



# SLO Newsday

Month of the Military Family



School Liaison Officer Newsletter for Nellis AFB, Creech AFB, and Nevada Test and Training Range Communities

Vol. 4, Issue 3

## News You Can Use

Is your child a target of bullying? The Exceptional Family Member Coordinator is hosting a [Nevada PEP](#) workshop for parents, teachers, and caregivers 6-8pm Tuesday, Nov. 13 at the Nellis Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC). Call the A&FRC at (702) 652-3327 to register. Contact Robin Kincaid at (702) 388-8899 for any special accommodations.



The Air Force is partnering with the [National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies](#) to support the respite child care needs of military families with special needs. The program

is expected to become available later 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. For more information, call EFMP-Family Support Coordinator Stephanie Garnes at (702) 652-3327.

STARBASE Nellis is well underway and welcomes local elementary and middle students to attend.

STARBASE is meant to augment STEM curriculum with hands on learning and classes are available now. To schedule a visit or learn more, email STARBASE Director [Myles Judd](#) or call him at (702) 575-3837.

An interview with Nellis and Creech School Liaison Officer Ron Gibson, will be featured in the next "Inside Education" on Tuesday, Nov. 13. The CCSD-sponsored program airs every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Also featured in the the Nov. 13 broadcast will be Heather Caputo's report on CCSD's Reclaim Your Future campaign.

Interested in learning more about local K-12 education options, tutoring/mentoring, or how military units can adopt a school? Email the [School Liaison Officer](#) or call (702) 652-3327. The SLO is also available for Commander's Calls or professional/private organization meetings.

## CCSD Accepting Magnet School/CTA Applications

Parents associated with Nellis and Creech AFBs learned firsthand details of the Clark County School District Magnet School and Career and Technical Academy selection process when CCSD Magnet School and CTA Director **Christine Gross** paid a special visit to The Club Oct. 4.

Gross provided a brief overview of the magnet schools and CTA program, highlighting some specific programs, selection criteria, and the finer points of the application process. **The deadline to apply is 3pm Monday, Feb. 4.**

Magnet schools and CTAs are programs and/or schools that offer specialized learning themes for students in first through 12<sup>th</sup> grades with heightened interests in various subjects. Some of the programs typically offered at these schools include: performing and fine arts, international baccalaureate, law, leadership, public safety, culinary arts, engineering, aviation, education, and business.

Electronic applications, which are the recommended method of submission, may be sent by selecting this [link](#). However, for the first time, applicants also may simply submit their applications to any CCSD school near them. The school district will continue to accept mailed applications as well, but parents are still expected to submit all required documents not available electronically to the CCSD Magnet/CTA office by **3pm Monday, Feb. 4. The Magnet/CTA office is located at 5708 Mountain Vista Las Vegas, NV 89120.**

CCSD again will host a series of information fairs and parent information sessions about magnet schools and CTAs throughout the valley, which began **Saturday, Nov. 3** at the **Meadows Mall. The first parent information meeting is scheduled for Nov. 14.** Gross encouraged everyone, including those who attended the school liaison officer's Magnet/CTA information session, to attend any of the upcoming informational meetings sponsored by CCSD.

"It's an excellent example to see what these schools are all about for yourself," explained Gross. "Usually the principal and



Lomie Heard students visit CCSD's East Career & Technical Academy for a project-based learning with high school students.

a few students from each school are on hand to provide more insight into the respective programs at each school, so parents and students get a chance to see if a particular school will be a good fit for them."

According to Gross, applicants may apply for as many three elementary, middle, or high schools for each child, and up

to two programs in each high school. While there are no criteria for elementary magnet schools, secondary schools (middle and high schools) have criteria which must be met before consideration. Grade point average, standardized test scores, citizenship, and attendance are some examples of criteria used to determine eligibility.

"We really take a holistic approach when it comes to evaluating criteria for middle and high school applicants to ensure we capture as many worthy students as possible, Gross said. "If there's one thing I want each of you to understand it's that none of you should be discouraged from applying. Obviously, we're seeking good students who want to attend to school with parents who plan to participate and engage in their children's education, but that doesn't mean that we're seeking only 'straight A' students."

Gross said CCSD's holistic approach also applies to the student body they hope to have at each magnet school and CTA. According to her, a 'less than perfect' academic performance does not mean you will not make it to the pool from which they select those who will be invited to attend secondary magnet schools and CTAs. Gross insisted that the selection process is exhaustive and they seriously consider all criteria before denying someone the opportunity to be entered into the pool.

If there are more qualified applicants than there are seats available, placement is based on a random selection process or lottery, which Gross calls the best way to ensure as much equity and diversity as possible during the selection and placement process.

In addition to the lottery, Gross said the

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## Magnet/CTA

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magnet schools and CTAs also use a set of preferences during the selection process, which considers proximity to school, siblings, and feeder school alignment during the student placement process.

