

HEAD START



WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

TRADUCCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL INCLUIDA



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Venetia Peacock & Albert Wright

Welcome Back

I hope you had a fun, festive holiday and are ready for an active spring semester.

First an update on the new Baytown building and the Federal Review. Yes, the Baytown facility is nearing completion. We expect to access the building by late spring in time to open at the start of the 2019 school year. We're so excited about combining the Early Childhood and Head Start programs under one roof. It will allow us to be more efficient, provide continuity of services to help the younger students transition to Head Start, and focus on excellence without the worry of facility issues.

Having been granted an extension for the Federal Review, we have been working diligently on our response plan. We anticipate submitting it at the end of January.

I want to give a shout out to the recruitment team. They have worked hard to find qualified people, and I'm happy to say we're almost 100 percent staffed. Meanwhile, they've also been focused on promoting staff attendance, and on another positive note, there was an increase in the number of employees who had perfect attendance or great attendance – missing two days or less of work. It's vital that staff members know how important it is to take care of themselves, so they can be at work and provide continuity of care for our students. Our staff are a vital piece of the puzzle that greatly impacts students' success.

Looking ahead, we will continue with the Head Start leadership program for employees in management roles. Last semester, when the program started, there was a focus on communication and leadership and management styles. This semester we will continue to work on being better leaders and providing better support for our employees.

Lastly, we will be preparing for our community partnership luncheon in May. Our community partners help us know and understand the needs of the community, so we can provide comprehensive services to our families.

Here's to a successful semester!

— VENETIA L. PEACOCK



Sheena Gulley



20-year tradition helping families continues

Family, friends, coworkers and local businesses once again rallied behind Bates Collision Centers to give two Head Start families their own vehicle for HCDE Head Start's annual Responsible Parenting Award. Now in its 20th year, the tradition of helping families become more independent by providing reliable transportation is the highlight of the year for employees, according to Leila Bates, who co-owns the business with husband Lee. Bates Collision Centers has locations in Channelview and Baytown.

Employees ensured the vehicles – a 2009 Ford Focus and a 2008 Buick LaCrosse – were in great shape, AMI Insurance donated car insurance, La Porte Automotive gave a tune-up, and donations of gas cards and gifts for the families. Then there was the gift-wrapping party to put everything together.

"The whole thing brings employees, friends and family together," Bates said. "Our employees really buy into this."

Of course the Bates' also take great pleasure and pride in helping Head Start families get ahead. The

couple has donated a total of 36 vehicles since the award was started.

In December, Fifth Ward mom Sheena Gulley was presented with the Ford Focus at the Channelview location, while Parishellia Banks, a teacher assistant at Let's Learn Christian Learning Center in Baytown, received the Buick LaCrosse in Baytown.

"Both of them are working so hard to do what's best for their families," Bates said.

Gulley is a single mom of four children who works full time at Walmart and has been reliant on Metro and Uber. Having a car of her own car will allow her to attend her children's school functions, have a stress-free journey to and from work and start college. Banks, who at 56 is on her third round of parenting – she is looking after her late niece's two-year-old son Jayce, said a car will make it easier to get around and give her more independence.

"The vehicle means I can go on errands, go to and from work easily and take Jayce to the park," she said.



Center Manager and Enoud Bennett's family

Late Center Manager honored through book donation

More than 2,000 books were donated to students at several Head Start centers in memory of the late Enoud Bennett, a beloved Center Manager at the Channelview center who had a passion for children and literacy.

Bennett's family presented the books at a special ceremony at Channelview in the fall following a book collection to mark the one-year anniversary of Enoud's death. She died in June 2017.

"We're donating these books in honor of Enoud," sister Beverly Bennett said. "She loved to give back and she loved kids."

Hattie Weston, Channelview Family Services Provider, said Enoud loved teaching children.

"She wouldn't just read to them, she would make the books come alive," Weston said. "She told students books would take them everywhere."

Enoud Bennett worked for HCDE Head Start for more than 30 years at Compton, Humble, Barrett Station, Fifth Ward and Channelview. Every student at those centers received books to take home.



