



# F-TROOP NEWSLETTER



Carolyn Edwards

**NOVEMBER 2008**

District F

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

11/04/08	Staff Development Day
11/10-11/08	Veterans Day Obs.
11/27/08	Thanksgiving Day
11/28/08	Family Day
12/19/08	Winter Break Begins
01/01/09	New Year's Day
01/05/09**	**Classes Resume** (after Winter Break)

For a complete list of calendar dates access  
[CCSD 2008-2009 School Calendar](#)

### REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS:

- November 06, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- November 20, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- December 11, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

The above board meetings are held at:

Edward A Greer Education Center, Board Room  
2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121

Access the district's website [Clark County School District](#)

### SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS:

- November 05, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Work Session)
  - November 18, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Facilities Update)
  - December 03, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Work Session)
- Edward A. Greer Education Center, Board Room  
2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121

PLEASE NOTE: Work Sessions are now held on Wednesday mornings.

### UNSATISFACTORY NOTICES DISTRIBUTED:

In addition to the parent communication system available on school websites, Trimester Progress Reports/Unsatisfactory Notices for students will be distributed on:

9 month distributed:  
10/02/08, 01/16/09, 4/24/09

12 month, tracks 3, 4, 5 distributed:  
10/02/08, 02/13/09, 5/22/09

12 month, tracks 1 & 2 distributed:  
10/24/08, 03/06/09, 06/19/09

modified 9 month distributed:  
09/19/08, 11/26/08, 02/13/09, 05/08/09

If your child is absent on the above date, please contact your child's school to make arrangements to receive the notice.

PLEASE NOTE: Notices will not be mailed home.

### REPORT CARDS:

Contact your child's school regarding the distribution date of report cards.



Dear District F Constituents, Parents, Staff, Students and Friends:

I am sure most of you are aware of the budget cut process that every school has been asked to do. This is an information gathering process that will help the superintendent and the board make decisions about the governor's request that we cut 14% from our (already cut) budget for 09-10 and 10-11 school years.

There will be two public input meetings on the budget. I hope you will attend one of them to express your ideas and concerns. They are:

Tuesday, November 18, 2008, 6pm  
Western High School

Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 6pm  
Chaparral High School

As I write this, I am aware that these are very exciting times. Very shortly, we will have a new president-elect. Whoever that is, change is coming and with that, hopefully, improvements will be made to No Child Left Behind!

My next F-Troop meeting is November 12, 2008 at 9:30am at Forbuss Elementary School. Vegas PBS (Channel 10) will be there to share the many exciting ways that they contribute to the education of your child, both in the classroom and at home. They are doing incredible things, you will be amazed. I hope to see many of you there.

Carolyn  
[cedwards@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:cedwards@interact.ccsd.net)  
873-3097

### ADDITIONAL NOTES:

SCHOOL MATTERS: School Matters will broadcast on Vegas PBS, Channel 10, on Thursday, November 13 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Topics include the budget cuts and American Education Week. For additional information on School Matters or to email your questions relating to the topics that will be discussed, access the district's website, [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net).

### SAVE THE DATES:

2008 F-TROOP Meetings are:  
November 12: Forbuss ES: December 10: Home of Trustee Edwards  
Additional meeting information is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page!

### CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Operation Crime Free Schools

**TIP HOTLINE: 799-0228**

Call the school police to report suspicious activity at your school.

*You can remain anonymous.*

### HOMEWORK HOTLINE

**799-5111**

Monday – Thursday  
3:30p.m. – 5:30p.m.

Assistance in all subjects.  
Now on Cox Cable  
Channels 96 and 111

## 2008 – 2009 F-TROOP MEETING DATE AND HOSTING SCHOOL

### 2008

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 10, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

School: Harvey N. Dondero ES

Address: 4450 S. Ridgeville St.

