

Education

"THE REPORT CARD"



Yvonne Atkinson

A Wish For A Happy And Prosperous New Year For Everyone

It is that time again. Another year is rapidly ebbing into history. For many of us, it may seem only a short time when we greeted 1985 with all of its potential and said here is a new year and a time to begin again. Now a new year will begin in a few days and the time is ripe for taking these moments and considering those things that we have done well, and planning to address those things that have not been completed.

As you look back at 1985, the Clark County School District has made significant progress in a number of very important areas, but none so important as the recent passage of the Pay As You Go Building Program. For that we owe a debt of thanks to the members of this community who by a victory margin of almost 4,600 votes, gave the District permission to enter into a new building program. This majority vote will allow the district to build elementary schools and supply needed portable classrooms to a

number of sites. Our future is brighter because of this positive vote, and our children at the elementary grade level will have an opportunity to attend a school which does not have to have an overcrowded condition or possible double sessions. To all of those who worked so hard on the campaign and to the constituents of District C thank you.

We have had a number of other positive activities which I should mention to you. These included the development of new educational programs for those students with limited English speaking ability and such programs will provide rewards for the future. The academically talented program has a new element and I am encouraged that we now have a committee which will view student referrals. This committee is designed to make allowances for those students who may be lacking in some educational expertise, but who would benefit from the program.

We have opened the year with two junior high schools using the same campus. Gibson Junior High School, the host school, and Brinley Jr. High School students and staff should be commended for the tremendous job this year in making this school organization work. Las Vegas High School has been recognized as one of the leading high schools in the nation. Our elementary schools have provided students with those educational experiences so important to success in life and the schools' test scores reflect this achievement.

The state legislature has provided funds for a series of important projects developed through the Comprehensive Master Plan and this list of accomplishments could continue. But no less important than any of these is our P.A.C.E. group and the voice that we have for our youth. By actively organizing in August, and continuing our work through these past six months, our community has had an opportunity to openly voice concerns, provided input, and utilized this communication system for praise when it is warranted.

This is some part of the positive history of the Clark County School District during this past year. Now with 1986 before us, we also need to reflect on those things that need to be done. As I have indicated to you in the past, we all need to work to guarantee that every child has an equal opportunity for success and that we challenge every person to

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SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

Career Awareness Program

By the time the student enters high school they have become aware of a number of occupations available to them for possible future employment. Because of the uniqueness of our city, many of these occupations may be found only in recreational areas and some restricted to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, New Jersey. As the student progresses through high school, they are exposed to an ever larger number of job titles. The student is sometimes astonished when they hear a teacher indicate that there are over 15,000 specific and individual jobs or professional positions open to anyone who may be entering the work force. By this time, the student may be keenly aware of many of the professions; physicians, lawyers, engineers, and teachers. A number of technical job titles are familiar to them such as the electrician, the carpenter, the technician, the sales person. Some highly skilled jobs, such as a computer repair technician, or a dental assistant may now be familiar.

So, from this array of job possibilities, students are asked to make one of the most important decisions of their life. Job occupational selection. Too often, the students simply "fall into" an occupational area and find that they have neither the

aptitude, the interest, or the skill necessary for success. The Clark County School District has developed a career education program which is designed to provide senior high school students with information about themselves, career possibilities, and most importantly, that major decision of determining a career choice. The class is not designed to have students make such a choice, but to provide them with information so such a decision may be made in the future.

To assist in this program, a partnership activity has been developed with the Exploring Division of the Boy

Scouts of America. What may not be known to many of us is that one of the largest of the component groups of the Boy Scout program is the Explorers. This division enrolls both young men and women and provides specialty posts where students can actively participate in an area of interest to them. The service is directed by a person from the occupational area and those Explorer Scouts have the advantage of working firsthand with individuals from the occupation or profession. They learn about job requirements and salary, promotions, and future job demands.

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