



*Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport*

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## ***Aviation Department brings education program to third-grade classrooms across Clark County***

LAS VEGAS – McCarran International Airport wrapped up its first year of educating Clark County elementary school pupils about aviation and the nation's seventh-busiest airport. Nearly 30 percent of Clark County third-graders enjoyed the complimentary curriculum during the 2007-08 school year. Airport staff visited 33 elementary schools and reached more than 4,300 third-graders and 200 teachers. An additional 100 teachers ordered the self-guided aviation curriculum to facilitate their own in-class instruction for approximately 2,500 pupils.

"With this program we are reaching a segment of the community that we've never reached before," said Rosemary A. Vassiliadis, deputy director for the Clark County Department of Aviation. "We are pleased with the amount of interest the Junior Aviators program received in its first year and look forward to introducing future third-graders to the aviation industry and McCarran International."

The Outreach Program for Junior Aviators was created in partnership with the Clark County School District Curriculum and Professional Development Center and fulfills Clark County curriculum guidelines and Nevada State Standards by featuring topics in geography, history and science.

The program includes a student activity book of educational exercises and fun facts, as well as a teacher's guide and DVD that prepare young travelers for their next trip out of McCarran. Original artwork adorns each component featuring Captain Mac, a cartoon Boeing 737 mascot who is accompanied by colorful companions designed to appeal to children of all ages. The program also exposes the students to various careers available within the aviation industry.

In-class presentations with McCarran staff are a key component of the program. Pupils learn about the evolution of aircraft from the Wright Brothers' era to today's jet age; air travel as a primary mode of transportation; and the vital role McCarran plays within our community, from providing jobs to supporting the local tourism industry.

"The Junior Aviators assembly was the best presentation our students have experienced this year. They talked about what they learned for days," said Mindy Pretner, assistant principal at Marion Earl Elementary School. "And teachers are always grateful for resources that enhance the classroom experience and expose students to new subjects."

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