

# HEADS UP



## SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

TRADUCCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL INCLUIDA



Fun at the Parent and Child Food Science Fair

### DIRECTOR'S CORNER

It's hard to believe the school year is almost over and summer is on the doorstep.

Parents, it is my hope that you have summer plans to explore and create new experiences and memories with your children. Please continue to read to your child every day from the library you have built through our SuperMENTor and Parent Connection programs. Additionally, the public library has great activities to entertain and develop your student. This is a crucial time, as your child's brain is developing at a rapid rate. Feed them with experiences and activities that promote brain development. Not only that, you are supporting Head Start's mission of school readiness for all students.

Spring semester highlights included the Parent and Child Food Science Fair and the Week of the Young Child celebrations. The dishes produced for the science fair, which included the Early Head Start families for the first time, were imaginative and tasty — I know because I sampled each one! The Week of the Young Child was a great success thanks to the support of our parents and our fabulous teachers and staff. The renderings from the transportation-themed celebration were awesome. I am so proud of the creativity and participation across all centers. HCDE has the best parents in the world. We appreciate our parent's role as their child's first teacher and their engagement in student projects.

Finally, I am happy to report we completed all our requirements for our Focus 2 Federal Review. And drumroll ... the Baytown Early Head Start and Head Start building is complete and ready for move-in.

Have a safe and happy summer. See you in August.

— VENETIA L. PEACOCK

### Food Science Fair highlights creativity

This year's Parent and Child Food Science Fair was a great success, showcasing lots of fun and healthy treats created by students and their families. This year, infant and toddler categories were added. Participants had to create a dish at home using a fruit or vegetable.

Pamela Jones Lee, Education and Special Services Manager, said the event is a way for parents and their children to bond and be creative, while promoting healthy eating.

**First place:** Emilio Ruiz, Coolwood, with ceviche de jicama. **Second:** Z'Yione Johnson, Dogan, with mango chicken fettuccini. **Third:** Dwayne Qualls, Fonwood, with broccoli salad. **Baytown EHS toddler First place:** Giovanni Uriostegui with cauliflower crust pizza. **Second:** Jasper Childress with Mango smoothie. **Third:** Eli Lowery with banana oat energy bites. **Baytown EHS infant First place:** Brandon Flenory with stuffed celery. **Second:** Sofia Frederick with veggies and dip. **Third:** Daisy Garcia with carrot butterfly.



Baytown parent and child



Baytown parent and child

### It's never too early to get involved

In an effort to involve parents right from the start of their child's education, Parent Connection was introduced this year for Early Head Start at the Baytown Early Head Start center and the Child Care Partnership locations. The monthly meetings provide parents of infants and toddlers the opportunity to meet other parents and share their experiences, engage with their center and learn about child development and how best to help their child flourish at home and in school.

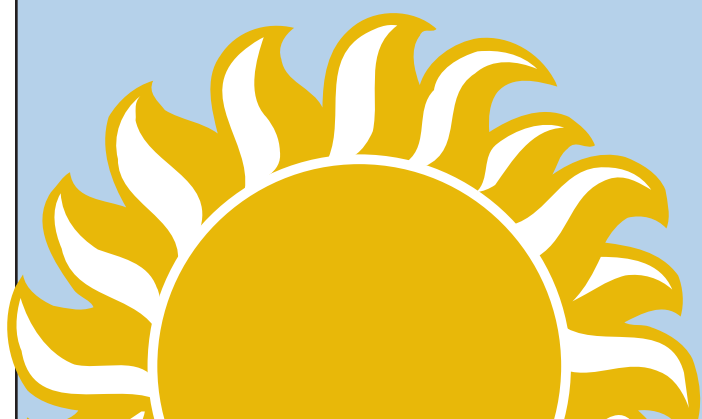
"The thing that is unique about our Parent Connection is that we do parent learning, and right after parents work one-on-one with their child to implement what they have learned," said James Stancill, Assistant Director of Early Head Start Childcare Partnerships.

