

The Innovator

September, 2008 Issue 9

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL DAVID DIOKNO

Welcome to the first edition of the 2008-2009 Scales Technology Academy Innovator! We are so excited to have started the year in our new building with many new students and technology to support our learning. I would like to express my gratitude to our whole school community for all the hard work that has been put into making our school an incredible learning environment. Our children will succeed because each of you cares and is involved. Staff and parents are working together to ensure that each child succeeds. **The best gift you can give your child is your time.** When students see adults committed, involved, and caring about them, they will become more invested in their own learning and will succeed.

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School Carnival
October 24th
4:00 to
7:00 P.M.

An Interview with our new Assistant Principal, Mrs. Verna Lueck

by Te'Laha W. and Radley J.



Our New Assistant Principal

Did you know that Scales Technology Academy has a new assistant principal? Well, we do, and her name is Mrs. Lueck. She has a big family, a husband, four children, and seven grandchildren. That's a lot of kids! She loves reading. She is in a book club, and she even plays piano. Before coming to Scales, Mrs. Lueck worked as a teacher, a librarian, and a counselor. She says she is ecstatic to be at Scales because she had heard that we have great students and that we use technology in new and exciting ways. Her favorite part of being an assistant principal is coming into classrooms and seeing kids working hard. She loves her job, but she doesn't like seeing kids in trouble. This is going to be a great year with Mrs. Lueck on our side!

SCALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Mr. Diokno continued from page 1...

Important ways you can give of your time:

- 1) Read to your child, or have him/her read to you
- 2) Ask them about their day, tell them about yours. I find it amazing that when I ask my son about his day, he is excited to tell me, but even more excited to turn it around and ask me, "Dad, how was your day? Tell me about it!"
- 3) Have genuine conversations with your children about daily events: the weather, the election, even about trips or other events that might be in the works. This allows your children to use expressive language and critical thinking.
- 4) Involve your children in decision making and problem solving. A child who has everything handed to him/her is not as rich as those who help construct meaning and find answers.
- 5) Incorporate math, reading, and other skills into everyday life. For example, the family is making dinner, you can incorporate many skills into the process (measurement of ingredients, reading the recipe, and calculating time of cooking). Or, if you go shopping, have your children help you develop the list and add up cost of the items. There are many ways to incorporate learning into things that you do every day.
- 6) Love your children and spend quality time with them. Take them to the library, go to the park or for a walk, play sports together, and show them how much you care.

Children have an inherent love of learning and it is our job to foster and encourage that and help them grow. Constantly praise your child and teach him/her to do him/her best. Discuss with your children our NED Principles (**N**ever give up (focus/persistence), **E**ncourage others (kindness/shared learning), **D**o your best (diligence/excellence). Involvement every step of the way is critical to the growth process. We welcome parents to come to school and volunteer in classrooms or at school events to show your support and be a part of the plan. Feel free to contact your child's teacher or the office for ways to help. I look forward to working with you so we can all achieve success!

Parent Volunteers Needed

ART MASTERPIECE TRAINING

Looking for a way to be actively involved in the classroom – one that is fun and rewarding for you and the students in your child's class? The Art Masterpiece Program is it! Attend the intensive training October 14 & 16 from 9:00 – noon, and learn how to become an Art Guide. Learn how to lead a discussion about an art print. All you need will be provided. No expertise is necessary, only a sincere desire to share a learning experience with young people through mutual enjoyment and appreciation of art. The level of commitment after that is up to you. Email Pat Burdette, TD#3 Visual Art Specialist at pburdett@tempeschools.org or call 480.897.6228 x 5689 with questions or to register.

Lunch Balance Online?

Yes, you can now check your child's account balance online by joining www.MyLunchMoney.com.

MyLunchMoney.com is a program where parents can check balances and place deposits with a debit or credit card. No more cheese sandwiches! Parents can even set up a low balance threshold and receive an email from MyLunchMoney.com whenever the account depletes to the low balance selected. Parents are still able to check account balances by contacting the cafeteria manager at 929-9909 (ext. 6912)

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Mallet Madness Students Perform for Tempe City Council

by Mary Jo Finkle

On Thursday, Sept. 18, twelve members of the STA Mallet Madness group performed before the Tempe City Council meeting. They gave two performances, first before the review session at 5:10 and then again before the actual meeting at 7:00. The students received many compliments for their outstanding performance and a reporter from the Arizona Republic newspaper interviewed some. The students also attended the beginning of the city council meeting and were asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting. The Mayor read a statement announcing the beginning of a fundraising drive by the Sunset/Riverside Neighborhood Association to help secure used and/or new instruments for the music programs at Scales. Donation of instruments can be made by calling 966-2311. Monetary donations can be made to an account set up by the Association SRNA for Scales Music at any Wells Fargo Bank Branch.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

From the Desk of Dianne Berg – School Counselor

Our school's Parent-Teacher Conferences are just around the corner. The first conference is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 30th; the second for Wednesday, October 1st; and the third on Thursday, October 2nd**. These conferences will give us the chance to share what your child has been learning; his or her strengths; and, of course, those areas that need more practice and support from home. These meetings are designed to better acquaint you with the school's expectations in general, and your child's teacher's expectations in particular. Parent involvement is the key to your child's success in school. We look forward to meeting with you and reviewing your child's school program. Please mark these dates on your calendar. We'll see you then!

Early Release September 30th - October 2nd at 1:10 p.m.

No School Friday Oct. 3rd

Fall Break October 6th -10th

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Thank You
for attending our First Arby's Benefit Night
We raised over \$200.00



Scales School Garden to be Rebuilt!

by Mary Bosen

Families, mark your calendars for Oct. 18 from 8 until 10 am. We will be rebuilding our school garden. Bring your shovel, rake, or just your hard-working self to dig the holes and fill in the dirt for our new garden site at the back of the school. There will be drinks and yummy treats for those who participate. Let's bring the beauty of the garden back to our school.

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *the Innovator*:

Writers- David Diokno, Dianne Berg, Mary Jo Finkle, Mary Bosen, TeLaha W., and Radley J.,

Translators- Mila Jimenez

Copy Editors- Stan and Dianne Berg and Rachel Trim

We appreciate you!

Molly Houghton and Linda Omer

PARENT NOTIFICATION OF TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS: As a parent of a student at Tempe Elementary School District No. 3, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers. It is our goal to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the Arizona State Board of Education -Certification Unit has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Arizona State Board of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teacher's assistant or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the principal of your child's school who will assist you in getting the requested information.



2008-2009

Indian Parent Committee Meetings

**Tempe School District No. 3
Indian Education Programs
Johnson O'Malley and Title VII**

The 2008-2009 Johnson O'Malley and Title VII Indian Parent Committee Meetings are scheduled in the Library at Frank School, 8409 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe, 85283. Meetings are held from 6:00 to approximately 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month every quarter.

Important note: Childcare is provided during these parent meetings.

DATES: November 12, February 11, April 15

If you have any questions, please contact the Indian Education Office at (480) 730-7221.