and countries of the world and the skills to write and present effectively, we are preparing your children for great success in the world market.

~Troy J. Bales, Ed.D., *Principal*

A Note From the Nurse...

Dear Parents,

The health office is again in need of your gently used clothing for our loan closet. Needed are the smaller sizes of 5-10 boys and girls short sleeved t-shirts, shorts, and pants. If you are cleaning out your closets before the cooler weather, I would sure appreciate a donation of used clothing to keep our students clean, dry, and comfortable in case of an unexpected accident at school. Anything I am unable to utilize, I will donate to the “Clothe Our Kids” drive for Campo Bello School.

Thank you,

Ann Street, *Wildfire Nurse*

Important Tax Credit Information

Have you taken advantage of this program? For ANYONE who pays Arizona State Income Taxes, you can REDIRECT money the State collects directly to Wildfire. Write us a check, complete the form, and INCREASE your REFUND! You may qualify to donate up to \$400 (married couple filing jointly)! Tax Credit dollars support extracurricular activities such as field trips and clubs. Wildfire clubs like Running Club, Homework Club, Yearbook Club, Drama Club, GenYes, and many more are offered at nominal fees because of our Tax Credit donations. Forms are available on our school web site. Pass this information along to neighbors, friends, and family! Get it in before our office closes on December 18th, or make sure it is post marked by December 31, 2009!



PTO News

December PTO Meeting

The December PTO meeting has been cancelled. Our next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.



Upcoming Events

Nights Out at the Office

The next Wildfire Family Night Out will be on Wednesday, December 2. Join us for good food and trivia at The Office at Desert Ridge from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Remember to present your flier to your server so that Wildfire PTO receives 20% of the proceeds.

Holiday Shoppe Looking for Volunteers

The Holiday Shoppe will be here before you know it. We are looking for volunteers to help out. The Holiday Shoppe will run from Monday, December 7 through Friday December 11. If you would like to volunteer and have some fun at the same time, email Melina Coon at melinacoon@gmail.com.

Save the date: Silent Auction

The Annual Silent Auction will be held on April 10, 2010 at the Fireside Community Center. This year's theme is "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." We are currently looking for auction items. Some examples could be sporting tickets, vacation rentals, golf excursions, personal trainers, class memberships, etc. If you are interested in donating, please contact Lynn Walsh at lynn@childmusephx.org or Leanna Dando at leannadando@yahoo.com.



Fundraiser Updates

Entertainment Book Sales

Buy your Entertainment books for family and teachers this holiday! The cost is \$30. For more information, contact Michelle Klaudt at theklaudts@cox.net.



BOX TOPS 2009-2010

Congratulations, Wildfire families! On October 31, we submitted 13,950 Box Tops, earning our school \$1,395! We are halfway to meeting our goal of \$3000 for the year.

The October winner for Box Tops was Mrs. McLeister's class. Thanks to the entire 4th grade for collecting 4085 Box Tops during their Medieval Box Tops Contest!

The prize for November's winners will be a free meal ticket to Panda Express.

Please visit the Box Tops page on the Wildfire website for more information about this program.

Purchase Gift Cards

Please remember to use SCRIP when purchasing gift cards for family, friends, and even yourself this holiday season. Just go to our website and download your order form or go to www.shopwithscript.com to place your order! You will find gift cards for MANY of the stores you shop at frequently!

Shop and Earn Rewards

The Wildfire Elementary School PTO is in the process of setting up a number of Rewards Programs that will enable us to earn money and merchandise for our school simply by becoming a member of the program. Rewards programs are offered by Albertsons, Fry's, Target, and Campbell's. Visit the web site for information about participating in these programs.



School News

Attention All Parents

You may have noticed that the Kiss-n-Go drop off has been slower than usual lately. Although we have three volunteers signed up to help each day, we have had several days with only one or two volunteers due to child illness. We are making every attempt to keep the morning drop-off running as smoothly as possible for everyone. In order to make that happen we need more volunteers. Having just one extra person helps tremendously, especially when one of our volunteers is late or is unable to assist.

So please, if you have just 30 minutes to spare in the morning, we would welcome any assistance you can provide. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you out at the curb! If you have any questions, contact Cindy Adams at Cradams65@cox.net.

Toys for Tots Drive

The Student Government is holding our fourth annual Toys for Tots drive in partnership with the United States

Marine Corps. The drive will take place from November 30 – December 11. A collection bin will be located in the school lobby where students can donate new unwrapped gifts for less fortunate children aged 1-14.

Yearbooks on Sale Now!

Yearbooks are on sale! Go to the Wildfire web site to order your yearbook online. Click on "About the School" and then "Yearbook". Right now, there is a special deal...the yearbook is only \$18! The price will be going up to \$20 on December 18, so don't delay, order today!

Get Your Pictures in the Yearbook!

The Yearbook Staff invites students and parents to submit photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school and community events or you and your friends just having fun, we'd like to see them. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have.

Here is how you can submit photos online:

Go to: <https://images.jostens.com/login>

- If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter username: 400002290 and the password: wildfire
- Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click "Save Details"

It's that easy! Submit your photos today! The last day to submit photos is 3/30/2010.

Wildfire Merchandise

Wildfire merchandise will be on sale at the Holiday Shoppe from December 7-11. Contact Tara Winchell at tlwinchell@cox.net with any questions.

School Council

Our school council meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. The school council is made up of parents, teachers, and support staff and is specifically responsible for advising the principal and providing feedback on school policies, programs, and services. Monthly meetings are held and open to the school community. Our next meeting will be January 20, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the school media center. Agendas and minutes are posted on the school website.



Classroom News

First Grade Update

First grade loved learning about the human body throughout October. November brings a new Core Knowledge unit on Early English Settlers. We have been studying Sir Walter Raleigh, Jamestown, The Lost Colony of Roanoke, and many other very interesting facts about how the early colonies helped to shape our nation.

Second Grade Update

We had such a great time learning in October! This month we studied solid figures, magnets, and seasonal cycles. We loved learning about solid figures and their edges, corners and faces. The students learned that our Earth's core is a magnet! They had a great time experimenting with magnets, learning about lodestones and how strong magnetic force is. We also talked about the four seasons and why we have them. The students ended our unit by painting the four seasons. We ended the month with a celebration of fall. Thanks to all the parents that helped get things ready or were able to attend.

Art Masterpiece

What do Abstract Art and Ancient Egyptian Art have in common? They are both Art Masterpiece lessons in the month of December! Lots of interesting learning will be going on this month with the upcoming lessons. Take a look below to see the lessons for each grades level. Some of the artists are Monet, Munch, Kandinsky, and Stuart. Trivia Question: Do you know the name of the artist who created *The Thinker*? Second graders will know soon!

December lessons include:

K - Art Elements-Line & Shapes

1 - Art from Ancient Egypt

2 - Sculpture

3 - Early American Art

4 - Abstract Art

5 - Impressionism - Monet

6 - Feelings in Art

For more info about the Wildfire Art Masterpiece program, please contact Margaret Montgomery at gangof4@cox.net or Brenda Herrick at bh@marshallresources.com.