Principal Jennifer Roach with Kathy Greenway and Sylvia Davis

Centers foster bonds with feeder schools

In recognition of Head Start Awareness and National Principal Month in October, centers had principals from their feeder elementary schools over for a visit. The visits are designed to foster strong bonds between centers and their feeder schools.

"I think these kinds of events not only help to get the children prepared, but also to get the parents prepared," Barrett Station Center Manager Kathy Greenway said.

Barrett Station hosted Jennifer Roach, principal of Crosby ISD Kindergarten Center. Roach talked to parents at the Parent Committee meeting about her kindergarten program. The following week, Roach hosted a tour of the kindergarten center.

Christina Jordan, the new principal of Houston ISD's Fonwood Early Childhood Center, went the extra mile on her visit by participating in the annual Storybook Parade dressed as a crayon from the book "The Day the Crayons Quit." "Mrs. Jordan is always actively engaged with activities around the school and makes herself available for students, staff and parents," Fonwood Center Manager Markeysha Hinderman said. Lucí Schulz, Assistant Superintendent of Humble ISD and Ellen Shimer, Director of Humble ISD's Early Childhood program, visited Humble center.

"It's a show of support from the school district," Center Manager Lisa Manuel Ntabaazi said.

Head Start Attendance Incentive Program: Sharon McBride, Adrian Singleton, Venesta Williams and Brenda Smith received cash awards of \$600 - \$700 for perfect attendance. Venetia Peacock, Rosalia Meneses, Ashley Branch, Maribel Madrigal, Belen Villanueva, Shenekia Hines, Selena Lindley, Alicia Oliva, Ollie Grays, Maria Chan Verdin, Guadalupe Cordova, Mariam Oba, Cecile Porche, Ramona Burton, Suzanne Cates and James Stancill each received awards from \$275 - \$350 for great attendance, having missed two days or less.

Those with passion for children need apply

HCDE Head Start is appealing to community partners, schools, colleges and other agencies to help recruit those people interested in a child-centered career and are a good fit.

"Of course, we'd like someone looking for a teaching career or taking courses in child development because they would have an opportunity to grow here," Human Resources Coordinator Laura Nilon-Williams said. "And, we also want people who love kids."

Applicants should have experience working with children and certification or be willing to pursue certification for a position as a Teacher Assistant. There are also openings for Family Services Providers and in nutrition services.

"Head Start is definitely a program that has a lot of potential for growth and professional development, where you can build a career within the program – starting from Teacher Assistant to Center Manager," Nilon-Williams said. "There is financing available for training and education."

Applicants are advised to first look at the location of the job – there are 16 centers – to find out where they want to work. To apply, go to www.hcde-texas.org. Fill out the application online and attach a resume, any transcripts and three references. Those who qualify will be called in for an interview, during which they will get a detailed job description and hiring criteria. Candidates must then undergo a criminal background check. If all goes well, references will be contacted and Texas Child Care Licensing will be checked, if the candidate has worked with children before.

What makes a center unique?

One center is distinguished by its dual language program in partnership with Houston Independent School District; the other is a cluster of portable buildings tucked away behind a Humble church with terrific support from parents and the community.

Pugh, in east Houston, and Humble are in the spotlight as part of an ongoing feature series highlighting HCDE Head Start centers.

Pugh, which has 75 children, most of whom are Hispanic, started its dual language program in English and Spanish last year as a lead-in to the dual language program at Pugh Elementary. Children are taught in English and Spanish half a day each in specialized classrooms – three-year-olds in the stand-alone building and four-year-olds in the elementary school.

"It's going well," Pugh Center Manager Catherine Jones said. "Our parents are receptive to it – though the children do get homework in both languages."

More than 50 dads showed for Humble's Donuts with Dads in September, with donations from Starbucks and Shipley Do-Nuts. The Harvest Festival saw lots of moms come in to decorate classrooms and help out at the October event. That kind of parent support is typical for the center, according to Center Manager Lisa Manuel Ntabaazi.

"We have a big, big family participation – not just moms, but dads too," said Ntabaazi, who credited Policy Council Representative Amani Baha for helping to engage parents. "I'm really excited and proud about that."

