

Insider

Spring 2003



CCSD Education Center employees model their Spirit Day wear. From left to right: Eva Martinez, Pat Monroe, Carmela May, Brenda Sciotto, Tulla Hayes and Robert Perales.

Support staff employee brings spirit to Education Center

Throughout the Clark County School District, staff and students show their school spirit by proudly wearing school colors, buttons and shirts, and now that same spirit can be found in the district's administrative offices.

Fridays at the Edward Greer Education Center have been deemed "Spirit Day" – Education Center staff wear paraphernalia from various CCSD schools, and the person responsible for this team spirit is Tulla Hayes, Education Center information liaison.

"The purpose of Spirit Day at the Education Center is for those of us in the administrative offices to show support for our schools," said Hayes, sporting a Bonanza HS denim shirt. "For 24 years I worked as an office manager at an at-risk high school in Indiana, and I know all too well what it is like to feel isolated from the main administrative offices. Spirit Day reminds us all why we work for the district."

To implement the weekly celebration, Hayes first researched its feasibility, polling principals to see if they liked the idea and asking Education Center employees if they would actually participate.

After receiving many enthusiastic "yes" answers to the above questions, Hayes took the idea to her supervisor for approval. The idea was well received all the way up the ladder to Superintendent Carlos A. Garcia.

With approval in hand, Hayes began collecting items from the schools to distribute to Education Center employees. "The support from our schools has been overwhelming," Hayes said, wiping away a tear. "I just can't believe how much they appreciate this idea. It's a wonderful feeling."

Hayes also said visitors to the Education Center have noticed the camaraderie and made positive comments. "I'm so proud that Spirit Day has been successful," she said. "I like to call it the little idea that has made a big impact."



Garside JHS students use paint to brush out violence

Property vandalism and student fights are serious problems for schools. The students at Garside JHS have chosen to take action against vandalism and violence

through the use of paintbrushes, and have received national attention for their creative efforts.

Two courtyard walls inside Garside JHS are covered with multi-colored, hand-painted ceramic tiles that include messages of peace, togetherness and school pride. The school's Teens, Crime and the Community (TCC) Club is responsible for these walls, which have been dubbed the Imprint Wall.

The Imprint Wall project began two years ago when Garside JHS teacher and TCC club sponsor Natalie Buster challenged club members to think of a way to get the school and community involved in crime prevention.

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JASON expedition explores Channel Islands

More than 21,000 Clark County School District students and their teachers explored California's Channel Islands this year via live televised expeditions and a special curriculum courtesy of the JASON Project, an international program created to engage students of all ages in the world of science and technology.

CCSD, which began participating in the program in 1992, is one of 36 JASON sites throughout the country; the JASON program began in 1989. Each year a handful of teachers and students are selected from a competitive pool of applicants to travel to the expedition destination and participate as JASON Argonauts. This year, Marcus Mason, a fifth-grade teacher at Fitzgerald ES, and Lance Wright, an eighth grader at Becker MS, explored the Channel Islands for an up-close look at the islands' unique biology, geology and history.

"Because the JASON Project provides a real-world, hands-on program for students and teachers, it makes science relevant to students and their learning styles," said Joyce Woodhouse, director of the School-Community Partnership Program and coordinator of the JASON Project for CCSD.



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Inspiring excellence in education

--continued from page 1

The group decided to select a different anti-violence theme each year, use ceramic tiles to allow individuals to express the theme in colorful shapes, phrases or pictures, and permanently affix the tiles to the walls of the school courtyard. The club even found generous community members willing to donate the tiles and paint, as well as the time and materials to attach the tiles to the courtyard walls.

"The Imprint Wall does two things," said Buster. "It improves not only the physical look of our school, but also the behavior of our students. The wall serves as a daily reminder to students that crime is not the way to go."

For their hard work and dedication to making Garside JHS a safe place, the TCC Club was recently honored at the National Youth Summit on Preventing Violence, which was held in Anaheim, California, and is sponsored by the National Crime Prevention Council.

