

# Grade school creates 'school of mines'; needs displays

The Gordon McCaw Elementary School in Henderson, Nevada (near Las Vegas), is building a McCaw School of Mines on its campus as a field trip destination for the 170,000 students of Clark County School District and students from throughout the region.

At the school of mines, students will experience a mine tunnel, learn about the geology and history of Nevada, have hands-on experiences in mineralogy, learn about current mining practices and determine what types of products that we use every day come from a mine. A recirculating stream will provide students with a place to pan for gold, says the school's principal, Dr. Janet Dobry. The mine, a 4500-square-foot structure, was developed through a collaborative effort between educators and school officials, the business community and local government.

The McCaw students are participating in all phases of the project from concept, to design, to site survey, construction and eventually, operation. It is being developed exclusively on



*Students and teachers from McCaw Elementary School got some real-life instruction on how a mine works at Molycorp's Mountain Pass, California, mine last spring. The students are helping plan and build their own mine on the school campus. Photo courtesy of John Landreth, Molycorp.*

an all-volunteer basis and through private funding and donations.

Dr. Dobry reports to NMA that the school currently is soliciting help with the sponsorship or donation of interactive displays and exhibits to bring mining alive to students. Anyone interested in helping can contact the school at 57 Lynn Lane, Henderson, NV 89015; 702/799-8930. **M**