Irene Rodriguez, whose 1 year-old son Josiah goes to John G. Jones Learning Center in Crosby, said the meetings gave her ideas about reading and communicating with her children.

"I learned it's not too young to be reading books to Josiah," she said. "I also realized I have a habit of raising my voice when I shouldn't, and I learned how to communicate with them better."

As well as learning about child development and what she can do at home with her 2-year-old son Kiran who goes to Kool Kids Daycare in Pasadena, Angelica Moore said the meetings are a great way to meet other parents.

Stancill said they continue to work on improving communication and figuring out the best time for each center to have meetings, which last about 90 minutes. Families also receive developmentally appropriate books and activities to take home.





Jose De La Rosa & Barrett Station Head Start Parents

## Parents commend financial literacy classes

Parents are changing their spending habits since attending a financial literacy course, introduced earlier this year at all 15 centers through HCDE Head Start's partnership with banks and independent financial advisers.

"They helped me sort out my priorities and where I could save money," said Coolwood parent Maria Reyes Serrato.

Serrato was able to find cheaper health insurance and has started a monthly savings plan after attending classes conducted by Kenneth Maldonado, an independent financial representative.

Barrett Station parent Justin Chenevert realized his family was spending too much money eating out. He said they are cooking more at home and trying to save a small amount each week.

"We are trying to change our habits bit by bit," he said.

Both parents said the three-part course, the goal of which was to promote financial literacy to Head Start families, provided a fresh outlook and much needed information about prioritizing spending, budgeting, saving and managing debt. The classes were conducted by representatives from BBVA Compass Bank, Prosperity Bank, Frost Bank and Beacon Credit Union and independent advisers,

Jose De La Rosa, an independent adviser and a Workplace Solutions officer with BBVA Compass Bank, found there was a real need for this kind of course.

"When you really start looking at your budget you realize what your wants and needs are," said De La Rosa, who conducted classes at 5 centers. "For instance, say you want different channels on your television, if you're looking to make some savings you have to think about budgeting for that."

Maldonado said he wants to see more folk get into the habit of saving money.



Journey of Faith Church - Center Partner Award

### Community partners celebrated

HCDE Head Start celebrated its community partners at the annual Community Partners Luncheon May 8. Some 50 people, representing 26 partners, among them Bank of Texas, Journey of Faith Church in Humble and the SuperMENTor program, were in attendance.



## What makes a center unique?

Fifth Ward and Barrett Station are similar in that they both have the advantage of being part of a wider community. Yet they are on the opposite ends of the spectrum when it comes to size.

Situated in the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center in east Houston, Fifth Ward counts 74 children with a total of 17 staff. Students interact regularly with the seniors, who use the community center, for holiday, art and food programs.

"The senior citizens love to see the kids," Center Manager Traci Houston said.

The center's partnership with the City of Houston brings a host of advantages. Families received turkeys at Thanksgiving and children's bikes for Christmas. In addition, the city's Food Pantry distributes fresh fruits and vegetables.

Houston said the advantage of having a large center is that they have a bigger pool of parents to draw from to volunteer. She praised the dedicated parents who attend Policy Council meetings and help put on events, such as "Muffins with Mom" and "Donuts for Dads," throughout the year.

"We are like a family, and we work together in the best interest of the family," Houston said.

With 34 students and a staff of eight, Barrett Station is about half the size of Fifth Ward. Despite its size it has robust parent involvement and a strong sense of connectedness, according to Center Manager Kathy Greenway.

"Being a smaller center, parents have gotten to know each other," she said. "It's also a great advantage for the students. We help each other work together, and we all support each other."

Barrett Station is a stand-alone facility, but it is wedged between Riley Chambers and Barrett Station Community Centers, providing additional activities and resources for families. Students celebrated Mardi Gras with the seniors who attend the center, and last semester there was a get together for Halloween. Riley Community Center offers an after school program.