"Attending the youth summit was such an honor for our students," Buster said. "They not only learned a lot, but for some it was their first time away from home, which made the trip even more special."

Currently, Buster and the TCC Club are working on a theme for this year's Imprint Wall. During the 2000-01 school year, the students chose "Garside Teens Put a Foot Down on Crime;" the theme for 2001-02 was "Peace Is Our Shield."

Once a theme is chosen, all Garside JHS students will have the opportunity to compete in a poster contest for which the winner will receive a cash award and the coveted middle section of the wall.

In May, parents, CCSD officials and community leaders will join students and teachers in continuing the tradition and creating the 2002-03 Imprint Wall.

"When we all work together, the results are amazing," said Buster. "I believe these walls have made a difference in our school and in the lives of our students."

The Garside JHS Imprint Wall proves that powerful results can come when a school and its community work together to prevent violence and promote peace.



"Peace is our Shield" was the award-winning theme for the 2001-02 Imprint Wall at Garside JHS.

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Remembering the space shuttle Columbia

Saturday, February 1, is a day Americans will remember as the day the space shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts were lost forever.

As educators in a country that has been through so many recent tragedies and is currently in the midst of war, a question to consider is, “How do we help our students understand the events of the world, while encouraging them to not be afraid of the world?”

Ever ready to tackle this challenge, many CCSD teachers and administrators chose to acknowledge the Columbia tragedy at their schools with a school-wide moment of silence or the lowering of the flag – simple, yet powerful, statements.

Some, like Miller MS Principal Tamathy Larnerd, chose to hold a school-wide discussion about the event. The Monday after the tragedy was Larnerd’s first day as a principal. Not only did he have to figure out how to best fulfill the role of middle school principal, he also had to decide how best to help students deal with and understand their feelings about the tragedy.

“After a moment of silence, we talked about both the Challenger and Columbia tragedies,” Larnerd said. “We also discussed how important the space program is to our future and that today’s students are the future of the space program. I told them they should not be afraid to pursue their dreams, especially if being involved in the space program is what they really want to do.”

Many teachers, such as those at Perkins ES, held classroom discussions and asked students to write journal entries regarding their thoughts and feelings.

For Kathleen Marcotte-Loza, fifth-grade teacher at Harris ES, the Columbia tragedy hit very close to home. “The company my father worked for when I was a child was under contract with NASA,” she said. “Because my father worked closely with NASA throughout all of the Apollo missions, we felt like part of the NASA family. It was an incredible experience.”

Marcotte-Loza’s childhood memories make space, space travel and the solar system favorite subjects to teach her fifth graders.

“This isn’t the time of the year I normally cover the space unit, but I thought it was important to talk about all of the wonders of space and space travel,” she said. “Students need to make the connection that, yes, sometimes bad things happen, but look at all of the adventures and research we would be missing if we never had a space program.”

Another way CCSD staff helped students express their feelings about the Columbia tragedy was through art projects. At Derfelt ES, students created an impressive dedication to the astronauts and their families.

In the main hallway of the school, attached across an entire length of wall, stand seven life-size paper cutouts of the Columbia astronauts. The figures are covered with red, white and blue stars, in which teachers and students have written such thoughts as, “Thanks for being heroes;” “I know you were not afraid;” “U.S.A. forever;” “We are thinking of your family;” and more.

These are among the many considerate and thoughtful tributes from CCSD students and staff to the heroes of the space shuttle Columbia.

