

## WUSD Increases Substitute Pay

Written by Dr. Howard Carlson, Superintendent

Beginning February 1, WUSD increased its daily substitute pay rate from \$90/day to \$100/day at the K-8 grade levels and to \$110/day at the 9-12 grade levels. Arizona currently is short over 2,000 certified teachers in its schools. Thus, finding qualified substitute teachers is becoming ever more difficult. We are hoping this increase in pay will encourage more individuals to substitute teach in the district.

In addition, each teacher who loses seven or more preparation periods due to internal substitute coverage during the course of the school year will receive a \$50 gift card. Oftentimes, when we are short substitute teachers, our existing staff will graciously give up their preparation period to cover a class. Although the gift card is not a substantial contribution, we hope that it will at least provide some recognition of the tremendous effort our teachers put forth in these situations.

We also plan to increase our advertising efforts for substitutes within the community and to pursue obtaining certification for interested individuals who might qualify using other means. It is really a multi-faceted effort we are undertaking in an effort to make sure each classroom is covered on a daily basis.

As time progresses I will provide updates and additional information regarding our efforts, but if you happen to know of anyone who might be interested in substitute teaching please let us know. Interested individuals should contact Sara Fitzpatrick in our HR Department by calling (928) 668-5301. Sara will be more than happy to assist anyone who might have an interested in substituting at a WUSD school.