

Back-to-school bash welcomes new year

By Crisandra Varnado
Sentinel-Voice

Students participating in Saturday's back-to-school celebration at Lorenzi Park are in for a treat, according to the event's sponsors.

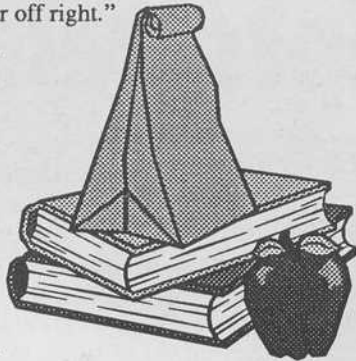
"We're extremely pleased to be hosting this event," Las Vegas Councilman and event co-sponsor Gary Reese said. "(It) allows us to show our students we care about them and want them to start the new school year off right."

The free celebration, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will be held inside the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza at Lorenzi Park, 3300 W. Washington Ave.

Besides eating free food, the students can enjoy music, watch a fashion show, play games, get their faces painted, participate in a free-throw contest and get free school supplies. Free immunizations and haircuts are also available.

Puppets and mascots will teach the youth about safety. The DARE Team and members of the Las Vegas Fire department are also expected to attend.

Joining Reese as the affair's co-sponsors are the City of Las Vegas' Neighborhood Services Department, the city's Department of Parks and Leisure Activities, the Martin Luther King Jr., Committee, AFAN West, the West Las Vegas Neighborhood Executive Board and the Las Vegas Weed and Seed program.



"We're excited about partnering with the City of Las Vegas and other reputable entities in support of the back-to-school bash, which has an emphasis on promoting education," said Lt. Jim Dillon, the Las Vegas police coordinator of the Weed and Seed program.

"We applaud the good citizenry of all the local businesses and merchants who donated either their time or goods to help us make this a success," said Michael Chambliss, senior planner with the Neighborhood Services Department. "It's going to be a blast!"

For more information about the celebration, contact Alonza Robertson of the Neighborhood Services Department at 229-2330.

School 'grants' students better chance to succeed

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

Armed with new funding, officials from Kit Carson Elementary School began charting a course Tuesday they say will boost student success at the West Las Vegas school.

Learning Strategist Bobbi Heath said the \$14,605 mini grant - culled from school district funds awarded by the legislature - will help increase student competency in reading, math and science, improve employee training and facilitate parental involvement.

School employees met Tuesday at the Rio Hotel to review the mini grant and brainstorm specific ideas for its use.

Heath and third-grade teacher Kemala Washington co-wrote the proposal for the Nevada 2000 mini grant with help from the federal programs specialists at the school district and the county.

Nevada 2000 is a derivative of President Clinton's Goals 2000 initiative aimed at improving public education, according to Terry Lizotte, administrative specialist in grants management for the school district.

Lizotte said the state was allotted \$1.2 million in funding this year by the U.S. Department of Education. The Clark County school district received half of the money. Kit Carson was one of 19 schools awarded funding. Fifty-one schools submitted requests, he said.

The application process included: identifying needs, creating problem-solving plans, developing goals and ways to measure progress, tying the funding to present empowerment efforts and determining how to continue the program once the grant ends.

Principal Linda Gipson expects the new program will help



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice by Bobbie Heath / Kit Carson

Kit Carson teachers exchange ideas for the proposed parent academy.

boost lagging test scores at the 300-plus pupil school located at 1735 "D" Street. She said that the school's basic skills test scores are misleading because many people unfairly assume that all students arrive at elementary school with the same skills.

Keynote speaker assemblyman Wendell Williams agreed. "There's a big difference between equity and being equal," he said. He said schools whose students score below district standards often have to work twice as hard for minimal gains in performance.

The program will encourage teachers to hit the books to learn new teaching methods, brush up on curriculum and even learn a second language.

School officials bubbled most about the proposed parent academy. Tentative plans include initiating more home visits, parenting workshops and phone calls and providing guest speakers to address the parents, staff and community on current educational issues.

"If teachers and parents come together, there is nothing we can't do," Washington said.

NOW EVEN BIGGER ... TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Las Vegas' only Afro-American upper management auto consultant

No matter what the credit, we can help!
In fact, possibly with no money down.

United can help re-establish your credit and give you a great deal on your next new or used vehicle. Let us try!

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.



United NISSAN



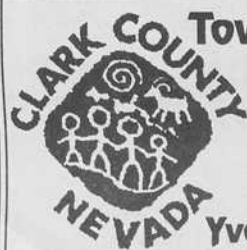
Lawrence Ennis

"Your time is important to me. Please phone ahead for an appointment."

3250 East Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, Nevada

457-8061

Citizens Invited!



Town Hall Meetings
District D

Commissioner
Yvonne Atkinson-Gates

announces a series of town hall meetings, designed to inform residents about the proposed quarter-cent sales tax increase to fund a portion of the planned \$2.9 billion water and sewer system improvements, and to discuss other issues regarding growth in Southern Nevada.

Monday, August 25, 6:30 p.m.
North Las Vegas Airport
Grand Canyon Conference Room

Wednesday, August 27, 6:30 p.m.
Clark County Government Center
500 S. Grand Central Parkway
ODC Training Room 3, 1st Floor

We look forward to seeing you there!