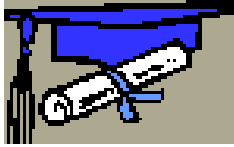
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2002-03 Commencement Schedule

Tuesday, May 13

7 p.m. ATTC Awards UNLV Ham Hall

Wednesday, May 21

7 p.m. Helen J. Stewart Helen J. Stewart School

Wednesday, May 28

7 p.m. Foreign Exchange LVA Theater

Thursday, May 29

7 p.m. Variety School Winchester Center

Wednesday, June 4

7 p.m. Virgin Valley Virgin Valley HS
7 p.m. Indian Springs Indian Springs HS
7 p.m. Boulder City Boulder City HS

Thursday, June 5

8:30 a.m. Cimarron-Memorial Thomas & Mack
11 a.m. Durango Thomas & Mack
1:30 p.m. Rancho Thomas & Mack
3 p.m. ATA Cashman Center
4:30 p.m. Adult Ed Thomas & Mack
7 p.m. Laughlin Laughlin HS
7 p.m. Moapa Valley Moapa Valley HS
7:30 p.m. Academic Centers Thomas & Mack

Saturday, June 7

8:30 a.m. Bonanza Thomas & Mack
11 a.m. Mojave Thomas & Mack
1:30 p.m. Eldorado Thomas & Mack
4:30 p.m. CCHS Thomas & Mack
7 p.m. Centennial Thomas & Mack

Monday, June 9

8:30 a.m. Cheyenne Thomas & Mack
11 a.m. SNVTC Thomas & Mack
1:30 p.m. Foothill Thomas & Mack
4:30 p.m. Desert Pines Thomas & Mack
7:30 p.m. Silverado Thomas & Mack

Tuesday, June 10

8:30 a.m. LVHS Thomas & Mack
11 a.m. Chaparral Thomas & Mack
1:30 p.m. Clark Thomas & Mack
4:30 p.m. Sierra Vista Thomas & Mack
7 p.m. LVA Cashman Center
7:30 p.m. Coronado Thomas & Mack

Wednesday, June 11

8:30 a.m. Basic Thomas & Mack
11 a.m. Valley Thomas & Mack
1:30 p.m. Palo Verde Thomas & Mack
4:30 p.m. Western Thomas & Mack
7:30 p.m. Green Valley Thomas & Mack

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SHINING STARS

Teaching Excellence

Cowan Academic Center-Credit Retrieval instructors Carla Berry received the Nevada Pride Award

Grant Recipient

Carson ES received the Yvonne Atkinson-Gates grant for \$7,000. The grant will be used towards additional teacher training and student field trips, and to provide students with an opportunity to become published authors. Carson ES also received a \$10,000 donation from Project READ, which will be used to enhance the school's library.

U.S. Senate Youth Program

Harrison James Reynolds, Bonanza HS student, was one of two Nevada students chosen as a delegate to the 41st Annual U.S. Senate Youth Program.

Coach of the Year

Las Vegas HS varsity football coach Kris Cinkovich was named the 2002 Southern Nevada Coach of the Year.

F.B.I. Poster Contest

Emily Childs, seventh-grade student at Brinley MS, won the Nevada State F.B.I. Homeland Security Internet Safety Poster Contest in their grade levels.

MS Principal of the Year

Susan Tsukamoto, principal of Rogich MS, has been named the 2002-2003 Nevada Middle School Principal of the Year.

Women of Valor

Robison MS Principal Theresa Castillo and Booker ES Principal Beverly Mathis were named 2003 Women of Valor by the Actively Validating Winners Community Group.

In the Spotlight

Like most educators, Joy Burleson moves through her day at lightening speed.

Burleson is a health, physical education and leadership teacher at Johnson JHS, a position that not only has her teaching students proper nutrition and the importance of exercise, but also puts her in charge of the students who plan all school activities.

Over the course of the 2002-03 school year, Burleson and her leadership students will have planned activities for Peace Week, American Education Week, two Spirit Weeks and Teacher Appreciation Week; organized five school-wide dances, one eighth-grade dance and various assemblies; written news and announcements for the weekly Eagle TV show; attended leadership camp; held a charity toy drive; arranged guest speakers for classes; and distributed treats and cards of encouragement to students during testing week and cupcakes to each student on his or her birthday.

