

What's Happening

Mesa Public Schools Parent Newsletter

September 2009

Para Español llame al (480) 472-9832



News briefs

- Students in the class of 2009 were offered \$50 million in scholarships and awards.
- America's Choice and the Council of Great Urban Schools commended MPS, for the second year in a row, for having the lowest high school dropout rate among the nation's large urban districts.
- For the second year in a row, America's Promise Alliance named MPS No. 1 in graduation rates among the nation's largest cities.
- Readers of the Spanish-language newspaper, La Voz, voted MPS the best district in the East Valley.

Come to our September parent meeting

Attend the Mesa Parent Advocates for Quality Schools meeting at 7 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Board Room, 549 N. Stapley Drive, Mesa. The topic is School Emergency Planning and Communication.

The MPAQS mission is to help parents and residents become more knowledgeable about local and state educational issues, to share information with school communities and to advocate to decision-makers on behalf of children.

Bring your family to the MPS Health Fair

Don't miss our Community Health Education Connections for Kids (CHECK) Fair. It's 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 26 at Mesa High, 1630 E. Southern Ave., Mesa.

The event features vision, hearing and dental screenings; car-seat inspections; behavioral health services; blood donations; special education resources; the Department of Economic Security; the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System; Fire and Police Department presentations; free books; story time; food; games; prize drawings and more. We look forward to seeing you there!

\$962,000 history grant benefits students

MPS received a \$962,000 Teaching American History grant. The proposal was written by district social studies specialists.

The grant funds training and trips to historic sites for fourth- through eighth-grade teachers.

They will create new lesson plans, refine teaching strategies, work with local historical societies and museums, and receive free teaching materials in traditional American history.





Dear parents:

I am honored to be the new superintendent and to lead a team that takes pride in helping young people succeed.

As schools, communities, companies and families struggle to make ends meet, we will do all we can to protect our classrooms from the effects of reduced funding.

Our quality programs, innovative curriculum and nurturing staff have inspired our students to outperform their peers at the state and national level.

We will continue to challenge and honor each student as an individual learner.

And we will continue to ensure that the needs of the student come first in all of our decisions and efforts.

— Michael Cowan

See our Web site for H1N1 flu updates

The health and safety of students and staff are MPS priorities. We are very much aware of another potential surge of novel H1N1 flu, also known as swine flu.

The staff in our school health offices will monitor students for flu-like symptoms and will send home students who are sick with fevers and coughs. Under the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we have planned responses that focus on prevention and preparation.

Please see our Web site for easy access to district information, community resources and public health departments at the county, state and national level:

www.mpsaz.org/beprepared

MPS to a host Native American meeting

Parents and guardians of Native American students are invited to a public meeting to offer ideas on the district's use of Impact Aid, Title VII and Johnson O'Malley funding.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Sept. 10, at the Student Services Center, 1025 N. Country Club Drive, Mesa.

For more information, call the Native American Education Program. Phone (480) 472-0577.

Watch educational television on demand

Logon to www.mpsaz.org/edtv for the new on-demand service from the district's Ed-TV 99 Department. Stay updated when new episodes of your favorite programs become available with iTunes and RSS feeds.

Download videos to view on your computer or mobile media device. Watch the shows when you want to, and take them with you!

Follow Ed-TV on Twitter for the latest news on our informational and educational fare for students, parents and the public.

