

HEADS UP



SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

TRADUCCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL INCLUIDA



Claudia Rodriguez and daughter Julietta



Valencia Mason and niece Jannice

Transition out involves communication

The move to kindergarten from Head Start can be daunting for children, but perhaps even more so for parents. They may wonder if their child is prepared and whether the transition out will be smooth. Parents agreed that Head Start prepares children well for the next stage of their education, but they also stressed the importance of communicating often and positively with children about what's happening next.

"She was well prepared. She was following directions and playing well. She didn't have any struggles," said Minerva Olivares of her daughter Merelin, who transitioned from Pugh Head Start to Pugh elementary.

Now Olivares' son Merlin will transition to Pugh elementary, and having gone through it with her daughter, Olivares has no worries about her son's transition out.

Claudia Rodriguez credits her son Alex's easy transition to kindergarten to Head Start for preparing him well and the open dialogue she and Alex had about the move. She anticipates her 3 year-old daughter Julietta's transition to Baytown's Head Start from the Early Head Start program will be just

as easy. She said both she and her son talk often and positively to Julietta about the program.

"Communication is so important — we talk about what's going to happen, what class she'll be in and about having a new teacher," Rodriguez said. "She's excited."

Valencia Mason, who is preparing her niece Jannice for a move from Humble Center to the Road School, talks often to Jannice about having a new teacher, new friends and learning new things. She said volunteering at the school also helps children settle in, because they feel supported and understand school is important.

Head Start staff are also there to help with the transition out. Education and Special Services Manager James Stancill had these tips for parents.

- Make sure you have registration documents.
- Share educational documents with the next school.
- Continue learning activities with your child at home. They should include reading, counting, arts and crafts and practice writing their name.

Charity puts books in hands of students

Virginia based Balint Charities came to the rescue after Hurricane Harvey by putting books into the hands of all the students at HCDE Head Start centers.

The charity, created five years ago by Kathleen Christesen in honor of her parents, provides new and almost new books and musical instruments to schools and early childhood centers across the country. With the help of Christesen's brother Steve Balint, the charity has made two deliveries of new books — 2,600 in total — to HCDE Head Start and plans on making more.

"We started this charity because there's a lot of information about the early intervention of reading and music for children and how it improves educational success," Christesen said.

Each book bears a sticker with "Barb's Books" in recognition of her mother Barbara, a retired librarian. Musical instruments come with "Fran's Bands" stickers, named for her father, Francis, who loves music.

"My parents are amazing," Christesen said. "They instilled the importance of education not only in their six children and their 17 grandchildren, but also in all children. They've made donations to universities, schools and organizations that support children and aid in a successful education."

For more information about the charity, visit www.balintcharities.org



Armando Rodriguez and Steve Balint

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



As we come to the close of the 2017-18 school year we look back at the huge impact that Hurricane Harvey had on us at the beginning of the year, and we celebrate because we made it through. There were many challenges for both staff and parents, many of whom were dealing with loss and still trying to rebuild. But we all managed to overcome our challenges and maintain a standard of excellence, and for that I applaud parents, teachers and children, because we did it together!

Having weathered Harvey, we also had three Federal Reviews. The Focus 2 Review in February looked at systems we have in place to ensure we provide quality services and maintain compliance. Though we haven't received a final report, the week went smoothly and we look forward to sharing a good report in the future. The Class Review, conducted in March, looked at teacher interaction with students. Our scores across the board were good, and we achieved the standard of excellence in Emotional Support. The CACFP review was conducted the week of May 8. This review looked at how our food program complies with USDA regulations.

In other news, we were excited to break ground on our new Baytown center and are hoping to occupy the building in 2019. It will bring the Early Head Start and Head Start programs under one roof.

Summer is almost upon us, and I hope you find time for family, friends, rest and renewal. While I always say this, it bears repeating, please, please read to your children daily during the summer.

