

Education

"THE REPORT CARD"



Yvonne Atkinson

With the Thanksgiving holiday only a few days away, I thought it might be appropriate to take a few moments and reflect on the many benefits that we have as Americans. When you observe the news reports which come into our homes by way of television each night, we can truly be thankful that we live in a free and democratic society. We have a free public educational system, and an opportunity for every child to envision themselves as a success in life. Then, through hard work and dedication, they achieve that status in life.

I am painfully aware that not everything that we would want for ourselves, our families, and our nation have come to pass. There are still those who are subjected to discrimination and those who are burdened with an economic plight where employment opportunities seem bleak. There are those who have difficulty coping with a modern day society, and one might conclude that the crime rate and drug abuse problem in our city, and to some degree, in our schools, is as some reporters have termed, "at epidemic proportions." So we really have a paradox. On the one hand, we live in the greatest nation with the greatest opportunities, and on the other hand we observe each day those individuals who need our help and support because they have not shared in the economic, social, and emotional rewards available to so many of us.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect, and it was my feeling this past week that this would be an opportunity for me to share with you some of the successes I believe we have accomplished in the Clark County School District,

and successes we have experienced with your children during these early months of this school year.

First, we have seen a very positive opening of school. Our youngsters have returned to school and delved into their studies, and our first report card period shows that there has been a positive educational growth by our students. Secondly, we have established our P.A.C.E. committee, and now begin work on creating an active voice for our citizens and our students. I am truly pleased that the community has reacted so positively to this venture. Thirdly, we have seen school events portray our youth in the most positive of ways. We have had academic excellence recognized at Las Vegas High School, we have had athletic success, and our young people have demonstrated sportsmanship, leadership and skill. We have had parent involvement, and there has been less of a reluctance on the part of our parents to contact school officials when there has been a problem. I believe this will set the tone for the rest of this school year. Lastly, I have visited numerous campuses and have watched young people smile and laugh and enjoy the friendships that they share on the campuses and apparently very happy with their school situation.

These indicators suggest that while there is much left to do, and no day should be taken for granted, we do need time to stop and pause and be thankful for those successes we have obtained. Parents, I commend you for your dedication to the children you have sent to the Clark County School District because we have seen our youth motivated and eager to learn. Students, I

Le'Roy Davis, the Student Body President at Basic High School, succinctly described the feelings that he has about his school when he said, "Being a member of the student body at Basic High School is like being part of a family instead of being a member of an institution." This articulate young man exemplifies the student body at this school, their purpose, pride, and integrity. Le'Roy is a senior with a grade point average of 3.78. He has been accepted at the University of Southern California, and has selected to major in Industrial Systems Engineering. He is quick to add that as soon as he has

finished this degree, he would like to attend law school.



Le'Roy Davis

congratulate you on accepting the challenge of achieving the best education possible. To the staff, I also offer commendation for your work and interest in our students, and to my fellow Board members, I thank you for your continued support of our educational program, your interest in students, and your willingness to look at each alternative so that we may together make this the finest school district in the country. I had an opportunity to read a poem written by one of our students in Clark County, and I want to share her thoughts with you. My colleague, Dr. Marshall Darnell, would not print his daughter's poem in his column, so I offer it here as a Thanksgiving wish to you and your family and a pledge that together, we can make a difference.

This kind of planning and dedication to education is not just found in Le'Roy, or with just a few of the students at this school, but is found throughout the student body. They are a close-knit group who take pride in their accomplishments and take pride in their school. One of the students was involved in a serious accident recently. Greg Smith received injuries that has left him paralyzed. The students and staff have rallied to his cause and have held fund raising benefits and today, \$3,400 has been collected to offset some of Greg's medical expenses. One of the students said to me that Greg is not the kind to quit, and we will not let him down either.

Aside from this positive atmosphere, Basic High School offers much more.

SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

Basic High School

Basic Is More Than The "Basics"

They have a strong academic program, with advanced classes in English, Math, Science, and Foreign Language. There is a Marine ROTC unit available for those students interested in this career option. One of the strongest vocational programs in the county has been developed at this school, which includes classes in the traditional vocational subjects such as home economics, metals fabrication, business and office occupations, auto mechanics, and carpentry. Also included in their program outline in vocational education is photography, upholstery, theatre set design, and computer education.

With over 2,285 students and a staff of 100, Basic High School takes its place as one of the larger senior high schools of the Clark County School District. The school opened in 1952. A new building was constructed in 1972, and throughout these years, graduates of this school have gone on to achieve

recognition in many fields of study. Lanny Lund, principal of this school commented on the reasons this school has achieved such high recognition. He praised the parents for their involvement in all phases of the school program. "Our parents are interested in the student's academic education, our sports program, and the total experiences that our students have here at this school." This is the theme of the school. Many of the parents have attended and graduated from Basic, and now their children are attending. The comments of Le'Roy Davis, Lanny Lund, and the other students with whom I talked, all provided positive evidence that this school truly meets the standard of pride in excellence.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT Miss Black Teenage Nevada 1985

Dartanya Breiane Stringfellow, was selected as the 1985 Miss Black Teenage Nevada. What a delight it was to talk with this young lady who is a member of the student body at Basic High School. She has over a 3.0 grade point average, and wants to attend law school as soon as she graduates from

See SCHOOL, Page 6

THANKSGIVING

Pumpkins orange and cranberries red,
A huge, plump turkey, and home-made bread,
The table's spread, a wondrous sight —
What a wonderful change from an earlier plight.
Indians and pilgrims are seated side-by-side,
Joined together before either cried.
Offering thanks for the harvest and life.
They enjoyed this day without strife.
A day to be remembered and never lost,
Produced on this day of God's first frost.
Over three hundred years have passed,
And this time of giving thanks still lasts.
In millions of homes across the land
Americans sit, hand-in-hand,
And give thanks for a feast of
Pumpkins orange and cranberries red;
A huge, plump turkey, and home-made bread.

Michele Darnell
Clark County School District



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