Humble has 74 children, most of them African American and Hispanic. The center sits on Journey of Faith Church's property thanks to a four-year partnership between the church and Head Start. The center has access to the church kitchen and auditorium, and has its own playground. For more information about these and other centers, visit <https://hcde-texas.org/head-start/>

ESQUINA DEL DIRECTOR

¡Bienvenido de nuevo!

Espero que hayan tenido unas vacaciones divertidas y festivas y estén listos para un semestre muy activo en esta primavera.

Primero que todo los actualizaré sobre el nuevo edificio de Baytown y la Revisión Federal. Las instalaciones de Baytown están casi terminadas. Esperamos acceder al edificio a finales de la primavera a tiempo para iniciar el año escolar 2019. Estamos muy entusiasmados con la combinación de los programas Early Childhood y Head Start, esto nos permitirá ser más eficientes, proporcionar servicios continuos para ayudar a los estudiantes en la transición a Head Start, y centrarnos en la excelencia sin la preocupación de los problemas de las instalaciones.

Habiendo recibido una extensión para la Revisión Federal, hemos estado trabajando diligentemente en nuestro plan de respuesta. Anticipamos enviarlo a fines de enero.

Quiero agradecer al equipo de reclutamiento. Han trabajado arduamente para encontrar personas calificadas y me complace decir que tenemos casi el 100% de personal. Mientras tanto, también se han centrado en promover la asistencia del personal y hubo un aumento en el número de empleados que tuvieron asistencia perfecta o buena asistencia, faltando dos días o menos de trabajo. Es vital que los miembros del personal sepan lo importante que es cuidarse a sí mismos, para que puedan estar en el trabajo y brindar continua atención a nuestros estudiantes. Nuestro personal es una pieza vital que afecta en gran medida el éxito de los estudiantes.

En el futuro, continuaremos con el programa de liderazgo de Head Start para los empleados en funciones de administración. El semestre pasado, cuando comenzó el programa, hubo un enfoque en la comunicación, el liderazgo y los estilos de gestión. Este semestre continuaremos trabajando para ser mejores líderes y brindar un mejor apoyo a nuestros empleados.

Por último, nos estaremos preparando para nuestro almuerzo de asociación comunitaria en mayo. Nuestros socios comunitarios nos ayudan a conocer y comprender las necesidades de la comunidad, por lo que podemos proporcionar servicios integrales a nuestras familias.

¡Por un semestre exitoso!

— VENETIA L. PEACOCK





Los centros fomentan lazos con las escuelas

En reconocimiento al mes de Head Start Awareness y al Mes Nacional del Director en octubre, los centros tuvieron visitas de directores de su escuela primaria. Las visitas están diseñadas para fomentar fuertes lazos entre los centros y sus escuelas primarias.

"Creo que este tipo de eventos no solo ayudan a preparar a los niños, sino también a preparar a los padres", dijo Kathy Greenway, gerente de Barrett Station Center.

Barrett Station recibió a Jennifer Roach, directora del Crosby ISD Kindergarten Center. Roach habló con los padres en la reunión del Comité de Padres sobre su programa de kindergarten. La semana siguiente, Roach organizó un recorrido por el centro.

Christina Jordan, la nueva directora de Fonwood Early Childhood Center de HISD, hizo un esfuerzo adicional en su visita al participar en el desfile anual de libros de cuentos, se vistió como un crayón del libro "El día que los crayones abandonaron".

"La señora Jordan siempre participa activamente en los eventos de la escuela y está disponible para los estudiantes, el personal y los padres", dijo la gerente del centro de Fonwood, Markeysha Hinderman.

Luci Schulz, Asistente del Superintendente de Humble ISD y Ellen Shimer, Directora del programa de Infancia Temprana de Humble ISD, visitaron el centro de Humble.

"Es una muestra de apoyo del distrito escolar", dijo la gerente del centro, Lisa Manuel Ntabaazi.

