



PBISAZ Newsletter

A collaborative effort between the Arizona Department of Education, Universities, Schools, Students and Families.

www.pbisaz.org

October 2007

Spotlight: Yuma County

Kitsi Tams, Yuma Elementary One

Southwest Yuma County is home to four elementary school districts, serving approximately 14,000 students. To meet the needs of these students, especially those with special needs, given limited resources and distance from the Valley, strong collaborative relationship has developed among the directors of special education of Crane School District, Gadsden Elementary, Somerton Elementary, and Yuma Elementary School District. Personnel, training, and funding are shared to provide the best possible education for our students.

Recognizing the need to train Yuma staff to implement schoolwide PBIS, the Yuma special education directors, led by Kitsi Tams, collaborated with Miriam Podrazik and PBISAZ project coordinators to devise a plan to train educators from throughout Yuma county, while working with limited resources. A plan was devised to transport the traditional Phoenix-based PBISAZ trainings to Yuma teams from all four districts. Twelve school teams applied to participate in the training.

The school teams, consisting of approximately 75 educators, received the same training that other district teams received in Phoenix without traveling to the Valley. Supported by grant funding, the directors and coaches attended the four trainings in Phoenix so that they could help with the lead training of the district and school teams in Yuma. PBISAZ team members Joan Oakes, formerly of NAU, and Donna Janney, of the University of Arizona, made four trips to Yuma to presented the workshops and provided technical assistance. Additionally, some presenters from the Phoenix training were also able to travel to Yuma to provide training. To date, all twelve of the initial partner schools have completed the trainings and have begun implementing schoolwide PBIS. Even more Yuma schools are eager to receive training after observing the impressive changes.

Spotlight: Mentoring Program

Beverly Hall, Paradise Valley Unified School District

This year another group of first-year schools and districts joined PBISAZ. Each fall, the new schools elect a member to serve as the coach for their PBIS team. The coach acts as an objective member of the team, who guides the team decision-making process by asking focused questions in a non-judgmental manner. This year, a new mentoring program was initiated. While the new coaches learn how to facilitate these meetings, through Capacity-Building Coaches training, experienced PBIS coaches from previous years serve as mentors to the new coaches. The mentor coaches graciously offered their time to attend the first two PBISAZ trainings to facilitate the teaming process with the new coaches. Additionally, the mentor coaches attended meetings specific to PBISAZ coaches, and provided one-on-one planning and support. In the time between the first two trainings, the mentor coaches have made themselves available to assist the new coaches through the PBIS implementation process, and contact the new coaches at least once to answer questions and offer advice when needed.

Current PBISAZ Participants

2007-2009 Cohort

Fort Huachuca Accommodation District

- Colonial Johnston Elementary
- General Myer Elementary
- Colonial Smith Middle

Saddle Mountain Unified School District

- Ruth Fisher Elementary
- Tonopah Valley High

Friendly House Inc. - Academic del Pueblo

Tucson Unified District - Ochoa Elementary

Union Elementary District - Union Elementary

Skyline Tech High School Inc.- Skyline Tech High School

Paradise Valley Unified School District - Cactus View Elementary

Creighton School District - Loma Linda Elementary

Phoenix Elementary District - Garfield Elementary

Payson School District - Payson High School

Sunnyside District - Wildcat School

2006-2008 Cohort

Success School District - Arizona Charter Academy

Gilbert Unified District

- Playa del Rey Elementary
- Harris Elementary

Scottsdale Unified School District - Sierra Vista Academy

Paradise Valley Unified District

- Hidden Hills Elementary
- North Ranch Elementary

Bisbee Unified School District

- Bisbee High School
- Greenway Primary School
- Lowell School
- Bisbee Middle School

Harvest Power Community Development, Inc.

Harvest Preparatory Academy

Marana Unified School District

- Mountain View High School
- Marana Middle School
- Tortolita Middle School
- Marana High School

Pima Unified District

- Pima Elementary School
- Pima Junior High
- Pima High School

Pearce Elementary School District - Pearce Elementary School

Crane School District #13

- Centennial Middle
- Crane Middle

Pueblo Elementary

Valley Horizon Elementary

Gadsden School District #32

- Desert View Elementary
- Gadsden Elementary

Somerton School District

- Somerton Middle
- Tierra del Sol Elementary

Yuma School District #1

- Castle Dome Middle
- M.E. Post Elementary
- Pecan Grove Elementary
- Roosevelt Elementary

The mentoring program has proven to be beneficial to both the new coaches and their mentors. The new coaches appreciate the assistance while they are still in the process of being trained as a coach and learning their role on the team. One coach indicated that she liked having another coach to turn to for answers to procedural questions, stating that it was helpful to have someone "from the trenches" who once was plagued with the same questions. Likewise, the mentor coaches have enjoyed the opportunity to practice their coaching skills and work with teams that are in the process of changing their schools' culture. They are excited to assist schools in developing innovative ways to provide positive supports to kids. The mentoring program is another example of collaboration fostered by the PBIS movement.

Web Update

The PBISAz website is constantly being improved to provide a meaningful, multifaceted resource to educators throughout the state, especially those participating in the project. One exciting new addition to the website is the training conference podcasts. Through iTunes U, audio recordings and PowerPoints from the conferences can be downloaded and viewed. There are also a variety of other resources available including information on:

- Upcoming grants
- Upcoming conferences
- Past conference presentations
- PBIS overview and video
- Partner schools
- Helpful links and materials
- PBISAz-related coursework
- Coaches' resources

Visit www.pbisaz.org to access these valuable resources and more.

PBS-CARES Scholarships Available

PBS-CARES (Positive Behavior Support – Collaboration, Affiliation, Resources, Education, and Support) is a federally funded personnel preparation project to increase the number of qualified and certified special educators in Arizona to teach students with low incidence disabilities and challenging behavior. Scholars can receive financial support to complete courses through Northern Arizona University. Applicants must be accepted into the NAU Graduate School in a special education master's program or graduate certificate in PBS.

Potential applicants should contact Daniel.Davidson@nau.edu for more information.

Save the Date

RTI and PBIS: Creating More Effective Schools

December 13 & 14, 2007

Wigwam Resort

300 Wigwam Blvd. Litchfield, AZ 85340

Join us to learn more about how to create more effective schools through the implementation of Response to Intervention and Positive Behavior Interventions and Support. Learn research-based strategies improving school climate, reducing discipline problems, and improving students' math and reading skills through the integration of academic and behavioral interventions.

Thursday Keynote: George Sugai, University of Connecticut
Friday Keynote: Doug and Lynn Fuchs, Vanderbilt University

Register on line at:

www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/calendar/RenderCalendar.asp

2007-2008 PBISAz Training Dates

First-Year

April 24

Second-Year

February 15 & 16

For information on how your school district can participate please contact:

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