WHAT’S HAPPENING IN MPS?

For details on these news briefs: www.mpsaz.org
Click on “Employees”

HELP PREVENT CHILD ABUSE
You can help prevent child abuse by making a donation to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund on your state tax return. Proceeds benefit agencies, such as the Child Crisis Center, that educate parents and keep kids safe.

HOW ARE YOU MAKING A DIFFERENCE?
Submit positive stories about public education to Arizona Public Schools Making a Difference Every Day.

STUDENTS EMBRACE DIVERSITY
The Guidance Department’s Youth Summit helped junior high students from every campus focus on communication, understanding and leadership.

TAKE IN-SERVICE CLASSES
Financial Services, Community Education and Professional Development offer in-service classes for employees.

HOW CAN MPS SAVE MONEY?
Employees and parents are being asked to participate in a survey titled A Better Way: Share Cost Saving Ideas.

STUDENT SERVICES AWARDS
Honor outstanding achievement and exemplary service in Special Education, Guidance and Health Services
Nominate students, teachers, support staff and residents.

MPS TV SHOWS IN MARCH
“MPS Happenings” is on channel 99 at 7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. “MPS Spotlight” follows at 7:30 p.m. Live and archived programming is available online.

SCHOOL BOARD HONORS VOLUNTEER
Shirley Graham of Lowell Elementary is Volunteer of the Month. Mesa Foundation provided a book and a $50 gift card.

NOMINATE STAFF, VOLUNTEERS
Employee and Volunteer of the Month nominations are always welcome in the Community Relations Department.

CYBERBULLYING: A VICIOUS WEB
Cyberbullying. What is it? What’s a victim to do? How can parents stop it? The Child Crisis Center offers information.
LET'S CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESSES...

WHITE HOUSE HONORS EMPLOYEES

The White House Communications Agency provided certificates to employees who played vital roles in the success of President Barack Obama’s visit to Dobson High.

Accepting on behalf of their departments and co-workers were:

**Operations**
- Paul Shary, electronics technician
- Jim Rasmussen, construction inspector
- Carlos Prater, grounds supervisor
- Brian Clark, custodial supervisor

**Security**
- Al Moore, school safety and security director
- Tim Pimsoneault, patrol supervisor
- Oscar Ovety, security officer

**Administrative Services**
- Kathy Bareiss, principal

**Dobson High**
- Matt Gehrman, principal
- Rick Fultz, assistant principal
- Hector Romero, lead custodian
- Dora Samson, assistant principal
- Martin Reyes, facilities manager
- Carlos Prater, grounds supervisor
- Theresa Armstrong, principal’s secretary
- Brita Beatty, assistant principal’s secretary
- Jeanie Shepple, receptionist
- Jaquie Ortega, career specialist

In addition, 75 other employees received cards, pins or keys chains to commemorate their contributions. “Thank you to all who made the visit a success. I appreciate your hard work. Your contributions brought great pride to Dobson High and to Mesa Public Schools.”

— Debra Davall, superintendent

DOBSON HOSTS PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

I have the pleasure of extending gratitude to our many staff members who participated in a historic moment for Mesa Public Schools.

On Feb. 18, President Barack Obama visited Dobson High School to announce his plan to help the nation recover from the economic situation.

The planning happened very quickly. On the previous Friday, Matt Gehrman, Dobson principal, called me at 10 p.m., only moments after he was notified of the visit.

The next morning, a group of us were sitting with the White House Advance Team to put plans in motion.

Although it was a three-day holiday weekend for our staff, MPS employees pitched in to help get the Dobson campus ready to be in the national eye.

There was lots of scrubbing and cleaning, raking and trimming.

During the days preceding the presidential visit, the campus was home to hundreds of community members who camped overnight for a ticket to hear President Obama speak and later to get a good seat in the gymnasium.

Our security staff was on duty to ensure that everyone was safe and secure. The Dobson office staff answered phones nonstop.

In addition to media representatives from the Valley, the president travels with the national press corps, including CNN and the other major networks.

Dobson hosted not only the president but also the governor, the attorney general and many other dignitaries.

We extend our appreciation to the staff and students of Dobson for the exemplary fashion in which they represented us all.

— Debra Davall, superintendent

NATIVE AMERICAN SPRING SALE

Shop 7 a.m.-1 p.m. March 7 in the Student Services parking lot, 1025 N. Country Club. Call (480) 472-0577 to rent a $10 sale space.

PARKING LOT SALE

Westwood High’s Relay for Life rummage sale is 7 a.m.-2 p.m. March 7 at 945 W. Eighth St. To donate sale items, call (480) 472-4567.

BLOOD DRIVE

Donate between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. March 7 at Adams Elementary, 738 S. Longmore. Leave your name, phone and time preference at (480) 472-4365.

HONEYBAKED HAM SALE

Order now through April 6. Pick-up is April 9 at O’Connor Elementary, 4840 E. Adobe. Call (480) 472-7877.

