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September 4, 2009 Newsletter

In this issue

First Day of School

ACT Scores Above Nevada, National Average

SAT Scores Move Higher In All Areas

Meet the Trustees

Dan Carne (District A)

Nancy Hollinger (District B)

Barbara Clark (District C)

Ken Grein (District D)

Scott Kelley (District E)

Estela Gutierrez (District F)

Barbara McLaury (District G)

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What do you think?

We are interested in your comments and feedback on this newsletter.

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BOARDcast E-NEWSLETTER

Dear John Doe,

A Word from the Board President Barbara Clark

The First Day of School

On Monday August 31, the Washoe County School District experienced a successful first-day opening of all of our schools on the traditional calendar. It's always an exciting (and busy!) time for families, teachers, and school staff alike.

This year saw a new opening day tradition with Superintendent Heath Morrison walking to school with some Sparks High students. Joining him were WCSD trustees Estela Gutierrez and Scott Kelley; Sparks City Council members Julia Ratti and Ron Smith; and Sparks Chamber executive director Len Stevens. Thank you for working with us in making this day a success!

In addition, all of the district's senior personnel were out in the schools to welcome returning students and to be there to help staff and administrators handle any problems that arose.

There were a few issues, as anyone might expect, but most of these were minor and readily solved. If our opening day was any indication of the success of this school year, and of the renewed commitment of everyone in the district to student achievement, it will be a great year for education in Washoe County's public schools.

Barbara Clark
 President
 WCSD Board of Trustees

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ACT Scores Above Nevada, National Average

More graduating students than ever before took the American College Testing Program exams (ACT) last school year and their average scores exceeded the state and national average scores across the board.

For the 2009 graduating class, 1,116 students took the ACT exam, designed to predict their likely success in college. The number of test-takers represents a 9% increase over five years ago. Their average composite score, a combination of English, mathematics, reading and science was 21.8, exceeding the state average of 21.5 and the national score of 21.1.

For more info [click here](#).

SAT Scores Move Higher In All Areas

The 2009 SAT scores for the WashoeCountySchool District continue to outpace the state and national average. Although the five-year trend has been downward, scores from last year have improved, possibly signaling a reversal of the trend.

The scores reported are for 1,239 test-takers. SAT scores are reported in three areas: critical reading, mathematics and writing. The SAT program uses a scale from 200 to 800 in each area.

For more info [click here](#).