



# SLO Newsday



School Liaison Officer Newsletter for Nellis and Creech AFB Communities

Vol. 3, Issue 8

## News You Can Use

**An Individualized Education Program (IEP) Clinic is scheduled for 11am-1pm Tuesday, Oct. 18 at the Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC).** Nevada PEP's special education experts will conduct the clinic, which will include an overview of the IEP process and a question and answer session. Anyone with children who have IEPs should bring them for review. For those without IEPs, this is your chance to learn all about helping children with special needs. Call the Airman & Family Readiness Center at (702) 652-3327 or email EFMP-FS Coordinator **Stephanie Garnes** to reserve a seat today!

**The Nellis Youth Center Before and After School Program** continues to accept enrollment applications. To register call (702) 652-9307 for more information.

**The Nellis Homeschool Group is hosting a "Not Back to School" Luncheon noon-2pm, Monday, Sept. 12** at the Nellis Housing Community Center. The lunch is potluck, so attendees should bring a dish to share. There also will be crafts for children. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP by emailing [Rebecca McClanahan](mailto:Rebecca.McClanahan@nellis.afmilitary.com) or calling the Nellis Housing Office at (702) 677-3360.

**CCSD Magnet Schools and Career & Technical Academies are accepting late applications through Friday, Sept. 2.** Visit <http://ccsd.net/magnetcta/> to learn more about the late applications and specific schools or call (702) 799-8492. **Those interested in applying for next year should attend the CCSD Magnet School and Career & Technical Academy Information Session** scheduled for 5-7 p.m. **Tuesday, Oct. 4** at the Desert Oasis Club.

**Make the venture back-to-school less stressful by accessing Tutor.com.**

Tutor.com is free for military families and available online 24/7. Any military member or his or her dependent interested in taking advantage of this free service should visit [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military), click the FOR AIR FORCE button, and create an account.



## CCSD Offers Ways to Help Students, Schools

Many Nellis and Creech members already lend their greatest and most treasured assets to the Clark County School District (CCSD) – more than 4,700 military children who attend public schools.

But there is a way to give a little bit more to a cash-strapped school district that could definitely use the help during this era of diminished resources and budget constraints. How?

Lend some time. Even those without children attending one of the many schools that comprise CCSD, the nation's fifth-largest school district, can help under-resourced students through mentoring, tutoring, or adopting a school.

**Stay in School Mentoring Project Manager Kurt Arnold** is scheduled to provide an orientation and overview of exactly how to lend some valuable time for students who really need it **noon-1:30 pm Wednesday,**



*Stay in School Mentoring Project Program Manager Kurt Arnold addresses Nellis and Creech members during mentor orientation at the Nellis Airman & Family Readiness Center Sept. 20, 2010.*

**September 14** at the Nellis Housing Community Center. A light lunch will be served. *Continued on page 2*

## Where Children Attend School Is Parents' Choice

Everybody knows (or should know) sending children to school is compulsory and mandated by law. What some don't know -- or sometimes forget -- is that *how* children are educated is a matter of choice. Parents ultimately decide the best way to school their children.

School choice in Clark County comes in the form of public, charter, private, and home education, and all the aforementioned feature cyber or virtual learning opportunities for those seeking even greater flexibility. Following is a brief overview of each of those options.

Most of the more than 5,000 military children associated with Nellis and Creech AFBs attend public school at one of [Clark County School District's \(CCSD\)](http://www.ccsd.net) 357 schools. While most students attend traditional, elementary, middle, and high schools in their neighborhood, CCSD also features magnet schools and career and technical academies (subject to a lottery) that have specialized areas of study. The district also allows children to attend schools outside their "zoned" area upon request in addition to offering limited open enrollment based upon a lottery in the fall.

Nevada is one of 41 states that authorize **charter schools**. These schools receive public money, but have been freed from some of the rules, regulations, and statutes applicable to standard public schools. In

exchange for their freedom from some regulations governing the traditional public school system, charter schools are accountable for producing certain results, which are set forth in each school's charter. Charter schools do not generally provide transportation and do not charge tuition. The [Charter School Association of Nevada](http://www.ccsa.org) has a website with more information about charter schools and how to apply.

Clark County also has numerous parochial and secular private schools that charge tuition. Each school has its own enrollment and graduation requirements, but all require military children to provide appropriate credentials, including transcripts, test scores, and immunizations. Some also provide discounts to military members. More information can be found at [Great Schools](http://www.greatschools.org) and [Private School Review](http://www.private-school-review.com) websites.

Home school is an educational option used by military families who wish to forego public or private school in favor of directly overseeing their children's education. The state of Nevada revised home school statutes in 2007. Those interested in learning more about home education should refer to [NRS 392.070](http://www.nrs392.070.com) or contact local organizations, such as the [Nevada Homeschool Network](http://www.nvhomeschoolnetwork.com) or the [Nellis Homeschool Group](http://www.nellishomeschoolgroup.com).

Call the [School Liaison Officer](mailto:SchoolLiaisonOfficer@nellis.afmilitary.com) at (702) 652-3327 or [email](mailto:SchoolLiaisonOfficer@nellis.afmilitary.com) to learn more about local options for K-12 education.