## ESQUINA DEL DIRECTOR

Es increíble que el año escolar casi ha terminado y el verano está cerca.

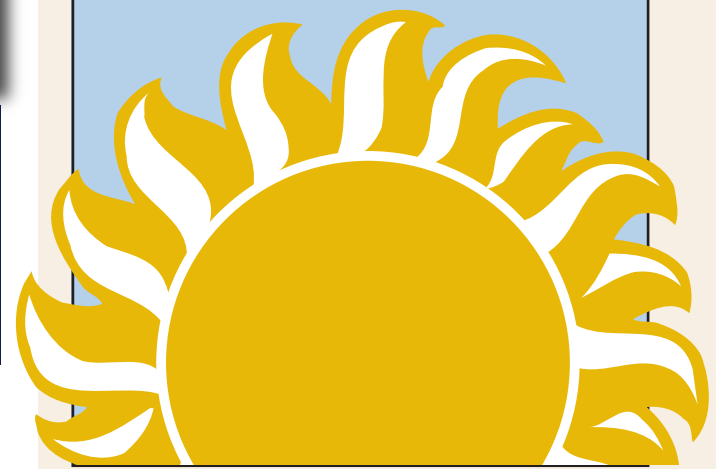
Padres de familia, espero que tengan planes de verano para explorar y crear nuevas experiencias y recuerdos con sus hijos. Continúen leyendo a los estudiantes todos los días usando la biblioteca que han construido a través de nuestros programas SuperMENTor y Parent Connection. Además, la biblioteca pública tiene excelentes actividades para entretener y desarrollar a su estudiante. Este es un momento crucial, ya que el cerebro de su hijo se está desarrollando a un ritmo acelerado. Aliméntelos con experiencias y actividades que promuevan el desarrollo del cerebro. Así es como también usted apoya la misión de preparación escolar de Head Start para todos los estudiantes.

Los aspectos más destacados del semestre de primavera incluyeron la Feria de Ciencia de Alimentos para Padres e Hijos y las celebraciones de la Semana del Niño Pequeño. Los platos producidos para la feria de ciencias, que incluyó a las familias de Early Head Start por primera vez, fueron imaginativos y sabrosos, lo sé porque probé cada uno de ellos. La Semana del Niño Pequeño fue un gran éxito gracias al apoyo de nuestros padres y nuestros fabulosos maestros y personal. Las representaciones de la celebración temática de transporte fueron impresionantes. Estoy muy orgullosa de la creatividad y la participación de todos los centros. HCDE tiene los mejores padres del mundo. Apreciamos el papel de nuestros padres como primer maestro de sus hijos y su participación en los proyectos de los estudiantes.

Finalmente, me complace informar que completamos todos nuestros requisitos para nuestra Revisión Federal Focus 2. La construcción del edificio para Early Head Start and Head Start en Baytown se finalizó y estamos listos para mudarnos.

Espero que tengan un verano seguro y feliz. Los veo en agosto

— VENETIA L. PEACOCK



Kathy Greenway, Center Manager



Head Start Food Science Fair Winners

## La Feria de Ciencia de los Alimentos promueve creatividad

La Feria de Ciencia de Alimentos para Padres e Hijos de este año fue un gran éxito, con una amplia participación en todos los centros y la adición de dos nuevas categorías; niño pequeño y bebé de Baytown EHS. Primer lugar: Emilio Ruiz, Coolwood, con ceviche de jícama. Segundo: Z'Yione Johnson, Dogan, con fettuccini de pollo con mango. Tercero: Dwayne Qualls, Fonwood, con ensalada de brócoli. Niño de EHS de Baytown Primer lugar: Giovanni Uriost



Bank of Texas - Outstanding Community Award - Program-Wide Partner Award

## Los padres elogian las clases de educación financiera

Dos padres dijeron que han cambiado sus hábitos de gasto desde que asistieron al curso de educación financiera presentado a principios de este año en los 15 sitios a través de la asociación de Head Start de HCDE con varios bancos y asesores financieros independientes.

