



PRINCIPAL'S PRESS

Dear Pueblo Families,

As 2009 draws to a close, it's time to remind you about your 2009 Tax Credit. Did you know state law allows you to get a tax credit of up to \$200 for single filers and \$400 for married filers for contributions to Pueblo designated for extracurricular activities? This means that taxpayers may help Pueblo and reduce their state tax bill at the same time. Please visit www.susd.org for more information or consult your tax advisor. You may mail the check directly to Pueblo as long as it is post marked no later than December 31, 2009.

We are so fortunate to have Scottsdale Prevention Institute here at Pueblo every Tuesday. Menaj Shamasee is our Prevention Specialist and sees students in grades K-6 for various reasons. SPI's Mission: Promoting the mental health and well-being of children and families; providing services to decrease and prevent drug, alcohol, and tobacco use and abuse; and advocating for programs that promote family and community health. Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested in having your child participate. On the following page is a list of services provided by Menaj here at Pueblo. A signed permission slip is required before Menaj can see your child.

I wish everyone a warm, cheerful and safe Winter Break.

Jerri Kellen
Principal

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 6th

PTO Meeting

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

January 11th

Box Top Competition Begins

January 22nd

Box Top Competition Ends

January 27th

Family Game Night

February 3

PTO Meeting

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

February 26

Spring Picture Day

March 3

PTO Meeting

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

April 7

PTO Meeting

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

April 19 – 23

Book Fair

April 22

Spaghetti Dinner

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Classrooms open 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

May 3 – 7

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6

PTO Meeting 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Library



Scottsdale Prevention Institute Menu of Services

Menaj Shamsaee spoke to the parents and staff who attended the November PTO Meeting. During the meeting, she was asked to provide the following Menu of Services that the Scottsdale Prevention Institute offers Pueblo families.

SPI's Mission: Promoting the mental health and well-being of children and families; providing services to decrease and prevent drug, alcohol, and tobacco use and abuse; and advocating for programs that promote family and community health

For more information contact: Your Pueblo Prevention Specialist, Menaj Shamsaee, MA, 480-443-3100, x325 or mshamsaee@spi-az.org

Menu of SPI Services

Student Services

Coping Skills Group Topics:

- Anger Management
- School Anxiety
- Listening Skills
- Stress Management
- Conflict Resolution
- Self-Esteem
- Understanding Differences
- Friendship Issues/
- Peer Rejection
- Understanding Feelings

Bullying/Teasing

Peer Mentoring

Divorce Support

Grief Support

School Success Strategies

Character Counts!

Additional Services

(Offered through Tax Credit or PTO funds)

Drug Awareness Presentations

Bullying/Teasing Presentations

Character Education Assemblies

SHE or girl empowerment groups

Class Presentations

Parenting Workshops

Gifted Testing

Gifted testing will take place in January and February at Redfield Elementary School. With the exception of the 2009/10 third grade students, any student who has not been tested in the last 12 months may take the test. Testing is on Saturday, January 30 and Saturday, February 6 at 9:00- 11:00. Students must participate both days in order to complete the test. If you would like to have your child tested, please complete the referral form and return it to the office by January 6. Late referral forms cannot be accepted. You can pick up a form from the office, email leitzen@susd.org, or go to the SUSD website, click on the gifted page, and download a form.

Lost and Found

Please check our lost and found box located in the cafeteria. All items that are not picked up will be donated to charity on December 16th.



HOLIDAY SAFETY ON TOP OF LIST

Follow these simple steps to keep your family & home safe this season

The winter holidays are a time for celebration, and that means more cooking, home decorating, entertaining, and an increased risk of fire due to heating equipment.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has found that December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 13% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year. The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, New Year's Eve, and Halloween.

Scottsdale Fire Department has provided the following tips to keep you and your loved ones safe during the holiday season:

- If you choose a fresh tree, put it in a sturdy stand far away from heat sources, and keep it watered.
- Water it constantly. A 6-foot tree will use 1 gallon of water every two days. A dried out tree can be totally consumed by fire in less than 30 seconds.
- Place the tree out of the way of traffic, and do not block doorways.
- If you purchase an artificial tree, make sure it is labeled as fire-retardant or resistant.
- Use only flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.
- Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or non-leaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid swallowing or inhaling small pieces. Also, avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- Holly and mistletoe can be fatal to a small child; and the smaller the child, the smaller the dose that can cause serious medical problems. Poinsettia leaves are not fatal if swallowed, but can cause a skin rash and an upset stomach.
- Check each set of lights for broken sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections. Discard all damaged sets.
- Don't overload electrical outlets. Use no more than three sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Think about using flameless candles in your home. If you do burn candles, use holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily.
- Always unplug all lights and blow out candles before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Make sure all of your home's smoke alarms are in working order and have fresh batteries!

Note: The following link provides a demonstration showing how flammable a dry Christmas tree can be as opposed to a tree watered regularly. This test was conducted by the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNjO3wZDVIA>

Scottsdale Fire Department wishes you a safe and happy holiday. For additional safety information, visit our website at www.ScottsdaleFD.com or call (480) 312-FIRE.



Lower your State Tax Bill

Tick Tock ...It's Tax Time Again...Before the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, lower your state tax bill and help Pueblo!

Donate your tax credit to Pueblo and make a difference at your child's school. Please mark your donations as "general" to be utilized in the most efficient manner. Where does your money go? Here are some ways Pueblo uses Tax Credit dollars to enhance your child's education:

Grade Level Field Trips	Band
Arts and Education Field Trips	Strings
Buses to Field Trips	Choir
Tutoring	Media
Scottsdale Prevention Institute	

Remember... Payments can be made on line by going to the SUSD web site or the following URL:
<https://touchbase.susd.org/touchbase/>.

Help the Drop-off Line Move Faster!

Arrive before 7:33 - the lane is clear then!

Be ready to exit at your first breaking stop at the drop-off lane

Give morning hugs and kisses before you take off from home, so children can exit quickly

Students should exit vehicle on the passenger side of car