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

School: Victoria Fertitta MS

Address: 9905 West Mesa Vista Avenue

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

School: Robert L. Forbuss ES

Address: 8601 S. Grand Canyon Drive

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 10, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

Home: Carolyn Edwards

Address: 3275 S. Tioga Way

### 2009

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

School: John R. Beatty ES

Address: 8685 Hidden Palms Parkway

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

School: Frank Kim ES

Address: 7600 Peace Way

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

School: Marion Earl ES

Address: 6650 West Reno Avenue

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

School: Pat A. Diskin ES

Address: 4220 Ravenwood Drive

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

School: Helen Jydstrup ES

Address: 5150 Duneville Street

## An Update on Mandated Budget Cuts

The following excerpt related to mandated budget cuts was sent to all employees on October 22 from Superintendent Walt Rulffes. It contains some valuable information on specific cuts made to date and the future effects of further cuts on education:

... At this point, we have already cut approximately \$133 million from our budget. While we are hopeful that no additional reductions will be requested for the *current* school year, we cannot be certain of that if state revenues continue to fall short of projections.

The coming biennium is shaping up to be even more bad news... When the Nevada Legislature convenes in 2009, from February through May, they will be establishing the budget for the two fiscal years: July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, and July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011... And while we will not know the outcome of legislative funding until next June, we will not give up the fight for the Legislature to protect public education.

This state timeline means the District must plan its budget for 2009-2010 under unknown conditions. On the basis of economic projections for the next several years, the District has been asked to **cut another \$120 million from our budget for each of our next two school years, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011**. As schools and departments struggle with this mandate, it is apparent that all the "easy" cuts have already been made and that further budget reductions are going to impact CCSD's workforce in the next biennium.

In anticipation of these future cuts and in order to avoid layoffs to the greatest extent possible, many departments and schools are not filling vacancies that currently exist and may leave positions unfilled if vacancies occur during the present school year... This helps prevent the unfortunate circumstance of bringing new employees into the District only to dismiss them within a year.

Some job categories may also be completely eliminated. Employees in these positions would be eligible to fill other vacancies in the District, according to the process prescribed in the negotiated agreements...

Please know that at this point, no



Visit us on the web for more information on the budget cuts, a video with the latest updates and details on upcoming public forums.

[www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net)

decisions have been made about which job categories may be eliminated... A great deal of school and public input is being solicited on this matter.

Following is the sequence of cuts to reach the \$120 million:

- The first cuts are in administrative budgets, 12 percent – \$32 million.**
- The Board is being asked to use one-half of the District's fund balance – \$22 million.**
- Districtwide cuts are next – \$9 million.**
- Ultimately, schools and departments must also be asked to reduce their budgets. Each school is providing input on how to deal with a 3.5 percent cut that will total \$57 million.**

It is [the Superintendent's] intent, and the Board's, to preserve to the greatest extent possible the classroom function and services that directly impact students. All of the District's support services are important and necessary, but schools and classrooms remain at the heart of our mission.

Rest assured that even as we are required to go through this difficult process of identifying cuts, we are also intent on promoting public education and Nevada students as the highest priority for state funding...

*In January 2008, the Board of School Trustees passed a resolution that outlines the Board's position and commitment to the continued quality of student education in Clark County. While the details of that resolution may have changed, the purpose still stands firm. Providing CCSD students with a quality education and assisting them in preparation for a successful future remains a priority for the CCSD Board of School Trustees.*

*Learn more about the impending cuts and view a video with further details at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net). Share your thoughts on the cuts at one of several public input meetings. Details are listed on the first page of this newsletter.*

## American Education Week 2008

Celebrate with us – November 17-21

In 1921, the National Education Association representatives called for one week each year to be designated for a spotlight on public education. In its resolution, the NEA called for: "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs." And thus, American Education Week was born.

The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921. It has been a national tradition ever since.

The CCSD has a long history of celebrating American Education Week. This year the theme locally is "Keep Your Eye on the CAP." Events will include the annual **National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalist Awards Ceremony** where more than 30 students will be spotlighted, **Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony**, the first **CCSD AEW Art Gallery Open House**, and individual events at local schools.

For a complete list of CCSD AEW celebrations, visit [CCSD.net](http://CCSD.net). The information will be posted on November 17. You may also call your local school to find about any events happening there.

Have a Happy American Education Week this month!



*I like to think that the greatest success of any life is that moment when a teacher touches a child's heart and it is never again the same... Everything America is or ever hopes to be depends upon what happens in our schools and classrooms."*

**--Frosty Troy, editor Oklahoma Observer**