

EDUCATION

Bracken Elementary Program Builds Bonds Between Parents And Teachers

Imagine that you have recently moved to Las Vegas from another country. You've enrolled your children in school, but because you speak little English, you find it a daunting task when they ask for help with their homework.

Two years ago, several Walter Bracken Elementary School teachers recognized this problem and devised a program to help parents assist their children with their homework. Since then, the Parent Institute has grown from a program initiated solely for parents of pre-kindergarten students, to a

resource for all Bracken parents. Its scope has expanded to include informational programs that help parents develop basic life skills.

"The Parent Institute follows the concept that it takes an entire village to raise a child," said Jill Jeffrey, one of the founders of the Bracken program. "Parents actually are a child's first teacher. So we worked hard to reach out to the parents of this community to find out their needs and to provide them with the skills to help them be better parents and teachers in the home."

Bracken's Parent Institute is

held once a week for two hours. The first hour typically consists of a guest speaker who presents information on such topics as homework assistance, parenting skills, gang awareness, early signs of substance abuse and single parenthood.

The second hour is devoted to various activities. During one half hour, a volunteer instructor teaches English to the school's non-English speaking parents. With an 87 percent minority population at Bracken including 47 percent Hispanic, survey results indicated that many

(See Bracken, Page 14)

Workshops to offer parents assistance in developing their children's reading skills

Parents looking for help in developing their children's reading skills can get information and ideas by attending one of four reading workshops that will be held this February.

The workshops will present a variety of strategies to help children learn to read and sharpen their reading skills, including suggestions of dos and don'ts. Group activities will be used to demonstrate some of these techniques, as well as how to make reading fun.

Workshops are scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Wasden Elementary School, 2831 Palomino Lane, 799-

4239; Wednesday, February 7, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Derfelt Elementary School, 1900 S. Lisa Lane, 799-4379; Thursday, February 8, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at Wiener Elementary School, 450 E. Eldorado Lane, 799-5760; and Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Decker Elementary School, 3850 S. Redwood, 799-5920.

The workshops are free. Interested parents may attend any session, but are asked to RSVP by calling the host school the day before the respective workshop. The workshops are sponsored by the Southwest Area of the Clark County School District's Elementary Education Division.

Henderson Boys & Girls Club receives mini-bus from County

On Monday, January 29, Clark County Commissioners Lorraine Hunt and Bruce Woodbury presented the keys to a new 23-seat passenger mini-bus to the Henderson Boys and Girls Club in a ceremony on the campus of Community College of Southern Nevada in Henderson. The club, located at 401 Drake Street, services areas within the districts of both Commissioners.

On April 18, 1995, the Board of County Commissioners allocated Community Development Block Grant Fund 437 monies in the amount of \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing this vehicle. The Saturn dealership in Las Vegas offered the fully-equipped vehicle at a discount price, and it will be used to transport the youths on various field trips.

"This is a very exciting time for the young people who frequent this club," stated Commissioner Hunt. "Now they can take field trips that will compliment their learning activities in the classroom, as well as engage in other after school activities."

Named the Super Kids Shuttle, the vehicle is instrumental to the Henderson Boys and Girls Club's youth

outreach programs. With colorful and diverse characters of kids painted on both sides of the shuttle, it symbolizes the importance of providing positive programs for the youth in Henderson. The Adult Education and Kids Recreation Program is one such program. A partnership outreach program between the

UNLV Commencement Exercises

UNLV's Commencement 1996 exercises are set for May 11 at various locations on the university campus.

The festivities will begin with a campus-wide convocation in the Thomas and Mack Center, which will feature an address by school President Carol C. Harter and other guests. Ph.D. recipients will receive their hoods and those receiving master's and bachelor's degrees will be graduated en masse. Honorary doctoral degrees and Distinguished Nevadan awards will also be presented.

The individual colleges will hold diploma ceremonies throughout the day.

A list of the times and locations follows:

- * 9 a.m. — University Convocation, Thomas & Mack Center
- * 11 a.m. — College of Health

Henderson Boys and Girls Club and the Community College of Southern Nevada, Henderson Campus, will also provide transportation and recreation activities for the children of Henderson campus students.

The Boys and Girls Club offers its members highly (See Boys & Girls Club, Pg 14)

Sciences, Ham Concert Hall * 11 a.m. — College of Education, Thomas & Mack Center

* 12:30 p.m. — College of Fine and Performing Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre

* 1:15 p.m. — College of Human Performance and Development, Ham Concert Hall

* 1:30 p.m. — College of Liberal Arts, Thomas & Mack Center

* 3 p.m. — School of Architecture, Alumni Amphitheatre

* 3:30 p.m. — College of Science and Mathematics, Ham Concert Hall

* 4:30 p.m. — Harrah College of Hotel Administration, Thomas & Mack Center

* 5:45 p.m. — Hughes College of Engineering, Ham Concert Hall

* 7 p.m. — College of Business and Economics, Thomas & Mack Center

* 8 p.m. — Greenspun School of Communication, Ham Concert Hall

For more information on UNLV's Commencement 1996, call the Registrar's Office at 895-3371 or Dr. Don Schmiedel at 895-3448.

School Name Committee to meet

The School Name Committee of the Board of School Trustees will meet at noon Thursday, February 1, in the board room of the Education Center, 2832 E. Flamingo Road.

Agenda items include discussion of new school names possible recommendations to the Board of School Trustees. The committee is reviewing a list of names suggested for 25 new schools opening in the district over the next five years.

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