



# PACE NEWSLETTER



Terri Janison

MAY 2008

District E

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

05/01/08...Asian Pacific American Heritage Month  
05/26/08.....Memorial Day ( No School)  
06/04/08.....Last Day of School (9 month)  
06/18/08.....Last Day of School (modified 9 month)

For a complete list of calendar dates access [Important Dates 07-08.pdf](#)

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**May 22, 2008 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting will be held at  
Edward A. Greer Education Center  
Board Room  
2832 E. Flamingo Road

Access the District's website at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net)

### SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

**May 21, 2008 4:00 p.m.**  
**Adoption of Final Budget**

Meeting will be held at  
Edward A. Greer Education Center  
Board Room  
2832 E. Flamingo Road

### CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Operation Crime Free Schools

**Tip Hotline: 799-0228**

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

*You can remain anonymous.*

### Graduation Schedules Available Online

The countdown to GRADUATION is on for thousands of CCSD Seniors. For a list of graduation dates, times, and locations, go to: <http://ccsd.net/directory/news/calendar/> and click on 2008 Graduation Calendar

Dear District E,

Please join us on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 9:30 a.m. at Becker Middle School, Theatre, 9151 Pinewood Hills Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89134 for a special presentation by a local consultant with Applied Analysis, Jeremy Aguero. He will speak on how social and economic changes have impacted education in Clark County. Mr. Aguero will address the following:

- Market Changes – Including housing, employment trends, and demographic shifts
- School District Planning – Including budget analysis, staffing situations, enrollment trends and, dropout rates

### Elementary Block Scheduling at Derfelt Elementary

A core group of Derfelt Elementary staff members that included site leaders for math, reading, writing, science, and special education worked with Dr. Michael Rettig to create a "Block Schedule" for the 2008-2009 school year. The initial intent of creating a block was to facilitate a departmentalized fifth-grade team in order to capitalize on individual teacher strengths. The planning ultimately yielded a block schedule for all grades that provides greater access and equity for diverse learners than was ever possible without a block schedule. Dr. Rettig brought considerable experience to the process as he has worked with more than 200 school districts across the country on school scheduling, strategies for engaging active learners, and curriculum pacing. The schedule creation started with setting aside the nonnegotiable chunks of time necessary to meet CCSD guidelines for instructional minutes required for each subject in fifth grade. Other factors considered were times for specials, Art, Music, Library, and P.E., as well as lunch and duty for teachers. The times that were yet to be assigned were identified as Intervention/Enrichment times where students could receive additional instruction or attend a special class such as GATE or Resource. Each of the remaining grade level daily plans quickly fell into line with the fifth-grade schedule. Staff members are excited about all of the new possibilities to enrich and extend learning for all students. We will be able to preserve all core curriculum instructional time and provide new opportunities to supplement instruction rather than engaging in activities that supplant the basics.

As always, please send me your questions, ideas, or suggestions to [janistd@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:janistd@interact.ccsd.net).

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### RAVE Review Reminder

Is there a teacher or staff member at your school who is doing a great job? Ask the office for a RAVE Review form!

## Partnerships Play Important Part in Educating CCSD Students

Since 1983, the School-Community Partnership Program has served as the link between the community, local businesses, and the Clark County School District. What began as a small partnership between seven local businesses and seven CCSD schools has now expanded to affect each of CCSD's 308,000 students. Last school year, close to \$8 million of in-kind and cash donations were donated to CCSD through the Partnership Program by local businesses and agencies.

The mission of the School-Community Partnership Program is to connect business and community resources with school resources to enrich the educational experience and increase student achievement.

The Focus School Project is one of the largest programs the Partnership office supports with 144 businesses partnered with 90 at-risk schools. The Project matches any business, agency, organization, or individual who participates with a school. Together, the school and the Focus Partner(s) work to best meet student needs based on each school's School Improvement Plan.

"Partners involved in the Focus School Project gain personal satisfaction from helping students," says Bridget Bilbray-Phillips, School-Community Partnership Program Executive Director. "There is a great reward to be found when you help shape the future that lies within our students."

The Partnership Program also sponsors programs that allow individuals to donate time and talents to local schools. This includes the Stay in School Mentoring Project and Professionals and Youth Building a Commitment (PAYBAC), which give community members the opportunity to affect the lives of students inside a CCSD classroom.

The Mentoring Project fosters a one-on-one relationship between a committed, caring adult role-model and a deserving middle school student. These mentors



*A PAYBAC volunteer encourages middle school students to stay in school and prepare for a bright future.*

serve as a positive example and encourage a young person to focus on future education and career goals. PAYBAC provides another opportunity for community members to connect directly with students.

PAYBAC volunteers visit CCSD classrooms to share their life experiences and their passion for education, all in an effort to encourage students to continue their education, set goals and plan for the future.

"When we invite the community into our schools, we enrich the lives of students," says Bilbray-Phillips. "The 'Stay in School' message can have an even greater impact when it comes from someone who has lived it and truly believes it."

Over the last 25 years, the School-Community Partnership Program has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of CCSD students. With the continued help of the Southern Nevada community, the lives and education of students will continue to be enriched.

For more information on the School-Community Partnership Program or to volunteer, visit [partnership.ccsd.net](http://partnership.ccsd.net) or call 799-6560.

## Celebrate those who Educate

May 6 marks an important education celebration, National Teacher Appreciation Day 2008.

Consider this... when the CCSD was first organized in 1956, it employed under 1,000 teachers. Since that time, more than 18,000 teaching professionals have joined the team and focus daily on meeting the needs of over 308,000 students. While the numbers have changed, the amount of dedication and commitment it takes to be an educator continues as a legacy within the District.

For more than 15 years, the District has recognized teachers who are new to the profession for their outstanding contributions to the classroom by naming several New Teachers of the Year. This year the following individuals received the honors:

- Specialist** – Heidi Lee  
Boulder City High School; Elementary
- Primary Level** – Sabrina Moe  
Judith Steele Elementary School
- Elementary, Intermediate Level** –  
Donald Backner, Dusty Dickens  
Elementary School
- Middle School Level** – Krista Donnelly  
Clifford J. Lawrence Junior High  
School
- High School Level** – Suzan Kypriotis  
Del Sol High School

Each winner is chosen by a selection committee consisting of CCSD administrators as well as personnel from UNLV, Sierra Nevada College, and Nevada State College. Each winner emulates what one Japanese proverb states: Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.

For ways in which you can honor and celebrate the great teachers in your student's life, visit [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org).