La madre de Coolwood, María Reyes Serrato, pudo encontrar un seguro de salud más barato y comenzó un plan de ahorro mensual, mientras que la madre de Barrett Station, Justin Chenevert, y su familia no comen afuera con tanta frecuencia y ahorran una pequeña cantidad cada semana.

El curso de tres partes, cuyo objetivo era promover la educación financiera para las familias de Head Start, fue realizado por representantes de BBVA Compass Bank, Prosperity Bank, Frost Bank y Beacon Credit Union y asesores independientes. La primera clase cubrió el presupuesto; el segundo fue sobre la gestión de la deuda; y el tercero sobre el ahorro.



### Celebración de los socios de la comunidad

Head Start de HCDE celebró a sus socios comunitarios el 8 de mayo en el almuerzo anual de socios comunitarios. Asistieron unas 50 personas, que representan a 26 socios, entre ellos Bank of Texas, Journey of Faith Church en Humble y el programa SuperMENTor.



Traci Houston, Center Manager



Parent Connection Baytown EHS

## ¿Qué hace a un centro único?

Los centros Fifth Ward y Barrett Station atienden las dos comunidades mas amplias. Sin embargo, están en los extremos opuestos cuando se trata de tamaño.

Ubicado en el Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center en el este de Houston, Fifth Ward tiene 74 niños y 17 miembros de personal. Los estudiantes interactúan regularmente con los adultos mayores que usan el centro comunitario para programas de vacaciones, arte y comida. Una asociación con la ciudad de Houston trae una gran cantidad de ventajas. Las familias recibieron pavos en el Día de Acción de Gracias y bicicletas para niños en Navidad. La tienda de alimentos de la ciudad también visita al centro.

La gerente del centro, Traci Houston, dijo que la ventaja de tener un centro grande es que tienen un grupo más grande de padres para ser voluntarios. Los padres son dedicados, ellos asisten a las reuniones del Consejo Político y ayudan a organizar muchos eventos a lo largo del año.

Aunque Barrett Station tiene solo 34 estudiantes y 8 miembros en el personal, el centro cuenta con una sólida participación de los padres y un fuerte sentido de conexión, según la Gerente del Centro Kathy Greenway. Barrett Station se encuentra entre los centros comunitarios de Riley Chambers y la estación Barrett, y ofrece actividades y recursos adicionales para las familias. Los estudiantes celebran días festivos especiales con las personas mayores que asisten a los centros, mientras que Riley ofrece un programa extracurricular.

## Nunca es demasiado temprano para involucrarse

En un esfuerzo por involucrar a los padres desde el inicio de la educación de sus hijos, Parent Connection se presentó este año para Early Head Start en los centros de Early Head Start de Baytown y las ubicaciones de Child Care Partnership. James Stancill, Directora Adjunta de Early Head Start Childcare Partnerships, dijo que las reuniones mensuales brindan a los padres la oportunidad de conocer a otros padres y compartir sus experiencias, participar en su centro y aprender sobre el desarrollo infantil y la mejor manera de ayudar a su hijo a florecer en casa y en la escuela.

Angelica Moore, además de aprender sobre el desarrollo infantil y lo que puede hacer en casa con su hija Kiran de 2 años, dijo que las reuniones son una excelente manera de conocer a otros padres.

Las reuniones de conexión con los padres duran aproximadamente 90 minutos. Los padres también reciben libros y actividades apropiadas para llevar a casa.



New Baytown Head Start Building

### New Baytown center to open

The highly anticipated Baytown center is opening this summer, marking the first time to bring the Early Head Start and Head Start programs under one roof. The two programs serve children from 6 weeks to 5 years.

