

Education

Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D.



We now know that poverty and ignorance go hand in hand. We also know that the modern variety of "hard core" poverty has something in common with the elegance and security of established wealth. They are both inherited.

Educators have known for a long time that in school districts with large enrollments of the poor, there is a high incidence of school dropouts. They know, too, that among children too young to drop out of school, the early signs of probable failure are painfully visible to their teachers. The teacher recognizes early on that a child of poverty is a child of a world separate from the prosperous aspiring mainstream of American life. Teachers in first, second, and third grades feel that the child is slipping away. By the fourth grade, when abstract concepts based on the building blocks of reading and arithmetic become important in the curriculum, the child falls further behind.

By the eighth grade, he/she may be as many as three grades back, his/her mind closed, and his/her behavior rebellious. By high school age, he/she is already headed for unemployment and dependence, sometimes disdaining the "outside world" of success that already disdains him/her. Worst of all, he/she has secretly become contemptuous of himself/herself, conditioned to failure. A potentially successful being has become a waste, both to himself and to his country.

Children suffering from poverty of ordinary experiences pose problems for their teachers. These children are everywhere, but they are found in appalling concentrations in neighborhoods of poor, uneducated parents. They may be children of laborers or of isolated farmers in the dirt-road backwoods. Often, children of such rural background live

Crenshaw Promoted At Community College

Thomas Crenshaw has been selected as Director of Student Services of Clark County Community College, according to CCCC President, Dr. Paul E. Meacham.

Crenshaw received his BA from Fresno State College, and his MA from University of Arizona at Flagstaff.

During the past eight years, Crenshaw has been responsible for articulation, recruitment, and admissions and records function at

CCCC.

His new managerial duties will include: admissions and records, advisory and counseling, evening division, financial aid, the re-entry center, registration, student activities, veterans affairs, and the work experience program.

"Crenshaw will bring solid experience and genuine enthusiasm to this new position, and I look forward to working closely with him," Meacham said.

in the big cities to which parents were driven when their land would no longer support them. In large numbers, they may be the children of Blacks who are seeking new opportunities and hope in big cities where they often do not find it.

When such children enter school, their teachers, who often have different backgrounds, are astonished to discover the children's poverty of, or differences in, experiences. Besides, the children may be unaware of shapes, blocks, circles, squares, or the idea of short and long. The teacher has been trained in college to assume a knowledge of these things.

As these children somehow manage to progress through school, their teachers in the fifth and sixth grades usually discover the inadequacies of early preparation that have increasingly deeper implications.

What does all of this mean to the Black parent and/or teacher in our town? It means that we must be sure that our children know the basics before entering school. These are shapes, colors, long, short, big and little, etc. The child should also know how to distinguish likenesses and differences in as many objects as possible. It means that the child should be able to talk in complete sentences, should be able to say his name and complete address if necessary. Knowing their telephone number would help. Talking with the child at home and allowing him/her to talk with you, the parents, helps. If one finds this difficult to do, if at all possible, enroll him/her in a good nursery school or day care center. Our Black children need all the help they can get in order to survive in modern-day America.



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MASTER PLAN HEARING TONIGHT

Tonight a public hearing on School Master Plan Recommendations will be conducted by members of the School Board of Trustees. The public is invited to comment on proposals at 6 P.M. at the Education Center, 2832 East Flamingo Road.

Extended Year Program Students To Receive Awards

Graduates of a six-week extended year elementary school program will participate in the awards assembly at Crestwood School July 27 at 9:45 a.m. Some 60 students enrolled in the extended year program have been receiving instruction in math, reading and an introduction to computers.

During the assembly, students will receive special awards for perfect attendance and out-

standing achievement in math and reading. A special song or short presentation based on what students learned this summer will be made by each homeroom.

According to teacher consultant coordinator Francie Johnson, the pilot program was offered at no cost to parents. The program at Crestwood was staffed with five teachers and two aides.

9 Schools Added To Year-Round Schedules In Aug.

Nine more elementary schools will go on year-round schedules next month in an effort to reduce overcrowded conditions.

When classes begin at the nine schools on Aug. 6, they will join six other elementary schools already on year-round schedules.

The schools are Lois Craig, Clarabelle Decker, P.A. Diskin, Harvey Dondero, Ira J. Earl, Halle Hewetson, Nate Mack, C.C. Ronnow and Cyril Wengert schools.

All schools are under a "45-15 plan" in which students attend class for 45 days and then spend the next 15 days on vacation. Students are assigned to four groups, with one of the quadrants on vacation at any one time. Thus the school is able to house one-fourth more students than a conventional school on a 9-month schedule.


Clark County School District trustees approved changing the nine schools to year-round schedules last February, despite protests from some parents. Trustees and administrators argue that the year-round option is the best method of coping with over-crowded conditions, short of building new schools.


Schools hit the hardest by over-crowding are those in rapidly developing areas such as Spring Valley on the southwest side of Las Vegas, the Sunrise Mountain area on the east side of town and the Green Valley area in Henderson.

Registration days for year-round schools are Aug. 1-2, except for pupils in quadrant C who can register on Aug. 22. Classes for quadrants A, B and D begin on Aug. 6 and classes for quadrant C pupils begins Aug. 27.



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