

## School District Upgrades Technology

Using funds generated through the establishment of its District Sponsored Charter Schools the Wickenburg Unified School District is upgrading its technology systems for the 2014-2015 school year. The District has been working over a period of years to bring its technology infrastructure up to date and this summer's project completes the process.

Between now and the beginning of the school year the district's IT staff will install 345 Dell computers across its five schools. The computers will come with a Windows 7 operating system and any existing computer will be upgraded to this standard as well. WUSD has been operating with a Windows XP system, which is no longer being supported by Microsoft. If left in place beyond this year, the antiquated XP system would have been susceptible to viruses and other operating malfunctions.

The upgrade also includes replacement of the district's servers and switches, which will enable the network backbone to operate more efficiently and effectively and at greater speeds. In addition, the district will move from a 30 mb line for Internet service to 100 mb. Increasing the size of the line to 100 mb will enable our schools to more successfully use web-based resources and assessments. As time progresses schools and society are both becoming more dependent upon digital materials and these upgrades will make their use more prevalent and effective.

I am also excited to mention that as part of the changes being implemented WUSD will be able to provide remote computer access to all of its employees. Teachers and other employees will now be able to gain access to their computer desktop while off-site, which will make their jobs easier and give them greater access to the materials they need.

Clearly a project of this magnitude will not be easy to implement, but the outcome will be worth it as both our students and staff will be able to function more effectively in what has become a digital world. I am excited to see how these changes will positively impact our schools and look forward to how learning will flourish in this environment.