Rachel’s Challenge efforts expand

Dysart Unified School District implemented the Rachel’s Challenge program in all 23 schools, as well as in the preschool and alternative education programs, during the 2012-2013 school year. Rachel’s Challenge is a program designed to inspire, equip, and empower people to create a positive culture change in their school and community by starting a chain reaction of respect, kindness and compassion. The objectives of the program include:

• Create a safe and productive learning environment by delivering proactive antidotes to violence and bullying
• Stimulate real culture change by actively involving the entire “community” in the process
• Change lives by providing culturally relevant social/emotional training
• Improve achievement and ensure results by engaging the participants’ heart, head, and hands

Data collected indicate this program is having an impact. Each year:

• More than 1.8 million people are involved in Rachel’s Challenge programs
• More than 1,800 schools and businesses are affected
• More than 425 suicides are averted because students send unsolicited emails thanking Rachel’s Challenge

An additional phase of implementation for this valuable program during 2013-2014 will be to support the Friends of Rachel (FOR) groups at each Dysart school. The goal is to establish a before/after-school activity period when students who are FOR leaders in the K-8 schools or Chain Reaction Committee (CRC) leaders in the high schools (up to 100 students per school were trained in 2012-2013) can meet to work on the planning and implementation of activities, projects, and events. Additionally, representatives from each FOR/CRC group will meet regularly as part of a district-wide FOR/CRC Council to help coordinate district-wide recognitions or events.

The critical financial support from the Dysart Education Foundation and the Sundancer organization, which operates to support spring training activities in the City of Surprise, will ensure almost every K-8 building can establish a FOR group before or after school. Dysart continues to pursue additional partnerships to support the efforts of Rachel’s Challenge in every school and school community.

Dysart schools assigned new principals

Four schools in the Dysart Unified School District were assigned new principals for 2013-2014. The Dysart Governing Board approved the appointments of Amy Hartjen as principal at Dysart High School, Bobbie Lockhart as principal at Valley Vista High School, Dannene Truett as principal at Western Peaks Elementary School, and Jayne Wieferich as principal at Cimarron Elementary School. The administrators previously held principals roles at other Dysart schools, with the exception of Amy Hartjen, who was assistant principal at Dysart High School.
Dysart Achiever - August 2013

Board president appointed to State School Facilities Board

Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil, President of the Dysart Unified School District Governing Board, was appointed to the State School Facilities Board (SFB) last spring. The appointment required Ms. Sawyer-Sinkbeil to go through a rigorous process that included being interviewed by the Arizona State Senate Education Committee. The SFB administers the Students’ FIRST capital finance program funded by appropriations from the State General Fund. SFB oversees the K-12 school facility system, which includes more than 120 million square feet of academic space. The Students’ FIRST law established a new school facilities fund for the purpose of constructing new schools to meet the minimum adequacy guidelines. The law also established a building renewal fund for the purpose of maintaining the adequacy of existing school facilities. These monies can be used for major renovations and repairs of a building, upgrades to building systems (e.g., heating, cooling, plumbing, etc.) that will maintain or extend the useful life of a building, and for infrastructure costs.

Dysart offers exceptional academies

Cambridge Checkpoint Preparatory Academy, an advanced academic program for middle school students, has been implemented at Countryside Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year in addition to the academy at Marley Park Elementary School. The expanded program at Countryside will enable dedicated 6th and 7th grade students to prepare for success in future academic pursuits while obtaining a comprehensive view of the world. The Countryside Cambridge Checkpoint Academy will include 8th grade in 2014-2015.

Community bus tours roll again

Dysart is offering community members the opportunity to be a part of a day in the life of its K-8 and high school communities through the Dysart Community Tech Tour. The bus tour, scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2013, will travel to Canyon Ridge Elementary, Marley Park Elementary, and Shadow Ridge High School. Participants will observe students and teachers actively engaged in instruction designed to provide relevant experiences and deepen the understanding of District curriculum. The Dysart Unified School District is excited to provide this community opportunity in order to showcase the excellent instruction and activities occurring each day that support the District’s mission and vision. Dysart is committed to its community, understanding that community feedback and partnership is a key component to the District’s success.