## Nellis Housing Hosts 'Back to School' Pool Party



Four-year-old **Layla Williams** (l), and five-year-old **Darnell Newsworthy** (r), pose for a poolside pic. (left). **Kathy Long** of Operation Homefront prepares to give away another backpack full of school supplies to a Nellis Housing tenant. Operation Homefront provided backpacks to Nellis Housing residents during the "Back to School" Pool Party Saturday, Aug. 27.

## Mentoring

Continued from page 1

About 20 active-duty and family members attended the first CCSD School-Community Partnership orientation last September, and the strong showing prompted Arnold to revisit Nellis again this year.

"Many of the students we target for the Stay in School Mentoring Project just need a friend and a positive role model. Nellis and Creech personnel definitely fit the bill," Arnold explained. "They are motivated and accomplished professionals who provide a good example of what we expect our students to become – good citizens who make positive contributions to society."

There are countless ways to engage students, but Arnold will provide information about three of his office's most successful programs.

The first is the Stay in School Mentoring Project, which asks mentors to make a yearlong commitment to become a friend and positive role model to middle school students at risk of dropping out of school. Anyone interested in becoming a mentor is required to complete an application and background check. The paperwork should be completed before attending the Sept. 14 orientation, so contact the School Liaison Officer via **email** or call him at **(702) 652-3327** to obtain a packet.

Arnold explained that mentors are not there to supplant parents, but rather to foster one-on-one relationships with students seeking a little nudge in the right direction.

"Just spending time with them and listening to them can make a big difference in their lives."

The second program, Professionals And Youth Building A Commitment or **PAYBAC**,

allows volunteers to meet students in a classroom setting where they discuss their respective educational background, the importance of goal-setting, and planning for the future in front of about 35 students. This program is more flexible than the mentorship program because speakers can pick dates around standing commitments and unplanned events, such as deployments.

The third program is the **Focus School Project**, which requires the involvement of an organization, such as a squadron, professional group, or a private organization. The goals of the Focus School Project are to assess, then address, the special needs of CCSD students through various school-based programs ranging from tutoring and classroom volunteers to teacher recognition and facility enhancements.

**Partnership Program Assistant Director Beverly Mason** said there are 20 schools available for sponsorship in the Focus School Project. Some of schools have never had sponsorship of any kind and are in need of all kinds of assistance ranging from beautification projects to classroom readers and mentors.

"Any assistance the base units could provide would be appreciated by any of the Focus Schools, particularly those who have never had a sponsor," Mason said. "It is often what you think to be the most insignificant contribution that turns out to be the most significant inspiration for the student."

Anyone interested in attending the **CCSD School-Community Partnership Office** Orientation or learning about ways you can help CCSD students should call the **School Liaison Officer (SLO)** at **(702) 652-3327** or **email** to reserve a seat.

## Hot Topics

**NEVADA GROWTH MODEL:** The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) launched the state's first growth model and CCSD also launched its data on the district's website at <http://ccsd.net/growth-model>. The Nevada Growth Model will provide the yearly growth results leading up to and including the 2010-2011 school year for each school in the state. The initial results reflect the Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRTs) in reading and mathematics for students in grades 4-8. Later this fall, individual student-level results will be made available to parents and guardians. The district will ensure that individual student records are secure. **To assist parents and staff in using the growth model, the CCSD website offers online videos that provide an introductory overview and tutorials for viewing the data, as well as an online resource of frequently asked questions.** Inquiries to **(702) 765-9870** or [growthmodel@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:growthmodel@interact.ccsd.net) will be answered within one business day. CCSD will host professional development sessions in the coming months.

**NELLIS HOSTS RESILIENCY EVENT OCT. 20:** The Nellis Resiliency Element is scheduled to host a **Family Resiliency Symposium Thursday, Oct. 20 at The Club**. Off-base vendors and services will be available, along with on-base services. This free event is open to all Nellis and Creech members. To learn more and RSVP for the event, call **Capt. Jose Ortega** at **(702) 653-3880**.

**PLAYPASS AVAILABLE AT A&FRC:** Single Airmen returning from deployment and families of deployed members can receive special discounts at select 99th Force Support Squadron activities to help Airmen and their families ease the pressures and stress associated with deployments. **PLAYpass** cards will be offered through Dec. 31. The cards, valued at more than \$500, feature discounts on activities such as child care, youth sports, recreation programs and classes. Visit the A&FRC or call **(702) 652-3327** to learn more.

**FREE COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOP:** The Henderson Blue Ribbon Commission will host a free college application and scholarship workshop **6-9 pm Sept. 20 & 21** at the **Henderson Multigenerational Center, 250 S. Green Valley Parkway**. Anyone interested should RSVP to **(702) 267-4016** by **Sept. 12**.

**MCEC COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING:** Naviance is a college and career planning resource the **Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) SchoolQuest** offered to students in grades 8-12. Students complete inventories that define their strengths and interests, find courses of study, and see what careers match up with those findings. Scholarship and college application information also is available.