

# "LEARNING IS HARD WORK"

By Rick Millsap, President, Nevada State Education Association

School is a place of learning. Unlike the theater or the beach, it is not a place of entertainment or relaxation. School is essentially a workplace, and the pleasure of school is much like the satisfaction derived from finishing a hard job.

That means too, that a day at school can sometimes be routine and tiresome. Irritating and tedious tasks have to be completed in order that a student may tackle the exciting and challenging problems that occur

in the continuum of the school years. Sometimes the activities involved in acquiring basic skill requirements may look and sound monotonous to an adult, and they may be wearying or confusing to a student who has not yet attained mastery of the particular cluster of skills. So it is only natural that a day at school will sometimes be difficult. It takes as much concentration for my daughter in first grade to learn basic math as it would for me to tackle advanced calculus.

Most teachers try to provide demanding and interesting work for students. Indeed, most parents expect them to do so. But once in a while, a teacher gets the unpleasant feeling that parents are more enthusiastic about the teacher who can keep a student entertained than about the one who assigns challenging work. Hard work and entertainment are not mutually exclusive, but entertainment alone does not lead to the long-lasting satisfaction in achievement that is necessary for life.

Let's face it — achieving excellence takes sweat, as well as nerve and tedium. And it often brings great frustration. If a job is to be performed well, it

must meet high standards of quality, either technical or artistic. The more children learn, the more questions they will require adults to answer. The more they learn, the more they will need parents to stay a jump ahead of them so the home may share in the instructional process. That is very demanding on parents who have other things to do, other worries — about work, about budgets, about personal problems, about arranging repairs to property. What a temptation to say, "Look, I am busy now," or "Later." Can't you see I am reading the paper? A young person's learning is hard work for parents, too!

If we do not want our children to ask questions constantly, and if we want them to come home all smiles every day from the pure entertainment of school, we might prefer to send them to a school that will not stress hard work. But they might as well go to the movies or sit before the TV set instead, absorbing cartoons and adventure stories and advertisements for ever more entertaining toys. Our children would be quietly occupied and blissfully happy — for a while anyway, until boredom set in. But in all probability, they would also be ignorant of those fundamental skills on which the structure of all knowledge and the

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## UNIVERSITY OFFERS CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COURSE

The University of Nevada, Reno is offering the cultural resource management course, "Faunal Analysis" (ANTH 699) in Reno.

The course will be held March 9-11, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Wednesday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m.-noon on Friday. The fee for the workshop is \$325. One optional graduate-level university credit is available for an additional \$77.50. Registration is due Feb. 9.

This workshop is designed for archaeologists conducting field and laboratory archaeological studies and agency personnel evaluating site information who have had prior training in the field of paleozoology.

Topics include the basics of recognition of animal remains; recovery, preservation, and con-

servation of animal materials; importance and interpretation of context and composition of archaeological faunas; historical and current approaches to interpretation of animal assemblages; and current issues in faunal studies.

The instructor for the workshop is Stephanie Livingston, Ph.D., an associate research professor at the Quaternary Sciences Center, Desert Research Institute. She is a prehistorian and faunal analyst with 15 years of archaeological experience in the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau.

To register in the Reno area, contact the university's Division of Continuing Education at (702) 784-4062. For more information, call the division at (702) 784-4046. Outside the Reno area, call toll free at 1-800-233-8928.

## PUBLIC INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN JASON EXPEDITION

The public is invited to participate in a JASON expedition to the Central American country of Belize - via modern technology - to explore a rain forest, coral reef and Mayan ruin.

Public viewings of the JASON expedition will be held at Cheyenne High School, 3200 W. Alexander Road in North Las Vegas, just off Craig Road and Simmons, on the following days and times: 7 a.m. Monday

through Friday, February 28 to March 4 and March 7 to March 11; and Saturday, March 5 and March 12, at 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

All broadcasts are live, which allows viewers to experience scientific exploration and discovery as it happens.

Exhibits relating to the expedition also will be open to the public.

An estimated 22,000 CCSD

## CCSD TEXTBOOKS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

Textbooks proposed for use in the Clark County School District will be available for public review at the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, conference room 18, 601 North Ninth Street, on the following dates: February 22, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., February 23, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. and February 24, 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Subject areas for review are physical science, physics, health 8-12, Spanish for Spanish speakers, Russian, French, publications, journalism, middle school grammar and composition, carpentry technology, fashion apparel and textiles, and marketing.

Parent input is welcome and appreciated. Personnel will be on hand to answer questions. The textbook review is held prior to textbooks being recommended for state adoption. For additional information please call 799-8427.

## ROBERT E. LAKE CELEBRATES MULTICULTURAL WEEK

The students at Robert E. Lake Elementary School will celebrate Multicultural Week by participating in various activities within their own classrooms and by viewing different performances.

The week's activities include: Monday, February 7, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., R.E. Lake Lion's Honor Chorus; Tuesday, February 8, 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.,

food tasting fair (food provided by parents); Wednesday, February 9, 1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m., Rancho High School Spanish Dancers; and Thursday, February 10, 1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m., Jamaican Steel Band.

The students and staff will focus on the appreciation of the difference in others.

Lake ES is located at 2904 Meteor Street.

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