### Nuevo centro de Baytown estará disponible

El muy esperado centro de Baytown abrirá este verano. Esta será la primera vez que los programas de Early Head Start y Head Start funcionaran bajo un mismo techo. Los dos programas atienden a niños de 6 semanas a 5 años.

## 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  
Melvina Samuel, Acting 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.

## Summer food programs | Programas de comida de verano

A number of organizations provide meals for children up to 18 years. To find out when and where, visit: [Varias organizaciones ofrecen comidas para niños y adolescentes de hasta 18 años. Para saber cuándo y dónde, visite:](#)

- [www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks](http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks) Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service [Servicio de Alimentos y Nutrición del Departamento de Agricultura](#)
- [www.houstonfoodbank.org/our-programs/kids-cafe/](http://www.houstonfoodbank.org/our-programs/kids-cafe/) Houston Food Bank [Banco de alimentos de Houston](#)
- [www.houstonlibrary.org/taxonomy/tags/summer-food-program](http://www.houstonlibrary.org/taxonomy/tags/summer-food-program) Houston Public Library's Summer Food Program [Programa de alimentos de verano de la Biblioteca Pública de Houston](#)

## What's on and where? | ¿Qué hay y dónde?

There are numerous free and low-cost family and children's activities throughout the summer. Visit: [Hay numerosas actividades familiares y para niños gratuitas y de bajo costo durante todo el verano. Visite estos sitios para más información:](#)

- Hermann Park [Parque Hermann](#): [www.hermannpark.org/calendar/](http://www.hermannpark.org/calendar/)
- Houston Zoo [Zoológico de Houston](#): [www.houstonzoo.org](http://www.houstonzoo.org)
- Children's Museum of Houston [Museo de los Niños de Houston](#): [www.cmhouston.org](http://www.cmhouston.org)
- Miller Outdoor Theatre [Teatro al aire libre Miller](#): [www.milleroutdoortheatre.com](http://www.milleroutdoortheatre.com)
- Discovery Green [Discovery Green](#): [www.discoverygreen.com](http://www.discoverygreen.com)
- Houston Public Library [Biblioteca pública de Houston](#): [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR | MARQUEN SUS CALENDARIOS

### JUNE | JUNIO

3-20 .....Baytown EHS summer schedule (**closed Fridays**)  
Horario de Verano de Baytown EHS (**cerrado los Viernes**)  
24-27 .....Baytown EHS is closed | Baytown EHS estará cerrado

### JULY | JULIO

1-5 .....Baytown EHS is closed | Baytown EHS estará cerrado  
8-25 .....Baytown EHS summer schedule (**closed Fridays**)  
Horario de Verano de Baytown EHS (**cerrado los Viernes**)

### AUGUST | AGOSTO

9-11 .....Tax Free Weekend | Fin de Semana libre de impuestos  
26 .....First day of school | Primer día de escuela

Check with each Center Manager for details of these and other happenings, as dates may vary for each center. Revise con los detalles con su centro ya que las fechas 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](http://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 CCP

James Stancill

#### Assistant Director of Operations

Lisa Boone

#### Assistant Director of Education

and Family Services

Gulshan Rahman

#### Community Partnership

Manager

Armando Rodriguez

#### Operations Services Manager

Suzanne Cates

#### Compliance Manager

Jana Jones

#### Education & Special Services

Manager

Pamela Jones-Lee

#### Nutrition Services Manager

Vacant

#### Compliance

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

Emily Lanighan

#### Operations

Chloe Nolasco

#### Training

Taiwan Reliford

### 2019 HCDE BOARD MEMBERS

#### Board President

Josh Flynn

#### Board Vice-President

Dr. George Moore

#### Board Members

Richard Cantu

Eric Dick

Danyahel Norris

Don Sumners

Mike Wolfe

### 2019 HEAD START NEWSLETTER TEAM

#### Production Manager

Armando Rodriguez

#### Translator

Elda Rueda

#### Editor

Annette Baird

#### Designer

Jim Cunningham