

maintained by Principal Steve Shepperd and monthly school newsletters inform parents of school activities and highlight ways parents can get involved. The suggested tasks are often as simple as helping children with homework assignments.

Principal Shepperd says, "Just because sixty percent of the students we teach come from households that are at or near the poverty level, it doesn't mean that they cannot learn. We concentrate on setting high standards and we help the kids meet them by offering encouragement and extra assistance with their lessons." Principal Shepperd credits the dedicated teachers of Sunnyside Elementary for putting in extra time and for bringing so much of their energy into the classroom.

Garfield Elementary is noted for its tremendous community involvement. Student volunteers from Boise State University, most of them studying to be teachers, regularly tutor students after school. Garfield hosts an annual Career Day in which professionals from the community describe their careers and how they pursued them. The school also has a fifteen-member mentor program. Although none of the tutors have children of their own who attend Garfield, they come to the school frequently during lunchtime to read with children. This extensive community involvement is one of the reasons why the Iowa Test of Basic Skills for students at Garfield Elementary have risen as much as thirty points on a 100-point scale for some grades.

In addition to volunteering, parents at Garfield Elementary are encouraged by Principal Elaine Eichelberg to join one of the school's many committees. At the beginning of the year, each household receives a questionnaire that lists specific ways to help and asks parents to indicate their interest and availability. Principal Eichelberg says, "One of the best things parents can do to improve their child's education is to keep close tabs on their child's progress themselves and work with teachers when problems at school arise."

The national recognition that Sunnyside Elementary and Garfield Elementary have received reaffirms my belief that Idaho has some of the best teachers and administrators in the nation. Backed by strong involvement from parents and encouragement from the community, these elementary schools have demonstrated success in teacher training, utilized community resources, and established partnerships with parents.

There has been much debate about the success of the Title I program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Schools like Garfield and Sunnyside show us that the programs implemented with the use of Title I funds do work. When we invest in quality education programs that focus on

basic skills, such as reading and mathematics, our low-performing students will improve. The methods employed in Idaho serve as a reminder that community and parental support often make the biggest difference in elementary education.

I am very proud of the accomplishments of these two schools. Their steady focus on hard work has put their students on a path of continued academic success.●

IN MEMORY OF MRS. JACQUELYN STEWART

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in honor and in memory of a dear friend of mine, Mrs. Jacquelyn Stewart, who passed away on June 19 at the age of 59. Mrs. Stewart was not only a friend, but a truly special woman. She believed deeply in the ideals of the Republican Party, and worked extremely hard to fight for these ideals.

Mrs. Stewart was born in Detroit, Michigan. After attending Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan, she attended the Oakland County Police Academy. She spent 15 years as an investigator with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

On May 8, 1989, Mrs. Stewart was appointed to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission as an Administrative Commissioner. In 1997, Governor John Engler elevated her to position of Chairwoman of the Commission. For her work in that position, Mrs. Stewart is credited with restoring credibility to an agency that had fallen under controversy.

Mrs. Stewart also served the Oakland County Republican Party in many ways, most prominently as one of the top aides to former prosecutor and current County Executive, L. Brooks Patterson. In the mid-1980's, she led a petition drive that fell just short of placing a proposed restoration of the death penalty on the Michigan ballot.

Mrs. Stewart is survived by her husband, Mr. James Stewart, former longtime Huntington Woods Police Chief, as well as her sons, Chris and Timothy Boelter; daughter Elizabeth Rose; step-son James Stewart, and two brothers.

Mr. President, I consider it a privilege to have been able to know and work with Jackie Stewart. She was a woman of complete integrity, who fought for what she believed regardless of the odds against her. Her energy and boundless efforts were an inspiration to men and women throughout the State of Michigan, and I am sure she will be dearly missed by everyone who knew her.●

THE CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER OF ALASKA

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to offer my congratulations to the

Challenger Learning Center of Alaska, its Board of Directors, and staffers, on their Official Launch Ceremony on July 7, 2000.

The Challenger Learning Center of Alaska will be part of the national network of 50 Learning Centers operating in the United States, Canada, and England established in memory of the 1986 Challenger Space Shuttle crew. Located in Kenai, Alaska, the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska simulates space missions to give students the opportunity to explore the endless possibilities available in science and technology fields.

Mr. President, currently 40 percent of America's 4th graders read below the basic level on national reading tests. On international tests, the nation's twelfth graders rank last in Advanced Physics compared with students in 18 other countries. And one-third of all incoming college freshmen must enroll in a remedial reading, writing, or mathematics class before taking regular courses. If we are going to turn these dismal statistics around this country needs an innovative approach to teaching. The Challenger Learning Center of Alaska is working towards ensuring that our elementary and secondary students of today are the best-educated and motivated college graduates of tomorrow.

The Challenger Learning Center programs will not only create an environment conducive to pursuing the sciences, they will also assist students in developing skills vital to every field. In the Alaska workplace of the 21st century, survival will depend on teamwork, problem solving, communication and decision-making. Like no other educational program, the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska will help all of Alaska's students develop these critical skills while providing the solid educational content that promotes science literacy.

Mr. President, educators continue to site education as the number one determinant in an individual's success. I believe that the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska will profoundly affect the future of Alaska. I commend the Challenger Learning Center staff, Board of Directors, NASA and statewide communities for their tireless efforts and dedication to our young Alaskans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4680. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary program for prescription drug coverage under the Medicare Program, to modernize the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.