

The Connector

A weekly publication of Harris County Department of Education
for the HCDE Board of Trustees

From the office of **JAMES COLBERT, JR. | SUPERINTENDENT**



Of Note...

We have had a very productive week here at HCDE! We continued budget meetings related to our programs and services for next fiscal year. During those sessions, division directors began presenting analysis of divisions' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) to the budget committee. It is a very educational process as we anticipate the efficient allocation of resources for next year.

Our Leadership Team met this week, and at that time, our campus principals shared impressive information regarding campus enrollment numbers. They're nearly at maximum capacity. These enrollment trends are a direct reflection of the value we bring the districts we serve.

Also this week, as you know, we had another successful Board Training session. I'm encouraged by the outcomes of that meeting. Please refer to the last page of this newsletter where our mission and goals are highlighted.

I'm also pleased to report that the first Superintendent's Institute under my leadership- facilitated by Dr. Richard Griffin- was informative and useful, and served as a great networking opportunity for both HCDE and the 12 Harris County school districts that were represented. The guest speaker was Attorney David Thompson (of Thompson and Horton, LLP) who discussed the school finance lawsuit brought against the state of Texas.

Additionally, this week, I met with the superintendent of Katy ISD. The conversation was mutually informative as we exchanged information on Katy's needs and HCDE's program and service offerings.

Early next week, I will be in Austin attending meetings with my UIL colleagues. I will return to the office on Tuesday.

Please pay special attention to the invitation to join us for tours of our some of our Head Start locations during the annual Week of the Young Child. Details are on page 2 of this issue of **The Connector**. The tours will serve as a great vehicle to observe the operations of our Head Start program.

In closing, have a great weekend and I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**.

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CASE for Kids' New Services Featured on Telemundo 47

Telemundo 47 reporter Jose Santos visited with CASE for Kids specialist Claudia Magallan about new afterschool resources being offered to daycares, summer, and afterschool programs. Attendees at the fair talked to Telemundo about how grateful they are for the support resources they will receive. See the story (Spanish only): <https://youtu.be/O8V6HfKqFD8>



See information about the CASE for Kids Lending Library: http://www.afterschoolzone.org/default.aspx?name=Lending_Library_Homepage

Head Start Center Tours Set for April 14 and 16

Join Head Start for a Head Start Area I Center Tour on April 14 and 16. On April 14, the tour includes Sheffield Head Start. On April 16, staff provides a tour of the Baytown Head Start. Tours begin at 8:45 a.m. with refreshments in the lobby at 6300 Irvington. The bus leaves at 9 a.m. and returns by noon. Please RSVP by April 13 to 713-696-2188. We hope to see you on the bus as we make children part of your agenda. Join us and be a child again!



CASE for Kids Announces Grant Awards

The Center for Afterschool, Summer and Expanded Learning for Kids (CASE for Kids), a division of Harris County Department of Education, announces the following recipients of 2014-2015 City Connections funding for the month of March 2015:

Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center

Grant Award: \$6,550

Project Site: Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center in District C

Push To Win Outreach

Grant Award: \$3,000

Project Sites: King Row Apartments Community Room in District D

Diaz Music Institute

Grant Award: \$15,000

Project Sites: Fun Little Tykes in District E

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston

Grant Award: \$5,000

Project Sites: John & Cissy Havard Club in District H

Houston Independent School District

Grant Award: \$13,600

Project Sites: Sharpstown High School in District J

CASE for Kids received a total of 12 City Connections applications for the March 2015 deadline requesting a total of \$118,655 in funding for a variety of out-of-school time programs in the city of Houston. The organizations listed above will provide diverse activities for youth after school including fine arts, academic enrichment, college exploration, and fitness classes.

Individual applicants from the March group will be notified during the week of April 6, 2015 regarding to the next step in the application process. The next City Connections application deadline is Monday, April 6, 2015. To access the application, visit www.afterschoolzone.org.

For more information, please contact CASE for Kids via email at caseconnections@hcde-texas.org.

ADVANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING by training the trainer

Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

04.06 | HCDE TExES Principal EC-12 Test Preparation Online

04.07 | Creative Therapies Leadership Group

04.07 | The Quest for Grants Training Series Workshop: The Case for Collaborations

04.08 | The Quest for Grants Training Series Webinar - Proposal Writing Best Practices

04.09 | Science Fiction: Teaching Weather with Children's Literature

04.10 | School Finance Council

04.10 | Motivational Interviewing Part I: K- 5th

04.10 | Motivational Interviewing Part II: 6th - 12th

SPOTLIGHT ON CHOICE

News about the unique Choice Partners supply catalog and a feature on one of the awarded contract holders, Library Interiors, is included in the most recent issue of the Choice Partners Leader's Choice newsletter now posted on the Choice Partners website:

http://www.choicepartners.org/admin/uploads/pdf/LeadersChoice-2015-Issue2_1428346818.pdf

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Local Teens Donate 500 Gently Used Books to Fifth Ward Head Start Center

Students at HCDE's Fifth Ward Head Start Center received two books each to add to their home libraries as READ (Read, Engage and Donate) for Houston visited for story time reading. READ for Houston is an initiative headed by 8th grader Jeffrey Collins, that aims to connect those who want to give books to those who need books, in an effort to boost literacy and promote a joy of reading. The program was founded by Collins' older brother Sam, as a way to give back to the community. To date, READ for Houston has donated over 20,000 books to HCDE Head Start.



CASE for Kids City Connections Feature Included in HISD Blog

A featured story generated by Communications and Public Information is included in an HISD blog and community news story this week. See the story:

<http://blogs.houstonisd.org/news/2015/04/06/chavez-hs-proves-afterschool-programming-still-attractive-to-older-kids/>



CASE for Kids Presents at United Way of Greater Houston Interagency Information and Referral Network April 9

CASE for Kids presented information about summer enrichment programs through an interagency information network at the United Way of Greater Houston. The April 9 meeting allowed 225 participants to hear about CASE for Kids resources. Specialist Claudia Magallan presented at the networking session.



CASE for Kids AmeriCorps members to Participate in Global Youth Service Day April 17

Our AmeriCorps members will contribute to positive change through national service on April 17 by participating in Global Youth Service Day, an avenue for volunteers to work together with schools, youth organizations, nonprofits, and community and faith-based organizations to address critical community and world issues. Service projects will vary from neighborhood to neighborhood. Traditionally they include projects like litter removal, gardening, or recycle programs.



25 HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Aldine
- Alief
- Channelview
- Clear Creek
- Crosby
- Cy-Fair
- Dayton
- Deer Park
- Galena Park
- Goose Creek
- Houston
- Huffman
- Humble
- Katy
- Klein
- La Porte
- New Caney
- Pasadena
- Pearland
- Sheldon
- Spring
- Spring Branch
- Stafford
- Tomball
- Waller

HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT



Congrats to students enrolled in the Broadband Communications Program at Clear Brook High School through Clear Creek ISD's Career and Technical Education program. In March, all enrolled students passed their fiber optics certification tests. Open to all the district's high school students, the two-year program prepares them for jobs in copper and fiber network cabling as well as home and commercial audio, video, internet, and alarm security systems design and installation. Details--> <http://www.ccisd.net/departments/career-technical-education/specialty-programs/broadband-communications>

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

MISSION STATEMENT

Harris County Department of Education supports Harris County by enriching educational opportunities and providing value through services.

GOALS

GOAL 1: Impact education by responding to the evolving needs of Harris County

GOAL 2: Deliver value to Harris County by utilizing resources in an ethical, transparent, and fiscally responsible manner

GOAL 3: Advocate for all learners by using innovative methods to maximize students' potential.

GOAL 4: Provide cost-savings to school districts by leveraging tax dollars

GOAL 5: Recruit and maintain a high-quality professional staff

Agreed-to by consensus at the Board's April 8, 2015 meeting and to be considered for formal adoption by the HCDE Board of Trustees at its April 21, 2015 meeting.

HCDE BOARD

BOARD PRESIDENT
POSITION 2, PRECINCT 4
Angie Chesnut

BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT
POSITION 4, PRECINCT 3
Kay Smith

Erica Lee Carter
Position 6, Precinct 1

Marvin W. Morris
Position 1, Precinct 2

Don Sumners
Position 7, At Large

Diane Trautman
Position 3, At Large

Michael Wolfe
Position 5, At Large

Upcoming Board Events:

April Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2015
1:00 p.m.

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

