



Pendergast District's Westwind School to Open Family Resource Center

Center will strength community ties and offer full range of free services

Phoenix Az. – September 29, 2016 – The Grand Opening of the Westwind School Family Resource Center will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2016 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Westwind School located at 9040 W. Campbell Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85037. Westwind Elementary School received a [Lowes Toolbox for Education Grant](#) to help fund the Center that will strengthen community ties to the school and establish the center as a base for parental/community interaction, collaboration, and training.

According to Rod Henkel, principal of Westwind School, “Increasing family involvement is a primary goal for Westwind Elementary School. If families are to partner with schools in the education of their children, they must be provided with opportunities and support to make the connections stronger and more effective. The funds will help us in creating an environment that will strengthen and bind the community to Westwind as a place of lifelong learning.”

Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, [Pendergast](#) Superintendent believes, “It will be an investment in a whole generation of parents who can acquire, share, and model the digital awareness needed for the 21st century skills demanded by today’s jobs. It is our objective to establish a welcoming place where parents and community members can acquire academic/career skills and explore opportunities; a place where they can find information and the training needed to become involved and invested.”

The Westwind Family Resource Center will host parent forums with topics such as "School Data," "The Curriculum and State Standards," "Preparing for the Az Merit Assessments," and "Internet Safety Concerns." English classes for Spanish speaking parents will be on the agenda, as well as technology classes.

The Westwind Family Resource Center also plans to give a “home base” to The American Dream Academy. This program, initiated by the ASU Center for Community Development and Civil Rights, creates opportunities to train parents to become effective partners and advocates of their children. Parents and teachers will collaborate to transform each child’s educational environment both at home and at school. Their sessions will be weekly for a period of ten weeks.

For further information or to sign up for programs, contact Rod Henkel at Westwind School rhenkel@pesd92.org or (623) 877-2414.