Burleson is proud of her students and stresses that their success in facilitating school spirit is due to the supportive and caring administration and teachers of the school, as well as the students' own determination. "These students are incredible – they keep me on my toes," she said.

Assistant Principal Dawn Burns thinks Burleson is incredible, too. "I don't know how she manages to accomplish all she does," said Burns. "School spirit flourishes at Johnson JHS because of Joy and the leadership students."



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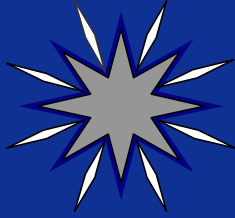
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SHINING STARS

Writing Award

Stevi Carroll, Valley HS English teacher, received an honorable mention in the personal essay category of the 71st Annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition with her manuscript, *Deliver the Children*.

Teacher of the Year

Janet Butler, sixth-grade teacher at Sedway MS, was named Sam's Club Teacher of the Year.

New Police Officers

The CCSD Police Department added 31 new officers to its ranks, strengthening the force to 142 commissioned officers.

Russian Study Tour

Diane Moser, teacher at Clark HS, was selected as one of 12 U.S. educators to participate in a 12-day study tour of Russia. The program was sponsored by the National Council on Economic Education.

Public Sector Award

Kathleen Frosini, director of Career and Technical education, received the 2002 Public Sector Award from the City of Henderson Economic Development Division and the Henderson Development Association.

International Space Station (ISS)-Chat

ISS-Chat (part of the KLVX Science and Technology Chat Series) connected 750 students at 25 schools, including four rural sites, in live conversation with NASA astronauts. Students from Katz ES, McMillan ES, Iverson ES, Elizondo ES, Tarr ES, and Cortney JHS spoke live with the Expedition Six crew of the International Space Station.

Math Achievement

Gregory Winder, math teacher at O'Callaghan MS, received the Edwin F. Wiengand Award, courtesy of the MGM Corporation.

DECA Champions

Sierra Vista HS DECA students, with the help of teachers Brock Taylor, Kim Fisher and Ron Isaacs, were named the Nevada State DECA Chapter of the Year

Ready to Learn

Candace Thompson, administrative specialist/Ready to Learn coordinator, has been appointed to the 2003 Ready to Learn Station Advisory Council to serve the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.

Program Donation

Kristin Ulrich, Student Assistance Program (SAP) coordinator for Brown JHS, secured a \$10,000 donation from the J.M. Long Foundation for the school's SAP. The donation will be used to support the development of whole-school bullying prevention policies, implementation of anti-bullying curricular measures and enhancement of the school environment.

Remembrance Ceremony

Staff and students of Gragson ES held a living tree ceremony to honor school namesake and former Las Vegas mayor, Oran K. Gragson.

Book Drive

Students at Allen ES collected 8,824 books to benefit the Kids to Kids Literacy Program.

Celebrating Teddy

Iverson ES staff and students celebrated the 100th birthday of the teddy bear with a day of activities, including reading teddy bear-themed stories and holding a teddy bear pageant.

Crime Busters Club Recognition

Monaco MS teachers Carrie Regula and Ramona Abbott and their Crime Busters Club were nationally recognized for community crime prevention efforts at the Summit on Preventing Youth Violence Conference in Anaheim, CA.

***We the People* Competition**

Students from Community College HS-West represented the CCSD at the *We the People* Nevada state competition in Carson City.

Award-winning Dance Squad

In a national competition held in Florida, the Burholder MS Dance Squad took second place in the jazz division and third place in the pom division. The team, lead by coach JoAnn Wickel, was the only team to place in the top five in two divisions.

Governor's Arts Award

The Las Vegas Academy of International Studies, Performing and Visual Arts received the Governor's Arts Award for Arts in Education.

Foundation Awards

Three teachers from Cashman MS were awarded \$2,500 each from the Nevada Community Foundation Awards. Kristen Balduc received the award for science, and Shannone Paki and Jennifer Loescher received the award for mathematics.