SEE YOU IN AUGUST! — VENETIA L. PEACOCK



Early childcare programs offer options

While parents of infants and toddlers have Early Head Start as a quality, affordable childcare option in Baytown, parents in other areas aren't so lucky. However, there are four private early childcare programs families can access through the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Program (EHS-CPP).

Between John G. Jones Learning Center in Crosby, Fellowship of Purpose Early Childhood Learning Center in Channelview, Kool Kids Daycare in Pasadena and Let's Learn Christian Learning Center in Baytown, there are 60 Early Head Start places for children who qualify. Like Baytown EHS, which has 40 places, these centers serve children from six weeks to three years under the Head Start umbrella.

The two programs follow the same performance standards, offer parent engagement activities and have a low teacher-to-child ratio. The difference between the two is that EHS-CPP teachers are employed by the private centers, although they do have access to training and development through Head Start.

"We have collaborated with childcare centers to bring together the best of Early Head Start and childcare," said James Stancill, Assistant Director of Childcare Partnerships.

As well as increasing the number of places for infants and toddlers of low income families in east Harris County, the private centers also support working families by providing a full-day, year-round program.

Meanwhile, Baytown EHS will soon merge with Baytown Head Start when the new facility, currently under construction, is completed. The combined program for children six weeks to five years will be the only one of its kind in the service area, but there are plans for others. Baytown EHS and EHS-CPP are accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year. For information, call 713-696-2150.

What makes a center unique?

Though they deliver a uniform program, each of the 15 HCDE Head Start centers are unique in their own way. Center Managers talked about what makes their center tick and what makes them unique for a new feature that shines a spotlight on the centers, starting with Tidwell and Sheffield.

For Tidwell, a freestanding center that houses 63 children in four classrooms, it's the small farm that backs up to the center.

"I think it definitely makes us unique," said Center Manager Mary Crather, who has been there since July 2015. "We have a farm behind us with two horses, roosters and chickens — it gives our children the opportunity to see farm animals and watch the horses."

Aside from the country setting, Crather, who has 22 years experience in early childcare, said they are all about fostering parent engagement and creating an open, positive and welcoming atmosphere. One way they do this is by celebrating parents who are first to bring in their child's monthly homework sheet by putting up a congratulatory poster in the hallway. Crather said it encourages other parents and boosts parent in-kind services.

With 135 children in seven classrooms in a purpose-built facility, Sheffield is one of the largest centers in the area. The center also works closely with Galena Park ISD's Early Head Start and STEP programs that serve children up to three years or have disabilities. Because most of Sheffield's students are native Spanish speakers, Center Manager Sherry Eagleton said they start out by teaching children in their first language as they settle in and then switch to English.

Eagleton, who also manages the 19-student San Jacinto center, strives to project a child-friendly, clean, organized and open environment where parents feel welcome.

"We're outside greeting parents every morning," Eagleton said.

To find out more about the centers, visit <http://www.hcde-texas.org>



Nora Dela Cruz and son Leonardo Llamas

Healthy food made yummy

Four year-old Leonardo Llamas from Dogan Head Start was this year's winner of the annual Parent/Child Food Science Fair with his dish of asparagus with chicken. Children and their parents had to choose a fruit or vegetable with which to create a healthy dish. Leonardo and his mom Nora Dela Cruz made asparagus appealing by pairing it with chicken.

Designed to educate families about nutrition, while promoting bonding and creativity, the food science fair is part of Head Start's overall goal to promote healthy eating in the centers and at home. The food science fair is held at each center, and the winner from each center progresses to the final judging at the Policy Council meeting.

School Messenger sign-up underway

Parents can expect more communication about emergencies and non emergencies alike via School Messenger this coming school year, but they must sign up first and as soon as possible. The notification system will be used for emergencies and to provide information about activities and events at centers, school closings and other happenings. Parents can sign up once they have completed a Commitment Appointment. They will then receive messages via text, email or phone.

