

# CCSD students to celebrate Black History Month

## EDUCATION

Students throughout the Clark County School District will celebrate Black History Month during February with a variety of programs and activities.

Among the month's activities was a schoolwide kickoff event Friday, Feb. 2, at Matt Kelly Elementary School. And on Feb. 23, students from a number of schools will attend a rodeo featuring African-American cowboys.

Friday's kickoff at Matt Kelly featured the theme "Celebrating Black History: Remembering the Past to Better the Future." Students released green, black and red balloons with a note about the school's black history celebration.

Students from several schools will attend the Cowboys of Color Invitational Rodeo Series, which will be held 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23, at Horseman's Park Equestrian Center, 5800 East Flamingo Rd. The cowboys will use a variety of costumes and props to add to the atmosphere, and some students will be able to participate in a rodeo event.

Among other Black History Month activities in the Clark County School District:

- The Human Relations Club at Cimarron-Memorial High School will hold its fifth annual African-American Celebration at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in the school theater. Presentations will include a musical talent display, poetry readings, a historical background of African-American cultural influences, dramatic interpretations and more. For more information, call Terri Corrado at 799-4400.

### Math education changes to meet new demands

(NU) — More than a century ago in the Industrial Age, businesses were looking for quick hands, strong backs and a shopkeeper's arithmetic skills. But America and the world have changed dramatically since then. Now we're in the Information Age, and demands on workers have become more complex.

To prepare students to face the challenges of the world around us, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) is implementing new standards designed to upgrade the teaching and learning of math.

Among the new standards now being used in the classroom are those that emphasize:

- \* Learning cooperatively instead of individually.
- \* Developing mathematical reasoning instead of memorizing formulas.

- At Durango High School, Black History Month will be celebrated with displays highlighting African-American leaders, a special emphasis in social studies classes on the African-American experience and daily announcements Feb. 5-9 saluting African-American leaders and significant dates in African-American history. An assembly titled "Celebrations of Brotherhood" will be held Friday, Feb. 9, to emphasize cultural diversity. The event is sponsored by the school's Student Relations Club and African-American Studies Club. For more information, contact Don Johnston at 799-5850.

- Third graders at Elaine Wynn Elementary School will perform "The Story of African-American Music" at 9:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, at the school. For more information, call Judith Berry at 799-8166.

- Students attending Juvenile Court Schools will present their annual Black History program at 2 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23, in Zenoff Hall at Clark County Family and Youth Services, 3401 E. Bonanza Rd. This year's theme is "Every American Can Help Somebody." For more information, call Brad Waldron at 455-5230.

- In addition to their Black History Month kickoff, students at Matt Kelly Elementary School have several activities lined up. A parent night and academic/cultural arts fair will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, continuing the kickoff theme "Celebrating Black History: Remembering the Past to Better

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- \*Conjecturing, inventing and problem-solving rather than finding answers by rote.

- \* Connecting mathematics and its applications to the real world, rather than viewing math as an isolated academic discipline.

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the Future." Fourth graders will host a black history assembly on Thursday, Feb. 22, and the next day, students will attend the Cowboys of Color Rodeo. Storyteller Dharvi Morgenstern will visit the school Tuesday, Feb. 27. For more information, call Deloris Givens at 799-4750.

- Several teachers at Orr Middle School will incorporate the black history theme into their lessons during the month. In some reading classes, students will partake of such works as "Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry" and "Let the Circle Be Unbroken," which deal with the experiences

## Expanding Your Horizons Conference Scheduled

The ninth annual Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics Conference — an event aimed at encouraging girls to take more math and science courses — is scheduled for March 9 at UNLV.

The conference is open to girls in grades six through 12 and also to their parents and teachers.

Expanding Your Horizons is a national effort geared toward combating the negative effects that dropping math and science courses often has on young women.

Typically, girls stop taking math and science courses earlier in their schooling than boys do. As a result, girls later find that their career options are more limited than those available to boys.