Partnership makes solar panel project affordable at Dysart

Dysart’s solar panel project contract with Constellation Solar AZ LLC was approved by the Governing Board on March 6, 2013 for installation at 21 sites throughout the District. Projects commenced May 2013, and are anticipated to be completed by the end of September 2013. A part of the project contract, all rebates, grants, credits, and other incentives belong to the investment company, who in turn will sell the electricity produced back to the energy provider at a discounted rate. Solar panels will be installed at Canyon Ridge, Cimarron Springs, Countryside, Desert Moon, El Mirage, Dysart Elementary, Kingswood, Luke, Marley Park, Mountain View, Parkview, Rancho Gabriela, Riverview, Sunset Hills, Surprise Elementary, Thompson Ranch, West Point, Early Childhood Education Center, Dysart High, Valley Vista, Shadow Ridge, the District Office, and the District Office Warehouse. The quantity of solar panels constructed at each site is estimated to produce only the amount of energy needed for that site. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the electricity produced by the project will save annual greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 2,684 passenger vehicles, or 1.4 million gallons of gasoline. The utility cost savings to the District, as a result of the purchase of discounted solar-generated power, will continue for the next twenty years.

Dysart Safety Tip

Parents, students, staff, and community members must work in partnership to identify and resolve situations that impact the safety of every campus. Please share with your children, the following safety tips for walking to and from school:

• Students walking or riding bikes to and from school should walk in groups and avoid walking alone.
• Encourage your child to be aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious behavior to you as parents and to the school office.
• Teach your child to always let a trusted adult know where they are going and what route they’ll be taking.
• Urge your child to get away fast if someone does or says something that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Dysart Academy relocated to West Point Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year. Planned in consultation with the West Valley Arts Council, Phoenix Symphony, West Valley Symphony, Phoenix Opera, ASU, and the CommunityUniver, the Dysart Arts Academy enrolls 6-8 grade students who reside both in and out of the Dysart boundaries. The mission of this “school within a school” is to provide an arts-enriched learning environment that merges creative and academic content to enhance student achievement.

The Dysart Safety Arts Academy relocated to West Point Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year. Planned in consultation with the West Valley Arts Council, Phoenix Symphony, West Valley Symphony, Phoenix Opera, ASU, and the Community University, the Dysart Arts Academy enrolls 6-8 grade students who reside both in and out of the Dysart boundaries. The mission of this “school within a school” is to provide an arts-enriched learning environment that merges creative and academic content to enhance student achievement.

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To attend the Dysart Community Tech Tour, please RSVP to the Public Relations Office at 623.476.7195. Space is limited and there is no fee to participate. Please note that the bus tour will depart from and return to the Dysart Education Center, 15802 N. Parkview Place, Surprise, AZ 85374, the morning of October 1, 2013. The time has yet to be determined.

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Meet the Governing Board

The Dysart School District’s Governing Board welcomes the public, including all school staff, parents, and community members to its meetings.

Meet the Governing Board

Governing Board Meeting Schedule

The Governing Board meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month with exceptions in July 2013, October 2013 and January 2014 at the Dysart Education Center, 15802 N. Parkview Place, Surprise, AZ 85374, 623.476-7002

District Administration

Gail Pleinick, Ed. D., Superintendent
Cynthia Miller, Ph. D., Associate Superintendent for Education
Quinn Kellis, Ed. D., Assistant Superintendent for Support Services
Jim Dean, Assistant Superintendent for Employee and Public Relations

Meet the Governing Board

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Meal prices have increased for the 2013-2014 school year by $.25 for elementary, high school, and adult lunches. Breakfast prices remain the same.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Full-Price Breakfast</th>
<th>Full-Price Lunch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
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<td>High School</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
<td>$3.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**K-8 registration information**

To begin the enrollment process for kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8), please pick up a registration packet from any of Dysart’s K-8 school offices. Dysart’s website, www.dysart.org, includes need-to-know information such as school boundaries, transportation, immunizations and special education services. Parents who do not have access to the Web can go into any Dysart school office and use a designated computer kiosk. To ensure a smooth and complete transition to our schools, please note the following: Children must be five years old prior to Sept. 1st to enroll in kindergarten, a parent or guardian must be present to enroll a child, and the registration packet must be completed and submitted. Please double-check that all forms have been completely filled out and signed in all appropriate places.