ESQUINA DEL DIRECTOR



Al llegar al final del año escolar 2017-18, recordamos el enorme impacto que el huracán Harvey tuvo sobre nosotros a principios de año, y celebramos porque logramos completar el año. Hubo muchos desafíos tanto para el personal como para los padres, muchos de los cuales enfrentaron pérdidas y reconstrucción. Pero todos logramos superar nuestros desafíos y mantuvimos un estándar de excelencia, y por eso aplaudo a padres, maestros y niños, ¡porque lo hicimos juntos!

Desde entonces, hemos tenido tres Revisiones Federales. La revisión del 5 de febrero analizó los sistemas que tenemos implementados para garantizar que proporcionamos servicios de calidad y mantenemos el cumplimiento. Aunque no hemos recibido un informe final, la semana transcurrió sin problemas, y esperamos compartir un buen informe con usted. Recibimos el informe de la revisión CLASS del 5 de marzo, que analizó la interacción de los maestros con los estudiantes. Basado en el promedio nacional, funcionamos muy bien. También estamos esperando el informe sobre la revisión del 8 de mayo de CACFP, que analiza cómo nuestro programa de alimentos cumple con las regulaciones de USDA.

En otras noticias, estamos entusiasmados de comenzar a construir nuestro nuevo centro de Baytown y esperamos ocupar el edificio en 2019. Traerá los programas de Early Head Start y Head Start bajo un mismo techo.

El verano ya casi nos sobreviene, y espero que encuentren tiempo para la familia, los amigos, el descanso y la renovación. Y siempre digo esto, por favor lean a sus hijos diariamente este verano.

¡TE VEO EN AGOSTO — VENETIA L. PEACOCK

Caridades ponen libros en las manos de los estudiantes

Balint Charities, establecido en Virginia, vino al rescate después del huracán Harvey a poner libros en las manos de los estudiantes de los centros de Head Start de HCDE.

La organización benéfica, creada hace cinco años por Kathleen Christesen en honor a sus padres, ofrece libros e instrumentos musicales a escuelas y centros de la primera infancia en todo el país. Con la ayuda del hermano de Christesen, Steve Balint, la organización caritativa ha realizado dos entregas de libros (2,600 en total) a HCDE Head Start y planea hacer más.

"Comenzamos esta obra de caridad porque entendemos como la intervención temprana en la lectura y la música en los niños mejora el éxito educativo", dijo Christesen.

Para obtener más información sobre la organización benéfica, visite www.balintcharities.org



Minerva Olivares with son Merlin and daughter Merelin

La transición implica comunicación

La transición al jardín de infantes de Head Start puede ser desalentadora para los niños, pero quizás aún más para los padres. Se preguntan si su hijo está preparado y si la transición ocurrirá sin problemas. Los padres estuvieron de acuerdo en que Head Start prepara bien a los niños para la próxima etapa de su educación, pero también enfatizaron la importancia de comunicarse a menudo y positivamente con los niños sobre lo que sucederá.

“La comunicación es muy importante: hablamos sobre lo que va a pasar, en qué clase estará y sobre su nuevo maestro”, dijo Claudia Rodríguez, acerca de la transición de su hija Julietta de 3 años al centro Head Start de Baytown del Programa Early Head Start.

Valencia Mason, que está preparando a su sobrina Jannice para mudarse de Humble Center a Road School, habla a menudo con Jannice sobre tener un nuevo maestro, nuevos amigos y aprender cosas nuevas.

La Gerente de Educación y Servicios Especiales Jamese Stancill tiene estos consejos para los padres para garantizar una transición fácil.

- Asegúrese de tener documentos de registro.
- Compartir documentos educativos con la próxima escuela
- Continuar aprendiendo actividades con su hijo en casa, incluyendo lectura, conteo, manualidades y arte, practicar escribiendo su nombre y dibujando.

