



SLO Newsday



School Liaison Officer Newsletter for Nellis and Creech AFB Communities

Vol. 4, Issue 2

News You Can Use

The Back to School Brigade is scheduled for 10am-2pm Saturday, Aug. 11 at the Floyd Edsell Training Center (Clark County Armory) located at 6400 Range Rd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89115. Backpacks and school supplies will be provided to children of service members of all ranks. *Military ID is required.* Visit www.operationhomefront.net/nevada to register by Aug. 6. Pre-registered families will be allowed to collect their backpacks from 10am-noon, while nonregistered families will pick up their backpacks noon-2pm. Three iPads will be raffled off during the event. Call Operation Homefront at (702) 449-9987 for more information.

Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy is accepting applications for 9th graders. Agassi Prep classes for the 2012-2013 school year begin Aug. 13, so anyone interested should call **Chris Smith** at (702) 316-2374 as soon as possible.

Bus service registration for the Clark County School District (CCSD) 2012-2013 school year began Aug. 6. Parents should inform school registrars of their desire for bus transportation, so school administrators can pass their requests along to the CCSD Transportation Department. Anyone eligible will receive bus stop information prior to the start of school or a few days after you register. For more information visit transportation.ccsd.net.

CCSD will host Back to School Fairs at malls across the valley this month. These events help new and returning students and parents prepare for the upcoming school year. This year's events are scheduled as follows:

- Meadows Mall: 10am-4pm, Aug. 11
- Boulevard Mall: 10am-4pm, Aug. 18
- Galleria Mall: 10am-4pm, Aug. 25

CCSD school lunch prices will increase for the 2012-2013 school year as a result of new federal regulations. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families is scheduled for 2pm and 5:30pm Aug. 28 and 29 at the Nellis Youth Center. Call (702) 652-9307 for more information.

Military Child Education Forum Set for Aug.22

The School Liaison Officer (SLO) and Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Coordinator are hosting a **Military Child Education and Special Needs Forum 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22 at The Club.** This is the third consecutive year for the annual forum since the school liaison program's inception in 2009, but it is the first time EFMP Coordinator and SLO have combined their outreach efforts in advance of the school year.

"This is a chance for parents and students to hear firsthand from decision-makers what they should know about local elementary, middle and high schools," Garnes said. "It's also a great opportunity for our military families with special needs to meet local advocates and to learn about local resources, such as respite care. Anyone with even the slightest interest in military child education or special needs should attend."

The format will be much the same as the last two years with CCSD administrators, charter school officials, and home school representatives available to answer questions about local K-12 education issues ranging from transportation to magnet schools.

The Military Child Education Forum

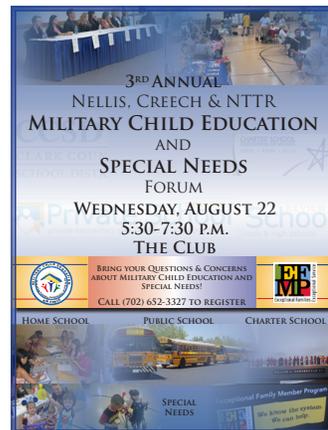
intentionally was scheduled before most Nellis and Creech children begin school, so new additions to Nellis and Creech AFBs could prepare their children for the upcoming school year. It also presents an opportunity for established families to get answers to long-held questions.

Attendees will see some new faces at this year's Forum, including the new principal of Lomie Heard Elementary School, Kori Deal (*see the article below to learn more*).

The forum will begin with a brief welcome from **the School Liaison Officer Ron Gibson**, followed by an introduction of school administrators. Gibson will begin the discussion by asking the panelists some

of the most commonly asked school-related questions from military families. Once he has exhausted the first four to five advance questions, attendees will be free to ask the panelist direct questions on whatever topic they choose.

Gibson continues to solicit questions in advance of the Military Child Education Forum, so anyone interested in submitting questions for the panel should [email him](#). For more information and to register for the Military Child Education Forum, call **A&FRC** at (702) 652-3327 and ask for the SLO.



Lomie Heard ES Hires New Principal, New AP

Lomie Heard Elementary School lost two leaders during the summer when Principal **Traci Dyer** and Assistant Principal **Audrey Carroll** moved on to pursue personal interests and career opportunities after spending six years guiding Nellis AFB's lone public school.

"Traci and Audrey will be missed at Lomie Heard to be sure, but we're fortunate to have two accomplished educators to take their places," said Clark County School District (CCSD)



New Lomie Heard Elementary School Assistant Principal Pamela Goynes-Brown (left) and new Principal Kori Deal pose for a quick photo before the Nellis and Creech Community Education Advisory Board meeting Aug. 3. You can meet both of them during the Military Child Education and Special Needs Forum scheduled for 5:30-7:30pm Wednesday, Aug. 22.

