



# PBISAZ Newsletter

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

[www.pbisaz.org](http://www.pbisaz.org)

November 2008

## Current PBISAZ Participants

### 2008-2010 Cohort

- Acorn Montessori School**
- Balsz Elementary School District**
- Children's Home Academy** - Covert School
- Creighton School District** - Loma Linda Elementary
- Kingman Unified School District** - Cerbat Elementary
- Lake Havasu Unified School District**
  - Jamaica Elementary
  - Nautilus Elementary
- Paradise Valley Unified School District** - Palomino Primary
- Phoenix Elementary School District** - Bethune Elementary
- Tucson Unified School District**
  - Cavett Elementary
  - Menlo Park Elementary
  - John B. Wright Elementary
- Scottsdale Unified School District** - Hohokam Elementary
- Seligman Unified School District**
- Somerton Elementary School District**
  - Orange Grove Elementary
  - Valle del Encanto Learning Center
- Higley Unified School District** - Coronado Elementary

### 2007-2009 Cohort

- Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools**
  - Colonial Johnston Elementary
  - General Myer Elementary
  - Colonial Smith Middle
- Deer Valley Unified School District** - Sunrise Elementary
- Paradise Valley Unified School District**
  - Cactus View Elementary
- Saddle Mountain Unified School District**
  - Ruth Fisher Elementary
  - Tonopah Valley High
- San Carlos Unified District**
  - Rice Primary
  - Rice Intermediate
  - San Carlos High
  - San Carlos Junior High
- Tucson Unified District** - Ochoa Elementary

## Exemplary Schools Honored at RTI/PBIS Conference

An impressive total of 22 schools were recently recognized for their exceptional implementation of School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS). Awards were presented at the October RTI/PBIS Conference held in Phoenix. In order to be considered for the award schools had to demonstrate exemplary implementation of SWBPIS--defined as scoring 85% or better on the Arizona PBIS Implementation Checklist and completing all quarterly reports during the year. Each school also demonstrated substantial decreases in their office referrals and suspensions and shared that data with the state PBIS team. These schools represent a wide variety of communities, grade levels (elementary, middle, and high school), and school types (public and charter), demonstrating the power of SWPBIS to transform school cultures and improve outcomes for students.

Two schools from the northern region received this honor for the second consecutive year. **Payson Elementary** from the Payson Elementary School District does an exemplary job of showing their Panther Pride every day in many ways. Reward paws are posted on a "Panther Hall of Pride" wall showcasing students who demonstrated they were respectful, responsible, or safe. All staff including the principal have posters in their class or office stating the school-wide expectations and rules in that area. Meanwhile, **Rim Country Middle School's** mascot bull, seen on walls throughout the school, let's you know not to mess with Maverick Pride. This growing middle school is in the midst of moving into beautiful new buildings on their campus. All the while, students and staff are doing a great job of exemplifying PBIS values and beliefs.

In the southern region of the state three schools attained recognition for the second year in a row. These were: **Colonel Johnston Elementary School**, in the Ft. Huachuca Accommodation School District, and **Marana High School** and **Marana Middle School**, in the Marana school district. All three maintained PBIS implementation in spite of changing staff and new priorities. **Ochoa Elementary** in TUSD was a first year school that had some elements in place because they were previously trained through the UA LINKS Project. The principal and leadership team were dedicated and focused to regenerate school-wide PBIS before the end of the year.

Schools from three districts in and around Yuma were also honored. These were: **M.E. Post School** in Yuma School District #1, **Tierra del Sol Elementary** in the Somerton School District, and **Valley Horizon Elementary** and **Mesquite Elementary** in Crane School District #13. Districts in Yuma County are part of a county-wide effort to bring PBIS to all the schools.

Three schools in the Bisbee School District were honored – **Lowell Elementary**, **Bisbee Middle**, and **Bisbee Intermediate school**. The district provided strong support for PBIS implementation at all three levels of the triangle, training two staff as Behavior Support Specialists to address tier one supports, and developing a pyramid of intervention at each school to address tier two supports. **Pima Elementary** and **Pima High School** from the Pima School District were honored as well. School administrators and PBIS Leadership teams at both schools created innovative solutions for implementation.

Liberty Elementary and Desert View Academy were two more schools being honored for the second year. A total of four schools from the Paradise Valley School District were recognized, including **Liberty**, **Hidden Hills**, **North Ranch**, and **Cactus View**

**Elementary Schools.** These four schools have done an amazing job of developing creative ways to teach expectations and rules, and to reinforce appropriate behavior. Liberty painted beautiful murals on their walls portraying their rules. Students at Hidden Hills and North Ranch created videos and media for teaching expectations. Cactus View uses gold coins as token reinforcers, which can be exchanged for colored dog tags with the printed expectations and rules that students wear proudly (to see examples visit [www.pbisaz.org](http://www.pbisaz.org)).

Three charter schools were also recognized for their success in reducing office referrals. **Desert View Academy, Arizona Charter Academy** and **Carpe Diem** have all found creative ways to teach expectations and developed secondary interventions that work, whether it has been street signs posted across the school reminding students of the expectations, tickets of Bee's given to students who are following the rules, beautiful expectation posters, or a BIG program developed to teach appropriate behavior to students who are frequent flyers to the office.

Successful implementation of positive supports in each of the schools was possible because of the commitment of the school administrator working with the PBIS Leadership Team and the willingness of staff to try something positive and new. All the teams are to be commended for their fine work.

## Two Successful Conferences Start the Year

The 2008-2009 school year began with two successful PBISAz conferences. On August 22nd the first year schools met for their initial team training. Then on September 26th and 27th a second year training was held for district teams.

The first year training was substantially revised from previous years, being condensed into a one day training and including greater emphasis on data collection. Presentations were given by Carl Liaupsin, Ed.D., who presented on data collection; Jolene Ferro, Ph.D., who gave a brief overview of SWPBIS; Daniel Gulchak, Ph.D., who discussed team roles and responsibilities; Yadira Flores, M.Ed., who provided an introduction to resources available on the PBISAz website; and Donna Janney, who discussed communication with stakeholders.

Much of the second year training was devoted to discussion and planning within school teams. This team time was a highlight for many of the conference participants. Team presentation time was another highlight. Each school team took several minutes to share the successes they have achieved and the challenges they have faced as they have implemented SWPBIS. These presentations provided some great ideas for implementation, and highlighted the positive changes that many schools are experiencing.

The second year training also included a lineup of great presentations. On the first day Jolene Ferro, Ph.D., outlined the goals and expectations for second year implementation and John Umbreit, Ph.D., discussed the importance of planning for program sustainability. Day two included information about PBISAz resources, data collection resources, and AzSET.

The PBISAz team would like to thank all school teams for participating and helping make the conferences a success.

## Remember You Have Support!

When challenges arise during the implementation of School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) don't forget that you have support! The PBISAz team is always ready to provide resources, information and assistance. Contact information:

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## Save the Date Upcoming Conferences

### November 6th and 7th, 2008

1st Year Coaches Meeting  
Thursday, November 6th  
1 to 4 pm

1st Year District Teams  
Friday, November 7th  
9 am to 4 pm

Desert Willow Conference Center  
4340 East Cotton Center Blvd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85040  
602.431.0001

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### February 11th - 13th, 2009

2nd Year Coaches Meeting &  
2nd Year School Team Training