Inscripción de School Messenger en curso

Los padres pueden esperar más comunicación acerca de emergencias y otros asuntos a través del School Messenger en el próximo año escolar, pero deben inscribirse primero y tan pronto como sea posible. El sistema de notificación se utilizará para emergencias y para proporcionar información sobre actividades y eventos en centros, cierres de escuelas y otros eventos. Los padres pueden inscribirse una vez que hayan completado una cita de compromiso. Luego recibirán mensajes por mensaje de texto, correo electrónico o teléfono.

Comida saludable y deliciosa



Nora Dela Cruz and son Leonardo Llamas

Leonardo Llamas, 4 años, de Dogan Head Start fue el ganador de la Feria Anual de Ciencia de Alimentos para Padres e Hijos de este año con su plato de espárragos con pollo. Los niños y sus padres tuvieron que elegir una fruta o verdura con la que crearon un plato saludable. Leonardo y su madre, Nora Dela Cruz, hicieron que los espárragos fueran atractivos emparejándolos con pollo.

Diseñada para educar a las familias sobre la nutrición, mientras promueve el vínculo y la creatividad, la feria de ciencias de los alimentos es parte del objetivo general de Head Start de promover la alimentación saludable en los centros y en el hogar. La feria de ciencia de los alimentos se lleva a cabo en cada centro, y el ganador de cada centro pasa al jurado final en la reunión del Consejo Político.

Los programas de cuidado infantil ofrecen opciones

Baytown Early Head Start y los cuatro programas privados de cuidado infantil temprano que están en el Programa de Asociación de Cuidado Infantil de Early Head Start (EHS-CPP) están aceptando solicitudes para el año escolar 2018-19 de las familias que califican. Entre John G. Jones Learning Center en Crosby, Fellowship of Purpose en Channelview, Kool Kids Daycare en Pasadena y Let's Learn Christian Learning Center en Baytown, hay 60 lugares de Early Head Start, mientras que Baytown EHS tiene 40.

Los dos programas sirven a niños de 6 semanas a 3 años bajo el paraguas de Head Start. Tienen los mismos estándares de desempeño, ofrecen actividades de participación de padres y tienen una baja proporción de maestro/niño. La diferencia entre los dos programas es que los maestros de EHS-CPP son empleados por los centros privados, aunque tienen acceso a capacitación y desarrollo a través de Head Start.

Mientras tanto, Baytown EHS pronto se fusionará con Baytown Head Start cuando se complete la nueva instalación, actualmente en construcción. El programa combinado para niños de 6 semanas a 5 años será el único de su tipo en la región, pero hay planes para nuevos centros. Para obtener información sobre las aplicaciones, llame al 713-696-2150.



Sherry Eagleton and Ny'Dia Robertson



Mary Crather and students from Tidwell HS

Qué hace que un centro sea único?

Los gerentes de los centros hablaron sobre cómo los centros se pueden destacar y tener algo único, comenzaron hablando de Tidwell y Sheffield.

Tidwell, un centro independiente que alberga a 63 niños en cuatro aulas, tiene una pequeña granja que rellena el entorno del centro. Con caballos, gallos y pollos, los niños tienen la oportunidad de ver animales de granja. Además, la gerente del centro, Mary Crather, dijo que en Tidwell celebra el compromiso de los padres premiando los primeros padres en traer la hoja de tarea mensual de sus hijos colocando un cartel de felicitación en el pasillo.

Con 135 niños en 7 aulas en una instalación especialmente diseñada, Sheffield es uno de los centros más grandes en el área. El centro también colabora estrechamente con los programas Early Head Start y STEP de Galena Park ISD que atienden a niños de hasta 3 años o niños con discapacidades. Debido a que la mayoría de los estudiantes de Sheffield son hablantes nativos de español, la Gerente del Centro, Sherry Eagleton, dijo que el centro enseña a los niños en su primer idioma mientras se establecen y luego cambian al inglés. Para obtener más información sobre los centros, visite <http://www.hcde-texas.org>.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE

1Summer break starts
(ALL HEAD START CENTERS CLOSED)
4-28.....Baytown EHS summer semester
schedule **(closed Fridays)**

JULY

2-5Baytown EHS is closed
9-26.....Baytown EHS summer semester
schedule **(closed Fridays)**

AUGUST

10-12Tax Free Weekend
27First day of school

Check with each Center Manager for details of these and other happenings, as dates may vary for each center.