La tradición de 20 años ayudando a las familias continúa

Familiares, amigos, compañeros de trabajo y negocios locales una vez más se unieron con Bates Collision Centers para darles a dos familias de Head Start su propio vehículo como Premio Anual de Padres Responsables de HCDE Head Start. Este es el vigésimo año en que ésta tradición ayuda a las familias a ser más independientes proporcionando transporte confiable. Este se ha convertido en un punto culminante del año para los empleados, según Leila Bates, quien es copropietaria del negocio con su esposo Lee. Bates Collision Centers tiene ubicaciones en Channelview y Baytown.

Los empleados se aseguraron que los vehículos - un Ford Focus 2009 y un Buick LaCrosse 2008 - estuvieran en excelentes condiciones; Seguro AMI donó seguro de automóvil; La Porte Automotive dono servicio para el auto; y hubo donaciones de tarjetas de gas y regalos para las familias. En diciembre, la madre de Fifth Ward, Sheena Gulley, recibió el Ford Focus, mientras que Parishellia Banks, una profesora asistente en el Centro de Aprendizaje Cristiano de Let's Learn en Baytown, recibió el Buick LaCrosse. Gulley es madre soltera de cuatro hijos quien trabaja de tiempo completo en Walmart y ha dependido del transporte público. Tener su propio automóvil le permitirá asistir a las funciones escolares de sus hijos y comenzar la universidad. Banks, quien a los 56 años se encuentra en su tercera ronda de crianza de hijos, cuida a su hijo de 2 años, Jayce, su difunta sobrina, dijo que un automóvil facilitará la movilidad y le dará más independencia.

Programa de Incentivos de Asistencia de Head Start: Sharon McBride, Adrian Singleton, Venesta Williams, Brenda Smith recibieron premios en efectivo de \$ 600 a \$ 700 por asistencia perfecta. Venetia Peacock, Rosalia Meneses, Ashley Branch, Maribel Madrigal, Belen Villanueva, Shenekia Hines, Selena Lindley, Alicia Oliva, Ollie Grays, Maria Chan Verdín, Guadalupe Cordova, Mariam Oba, Cecile Porche, Ramona Burton, Suzanne Cates y James Stancill recibieron premios de \$ 275 a \$ 350 por una Buena Asistencia, habiendo perdido dos días o menos.

Aquellos con pasión por los niños necesitan aplicar

Head Start de HCDE hace un llamado a los socios de la comunidad, escuelas, universidades y otras agencias para ayudar a reclutar a aquellas personas interesadas y dedicadas en una carrera centrada en niños.

Los solicitantes deben tener experiencia trabajando con niños y certificación o estar dispuestos a obtener la certificación para un puesto como Asistente de maestro. También hay vacantes para proveedores de servicios familiares y servicios de nutrición.

Se recomienda a los solicitantes que primero vean la ubicación del trabajo (hay 16 centros) para averiguar dónde quieren trabajar. Para aplicar, vaya a www.hcde-texas.org. Llene la solicitud en línea y adjunte un currículum, transcripciones y tres referencias. Aquellos que califican serán convocados para una entrevista, durante la cual recibirán una descripción detallada del puesto y los criterios de contratación. Los candidatos deben someterse a una verificación de antecedentes penales. Los siguientes pasos son contactar las referencias y verificar la licencia de cuidado de niños de Texas, si el candidato ha trabajado con niños anteriormente.

Qué hace que un centro sea único?

Pugh y Humble son el centro de atención como parte de una serie de funciones en curso que destacan los centros de HCDE Head Start. Pugh se distingue por su programa de lenguaje bilingüe en asociación con HISD. Humble, a pesar de ser parte de un grupo de edificios portátiles en la propiedad de la Iglesia Journey of Faith, tiene un apoyo excelente de los padres y la comunidad.

Pugh mantiene 75 niños, la mayoría hispanos, comenzó su programa bilingüe en inglés y español el año pasado como guía para el programa bilingüe en la escuela primaria Pugh. A los niños se les enseña en inglés y en español en aulas especializadas: niños de 3 años en el edificio independiente y niños de 4 años en la escuela primaria.