This year's conference at UNLV is designed to meet the specific needs of the different age groups. Sixth and seventh graders will be assisted in "Developing Awareness," while girls in grades eight through 10 will deal with "Clarifying Choices." The "World of Work" will be introduced to 11th and 12th graders.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The registration deadline is March 1. Registration is \$7. The fee is waived for parents and teachers who

of a black family in Depression-era Mississippi. A social studies class will study the early roots of jazz and African-American contributions to World War II, while an art class will craft rain sticks, shields and masks. An eighth grade humanities class will present the play "I Have a Dream" to select classes on Thursday, Feb. 29, with an evening performance at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Tony Lato at 799-5573.

- Hyde Park Middle School will focus on black educators. Activities include displays, bulletin boards, book markers and story hours all celebrating the achievements and

contributions of black educators. The morning of Tuesday, Feb. 27, a professional presentation of the life of Martin Luther King Jr., will be held for students and staff. For more information, call Ronnie Smith at 799-4260.

- Activities at Chaparral High School include guest speakers, daily announcements and lunchtime presentations featuring a skit, music and poetry reflecting the theme. For more information, call Vivian Springs Jackson at 799-7580.

- Students in Mary Gafford's seventh grade English class at Roy Martin Middle School will research African-Americans who have made contributions and set

up a display featuring information they gathered. For more information, call Mary Gafford at 799-7922.

- Several contests will be held at Dell Robison Middle School to promote student awareness of black history and culture. These include a poster contest, an essay contest and daily trivia questions. Prominent local African-Americans, including Metro Police sergeant Greg McCurdy, Ken Brass, vice-president of First Interstate Bank, and attorney Karen Bennett, will be guest speakers at the school on Thursday, Feb. 22. For more information, call Lilly Mares at 799-7300.

accompany a child to the conference. Refreshments will be provided.

For registration information, call Kathy Lauckner at UNLV's Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies at 895-1423.

More than 30 workshops are scheduled to spark the interest of girls in science and math related careers, such as "Marketing You for the Future," "Electric Auto Repair — An Electrifying Career," and "Structuring the Future, Engineering." Hands-on experiences will be provided.

Two presentations also will

be offered. Girls in grades eight through 12 and parents will hear Dr. Jane Curry present "Nice Girls Don't Sweat," a witty and warm look at women involved in athletics and their motivational spirit. Polly Gonzales, a reporter with television station KLAS, will speak to the sixth and seventh graders about "News and the Real World."

Many local professional women will be on a "Guess My Job" panel and will discuss career preparation.

Parents and teachers will attend a special session on careers and educational opportunities available for young

women. Last year, 127 Expand Your Horizons conferences were held in 32 states. More than 300,000 girls have attended the conferences since they were first offered in 1976. Additionally, more than 43,500 parents and teachers have attended the adult portions of the conferences.

A major goal of the conferences is to involve young women who have had less exposure to successful women and limited access to positive math and science experiences for any reason, including chronic poverty, physical handicap, or language and cultural barriers.

## Magnet Schools Accepting Applications

Students interested in applying to one of the Clark County School District's magnet schools or programs for the 1996-97 school year may do so through February 16.

Magnet programs, available at all grade levels, allow students to focus on an area of special interest. Students can choose from diverse offerings that range from science and math to performing arts to travel and tourism to communication arts.

Current elementary magnet programs are the Mabel Hoggard Math and Science Magnet School, the Gilbert Magnet School for Communication and Creative Arts and the Jo Mackey Magnet School for Academic Enrichment and Global Studies.

High School magnets are the Advanced Technologies Academy; the Las Vegas Academy

for International Studies, Performing and Visual Arts; the Academy of Math, Science and Applied Technology at Clark High School; the Academy of Tourism and Travel at Valley High School; and the International Baccalaureate Program at Valley High School.

The only middle school magnet program currently available is the Math/Science Academy at Hyde Park Middle School. New programs are in the works, including a performing arts program for middle school students.

Magnet school applications are available at elementary school offices, secondary school counselors' offices, each magnet school or the district's Magnet Project Office. More information is available by calling the Magnet Project Office at 799-5479.

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