Academic Manager Anna Webb. "I think the parents at Nellis will be impressed with the school's new leadership."

New principal, **Kori Deal**, and new assistant principal, **Pamela Goynes-Brown**, bring with them nearly five decades of education experience. Deal's most recent experience was as an

assistant principal for both Ruthe Deskin

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New Principal

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and Doris M. Reed Elementary Schools, while Goynes-Brown served as assistant principal at Jesse D. Scott Elementary School. Both have held nearly every position one can hold in a public school and both consider themselves more than familiar with CCSD.

"I've been employed by the school district for 29 years," said Goynes-Brown, who said she could name every school in the district when she joined CCSD in the mid-1980s. Since then, CCSD has more than tripled its student population and schools.

Deal said she is quite pleased to have such an experienced educator and administrator serve as Lomie Heard's assistant principal as she takes the reins as principal for the first time.

"I must say that they [Dyer and Carroll] left us in very good shape with a lot of good systems in place," explained Deal. "Right now we're just getting acclimated to the new environment, learning what has worked in the past, and slowly implementing improvements as we need them."

Deal has toured the base, met with various Nellis organizations, including the Youth Center director and Parent-Teacher Association president, and looks forward



Mission Support Group Commander Darren Bishop wishes Traci Dyer well after he "coined" her prior to her departure to Pennsylvania. Former Assistant Principal Audrey Carroll is now principal of Charlotte and Jerry Keller Elementary School.

to meeting the entire community during the annual **Military Child Education and Special Needs Forum** scheduled for **5:30-7:30pm, Wednesday, Aug. 22 at The Club**.

"Everyone I have met has been anxious to help where they can and I look forward to working with them," said Deal.

"Meet Your Teacher" day is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 24, while Lomie Heard's Open house will take place Sept. 12. Call Lomie Heard at **(702) 799-4920** or refer to CCSD ParentLink for more information.

Where Children Attend School Is Parents' Choice

Everybody knows 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.

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 \(CCSD\)](#) 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 [State of Nevada Department of Education website](#) has 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](#) and [Private School Review](#) 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](#) or contact local organizations, such as the [Nevada Homeschool Network](#) or the [Nellis Homeschool Group](#).

Visit the [SLO home page](#) or call the A&FRC at **(702) 652-3327** to learn more about local options for K-12 education.

HOT TOPICS

YOUTH & FAMILIES WITH PROMISE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM:

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension & the award-winning Nellis Youth Center are joining forces to create a new mentoring program, **Youth and Families with Promise (YFP)**, for military youth ages 10-14. Anyone interested in learning more about the YFP mentoship program is invited to attend a free pool party **6-9pm Friday, Aug. 24** at the outdoor Olympic-sized pool located near the Outdoor Recreation office. Those unable to attend the pool party may attend a formal parent orientation scheduled for **5:30pm Thursday, Aug. 30** at the Youth Center. For more information, call the Youth center Director Carol Padilla at **(702) 652-9307** or YFP Program Director Eric Kiliam at **(702) 257-5542**.

AIR FORCE EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER RESPITE CARE PROGRAM:

The Air Force partnered with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) to support the respite child care needs of military families with special needs. The program is expected to become available this fall and will allow eligible Air Force active-duty Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) families to receive up to 20 hours per month of free respite care per EFMP child depending on their EFMP category and the sponsors' deployment status. In order for families to be eligible, active-duty Airmen must be enrolled in the EFMP program and have a child up to 18 years of age identified with moderate or severe special needs living with them. For more information about EFMP Respite Care, contact NACCRRRA Child Care Aware at **(800) 424-2246** or the Nellis EFMP-Family Support Coordinator [Stephanie Garnes](#) at **(702)652-3327**.

99 MEDICAL GROUP PROVIDING SCHOOL

PHYSICAL EXAMS: Pediatrics and Family Medicine plans to provide school physical examinations for dependents **Tuesday, Aug. 21**. Anyone in need of a physical exam fro school should call **(702) 653-2273** to schedule an appointment.

TUTOR.COM IS FREE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES AND AVAILABLE ONLINE 24/7.:

Any military member or dependent interested in taking advantage of this free service should visit www.tutor.com/military, click the FOR AIR FORCE button, and create an account.

SLO CONTACT INFORMATION: Anyone who would like the School Liaison Officer to address his or her unit, private or professional organization, or support group to discuss military child education should [email the SLO](#) or call **702) 652-3327**.