



## October 2008

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

10/03/08	Staff Development Day
10/31/08	Nevada Day Obs.
11/04/08	Staff Development Day
11/10-11/08	Veterans Day Obs.
11/27/08	Thanksgiving Day
11/28/08	Family Day
12/19/08	Winter Break Begins
01/01/09	New Year's Day
01/05/09	Classes Resume (after Winter Break)
04/03/09	Spring Break Begins
04/13/09	Classes Resume (after Spring Break)
05/25/09	Memorial Day
06/04/09	Last Day of School (9 mo.)

### BOARD MEETINGS

Edward A Greer Education Center, Board Room  
2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121

Access the district's website at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net) for board agendas and reference material or contact the Board of School Trustees Office at 799-1072 for further information.

- October 2, 2008, 4:00 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting
- October 13, 2008, 10:00 a.m.  
Officer's Meeting
- October 21, 2008, 1:00 p.m.  
Special Board Meeting
- October 23, 2008, 4:00 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting
- November 5, 2008, 9:00 a.m.  
Work Session
- November 6, 2008, 4:00 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting
- November 20, 2008, 4:00 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting
- December 3, 2008, 9:00 a.m.  
Work Session
- December 11, 2008, 4:00 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting

### A Note from the Board of School Trustees

The 2008-09 school year is well under way. We applaud all students, staff, parents and community members for making the first few days of school a success.

Despite the economic issues and slowdown in Southern Nevada growth, enrollment in CCSD has increased over last year. Preliminary figures show a 1% growth over last year, from 308,783 to approximately 311,300 students. In the past, the district saw growth over 4% each year. The district also hired an additional 1,000 teachers to meet that growth and replace educators who have retired or left the district. We extend a warm welcome to our new students and our new employees and educators.

As always, the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees is committed to keeping the lines of communication open and providing the community with more information related to CCSD. In an effort to do so, the Board is excited about the implementation of the new ParentLink system. ParentLink is an internet/telephone tool that gives all parents 24/7 access to student information, including attendance, homework assignments, announcements, grades and more. To utilize the system, simply visit [parentlink.ccsd.net](http://parentlink.ccsd.net) or call 799-4433.

In addition, the Board is continuing the production of our regular School Matters broadcast on Vegas PBS. This allows viewers to engage in a live discussion with members of the Board related to topics and issues that face our schools today. The next broadcast will air on Thursday, November 13 from 8 to 9 p.m. on Vegas PBS. Topics for the next show include the budget cuts and American Education Week. For more information on School Matters or to email your questions related to the topic, visit [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net).

Individual Board members also host monthly Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings within our communities to keep a finger on the pulse and the needs of our constituents. A calendar of PAC meetings is available at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net) under the "Board of School Trustees" or by calling 799-1072.

With nearly eight months of instruction and activities ahead of us, we wish you all the best on a successful 2008-09 school year.

### REMINDER: WEBCASTING NOW AVAILABLE

All regular school board meetings are now broadcast live over the internet.

Go to [www.ccsd.net/trustees](http://www.ccsd.net/trustees)

Regular board meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 4 p.m.

### COMING UP on the next installment of School Matters: Budget Cuts and American Education Week

Thursday, November 13, 2008  
8-9 p.m.

Vegas PBS, Channel 10

A link that will allow you to email your questions and comments will soon be available at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net).

## Stay Healthy During Cold and Flu Season



Students at Elizondo ES practice good health habits by washing their hands regularly.

The hot summer heat is wearing off, making room for cooler weather, which means 20 to 50 percent of the U.S. population will be affected by a cold or the flu this year. Colds can strike some people as many as 12 times a year.

To avoid the winter “bugs” that seem to crawl around this time of year, Diana Taylor, Clark County School District director of health services, says the precautions are so simple that many times people overlook them. “Sometimes people forget because they are in a hurry and they are busy and they are coughing or sneezing and they forget to wash their hands.”

Hand washing is the single most important thing we can do to prevent the spread of germs. “Our hands touch so many things, including other people,” Taylor says. “Our hands touch items and then other people touch those items and a number of these germs are then spread by hand-to-mouth contact.”

The Clark County School District Health Services Department employs more than 150 school nurses to help educate students and employees on the importance of good health habits, such as washing our hands. These nurses serve as an integral part of the school health program by participating in health education activities, community health fairs, preventive assessment and screening, illness and injury care, medication administration, specialized health procedures and health referrals.

“Our nurses are advocates for our children and excellent resources at local schools for the promotion of good health,” Taylor says.

Besides the habit of washing your hands, school nurses, in conjunction with teachers at local schools, try to encourage other good health habits in students. Health modules are in place at all grade levels so teachers have opportunities to talk to students about healthy living, including proper diet, adequate rest, exercise and appropriate hygiene practices.

“Children coming to school neat, clean, and well rested do better in school,” says Taylor. She also recommends growing children receive at least eight to 10 hours of sleep each night. Children of elementary school age usually need parental help or supervision with bedtime, bathing, shampooing, hand washing and blowing their noses. These little things help a child learn to take care of him or herself and develop self-confidence.

At this time of year, when cold and flu germs tend to be more prevalent, an important consideration for parents and employees is deciding when to stay home and rest. While the goal in the Clark County School District is to keep students in school as much as possible, if a student or teacher is not feeling well, it is difficult to benefit from classroom instruction or to instruct students. Also, the risk of infecting others is greater and recovery time may be slow. CCSD Health Services recommends that if any of the following symptoms are present, a child or employee should stay home:

- Elevated Temperature
- Diarrhea
- Persistent headache
- Inflamed sore throat
- Nausea/vomiting
- Unexplained rash
- Wheezing
- Earache

If these symptoms persist, the patient should see a doctor.

## An Important Mission

At the September 25 regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees an important vote was cast... one that improves the direction and the focus the CCSD has placed on student achievement. At that meeting, the Board adopted a new mission statement that reflects the importance of student success, not only in academics, but also in civic and community areas.

The new statement says:

***All students have the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to achieve academically, prosper economically and participate in democracy.***

While the previous mission statement served the district well, the new statement reflects the Board’s move into 21<sup>st</sup> century courses of study and CCSD’s commitment to preparing students for the future.

## Budget Cuts

The headlines seem bleak and at times it can be frustrating to find that again and again we are asked to cut funds from the important purpose of educating our future leaders.

Currently, the state is asking for a 14% cut from the 2009-2011 budgets. While further district decisions related to additional cuts have yet to be made, the district is in the process of gathering feedback from principals on suggestions where cuts may be made. By the end of October, staff will finalize a list of suggested cuts. That list will be brought before the Board in the next month or two for discussion and possible action.

An update on budget reductions is included on each regular Board agenda. For a list of meeting dates, visit [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net) and click on Board.

Look for public forums and opportunities to provide your input on the budget cut issue, or contact your local Board member with your thoughts at 799-1072.