Más de 50 padres se presentaron para Humble's Donuts with Dads en septiembre, con donaciones de Starbucks y Shipley Don-Nuts. Al Festival de la Cosecha atendieron muchas madres quienes decoraron los salones y ayudaron en el evento de octubre. Ese tipo de apoyo de los padres es típico del centro, según la gerente del centro, Lisa Manuel Ntabaazi.

Humble tiene 74 niños, la mayoría afroamericanos e hispanos. El centro tiene una asociación con la iglesia, ahora en su cuarto año, que le da acceso a las instalaciones de la iglesia. Para más información sobre estos y otros centros, visite <https://hcde-texas.org/head-start/>

Gerente de centro es honrado a través de la donación de libros

Más de 2,000 libros fueron donados a estudiantes en varios centros de Head Start en memoria de la fallecida Enoud Bennett, la querida gerente de centro de Channelview quien era apasionada por los niños y la alfabetización. La familia de Bennett presentó los libros en una ceremonia especial en Channelview para conmemorar el primer aniversario de la muerte de Enoud en junio del 2017. Bennett trabajó para HCDE Head Start por más de 30 años, en Compton, Humble, Barrett Station, Fifth Ward y Channelview. Todos los estudiantes en esos centros recibieron libros para llevar a casa.

Enoud Bennett



Save the date: Week of the Young Child

In celebration of the Week of the Young Child April 15-18, Centers are putting on activities for parents and children and will be hosting tours for parents and community partners April 16 and 18. The Week of the Young Child celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers and families. There are many opportunities for parents to help out, from coordinating activities to leveraging resources to support the event. To volunteer, contact a Center Manager.

Guarda la fecha: Semana del niño joven

En celebración de la Semana del Niño Joven del 15 al 18 de abril, los centros están organizando actividades para padres e hijos y organizarán excursiones para padres y socios de la comunidad el 16 y 18 de abril. La Semana del Niño celebra el aprendizaje temprano, los niños pequeños, sus maestros y familias. Hay muchas oportunidades para que los padres ayuden, desde coordinar actividades hasta aprovechar recursos para apoyar el evento. Para ser voluntario, contacte al gerente del centro.

CENTER DIRECTORY

BARRETT STATION 713-696-3119

808 1/2 Magnolia Ave., Crosby, TX 77532
Kathy Greenway, Center Mgr.

BAYTOWN 713-696-3120

1725 N. Pruett St., Baytown, TX 77520
Norma Starr, Center Mgr.

BAYTOWN EHS 713-696-2150

1319 N. Pruett St., Baytown, Texas 77520
Norma Starr, Center Mgr.

CHANNELVIEW 713-696-1852

16102 Ridlon, Channelview, TX 77530
Cynthia Johnson, Center Mgr.

COMPTON 713-635-4142

9720 Spaulding St., Houston, TX 77016
Merevonna Ross-Daniel, Center Mgr.

COOLWOOD 713-451-9024

767 Coolwood Dr., Houston, TX 77013
Valerie Stephens, Center Mgr.

DOGAN 713-672-0207

4202 Liberty Rd., Houston, TX 77026
Laura Dugas-Kelley, Center Mgr.

FIFTH WARD 713-237-0264

4014 Market St., Houston, TX 77020
Traci Houston, Center Mgr.

FONWOOD 713-556-3830

9709 Mesa Dr., Houston, TX 77085
Markeysha Hinderman, Center Mgr.

HUMBLE 713-696-3121

130 Atascocita, Humble, TX 77396
Lisa Ntabaazi, Center Mgr.

J.D. WALKER 713-696-3122

7613 A Wade Rd., Baytown, TX 77521
Sylvia Ibarra, Center Mgr.

LA PORTE 713-696-3123

927 South 1st St., Laporte, TX 77571
Nadia Epps, Center Mgr.

PUGH 713-675-6222

1042 Henke St., Houston, TX 77020
Catherine Jones, Center Mgr.

SAN JACINTO 713-696-1853

5800 Uvalde Rd., Houston, TX 77049
Sherry Eagleton, Center Mgr.

SHEFFIELD 713-450-3813

14300 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX 77049
Sherry Eagleton, Center Mgr.