MARQUEN SUS CALENDARIOS!

JUNIO

1.....Comienzan las vacaciones del verano
(Todos los centros de Head Start cerrados)
4-28Baytown EHS programa de verano
(Cerrado los viernes)

JULIO

2-5.....Baytown EHS estará cerrado
9-26Baytown EHS programa de verano
(Cerrado los viernes)

AGOSTO

10-12Fin de semana sin impuestos
27Primer día de escuela

Verifique las fechas y los detalles con el gerente de cada centro.

CENTER DIRECTORY

BARRETT STATION 808 1/2 Magnolia Ave., Crosby, TX 77532
713-696-3119 Kathy Greenway, Center Mgr.

BAYTOWN 1725 N. Pruett St., Baytown, TX 77520
713-696-3120 Geneva Glapion-Refuge, Center Mgr.

BAYTOWN EHS 1319 N. Pruett St., Baytown, TX 77520
713-696-2150 Geneva Glapion-Refuge, Center Mgr.

CHANNELVIEW 16102 Ridlon, Channelview, TX 77530
713-696-1852 Cynthia Johnson, Center Mgr.

COMPTON 9720 Spaulding St., Houston, TX 77016
713-635-4142 Merevonna Ross-Daniel, Center Mgr.

COOLWOOD 767 Coolwood Dr., Houston, TX 77013
713-451-9024 Valerie Stephens, Center Mgr.

DOGAN 4202 Liberty Rd., Houston, TX 77026
713-672-0207 Laura Dugas-Kelley, Center Mgr.

FIFTH WARD 4014 Market St., Houston, TX 77020
713-237-0264 Wanda Vinson, Center Mgr.

FONWOOD 9709 Mesa Dr., Houston, TX 77085
713-556-3830 Markeysha Hinderman, Center Mgr.

HUMBLE 130 Atascocita, Humble, TX 77396
713-696-3121 Diane Washington, Center Mgr.

J.D. WALKER 7613 A Wade Rd., Baytown, TX 77521
713-696-3122 Norma Starr, Center Mgr.

LA PORTE 927 South 1st St., Laporte, TX 77571
713-696-3123 Vanessa Ward-Franklin, Center Mgr.

PUGH 1042 Henke St., Houston, TX 77020
713-675-6222 Catherine Jones, Center Mgr.

SAN JACINTO 5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049
713-696-1853 Sherry Eagleton, Center Mgr.

SHEFFIELD 14300 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX 77049
713-450-3813 Sherry Eagleton, Center Mgr.

TIDWELL 8302 John Ralston Rd., Houston, TX 77044
713-696-3124 Mary Crather, Center Mgr.

Familiar face returns in staff changes

Caras familiares regresan en los cambios de personal



Lisa Boone and Jamese Stancill

After a 13-year absence, **Lisa Boone** returned in April to be Assistant Director of Operations. She is responsible for facilities, data, compliance and supervises the Center Managers. "I'm really excited about being back," said Boone, whose immediate tasks include working on professional development, restructuring the budget and overseeing the Baytown center construction. Boone was a teacher and administrator for HISD and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston. Prior to that, she served as education coordinator and operations coordinator for Head Start.

Jamese Stancill was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Childcare Partnerships. She was the Education and Special Services Manager for HCDE Head Start. Stancill has 19 years experience in education, having served as an elementary teacher, adult education teacher, program specialist, behavior specialist, in-home trainer and coordinator.

Shonika Kwarteng, Nutrition Services Manager, recently headed to Dallas to be Nutrition Director for Head Start of Greater Dallas. Kwarteng started out as Nutrition Services Coordinator before being promoted in 2015. Prior to Head Start, Kwarteng worked for the WIC program in Georgia.

