



# GROWLING GAZETTE

Schumaker Elementary Parent-Teacher Club

April  
2009

## Principal's Pen

By Julie Laird, PhD

Dear Families,

I want to begin by reminding you what you probably already know: Schumaker has the most dedicated, caring, and compassionate teachers and staff around. Parents and families are equally as valued, and I want to thank each of you who volunteered your time at our carnival which was a huge success.

As you are well aware, our State of Arizona is in one of the worst budget crises ever. The newspaper constantly reports on the levels of cuts we can expect. Worse case, we are being faced with up to a 63 million dollar cut to our district which translates to 22% cut to staff and services at our school. Each school has been challenged with the task of creating a budget of staff and expenses based on our enrollment. While the level of projected cuts may seem devastating, I am so proud of the fact that our staff is committed to working together to create a budget that makes the most out of this worst case scenario. Our site council has already voted on a draft of a budget, and we will continually review and make changes based on what we learn more regarding the specific cuts we will be facing.

I want to be transparent and let you know that if we are mandated to take a cut at 14% or greater (which seems quite likely at this point), we will be forced to go from full-day kindergarten to half day. We are already beginning the plans of adding after care in the event that we can only offer half day. Our site council approved budget will soon be available on our school website.

Normally, the April newsletter tells you which teachers will be teaching which grades for the coming year, and you are invited to make a request for your child's teacher. You will still have this opportunity however, this process will be delayed until the beginning of May. I have not made teacher assignments because we really aren't sure even how many teachers we will have. It is dependent on the budget adopted by the State, and we may be making changes as late as the summer when we find out what has been allocated. In the May newsletter, I will list projected teachers, and you will have the opportunity to make a request. Please know that our first priority is to create balanced classrooms and we try to honor requests when we can.

Our last Family BINGO night has been postponed to May 8. We have exhausted our PTC members in having them try to get donations for previous BINGO nights as well as carnival, and we are hoping that other parents will be able to help out. If we don't get enough donations for prizes, we may have to cancel the event. If you know of a vendor who can donate an item or gift certificate, please approach them. We have letters available in the office if you would like to deliver a letter. I got some donations for the carnival through e-mailing merchants who had an e-mail address listed on their yellowpages.com site.

Don't forget your boxtops! We will have a final count next month and will announce who has won a pizza party!

## Spirit Day Winners for March

Primary- Mrs Herfkens  
Intermediate- Mrs. DeNoon

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### Star Students

Sean Cassidy  
Jeffrey Payne  
Summer Stratton  
Sharon Gutierrez  
Cameron Thompson  
Ryan Valenzuela  
Sawyer Thompson  
Abel Vargas  
Aubrey Roe  
Antonio Saucedo  
David Barajas  
Gabriel Briggs  
Sam Kalberer  
Shelby Lundgren  
*Thank you  
McDonald's on  
Broadway and  
Camino Seco for  
donating  
Happy Meals*

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### 2008-2009 PTC Officers

**President**  
Bobbie Koistinen  
**Vice President**  
Kelly Leverton  
**Treasurer**  
Marie Kalberer  
**Secretary**  
Sandy Herfkens

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**Growling Gazette**  
**Editor**  
Cheryl Sulger

Visit us on the web at <http://edweb.tusd.k12.az.us/Schumaker>

# THANK YOU THANK YOU

We would like say thank you to all who donated to the Turkey and Sweetheart BINGO events:

Applebee's  
Ace Hardware  
Baskin Robbins  
Bookman's  
Children's Museum  
Chuck E. Cheese  
Embassy Suites  
Fox Restaurant  
On the Border  
Oroweat Entenmann's Bakery  
Peter Piper Pizza  
Red Sky Restaurant  
Robeks  
Texas Roadhouse  
YMCA

Thank you to John Linke Family for Scentsy Wickless Candle basket and Angela Davidson for donating Turkeys.

Thank you Bobbie Koistinen, Marie Kalberer, Cheryl Sulger, Tara Ipema, Lisa Pettit, Al Valenzuela, Lillian Dawson, and Ella Robinson for working on obtaining donations and carnival preparation.

Sorry it took so long to say thank you. We appreciated all your efforts.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Spring Carnival. It was fun and it appeared that families were having a great time. Thank you, thank you to all the parents and teachers who volunteered. We really appreciated all who helped.



Better Bodies Gym  
Bookman's  
Brake Max  
Buddy's Grill  
Diamondbacks  
Eegee's  
Golf n Stuff  
Grandma Tony's / Gaslight Theater  
Hobby Art by Mary Lou Torres  
Imagination  
Jax Kitchen  
Lucky Wishbone  
Luna Bella / Red Sky Café  
Marco's Pizza  
On the Border  
Oregano's  
Sam Pappas Photography  
Pima Animal Care  
Raquet Shack  
Skate Country  
Sur Real Restaurant  
Sweet Tomatoes  
Texas Roadhouse  
Tucson Bowl  
Tucson Children's Museum  
Venice Restaurant  
  
Sabino Electric and Creco Rentals who loaned the generators

## SITE COUNCIL NEWS

The Schumaker Site Council is the legislative body of the school making shared decisions to carry out the mission of the school. This is accomplished through the cooperative efforts of school personnel, parents, students, and community members.