TIDWELL 713-696-3124

8302 John Ralston Rd., Houston, TX 77044
Mary Crather, Center Mgr.

Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

14-29.....Frog Street Press Student Assessment
18.....Early dismissal (HISD SITES)
21.....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(ALL CENTERS CLOSED)
22.....Policy Council meeting
31.....Early dismissal (HISD SITES)

FEBRUARY

4-7.....Parent/Child Food Science Fair
11-Mar 4.....Teacher Home Visits
15.....Early dismissal (HISD SITES)
19.....Policy Council meeting
28.....Early dismissal (HEAD START SITES)

MARCH

11-15.....SPRING BREAK
19.....Policy Council meeting
22.....Art Show
29.....Early dismissal (HEAD START SITES)

APRIL

1-14.....Frog Street Press Student Assessment
8-12.....Program Self-Assessment
15-18.....Week of the Young Child
16.....Policy Council meeting
19.....SPRING HOLIDAY
29-May 23.....Parent/Teacher conferences

MAY

3.....Early dismissal (HEAD START SITES)
17.....Policy Council Appreciation Banquet
24.....Last day of school (HEAD START CENTERS)
27.....MEMORIAL DAY
29.....Staff Development day
31.....Last day of school (HISD SITES)

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

Marquen Sus Calendarios

ENERO

14-29.....Evaluaciones para estudiantes de Frog Street Press
18.....Salida temprano (HISD)
21.....Día de Martin Luther King, Jr. (CERRADOS TODOS LOS CENTROS)
22.....Reunión del Consejo Político
31.....Salida temprano (HISD START)

FEBRERO

4-7.....Feria de Ciencias de la Alimentación de Padres/Estudiantes
11-Mar 4.....Visitas del Maestros al Hogar
15.....Salida temprano (HISD)
19.....Reunión del Consejo Político
28.....Salida temprano (HEAD START)

MARZO

11-15.....VACACIONES DE PRIMAVERA
19.....Reunión del Consejo Político
22.....Show de Arte
29.....Salida temprano (HEAD START)

ABRIL

1-14.....Evaluaciones para estudiantes de Frog Street Press
8-12.....Autoevaluación del Programa
15-18.....Semana del Niño Joven
16.....Reunión del Consejo Político
19.....DÍA FESTIVO DE PRIMAVERA
29-May 23.....Conferencias de Padres y Maestros

MAYO

3.....Salida temprano (HEAD START)
17.....Banquete de Apreciacion al Consejo Politico
24.....Ultimo día de escuela (CENTROS DE HEAD START)
27.....MEMORIAL DAY
29.....Día de desarrollo para el personal
31.....Ultimo día de escuela (HISD)

Revise con el gerente de su centro los detalles ya que los eventos podrían variar.

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

Assistant Director-Early Head Start

Jamese Stancill

Assistant Director of Education and Family Services

Gulshan Rahman

Assistant Director of Operations

Lisa Boone

Community Partnership Manager

Armando Rodriguez

Education & Special Services Manager

Pamela Jones-Lee

Nutrition Services Manager

Vacant

Operations Services Manager

Suzanne Cates

Compliance

Jennifer Horn

Gino Kamaya

Adriane Marks

Ishan Rajani

Education

Ramona Burton

Yadira DeLaCruz

Maria Gomez

Patricia Kuskos

Lenora Reed

Vanessa Ward

Family

Marisol Montalvo

Michele Nwokobia

Cesilia Pereira

Health

Ashlyn Allison

Mental Health

Theresa Harris

Nutrition

Melissa Wilder

Operations

Termetrice Gibbons

Chloe Nolasco

Training

Taiwan Reliford

2019 HCDE BOARD MEMBERS

Board President

TBD

Board Vice-President

Eric Dick

Board Members

Richard Cantu

Josh Flynn

George Moore

Danny Norris

Don Sumners

Mike Wolfe

2019 HEAD START NEWSLETTER TEAM

Production Manager

Armando Rodriguez

Translator

Elda Rueda

Editor

Annette Baird

Designer

Jim Cunningham