Compliance Manager **Natalya Sumner** left in April to devote more time to her burgeoning business making personalized gifts. "I'm letting my creative spirit take over," said Sumner, also a quilt artist.

Después de una ausencia de 13 años, **Lisa Boone** regresó en abril para ser subdirectora de operaciones. Ella es responsable de las instalaciones, los datos, el cumplimiento y también supervisa a los gerentes del centro. "Estoy realmente emocionada de estar de vuelta", dijo Boone, cuyas tareas inmediatas incluyen trabajar en desarrollo profesional, reestructurar el presupuesto y supervisar la construcción del centro de Baytown. Boone fue maestra y administradora de HISD y Boys & Girls Clubs. Antes de eso, se desempeñó como coordinadora de educación y operaciones de Head Start.

Jamese Stancill fue promovida recientemente a Asistente del Director de Childcare Partnerships. Ella era la Gerente de Educación y Servicios Especiales para HCDE Head Start. Stancill tiene 19 años de experiencia en educación, habiéndose desempeñado como maestra de primaria, maestra de educación de adultos, especialista de programas, especialista en conducta, capacitadora y coordinadora en el hogar.

Shonika Kwarteng, Gerente de Servicios de Nutrición, recientemente se dirigió a Dallas para ser Directora de Nutrición para Head Start de Greater Dallas. Kwarteng comenzó como Coordinador de Servicios de Nutrición antes de ser promovida en 2015. Antes de Head Start, Kwarteng trabajó para el programa de WIC en Georgia.

La Gerente de Cumplimiento **Natalya Sumner** se fue en abril para dedicar más tiempo a su creciente negocio de regalos personalizados. "Estoy dejando que mi espíritu creativo se haga a cargo", dijo Sumner, también artista de colchas.

AREA I HEAD START

6300 Irvington Blvd., Houston, TX 77022 **713-672-9343**

HCDE Head Start Mission and Vision:

To improve school readiness for children, families and the community | To create a learning environment of excellence dedicated to positively impacting our children, families, employees, community partners and society | Para mejorar la preparación para la escuela para niños, familias y la comunidad | Para crear un ambiente de aprendizaje excelente dedicado a impactar a los niños, familias, empleados, socios de la comunidad y la sociedad.

This is a product of the Communications and Creative Services division of Harris County Department of Education. Interested persons can also review this report online and obtain additional information related to the Department by visiting www.hcde-texas.org. It is the policy of Harris County Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, limited English proficiency or handicapping condition(s) in its programs.

HCDE HEAD START TEAM

Superintendent
James Colbert, Jr.

Assistant Superintendent
Jonathan M. Parker

Senior Director
Venetia L. Peacock

Director -Early Head Start
Jamese Stancill

Assistant Director of Operations
Lisa Boone

Assistant Director of Education and Family Services
Gulshan Rahman

Community Partnerships Manager
Armando Rodriguez

Compliance Manager
Vacant

Education & Special Services Manager
Vacant

Nutrition Services Manager
Vacant

Operations Services Manager
Suzanne Cates

Compliance
Gino Kamaya

Education
Ramona Burton
Yadira DeLaCruz
Pamela Jones-Lee
Patricia Kuskos
Lenora Reed

Family
Marisol Montalvo
Michele Nwokobia
Cesilia Pereira
Belen Turcios

Health
Ashlyn Allison
Christopher Stewart

Mental Health
Theresa Harris

Nutrition
Kelly Billings
Marlene Herrera
Mellissa Wilder

Operations
Termetrice Gibbons
Chloe Nolasco

Training
Taiwan Reliford

2018 HCDE BOARD MEMBERS

Board President
Louis D. Evans, III

Board Vice-President
Eric Dick

Board Members
Erica Lee Carter
George Moore
Don Sumners
Diane Trautman
Mike Wolfe

2018 HEAD START NEWSLETTER TEAM

Production Manager
Armando Rodriguez

Translator
Elda Rueda

Editor
Annette Baird

Designer
Jim Cunningham