The following documents are required for registration: Child’s original birth certificate, Child’s immunization records, Proof of residency i.e. –lease or purchase agreement or utility bill, Parent or guardian’s government issued photo identification, and official withdrawal paperwork from previous school (if enrolling during the school year).

To ensure your child receives the appropriate services, it is highly recommended that parents provide the following: Current Individualized education plan (IEP), Existing 504 plan, Academic records, and information from previous school.

If your child has significant health concerns or if parents need to check in medications, you may need to complete additional paperwork. The school nurse can assist you with any questions or concerns. Should your email, address or phone number change after you have completed enrollment, please notify your school’s office immediately so you don’t miss out on important information sent throughout the year.

Children age 4 to 18 are eligible to receive immunizations through the Dysart Unified School District, in partnership with Maricopa County. Immunizations required for school admission are provided at no cost to all children in the community. For more information, please visit www.dysart.org or call the district’s immunization clinic at 623.876.7944.

Arizona law requires that public schools provide the supplies required for academic success. All materials required for a student’s education will be provided by the Dysart Unified School District. Please check with your K-8 school and your child’s teacher for an optional supply list before purchasing any supplies. If you have any questions please contact your K-8 school.

**High school registration**

Students must register and have their ID badges before the first day of school, August 5. For more information regarding the high school registration process, including any updates, please call the schools or visit their websites (contact information is provided below).

**Dysart Unified School District student dress code**

The Dysart Unified School District believes that there is a connection between student dress and academic success. In the Spring of 2009, a Strategic Plan committee reviewed and revised Dysart’s student dress code. The committee, consisting of parents, teachers and administrators presented dress code revisions to the Governing Board and the revisions were implemented in the 2009-2010 school year. Dysart’s student dress code is set to remain unchanged for the 2013-2014 school year. The student dress code can be viewed at www.dysart.org under the tab, “Parents and Students.” The most prominent items in the K-12 student dress code include:

**Shirts/Tops**
- Must not include tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, strapless tops and racer back tops. Tank tops are any sleeveless top with a strap of less than three inches.
- Must not have a neckline lower than 4 in. from collarbone and must not expose cleavage.
- Must not extend in the arm pit lower than six inches from the collarbone.
- Must not expose any part of the midriff when sitting, bending or standing.
- Must not expose undergarments when sitting, bending or standing.

**Pants/Shorts/Bottoms**
- Must be worn at the waist at all times.
- Must be no shorter than 4 in. above the top of the knee when standing if shorts/skirts.
- Must not expose undergarments when sitting, bending or standing.

**Dysart preschool announces screening dates for 2013-2014**

Dysart announces its 2013-2014 Child Find Screening Dates. In order to better serve our communities, Child Find Screenings will now be offered at two locations: El Mirage Elementary and the Dysart Early Childhood Education Center. Parents/ Guardians who have concerns about their child’s development may contact the district office at 623.876.7360 to schedule a free screening. Children must be at least 2 years and 6 months to be eligible for a screening and families must reside in the DUSD district. For information regarding screening children ages birth to 3 years old, please call the Arizona Early Intervention Project at (602) 532-9960.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA, 2004) requires that all local agencies ensure that all children from birth through age 21 with delays or developmental disabilities are identified, located and evaluated to receive the supports and services they need. This includes all children living within the geographic boundaries of the school district including children who are homeless or wards of the state, children with disabilities attending private schools, or those who are home-schooled.

Public schools and the Arizona Early Intervention Program are responsible for “finding” eligible children and providing services needed for them to reach their developmental milestones or meet their educational needs. The Dysart preschool screenings address vision, hearing, motor, speech and language, self-help, cognitive and social skills. The time to complete a screen is approximately one hour. Parents must be present with their child during the screening process.