MPS EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT

Get $25 off tuition for your child at Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH HONORED

**Tina Gildersleeve**
MPS honored January Employees of the Month. They are:
- Tina Gildersleeve, special education aide, Bush Elementary
- Raul Marquez, facility assistant, Kino Junior High
- Tom Mitchell, English teacher, Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies

— Debra Davall, superintendent

MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

... AND SHARE YOUR BRIGHT IDEAS!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORUM

A panel of experts will lead a discussion. Stop by at:

6 p.m. March 24
Student Services Center
1025 N. Country Club Drive
Everyone is welcome.

Sponsored by:
Mesa Police Department
MPS Guidance Department
Recertification hours available

AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC HONORS

Mesa High cadets won the Grand Sweepstakes award in the statewide Drill and Color Guard Competition at Shadow Mountain High.

Instructors are Maj. Dan Leos and Master Sgt. Vern Newton.

EXCELLENCE IN MATH

Rebecca Downer’s team from Powell Junior High won first place in the Excellence in Math Competition at Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

HOGG WILD AT EMERSON

Students went Hogg Wild Over Literacy on Feb. 9 and 10 with children’s author Gary Hogg.

An evening event topped off his residency. Families enjoyed displays, stories, a book fair, cookies and milk.

Hogg’s visit was sponsored by the Emerson staff, the Parent-Teacher Organization and the Kristin B. Parker Charitable Foundation.

The foundation has funded a series of student writing workshops throughout the year.
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The foundation has funded a series of student writing workshops throughout the year.

HELP FROM HOME DEPOT

Forty Home Depot volunteers set pavers, built flower boxes and benches, planted trees and flowers, and repainted the state map and sundial at Mendota Elementary. They donated all materials, tools and labor.

Teachers Joe Ianni, sixth-grade, and Ann Kittelson, fourth-grade, headed the project with Home Depot’s Sonia Hernandez and Panney Fayette.

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TO HONOR WOMEN

The April 4 event will celebrate the contributions of women in our schools.

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Instructors are Maj. Dan Leos and Master Sgt. Vern Newton.

OPEN HOUSE

East Valley Academy and Health Science High open house is 5:30-7 p.m. March 12 at 1727 W. Main St.

FIESTA MALL FUND RAISER

Fiesta Mall is working with 10 nearby schools on a fund raiser.

Send receipts from any store to Washington, Adams, Roosevelt, Alma, Crismon, Sunridge, Guerrero and Redbird elementaries; Rhodes Junior High; and Dobson High.

The schools will receive money from Westcor, Fiesta Mall owner.

MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

...AND SHARE YOUR BRIGHT IDEAS!

DANIELLE LEE, Dobson High senior, watches President Barack Obama’s address on TV in Rick McConnell’s social studies class.
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ENTER K-12 DODDLE 4 GOOGLE
Register your class in Doodle 4 Google by March 17, and submit your entries by March 31.
Prizes include certificates, trips, T-shirts, computers, a college scholarship and computer lab funding.

BE A LUNCH BUDDY AT LOWELL
Be a Lunch Buddy mentor in Lowell Elementary’s partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters. The campus is at 920 E. Broadway Road.

CITY OFFERS FREE TUTORING
The City of Mesa Library offers free one-on-one Live Homework Help, via the Internet, funded by Indian gaming.
Students need a city library card for tutoring 2 p.m. to midnight in math, science, social studies and English. Spanish-speaking tutors are available for math and science.

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Some measures are a given. Mesa Agenda, for example, will be published mainly online, instead of on paper. Logon to give your suggestions for the district’s 2009-10 budget review process.

More Information on Trip Reduction
www.mpsaz.org/tripred
(480) 308-7542

TAYLOR EXPERIENCES A WORLD IN MOTION
Free curriculum and materials from SAE International and retired engineers from General Motors are turning junior high students into junior engineers.
An exciting, eight-week hands-on program is propelling Taylor teens into A World in Motion. They are making toy gliders and motorized toy cars.
In AWIM, students receive a request from a company to build the toys. They learn about the mechanics of the project, write proposals, draw sketches, build prototypes, test and record their data, build their models and present them to company and community representatives.
Core scientific concepts include force and friction, simple machines, levers and gears, torque and design, force and motion, and the effects of weight and lift.
Students learn the relationship between data analysis and variable manipulations. They also focus on the importance of understanding consumer demands.
Their final presentation is set for 8 to 10:30 a.m. March 4 in the Taylor gym. The GM volunteers will be there, as well as parents and other invited guests.
The students participate in Taylor’s Advancement Via Individual Determination program. Karen Rascon is Taylor’s AVID program coordinator.

COWAN TO LEAD MPS
School board members appointed Michael Cowan superintendent starting July 1.
Cowan joined MPS in 1988. He was a teacher at Porter, Lehi and Irving elements.
After becoming the district science specialist, he was named director of science, social studies and world languages.
Cowan has served as MPS associate superintendent since 2004.
Superintendent Debra Duvall will retire June 30 after 43 years in education.