



PACE

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Terri Janison

DECEMBER 2008

District E

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

- 12/15/08.....Bill of Rights Day
- 12/22/01/02/09..Winter Break
- 01/05/09.....Classes Resume
- 01/19/09.....Martin Luther King Jr. (No School)
- 01/23/09.....Staff Development Day (No School)

For a complete list of calendar dates access

<http://ccsd.net/news/calendar/pdf/Important%20Dates%2008-09%203.pdf>

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

- December 11, 2008 4:00 p.m.
- January 08, 2009 4:00 p.m.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

- January 5, 2009 4:00 p.m. (Oath of Office)
- January 21, 2009 9:00 a.m. (Work Session)

The above Board meetings will be held at the

Edward A. Greer Education Center Board Room

2832 E. Flamingo Road

Access the district's website at

www.ccsd.net

Welcome to December! As we head into the holiday season, I hope each of you has a very safe and happy holiday. Whatever you celebrate, please enjoy your family and friends. First, let me thank Bonanza High School and Bart Mangino, Principal, for hosting our November PACE (Parent Advisory Committee District E) meeting. The information provided regarding special education in the district was VERY informative! Thank you to SW Region staff members Michael Harley, Compliance Officer; Ruth Wisniewski, Special Education Instructional Facilitator (SEIF); and Deborah Dondero, Instructional Coordinator SW Region.

Please join us on Wednesday, December 17, 9:30 a.m. at Becker Middle School, 9151 Pinewood Hills Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89134, telephone number 799-4460, for a program on safety and gang awareness. Detective Calvin Walker, Gang Unit CCSD Police Department, and Sgt. Tony Morales from the gang unit with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) will present. Many of the elementary schools do not have school due to parent- teacher conferences, but I hope you will try and make this meeting. You won't want to miss the information that will be provided.

NEW PROGRAM TO WATCH

Student2Student is a new program being launched at Palo Verde HS. Seniors Jaclyn Mauch and Andrew Kim are to be credited with taking the initiative to work on this program, which welcomes new students within the first two weeks of arriving on campus. Jessica M. Pinjuv, Dean of Students and Wayne Stewart, Head of ROTC, have seen the benefits this program offers our students and have graciously agreed to be the teacher sponsors.

Through the **Student2Student** program, new students will have the opportunity to meet new friends while learning their way around the campus. This is a perfect program for Clark County because not only does Las Vegas have many military families, we have a high transient rate within the district. This is a proven program to help students build relationships at their school and become acclimated to a new city. For more information on this nationwide program, please go to www.militarychild.org. Congratulations and Good Luck to Jaclyn and Andrew as you begin what we know will be a very successful program for not only Palo Verde, but for all schools in Clark County.



STAY INFORMED

More information about the mandated budget cuts can be found at www.ccsd.net/news including the results from recent budget cut public input meetings and an explanation of cuts made to date.

WEBCASTING NOW AVAILABLE

All regular school Board meetings are now broadcast live over the internet. Go to www.ccsd.net. Archived videos will be available a few days after each regular meeting at www.ccsd.net/trustees.

Regular Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month beginning at 4 p.m. in the Education Center, 2832 E. Flamingo Rd.

Keeping an Eye on the CAP – A Student Perspective

American Education Week 2008 Essay

By: Sam Kiki, Green Valley High School Senior

Rewind 40 years ago. My dad was a senior in high school (I'll save you the math, he's very mature), and he was preparing for a test that virtually dictated the future of his life. This test was not like the SAT; there was no study book, no tutor, and you certainly were not allowed to take it again. Your score on this test placed you into one of multiple colleges where you'd prepare for your future career. The highest scorers went to medical school, the second highest to engineering, and so forth. You see, my father was not born or raised in America; this story took place in a country in the Middle East known as Syria. Although he prepared rigorously for the exam his studying did not suffice and he soon found out he'd be placed in one of the lower colleges. That's it; my dad's life, his future, at the age of 17 was decided. He didn't get leeway from the colleges for his low socio-economic background; his participation in various extra-curricular activities held no weight. A system that had no sensitivity for circumstances of various kinds was sorting students and ultimately limiting their future choices. This wasn't fair but this was my dad's life.

Thankfully my father's emigration to this country paid off. His risk positioned us in an environment laden with opportunity. Thanks to the Clark County School District and all of its administration and faculty, I am able to say that my twelve years within this system has equipped me with the tools I need not only to graduate, but to soon become a college student receiving further education. My dad's dream – my own reality. Thanks to the climate, academics, and participation that constitutes this district's motto, I have been able to not only keep my eye on the cap, but aspire to accomplish feats far beyond the scope of a high school curriculum.

One of the largest reasons I have been able to excel at my school is simply because I am comfortable. I do not feel threatened by any of my fellow classmates, my teachers are all receptive to any of my needs as a student, and the administration is able to juggle their multiple tasks while still connecting on a personal level with the students. This



Sam Kiki, Green Valley HS Senior, shared his appreciation for a quality public education during an essay presentation to the Board of School Trustees on November 20.

comfortable setting allows me to focus on studying and course work rather than being preoccupied with worrying about my safety.

My best friend Gene put it really well a couple weeks ago before I was even thinking about this speech. He said: *"You know Sam, I know kids in our class argue and disagree in our discussions but there is always one thing that makes me feel secure. I know that I can leave my wallet on my desk for hours at a time and it would be right there when I come back. Absolutely no one would steal from me or do anything to seriously hurt me. This type of camaraderie is really something I appreciate."*

Gene's comment really epitomizes the security I feel every time I enter my school. From the teachers to the students, I am surrounded by a caring community that mutually respects each other.

In addition to comfort my dad really wanted to enrich me with academic opportunity. My dad cannot afford a private education and in Clark County – I will never need him to be able to. The teachers at our public schools are every bit as amazing as its private teaching counterparts. The fascinating part about our high school structure is that there is a class to fit every type of student. Seniors have the option of taking a class to prepare them for the math proficiency exam while at the same time the most academically talented students are taking Calculus BC (a course my junior year math teacher took when he was 22). Students can graduate with an honors diploma or challenge themselves for an

International Baccalaureate diploma that is internationally recognized by colleges like Oxford and Cambridge. In the Clark County School District, students can find their passion, pursue their future, and prioritize their education; any one of these motivations can help you secure the diploma of your preference. This versatility is conducive to an array of student interests. These opportunities allow us to receive a quality education with our own touch of individuality.

Due to the welcoming community and the competitive academics it is only natural that this atmosphere fuels participation from all parties. But much like its proactive nature, Clark County has been striving to constantly increase student and parent participation. Initiatives that have jumpstarted this are grade-checking services like ParentLink where parents can constantly monitor their children's grades, absences, and even their future assignments. Teachers have made themselves accessible for parent-teacher-conferences which has bridged the gap of communication between parents and their children. The Student Council at my school works actively with the PTA to create school-wide projects to raise money for disadvantaged individuals both locally and on a larger scale. Students in Clark County are excited to make change and thanks to the administration, we have the resources to do so.

And now as I stand here as a senior, looking back on my educational experience, I can honestly say that our education system has thoroughly prepared me for the future that lies ahead. I believe that the values I have acquired through being a part of the Clark County School District will allow me to excel in a world that has an increasing demand for insightful thinkers and effective leaders. Thank you to my peers, thank you to my teachers, and thank you to everyone in this room for making my twelve years in Nevada so amazing. I have the highest confidence in this school district and I believe that we will continue to produce some of the most dynamic and talented students that our nation has seen. I encourage all of my classmates to keep their eyes on the cap in their commitment to excellence, and their pursuit will be over before they know it.