Parents are notified of the lottery results in early April. If their child is accepted to more than one school, they are must select one school, and the acceptance documents must be returned by the indicated date – no exceptions.

“Unfortunately, we have had to turn away parents and children who failed to meet deadlines for applications and who failed return their acceptance letters on time,” explained Gross. “I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to adhere to all deadlines.”

For those who expect more information about the **CCSD Magnet School and CTA program**, visit the website or call the office at **(702) 799-8462**.

## Magnet/CTA Informational Meetings

Location	Date	Time
International Baccalaureate Night Roy Martin MS 200 N 28th St Las Vegas	Nov. 14, 2012	6-8pm
William U Pearson Community Center 1625 W Carey North Las Vegas	Dec. 5, 2012	6-8pm
Galleria Mall 1300 W Sunset Rd Henderson	Jan. 12, 2013	10am-5pm
Rogich MS 235 N Pavilion Ctr Dr Las Vegas	Jan. 24, 2013	6-8pm

## Nevada PEP: Advocate for Special Needs

Nevada PEP, the state’s only Parent Training Information (PTI) Center and premier advocate for families with special needs, should be among the first calls made by any military families enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

For nearly two decades, Nevada PEP has been recognized as the only Parent Training Information (PTI) Center in Nevada, offering a unique set of services to families who have children with all types of disabilities. Nevada PEP strengthens families with education, empowerment and encouragement through training, support, and individual assistance. Nevada PEP also is dedicated to educating parents and professionals throughout Nevada’s 17 counties.

Nevada PEP’s mission is to increase the opportunities for home, community and school success for children with disabilities, including those who are at risk or who have serious emotional disturbances, their families, and their service providers.

They believe children reach their full potential when families and professionals build a partnership based on trust and respect. Children and families have a right to access appropriate intervention, as well as participate in all opportunities in their own community.

Nevada PEP also believes that children with disabilities, without regard for the severity of the disability, have an inherent value that all life has a purpose. Their

services are about empowering families to be lifelong advocates for their children through education and skill-building. Nevada PEP recognizes parents as experts on their children, but they must learn about disabilities, intervention needs, and how to develop a support system to meet those needs.

The staff have shared many of the experiences their clients have endured. When family and friends fail to understand, there is always someone to talk to at Nevada PEP. All of the staff has been impacted by disability in some way and recognizes that navigating Nevada’s challenging support system is frustrating at best.

Information on training opportunities and registration is available online at [www.nypep.org](http://www.nypep.org) or through the Nevada PEP office at (702) 388-8899. The Las Vegas office on 2101 S. Jones Blvd., Ste. 120, Las Vegas, NV 89146 welcomes visitors to its resource library filled with handouts, books, and electronic media. Families requiring a higher level of support can request individual assistance.

Over the years, not only has PEP made a difference in the lives of families, it has also made a positive impact on disability services through its community collaboration and advocacy efforts. A professional in the community stated “Show me a family with a positive outlook and optimism for the future, and I’ll show you a family that’s got PEP”. (Article provided by Stephanie Vrnisk of Nevada PEP)



## Hot Topics

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** For more scholarship information, visit <http://ccsd.net/departments/guidance-counseling/current-scholarships>.

• **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Las Vegas Scholarship Fund**  
**Amount:** Varies  
**Eligibility:** High School senior in Clark or Nye County in Nevada who is eligible to attend an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school with a complete course of study, have a minimum unweighted cumulative GPA of 2.7 or higher, be a legal U.S. resident less than 21 yrs. of age.

**Deadline:** Dec. 20

**Website:** [www.rmhlv.com](http://www.rmhlv.com)

• **Most Valuable Student Scholarship**  
**Amount:** Up to \$1,000  
**Eligibility:** CCSD High School seniors who plan to attend an accredited college, university or vocational school may apply, and student does NOT have to be related to a member of the Elks.

**Deadline:** Dec. 2

**Website:** [www.elks.org/enf/scholars](http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars)

• **Hispanic Scholarship Fund (National)**  
**Amount:** Varies  
**Eligibility:** Graduating high school seniors of Hispanic heritage with plans to attend a two-year or four-year institution. Must have at least a 3.0 GPA on 4.0 scale (or equivalent)

**Deadline:** Dec. 15

**Website:** <http://www.hsf.net>

• **Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant:**  
**Amount:** \$2,000  
**Eligibility:** Children of active-duty members, Title 10 Air Guard Reserve(AGR)/Reserve, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reserve and deceased Air Force members, spouses (stateside) of active-duty members and Title 10 AGR/Reservists, and surviving spouses of deceased personnel. *Senior NCOs and officers are highly encouraged to apply. This program is tailored for Air Force families with college students.*

**Deadline:** March 11.

**Website:** [www.afas.org/](http://www.afas.org/)

**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.

