

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Fund-raisers get creative

*Special events help school, community*

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As fall gears up in Arizona, so too are the bake sales, cheese and sausage sales, and cookie dough sales.

Backpacks come home from school stuffed with candy bars, wrapping paper catalogs and order forms. And parents truck off to work the next day, hoping co-workers will take pity and buy something.

The money pays for field trips, school equipment or supplies. And if the student and parents sell enough, it could mean a prize or a pizza party for the class.

Peoria parent Kim Price Olsen prefers the fund-raisers that bring the community together. She enjoys ice cream socials, fall festivals and spring flings.

"It brings the community together, but you also might sell snow cones or something like that (to raise money)," said Olsen, who is involved with her local school's parent organization.

School parent organizations have become fund-raising machines in recent years as need has grown.

The organizations supply school volunteers, organize fund-raisers and use the money for classroom supplies, guest speakers and supplemental materials.

But there are fund-raisers some parents just don't like.

"I don't like the catalog sales," Olsen said. "Because families that are already busy are forced to sell overpriced items."

Instead, Olsen encourages parents and community members to make a donation to the school, so it gets to keep all of the money, rather than share profits with a company.

## Fund-raising event ideas

### **Try a breakfast, lunch or dinner fund-raising event**

Have your local grocer donate food.

### **Have a car wash**

Allow for room for cars to line up.

### **Run a recycled bottle, can or ink cartridge drive.**

You handle the sorting and keep the refunds.

### **Have a bake sale**

Bake cookies using dough from a cookie dough fund-raising brochure.

### **Set up a book sale**

People will donate books they are done reading.

### **Have a lawn or garage sale**

Be sure to publicize this well in advance.

### **Organize a rubber-duck race**

This fund-raiser is fun and can get kids involved.

### **Have an auction**

Have collectibles such as pro-athlete signed items.