Once again we are approaching the end of the school year and so are beginning to look ahead to the 2009-2010 school year. Some members of the Site Council have served their terms and will be stepping down and we are asking you to consider serving on the Site Council for the coming year.

The Site Council meets once a month for about an hour, discussing and implementing changes to promote the intellectual and emotional growth of all of our students. This year, we have had an opportunity to grapple with the budget issues that have been a result of state budget cuts. It has been a challenging and rewarding year.

If you are interested in becoming a Site Council member, please return the note that came already came home or contact the office by April 6th, 2009 to the School Office.

## Student Council News

Our student body had a great time a few weeks ago collecting over \$700 during our "Penny War" in which each class collected pennies to support Ronald McDonald House. The trick was that if someone put silver coins in a container, that amount was deducted from the pennies. Students had a great time adding to other's buckets. The winning class was Ms. DeNoon's class, and they received Happy Meals. They collected 101.15 (39.95 after the silver deduction). The "cold shoulder award" of an ice cream treat goes to Mrs. Cota-Robles' class who collected 115.55 (but only 4.05 after the silver deduction). Soon, we will deliver this check and our aluminum can pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald house. It's not too late to turn in yours!



## COACHING YOUR CHILD TO SUCCESS

This program is based on the best selling Positive Discipline books by Dr. Jane Nelsen and others.

Jane Nelsen gives the following criteria for "effective discipline that teaches":

### Five Criteria for Effective Discipline

- Helps children feel a sense of connection, (Belonging and Significance)
- Is mutually respectful and encouraging. (Kind and Firm at the same time)
- Is effective long-term. (Punishment works short term, but has negative long term effects. Use natural consequences.)
- Teaches valuable social and LifeSkill for good character. (Respect, consideration of others, problem-solving, cooperation, etc.)
- Invites children to discover how capable they really are!

The tools and concepts of Positive Discipline include:

- **Mutual Respect** Adults model firmness by respecting themselves and the needs of the situation, and kindness by respecting the needs of the child.
  - **Identifying the belief behind the behavior** Effective discipline recognizes the reasons kids do what they do and works to change those beliefs, rather than merely attempting to change behavior.
  - **Effective communication and problems-solving skills**
  - **Discipline that teaches** Is neither permissive nor punitive.
- Focusing on encouragement instead of praise.** Encouragement notices effort and improvement, not just success, and builds long-term self-esteem and empowerment.

**Try this strategy which can increase communication and encourage positive self-directions. What and How Questions Script**

**Child:** I didn't do my homework.

**Parent/Teacher:** What happened? **LISTEN!**

**Child:** Explain.

**Parent/Teacher:** How did that happen?...or...What caused that to happen? **LISTEN!**

**Child:** Explain.

**Parent/Teacher:** How do you feel about what happened? **LISTEN!**

**Child:** Answer.

**Parent/Teacher:** What did you learn from this experience? **LISTEN!**

**Child:** Answer.

**Parent/Teacher:** How do you plan to solve the problem? **LISTEN!**

**Child:** Answer.








**Parent/Teacher:** What idea do you have to prevent this from happening in the future? **Listen!**

**Child:** Answer.

**Parent/Teacher:** How can I help/support you? **LISTEN!**

**Child:** Answer. (When you try this strategy, let me know how you and your child are progressing. Remember things don't change over night and it takes practice.) [www.positivediscipline.org](http://www.positivediscipline.org)

# April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 April Fool's 	2	3 Sprit day wear your Schumaker shirt or yellow and blue SKATE COUNTRY 5-7 pm 	4
5 Palm Sunday 	6 Site council 3:15 pm PTC 6:30PM	7	8	9 No School Spring recess	10 No School Spring Recess	11
12 Easter 	13 No School Spring recess	14	15	16 Last Day of Passover 	17	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day 	23	24 Arbor Day 	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Sprit day wear your Schumaker shirt or yellow and blue	2
3	4 Site council 3:15 pm PTC 6:30PM	5 Cinco de Mayo 	6	7	8 Teacher Ap- preciation BINGO 6:30-8	9 
10 Mothers Day 	11	12	13	14	15	16 Armed Forces day 
17	18	19	20 Last day of School/ 5th Grade Promotion 	21 Last Day For Teachers	22	23
24 31	25 Memorial Day 	26	27	28	29 Shavuot 	30

# May