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With kids from Griffin Avenue Elementary School assembled in front of a Metro Rapid articulated bus, Mechanic Jose Garcia gives a safety briefing.



Photos by Rich Morallo

DAC Members Satisfy Elementary Pupils' Curiosity about Metro

- Career information and transit safety are the topics

By RICH MORALLO

(May 12, 2006) "How much do bus operators make?" "Do you like driving a bus?" "How does the farebox work?"

The questions were endless for Division Ambassador Committee (DAC) member Diana Martinez as she spoke to children in three classes during a recent Career Day at Western Avenue Elementary.

"It's important for Metro to communicate career information to the students who one day will start to consider future job options," said Martinez, a bus operator from Arthur Winston Division 5. "At the same time they can pass on to their families what they learned about transit safety."

Transportation Operations Supervisor June Singleton-Reece, who accompanied Martinez, described for the students how she drove a bus for 11 years before becoming a supervisor.

"Besides careers, we also promote safety and I warned the students to never run after the bus," she



Division 18 Operator Theresa Bender responds to questions from the pupils at McKinley Avenue Elementary School. Division 5 TOS June Singleton-Reece, right, gave a bus and rail safety presentation to the pupils at Western Avenue Elementary School.

said.

Career Day presentation

While Singleton-Reece and Martinez were talking to the Western Avenue students, five miles away fellow DAC member Theresa Bender attended McKinley Avenue Elementary School's Career Day.

"I told the students I decided to become a bus operator when I was in school 16 years ago," said Bender, a Carson Division 18 operator. Bender explained to 50 third-graders that the Metro job is not always easy but she has fun and enjoys what she does.

Bender smiled at some of the feedback from the children. "One of the students told me that he wanted to be a bus driver, a police officer and a baseball player."

Meanwhile, Mechanic Jose Garcia talked to Griffin Avenue Elementary students in East Los Angeles about his work at the repair and refurbish shop in the Regional Rebuild Center.

"Be careful near buses and trains, and step back from the curb when waiting for the bus," Garcia told the youngsters.