**Screening dates for 2013-2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Main Preschool Campus (Western DUSD Schools)</th>
<th>El Mirage Location (Eastern DUSD Schools)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<td>August 12</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<td>August 26</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<td>September 16</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<td>September 30</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>May 5</td>
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<td>November 25</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<td>February 10</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
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<td>November 18</td>
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<td>January 13</td>
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For more information regarding the 504 Plan, Academic Records, and information from previous school.  Parents who have existing 504 plan, Academic records, and information from previous school. Existing 504 plan, Academic records, and information from previous school. Students must reside in the Dysart Unified School District (Western DUSD Schools) and families must reside in the DUSD district. For information regarding screening children ages birth to 3 years old, please call the Arizona Early Intervention Project at (602) 532-9960.

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**2013-2014 Meal Prices**

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</table>
The valuable benefits of volunteering in the Dysart District

Volunteering is a wonderful way to give back to your community and gain valuable experience. Volunteers are often the glue that holds our community together. By giving back, you show children firsthand how volunteering makes a difference and how good it feels to help others. It’s also a valuable way for you to get to know the Dysart community and become aware of resources and activities for your children and family. Volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice important skills used in the workplace, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, project planning, task management, and organization. It can also provide renewed creativity, motivation, and a vision that carries over into your personal and professional life.

In 2012-2013, more than 1,700 volunteers generously donated more than 64,000 hours of their time. Numerous volunteer opportunities exist in K-12 classrooms, libraries, offices, with district sports programs, as well as with infants and toddlers in the Child Development Center and Dysart Early Childhood Center. Help yourself while helping others! For more information about becoming a Dysart volunteer, please call 623.876.7875 or visit www.dysart.org/volunteer.

Dysart School Directory

The Dysart Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs or activities. For information regarding discrimination grievance or complaint procedures contact the Assistant Superintendent for Employee and Public Relations at (623) 876-7000.

**Early Childhood Center**
13550 N. Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.523.8880

Dysart School Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Normal Day Start</th>
<th>Normal Day Dismissal</th>
<th>Early Release Start</th>
<th>Early Release Dismissal</th>
<th>Testing Day First Start</th>
<th>Testing Day Second Start</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dysart High School</td>
<td>7:15 AM</td>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>7:15 AM</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estrella Foothills High School</td>
<td>7:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley Vista High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shadow Ridge High School</td>
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<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-8 Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afton Ranch Elementary</td>
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<td>Canyon Springs Elementary</td>
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<td>Countrywide Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dyart Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Mirage Elementary</td>
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<td>Kingswood Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain View School</td>
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<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rancho Gabriela Elementary</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverview Elementary</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoran Heights Elementary</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Hills Elementary</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Peaks Elementary</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Dysart Unified School District No. 89 2013-2014 CALENDAR

**First Day for Students**
August 5

**Labor Day**
September 2

**K-8 Parent/Teacher Conf.**
October 11

**Fall Break**
October 14-18

**Columbus Day**
October 14 (Start of Fall Break)

**Veterans Day**
November 11

**Thanksgiving recess**
November 27-29

**High School Final Exams**
December 17-19 (2 days HS)
December 20 (2 days HS)

**School Reopens**
January 6

**K-8 Report Cards Issued**
January 10

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
January 21

**President’s Day**
February 17

**Spring Break**
March 10-14

**Spring Holiday**
March 11

**School Reopens**
March 20-21 (1/2 day K-8)
March 21

**K-8 Quarters End/Days**
October 4 44 days

**High School Final Exams**
January 21-22 (1/2 day HS)
March 22 (1/2 day K-8)

**Weeks of May**

**K-8 Graduation Day**
May 28 43 days

**Senior Earned End/Days**
May 29 48 days

**H.S. Graduation End/Days**
June 20 6 days

Students are dismissed early every Monday beginning Aug. 12 to provide time for teacher professional development.