

# Education

## SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell  
Cocurricular Activities

The Clark County School District sponsors a number of extracurricular and cocurricular activities for the students enrolled in each of our area schools. Many times these instructional programs are viewed as "just" athletic events, band performances, or spelling contests. There is the annual art fair and science exhibits, the year round Varsity Quiz Program, and intermural events conducted at each school site. Those of us who have attended school in the past have recognized the importance of these cocurricular and extracurricular activities for our youth. But sometimes, we lose sight of the fact that while these activities may be competitive in nature,

instruction and learning is their primary purpose for existence. Team participation, cooperation, and dedication to a common goal are the motivating forces in the district's special programs. Students learn a work ethic, they are exposed to success and failure and most learn to cope with both of these real world events. There is a pride in their accomplishment and a certain pride in representing their school.

During the past few weeks, we have witnessed three unfortunate incidences which have occurred at our sponsored extracurricular programs. These spontaneous and spur of the moment outbreaks caused media attention and may

have taken away some of the glamor and success for those students who have worked to achieve excellence in their sport or event. All of us should keep in mind that band performances at half-time do not just happen, they are planned and coordinated and many of our high school students begin the practice of their half-time performances each morning at 6:30 a.m. Spelling contest participants, while gifted in their own right, begin their preparation in early September for a local and state and then a national competition. Varsity Quiz Team members practice every day during their competition schedule. Questions are developed, research completed, and

### School District Half-Time Show at Silver Bowl October 22

The annual Clark County School District Half-Time Show Review will be held at the Silver Bowl Stadium on Oct. 22 beginning at 7 p.m.

Approximately 1,000 high school students will participate in the program which includes performances by 10 school bands, flag teams, drill teams and song leaders.

UNLV's Dr. Robert Maxson will present the participation awards.

Tickets are \$2 per adult and \$1 per student. CCSD Senior Citizen Gold Cards will be honored at the gate. There will be a \$2 per vehicle UNLV stadium parking charge.

practice sessions held into the late evening hours. These students who are actively involved in one of our recognized sports programs not only must excel at the sport, but must maintain a two-point grade average, and on a weekly basis, must demonstrate satisfactory citizenship in every class.

There is an activity for every student enrolled in our schools and each of the young students are

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### Project DARE Receives Positive Response

Initial parent response is positive concerning Project DARE, (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) implemented this fall on a pilot basis at Nate Mack, Rex Bell, Ira J. Earl, and Matt Kelly Schools.

The program features a specially-trained Metro Police officer who provides drug education lessons to elementary-aged students. The unarmed but uniformed officer is also assigned to playground duty while students are on recess.

Project DARE officer Earl Hartung visits schools on the

following basis: Nate Mack Elementary School, Monday, 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.; Ira J. Earl Elementary School, Tuesday, 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.; Rex Bell Elementary School, Wednesday, 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.; and, Matt Kelly Sixth Grade Center, Thursday, 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Response from parents at meetings held at all four schools indicates they are pleased with the program.

Rudy Thomas Elementary School will be added to the program at the beginning of the second semester.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences Scheduled

Clark County School District elementary schools and sixth grade centers will hold parent-teacher conferences according to a slightly different schedule than in past years.

Elementary schools, including sixth grade centers, will have four days for conferences instead of the three normally scheduled. School dismissal will be three hours and 40 minutes after the normal starting time. For example, schools starting their instructional programs at 8:50 a.m. will dismiss at

12:30 p.m. Parent-teacher conference schedules are as follows:

Year-round schools, Quads A, B, C and sixth grade centers on Nov. 4-7 inclusive.

K-5 and K-6 nine month schools on Nov. 10, 12, 13 and 14 inclusive.

Parents with questions are advised to contact their child's school for additional information.

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