



The Wildfire Blaze

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

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Volunteer Training at 2:15 p.m.
- 2 Volunteer Training at 6:00 p.m.
- 3 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 7 Labor Day Recess
- 11 Jamba Juice 2:45 – 3:20 pm
- 14 Parent Education Series at 9:30 a.m.
- 15 Early Release 12:30 p.m.
Kindergarten/12:30 p.m. 1st – 5th
- 16th School Council Meeting***
PTO Meeting***
- 17 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 24 Individual and Class Pictures
- 25 Scala's Italian Ice 2:45 – 3:20pm
- 28 K-12 Recess

OCTOBER

- 1 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 9 Grading Period Ends
Jamba Juice 2:45 – 3:20 pm
- 12 K-12 Recess
- 15 PVUSD Governing Board Meeting**
- 21 School Council Meeting***
PTO Meeting***
- 23-28 Book Fair
- 23 Scala's Italian Ice 2:45 – 3:20pm
School Information Night 5:30 p.m.
PTO Movie Night 6:30 p.m.
- 26-29 Parent Conference Week
- 28-29 Early Release 12:30 p.m.
Kindergarten/12:30 p.m. 1st – 5th
- 30 K-8 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.

From the Principal...

Thank you for supporting your child in a terrific start to a new school year! The first three weeks have been busy, exciting, and full of firsts for everyone. Over the course of this year, I hope you read the Blaze Newsletters and peruse our wonderful website for all your informational needs. Building parent partnerships and supporting the home with learning opportunities for parents is part of our mission to meet the needs of every child through a professional learning community.

Therefore, I am excited to host our first Parent Education class on Monday, September 14th at 9:30 a.m. with Dr. Lynne Kenney on "Homework Success Strategies that Work." For more information, check out our website and register online! In addition, this newsletter will highlight the 21st Century Skills being taught and supported through the curriculum and teachers at Wildfire.

Tony Wagner, in his book "The Global Achievement Gap" identified seven 21st Century Skills including *Critical Thinking and Problem Solving*. We know that engaging students in the learning process is not a want, it's an absolute if we really want them to learn something meaningful and relevant for life. At Wildfire and across our district, we utilize many engagement strategies to develop critical thinking and problem solving. Three of these strategies that come to mind include: brainstorming/discussion, use of graphic organizers, and metaphors/analogies/similes. Our teachers often use higher order questions that require the learner to analyze, synthesize, and apply the learning. Many times the goal is to have the student develop the question to cause critical thinking and problem solving. With the use of our "Thinking Maps," students learn to use graphic organizers to plan and develop high quality writing. And finally, from our Core Knowledge sayings, phrases, and poems to comparing and contrasting we strive to foster *thinking skills*!

We are preparing your child for the future we don't yet know.

~Troy J. Bales, Ed.D.

Principal

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 September 16, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the school media center. Agendas and minutes are posted on the school website.



PTO News

Join 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! **Please print the form on the website and turn it in with your payment as soon as possible.** If you have questions regarding membership, please contact Curt Black at CurtBlack@cox.net

September PTO Meeting

Our next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16 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.

PTO Liaisons Needed for Each Classroom!

The purpose of this position is to communicate to the parents of your classroom all PTO functions and fundraisers that are taking place along with recruiting volunteers to help organize and work at planned events. This will also include organizing the class basket for the silent auction.

This person should attend most PTO meetings that are held once per month in the evening and communicate back the high points to their classroom parents and teacher. This will allow your teacher to not have to give up classroom time while helping the PTO succeed.

A meeting will be scheduled at the beginning of the year that you will need to attend.

To volunteer for this position, talk to your child's teacher and/or email Kathy deStefano at kdestefano@cox.net.

School Supply Drive a Success!

A great big "Thank you" goes out to each of you who donated school supplies to benefit less-fortunate children in our school district. The donation bin was overflowing! We collected an SUV full of notebooks, paper, backpacks, pencils, crayons, gluesticks, lunchboxes and other necessities. The social worker at Foothills Elementary was overjoyed to receive the donations! She will distribute them based on need. Thanks to your generosity, many kids will have the supplies they need for a successful school year.



Upcoming Events

Family Night Out - Books and Burgers

Wednesday, Sept. 23rd 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 23rd. 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.



Fundraiser Updates

Generosity Spreads like Wildfire! Wildfire Elementary School PTO Pledge Drive

The Wildfire PTO is pleased to kick off the fundraising efforts this year with a Pledge Drive to raise funds for our school. Last year, the Pledge Drive raised \$26,000 to support the PTO. The funds raised went to support our

school by providing enrichment programs such as assemblies, classroom materials such as books, Core Knowledge curriculum related materials, library funds, AR Enterprise, Art Masterpiece, Study Island, professional development funding, and much more.

Our goal this year is to raise \$40,000 (approximately \$50 per student). The Pledge Drive will run September 1st-30th. Simply fill out the donation form located on the last page of the Blaze, and return it with your check, made payable to "Wildfire PTO" to your child's teacher before September 30th. The class with the greatest contributions for each grade (K-5) will receive an ice cream party! The Wildfire PTO is a 501 c (3) organization, so your donations could be tax-deductible. Please contact your tax advisor for more information.

Thank you so much for your generous support!

Engraved Brick Pavers Fundraiser

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 \$30.00 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 web site and click on the Fundraising Brick link to print out an order form.



BOX TOPS 2009-2010

General Mills offers three quick, easy and free ways for us to earn money for Wildfire.

