



# MASPAC

MASON'S PARENT ACTION COMMITTEE



Larry Mason

## JANUARY 2008

District D

### IMPORTANT DATES

January 7, 2008 (Classes Resume)

January 21, 2008 (No School)  
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

January 25, 2008  
Staff Development Day  
(No School)

### REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

January 10, 2008 4:00 p.m.  
January 24, 2008 4:00 p.m.

Meetings will be held at  
Edward A. Greer Education Center  
Board Room  
2832 E. Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89121

Access the District's website at  
[www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net), for Board agendas  
and reference materials.

### SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

January 7, 2008 9:00 a.m.  
Organization of the Board and  
Work Session

Meeting will be held at  
Edward A. Greer Education Center  
Board Room  
2832 E. Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89121

January 14, 2008 9:00 a.m.  
Work Session

Meeting will be held at the  
Administrative Center  
5100 W. Sahara Avenue, 4th Floor

### MASPAC MEETING

Tuesday, January 22, 2008  
9:00 a.m.

Ruby Thomas Elementary School  
1560 E. Cherokee Ln.  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89160

Happy Great New Year to CCSD Students and Parents.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee will host its 26th Annual Parade on Monday, January 21, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in downtown Las Vegas. Many CCSD students and organizations will participate. Among them: Galloway ES, Gragson ES, and Western HS. You can find more information on this event by going to:  
<http://www.kingweeklasvegas.com>

**SCHOOLFEST 2008**  
**February 4 - 8 & 11-15, 2008**  
**9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

*We invite you to attend the 13th season of the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) Performing Arts Center SchoolFest-two weeks of special and unique theatre performances designed to provide enriching and educational experiences for students.*

### What is SchoolFest?

CSN's Performing Arts Center brought the *SchoolFest* program to Las Vegas in 1996 to give students in Clark County a chance to experience "live" theatre. At a time when educational programs were being cut and funding was limited, this program enabled children in the community to experience the magic of live theatre performed by professional actors. Educational funding is still limited today, and it is through the generous support of the community that this valuable program continues. The visit to *SchoolFest* includes a 15-minute, informal post-show discussion with the actors. Groups may also opt to attend 45-minute workshops (space is limited – 25 students per workshop) in *Stage Combat*, *Performing Shakespeare's Text*, and *Developing Character through Improvisation*. For more information contact: Sue Smuskiewicz at [sue.smuskiewicz@csn.edu](mailto:sue.smuskiewicz@csn.edu) or at 651-4720. You can also go to: [\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

### OPINION MATTERS ON "SCHOOL MATTERS"

The public is invited to join us for this live call-in show to be broadcast on  
**Vegas PBS, Channel 10**  
**Thursday, January 31, 2008**  
**at 8 p.m.**

The program will focus on  
Senate Bill 404-Money to promote  
community partnerships

### PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS

In January the public is invited to join us with their input on the following matters:

**Attendance Zone Advisory Commission (AZAC)**

### 2008 BOND PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS

January 7, Chaparral High School  
January 8, Western High School  
6:00 p.m.

**For meeting locations and times, visit [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net)**

## Students "STEP UP" for Education in Clark County

As Clark County School District continues to grow at a record setting pace, the need for highly-qualified educators has never been greater. With a talented pool of high school students who have a strong desire to teach, the Student to Teacher Enlistment Project Undergraduate Program (STEP UP) was designed to increase the number of local teachers trained and retained in Clark County.

STEP UP, a nationally award-winning program, is currently available at eight comprehensive high schools including Chaparral HS, Cheyenne HS, Desert Pines HS, Eldorado HS, Mojave HS, Rancho HS, Silverado HS, and Valley HS. The program is the result of a partnership between the school district, Clark County Education Association Community Foundation, College of Southern Nevada, and Nevada State College. It was founded with the belief that if an incentive could be offered to help local students attend college and perhaps even accelerate their course work, then these students would not only be more likely to pursue a career in education but would also be inclined to remain in the community in which they were raised. The incentive came in the form of grants that amount to the equivalent of a \$20,000 college scholarship.

In exchange for financial aid that allows them to begin college courses while still in high school, graduates are expected to teach full-time for the school district for a minimum of four years upon completion of their degree. STEP UP Project Facilitator Michelle Panik believes the program allows students to not only gain an education, but to give back to their communities as well.

“This program offers an incredible opportunity for our students to receive a

free education and make a difference in the community,” Panik said. “The school district is always ready to welcome talented educators and this program allows us to benefit from the talent we have in our own backyard.”



*STEP UP students at Chaparral HS hope to someday teach in Clark County.*

Students in the STEP UP program begin college classes their junior year in high school and build both their high school and college transcripts simultaneously, earning dual credit for the college course work. General education core courses are taught by College of Southern Nevada instructors on the student's home campus as part of the regular school day. As a result of this arrangement, students enrolled in the STEP UP program will have between one-third and one-half of their college degree completed by the time they graduate from high school. Upon completing their Associate of Arts degree at College of Southern Nevada, students transfer to Nevada State College to earn their Bachelor's Degree. All tuition and book fees are paid for through the STEP UP scholarship.

Panik believes the program has already had a positive impact on the community and education throughout Clark County. She notes that many of the students who have enrolled in STEP UP are first generation college students and will be the first members of their family to earn a college degree.

“It's exciting to think that in just three years, STEP UP has more than tripled in size from 100 to more than 300 students,” Panik said. “Our first group of teachers will emerge in December 2008 and several of our students are already employed as Instructional Aides for the school district.”

It takes commitment and dedication to participate in STEP UP. Students interested in the program must first complete an application and interview during the spring semester of their sophomore year. Additionally, students must have a strong desire to pursue a career in education and attend classes at Nevada State College upon graduation from high school. STEP UP requires a minimum grade point average of 2.75, and eligible students must have passed Algebra I or Applied Algebra IA and B by the end of their sophomore year. Students must have excellent attendance and have no record of discipline problems. It is strongly recommended that applicants have earned either “A” and “B” grades in English and math courses.

“Students in STEP UP know exactly what they want to pursue in life,” Panik said. “They understand that passing along knowledge is a wonderful gift.”

Anyone interested in more information on STEP UP should call 799-1047.