



ALL DISTRICT MEMO

TO: All District Employees

FROM: Fred James, Acting Executive Director

DATE: September 29, 2020

SUBJECT: District Updates

Smooth Launch of Learning Services: Many thanks to all Library District staff who helped make additional services of early student hours and the return of homework help tutors in our urban branches this past week a smooth launch. In the first week of student early hour service, 129 students and 37 parents or caregivers came in to use free Wifi and 17 library devices. Special shout outs to East Las Vegas with 38 students, and Spring Valley, Sunrise, and Whitney who also saw students and parents taking advantage of the new student hours.



We have also seen a slow rise of students in the five Vegas Strong Academy sites at West Las Vegas, East Las Vegas, Sunrise, Clark County, and Windmill. Please let parents and caregivers know that new subsidy money is available for this 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. childcare by phoning the City of Las Vegas (CLV) at 702.229.2273. Students are eligible if their household or the school they attended qualify for the free or reduced student lunch program.

Vegas Strong Academy activities are organized around weekly themes. The September weekly themes were: #BeKind21, Superheroes, Space and Pacific Islands. During #BeKind21, activities included reading and discussing kindness themed books, making friendship bracelets, playing games about sharing and completing the kindness challenges from the CLV #BeKind21 calendar. During Superhero week, students used their imagination to create, draw and describe a hero of their own design and

reflected on real-life superheroes in their neighborhoods. During Space week, students made galaxy slime, learned about and created constellations made of string, and created watercolor planets. Finally, during Pacific Islands week, youth learned the geography of the islands, created their own tiki masks and learned how to dance the hula.

While nothing is stable or certain in this COVID environment, we feel that over the past three months we have launched the key new services that support our strategic activities and resources related to "Limitless Learning." A handy and current inventory of both branch and virtual student enrichment resources can be found on the new LVCCLD.ORG landing page, lvccld.org/limitless-learning/. That page also has links to digital and printable fliers in English and Spanish that can be distributed to Kindergarten through college students, parents, and caregivers visiting our libraries. These fliers have been distributed to all CCSD students, teachers, and school principals.

This week also saw the end of the Cycle I session of Adult Learning Program classes for FY 20-21 that included 22 classes (6 virtual) with 202 students. The program focuses primarily on free English language instruction. Registration is now complete for 31 Cycle II classes that will begin in early October for 350 registered students. The Adult Learning Program is also happy to announce that three students completed the Career Online High School program that gives students who are missing a few high school credits free access to an online program that results in a high school diploma along with career certifications in their field of choice. Because many of these students had life situations that prevented them from getting their high school diploma earlier, they go the extra mile to juggle family, work, and online learning and are extremely grateful for the opportunity to start down a career or occupational path.

Open for Businesses: A specialty One-Stop Center for employers, the Employ NV Business Hub, will open on October 21st at 11:00 a.m. at the Sahara West Library. Renovations to the space were a joint project of Workforce Connections of Southern Nevada; local architectural firm KME; and our own amazing General Services and IT teams, including Assistant General Services Director **John Vino**; Maintenance Technicians **Jason Strope**, **Stanley Elms**, and **Paul Singh**; Systems and Network Supervisor **Gunnar Kim**; and Microcomputer and Network Analysts **Jamesel Lighten**, **Shane Spillet** and **Anthony Weitz**.

The Business Hub expands the partnership between the Library District and Workforce Connections, who invested in the renovations to the Sahara West spaces. The partnership also builds a broad network of community support for small business development with other local Chambers of Commerce, Las Vegas Global Business Alliance, UNLV's Lee School of Business, and the Governor's offices of Economic Development, Business and Industry, and DETR. Workforce Connections invested \$315,000 in the Employ NV Business Hub renovations and anticipates annual costs of \$240,000 to operate the hub with four Workforce staff employed to assist business owners with start-ups and growing their businesses through recruitment, hiring, training, and other business planning and development support.

Staffing for Stability. Over the past month, Library Operations has seen the biggest impact from the retiring employees who took the VESP, as well as a significant number of resignations due to the challenging public service environment of library branches. To shore up both Person-In-Charge and branch staff stability, Library Operations is currently hiring from within the organization to fill positions on an as-needed basis. Please keep your eyes on the Library District's job postings for career advancement opportunities. Other staffing adjustments being made include:

- Meadows Library Associate **Rocio Franco** will provide library resources to the Stupak Community Center's Vegas Strong Academy program, along with curbside services.
- Courier Services will consolidate deliveries to provide Monday through Saturday services.

Farewells with Infinite Gratitude. In the next week we will see the retirement of Mount Charleston Library Associate **Lauren Olson** and Director of Library Operations **Jenn Schember**. Lauren leaves a beautiful garden along with her library service legacy. Jenn will be sorely missed on the Executive Council, where she has championed new and innovative library services, opened new buildings, and led by example with vision, empathy, and attention to detail. Her long library career started as a Page in 1989, and over the past three decades she has served in Community Outreach, Adult Services, YPL Children's Services, Branch Management, Access Services, and Public Services. She has also nurtured many librarians, leaving a legacy of talent here and in the larger library land. She is known for her ability to motivate, mentor, work hard, laugh harder, plough through emails past midnight, and importantly, support and elevate staff performance and morale, even in the most challenging and uncertain times. We wish both of these exceptional employees the best of luck and happiness on the road ahead.