1. **Clipping Box Tops** from participating General Mills Products and sending them in to your child's student by the last Friday of each month. – the class collecting the most Box Tops each month wins a prize... **the August reward is: A FREE ICE CREAM AT CHICK FIL A**
2. **Shopping the Marketplace** (<http://www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace>) many stores you frequently shop will donate between 1 and 20% of your on line purchases to Wildfire!!
3. **Shopping online at Barnes and Noble through the Reading Room** (<http://www.boxtops4education.com/ReadingRoom>) – B&N will donate 3-6% (8% of new books through 8/23/09) of on line purchases to Wildfire.

Additional ways to earn \$\$ in September...

During the next few weeks, Albertson's is sponsoring a special Box Tops Promotion:

With the purchase of 6 participating General Mills and/or Betty Crocker items you will receive a certificate with a value of 20 box tops. Send in the certificate and your child's class will receive credit for the Bonus Box Tops!

*Thru October 31st you can register daily for the opportunity for our school to win up to 500,000 Box Tops (a \$50,000 value) thru the **Big Clip contest:** www.thebigclip.com

For more info visit www.btfe.com** or the Wildfire website:

http://cmweb.pvschools.net/wfesweb/index_files/BoxtopsWildfire.htm

**Go on line to the Box Tops website during the month of September and register your family, print the 'Thanks for signing up' page and send it in with your child to school (2 registrations/ child max) and your child's classroom will be given 10 extra points toward the classroom count (these 10 points will not translate into dollars for Wildfire but will help your child's classroom win the September contest).

Thanks for choosing to make a difference for our school with Box Tops!

Entertainment Book Sales

This year as part of our fundraising programs, Wildfire Elementary PTO will be selling Entertainment books to our Wildfire families starting on Monday August 24, 2009.

For just \$30, the Entertainment book can start you on your way to family fun and savings for the entire year. A few books are available for review at the front office.

You can order your book today by emailing Michelle Klautd at theklaudts@cox.net

Ink Cartridge/Cell Phone Recycling

Wildfire is collecting both used ink cartridges and old cell phones for recycling. The program is a great, free way to earn money for our school. Please drop your used items in the collection boxes in the front lobby or workroom.

SCRIP Gift Cards

Please remember to use SCRIP when purchasing gift cards for family, friends, and even yourself. Just go to our website and download your order form or go to www.shopwithscript.com to place your order! Please email Cindy Adams at cradams65@cox.net with any questions you may have.

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.

Thanks for Ordering School Supplies

Thanks to all of you who ordered your school supplies through the PTO. We sold 239 packs for over \$1,000 of profit for the PTO. We had a lot of positive feedback from the parents who participated. They were grateful to not have to go shopping. Several parents who didn't participate said they would next year because it would have saved them money.



School News

Family Mentor Program

Being new at school can be a very exciting and stressful time for children and their family, especially during the first few months. At Wildfire Elementary, we want to take out the stress and bring in the comfort and excitement through our "Family Mentor Program."

The "Family Mentor Program" is new to Wildfire and was developed by parents sharing their ideas about how to ease the transition for new families to our school.

Whether you want to know about lunch schedules and the process, volunteering in your child's classroom or at school, or learning about what resources are available through our website or study island, we are here to help. We will be with you every step of the way answering your questions and ensuring that you are taken care of.

Each day brings new adventure and educational breakthrough for each child and parent alike, and we at Wildfire want to make sure that your days are complete with the resources we provide.

Michelle Klaudt will be leading the Family Mentor Program. She will be available to answer your questions at any time during the school year and can be contacted at theklaudts@cox.net.

Help Relieve Our Parking Lot Congestion

Many volunteers are needed to make our morning drop curbside drop off process work as quickly and smoothly as possible. Three to four attendants are needed each day to assist students with safely exiting vehicles and getting them off to the playground.

To volunteer, please check out the schedule on the website and contact Cindy Adams at cradams65@cox.net about what days you are available to help.

Spirit Days/Wildfire Merchandise

Every Friday is Spirit Day! Wear your Wildfire shirts on Fridays to show your school spirit.

Get your Wildfire merchandise at select PTO events or see how you can order through our website.

Contact Tara Winchell with questions at tlwinchell@cox.net.

M & O Budget Override

On November 3, the M&O Budget Override Election will take place. The Yes for PV Students Committee has been formed to educate the public about the importance of this election. As a Wildfire parent, we encourage you to educate yourself and those you know about this election, and to get out and vote! For more information, visit www.yesforpvstudents.com.



Classroom News

2nd Grade Off to a Great Start

Wow! What a wonderful few weeks 2nd Graders have had! It has been exciting getting to know classmates and making new friends. The first week of school was spent learning classroom routines, getting settled back into school and learning about our new class of kids. We look forward to the upcoming weeks where we will be studying addition strategies, the human body and parts of a sentence. Thanks so much for all the wonderful parents that were able to attend our 2nd Grade Parent Orientation Night. We look forward to working with you and making this a fantastic year!



Generosity Spreads Like Wildfire!

Wildfire Elementary School PTO Pledge Drive

Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & zip code: _____

Phone: _____

Student's Name	Teacher	Grade	Donation Amount
		Total Family Donation:	\$

Please make checks payable to "Wildfire PTO" and return with this form in an envelope to your child's teacher or in the pledge drive donation box located in the front office. All returned checks are subject to a \$30 NSF fee. The Wildfire PTO is a 501 c(3) organization, so your donation may be tax deductible. Please contact your tax advisor for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Bartels at: stephbartels@cox.net. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

_____ My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed.

_____ Please bill my credit card for my donation amount of \$_____

Credit Card type: AMEX VISA MC

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

* a \$1.00 processing fee will be charged for credit card contributions

