

MAKING PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES WORK FOR YOUR CHILD

By Rick Millsap

You have been asked to attend a regularly scheduled "report card" conference with your child's teacher. Or you have gotten a special note from your child's teacher asking to see you. In either case, you might be a little nervous.

Well, relax. Teachers do not want to put parents on the spot. They just like to meet with parents from time to time to discuss how to help students do their best in school.

All children learn in different ways. They have their own individual personalities, and their own listening and work habits. To help their students learn new knowledge and skills, teachers must know as much as they can about each child's likes and dislikes. No one knows more about these things than you, the parents. And no one has more influence over your children than you.

That is why teachers need your help to do a first-class job. Working together, you and the

teacher can help your child have a successful school year.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- * Start the conference right: be there on time, and plan not to run over the amount of time that has been set aside, usually about 40 minutes.

- * If you are a working parent who cannot arrange to meet during regular hours, make this clear to the teacher and try to set up a time to meet that is good for both of you.

- * The best conferences are those in which both teachers and parents stay calm and try hard to work together for one purpose only: to help your child do well. Arguing, or blaming each other for your child's problems, helps no one.

Getting Ready

Each teacher will probably come prepared with samples of your children's work and with ideas to help them do even better in school. You should get ready for each conference, too.

- * Talk to your children before the conference. Find out what they think are their best subjects, and what subjects they like the least. Find out why. Also, ask your children if there is anything they would like to talk about with their teachers. Make sure your children do not worry about the meeting. Help them understand that you and their teacher(s) are meeting together in order to help them.

- * Before you go to school, write notes to yourself about: things about your child's life at home, personality, habits, and hobbies you feel it is important for the teacher to know.

- your concern about the school's programs or policies.
- questions about your child's progress.

- how you and the school can work together to help your child.

- * If your spouse cannot attend the conference with you, ask for his or her concerns and questions.

The Conference

Some good questions to ask are these:

- * is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- * How well does my child get along with others?

- * What are my child's best and worst subjects?

- * Is my child working up to his or her ability?

- * Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?

- * Has my child missed any classes other than the ones I contacted the school about?

- * Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts? For example, have you noticed any squinting, tiredness

or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?

- * What kinds of tests are being done? What do the tests tell about my child's progress? How does my child handle taking tests?

It is a good idea to ask your most important questions first, just in case time runs out before you and the teacher have a
(See Parent-Teacher, Page 21)

UNIVERSITY OFFERS REAL ESTATE COURSE IN RENO AND LAS VEGAS

The University of Nevada, Reno is offering the real estate course, "How to Work Only With Buyers Who Are Bona Fide, Qualified and Loyal," in Reno and Las Vegas.

The course will be held in Reno on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at the Flamingo Hilton Hotel, 255 N. Sierra St., and in Las Vegas on Thursday, Nov. 11, at the Palace Station Hotel, 2411 W. Sahara, from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. both days. The course fee is \$46. Three clock hours of continuing education credit are available for participants.

This skill-oriented course is designed to train real estate agents on the effective use of "counseling with the buyer." Students will have a better understanding of qualifying procedures as approached by the lender, and will learn to apply these techniques while counseling the buyer. Explaining the outcome of the procedure to the

purchaser in easy to understand language will also be covered. Using the information provided, students will be able to write transactions that have an increased probability of closing escrow thereby ensuring better service to both buyers and sellers of real estate.

The instructor for the course is Connie Pereira. Pereira is a senior faculty member of the Realtors National Marketing Institute, a master faculty member of the California Association of Realtors, and an approved author and instructor of continuing education programs in California and Nevada.

To register in the Reno area, contact the university's Division of Continuing Education at 784-4062. For more information, call the division at 784-4046. Outside the Reno area, call toll free at 1-800-233-8928.

CCSN ENROLLMENT UP; BUDGET, CLASSES AND SERVICES DOWN

Enrollment was slightly up at The Community College of Southern Nevada leaving the college with the dilemma of once more providing for record number of students while suffering drastic cuts in the college's budget.

Arlie Stops, Director of Admissions and Records, reported that as of October 15, the college had a headcount of 18,247 students taking classes for credits. He said that this represented 7,424.70 F.T.E. (full time equivalent) students taking credit classes at all three of the college's campuses. Headcount for the 1992 Fall Semester was

18,111 and represented a F.T.E. of 7,425.63. The numbers do not take into account several thousand students taking non-credit classes through the college's division of Continuing and Community Education.

Dr. Paul E. Meacham, The CCSN President, said the college was forced to eliminate approximately 5% of the classes scheduled to be held this Fall because of the drastic cuts in the college's base budget made by the state legislature.

Prior to those cuts, the college was already educating approximately 2,000 students for whom the state provided no

funding. Services were also curtailed to meet expected budget short falls.

"We do what we must do to provide excellence in education," Dr. Meacham said. "Our teachers and staff have been called 'heroes and heroines' for doing much more than they should be expected to do.

Not one of them has complained or resigned because of an increased work load. Now it appears we must continue to do more and more without just compensation. It also appears that our faculty cannot say 'no' to students who want, need and deserve a classroom seat."

HELPING TO FEED OUR COMMUNITY

It's that time of the year again! Dedicated to serving the community, Goodwill Industries kicks off its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The food drive gets underway with a contest between Clark County elementary schools, Nov. 8-12, and will help Goodwill Industries feed hundreds of Las Vegas families in need, for up to a week.

Last year Goodwill Industries was able to distribute over 450 food baskets, due largely to the effort of elementary school children in Las Vegas. A traveling trophy will be awarded to the school collecting the most non-perishable food items - in weight - and all participating schools will receive a certificate of appreciation from Goodwill Industries.

C.H. Decker Elementary School, 3850 S. Redwood St., is the current champion and has won the trophy the last two years.

If Decker collects the most during this year's food drive, it will get to keep the 3-foot high traveling trophy, permanently.

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DOOLITTLE SATELLITE SENIOR CENTER

- NOVEMBER -

The Doolittle Satellite Senior Center, located inside the Doolittle Community Center, at 1901 N. "J" St. (at W. Lake Mead) is open to people age 55 and older from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call 229-6125 to confirm the time and date of the activity and to sign up.

Legal advice and other senior services are offered from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, November 18 to people 60 years and older. Appointments must be made in advance by calling 229-6596. A monthly birthday party takes place at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, November 4. The Healthy Strides Group meets at 10 a.m., every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Chair Exercise classes meet at 10 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Bingo is played at noon every Tuesday and Thursday. Sewing and stitching classes meet at 12 noon every Wednesday. A sketching class with Mitch meets at 10 a.m. every Friday. "55 Alive," a two-day refresher driver course, is offered from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., November 9 and 10. An \$8 fee is charged to attend. Call the Center for details, how to pay, and to sign up. Table tennis is played Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11:00 a.m. Ballroom Dancing is taught Mondays and Fridays at noon. Free blood pressure checks are offered November 4 at 11 a.m.

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