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FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

Of Note...

It's been a busy week at HCDE! I began the week Monday with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team as well as the Board's Development Committee. On Tuesday, the regularly scheduled February Board Meeting was held. Thanks to all of you for your dedication and hard work on behalf of HCDE. I appreciate your service.

Yesterday, I continued my volunteerism efforts as a SuperMentor, as the country celebrated National Read Across America Day in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. The day highlights the strategies associated with reading aloud to young learners. It is always rewarding to read to our students and I encourage every member of our Board to get involved in some way. I especially encourage the gentlemen on our Board to consider becoming SuperMENTors!

Today, I attended the Texas Tribune's Symposium on Education which was held at the University of Houston Downtown. In partnership, these two entities presented an interactive dialogue on public education, spanning over two days. The actual Symposium on Public Education was held from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Scheduled symposium panelists included the following distinguished leaders in public education: State Senator Larry Taylor; State Representatives Harold Dutton and Dan Huberty; HISD Superintendent Richard Carranza; Former Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott; KIPP Foundation Co-Founder Mike Feinberg; FBISD Executive Director of Education Deena Hill; Special Education Advocate and Attorney Bonnie Garza; President of the Board of Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment Theresa Trevino; Policy Expert for Texans for Education Opportunity Randan Steinhauser; and School District Attorney for Walsh Gallegos Trevino Russo & Kyle P.C.—Jim Walsh. This was a thought-provoking event led by true thought leaders in public education. It was an excellent platform for the issues faced by education today in both Texas and across the country.

This week in the area teaching and learning we hosted the following trainings and workshops: Online Instructor's Training; lead4ward Rockin' Review for Leaders; Grade 8 Science STAAR: A Closer Look at Matter and Energy; Grade 8 Science STAAR: A Closer Look at Force, Motion and Energy; Educator Certification and Professional Advancement Career Choice Recruitment Seminar; Science Fiction: Teaching Chemistry with Children's Literature; Teaching Physics with Children's Literature; Creating Safe and Successful Citizens; Build Your Bookshelf Series: What's New in Children's Books: Expository: HCDE Math Leadership Meeting; Test Prep Series for TExES Core Subjects EC-6 Exam (#291)—Art/Music/Theatre/PE/Health Sessions ONLY; Push SEL Practice Workshop; Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Biological Processes and Systems; No Longer Available- Build Your Bookshelf Series: What's New in Children's Books: Expository; Quest for Grants Training Series: Effective Grant Research; Attendance Officers' Share Session; Push SEL Practice Workshop; lead4ward: Rockin' Review for Math (3-EOC); STAAR/EOC Close-Up-RC1-History; and Youth Voice.

Looking ahead, next week I will be meeting with the Leadership Team which is comprised of the Department's division directors and principals. I will also be attending my American Leadership Forum activity for the month of March as I fulfill my responsibility as a member of the 2016-2017 class.

In closing, thanks again for your service to HCDE. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**, and I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

Upcoming Event:
Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Harris County Department of Education Tidwell Head Start Program Recruits Students Ages 3-5 for Immediate Openings



Tidwell Head Start parent Kimmerberly Coutino with 3-year-old daughter Kaily Morales

Harris County Department of Education Head Start Tidwell Center located at 8302 John Ralston Rd. is recruiting students ages 3-5. The program ensures future success for students both

academically and socially, and provides comprehensive health, education, nutrition, and financial services to the families.

For Tidwell Head Start parent Kimmerberly Coutino, the HCDE Head Start program is a blessing in a variety of ways. Coutino, a full-time college student, knows her daughter Kaily Morales is in good hands while she attends classes. In addition to the logistic help, the program provides Coutino and her family, Kaily gains social and academic skills that prepare her for elementary school.

“Kaily has grown so much since being enrolled in Tidwell Head Start,” said Coutino. “Head Start has given her the opportunity to explore her creativity and take part in activities that will eventually transition into a solid foundation for the future.”

The Head Start program also emphasizes the important role parents play in their child’s education. In addition to being a full-time student, Coutino attends all parent committee meetings, family connection events, and is the Policy Council Representative for the Tidwell center.

HCDE provides services through 15 Head Start centers located in northeast Harris County. Additional locations include Baytown, J.D. Walker, Pugh, Fonwood, La Porte, Humble, Fifth Ward, Channelview, Compton, Coolwood, Dogan, Barrett Station, San Jacinto, and Sheffield.

For information about enrollment or locations, call (713) 672-9343 or visit www.hcde-texas.org/headstart.

Teachers Get Down for STAAR Review



On February 23, nearly 200 math teachers attended the lead4ward Rockin’ Review at HCDE. The workshop, offered by The Teaching and Learning Center, features

fun activities for teachers to learn and take back to their campuses where they can get students pumped up about geometry, fractions, and other math concepts. The interactive workshop also included plenty



of music to keep teachers having fun while learning.

Then, on February 27, hundreds more attended another lead4ward Rockin’ Review presented by Stephanie Zelenak. The

energizing session focused on how to motivate teachers and students to engage with content they struggled with earlier in the year.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Nationally Renowned Speaker Shares Solutions for Educating Male Students



Presenter Robert Jackson

On February 23, Robert Jackson, nationally renowned educator and author of *The No More Excuses Curriculum*, led a workshop at HCDE about how to reach one of the toughest subsections of students: adolescent males.

In a session called “Strategies and Solutions for Educating Young Male Students,” Jackson emphasized the importance of cultural awareness in the success of any school system. Drawing on personal experience as an educator, he also stressed the need to share positivity with the young men who need it most.

“Young men need to be affirmed. Let them know their experiences are valid and valued,” Jackson said.

“Every day our kids need to hear something positive,” he added.

A major focus of the workshop, which more than 20 educators attended, was how to work more effectively with black and Latino male students with learning and behavioral challenges.



ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Online Instructor’s Training - Part I

lead4ward Rockin’ Review for Leaders

FEBRUARY 28, 2017

NO LONGER AVAILABLE - Grade 8 Science STAAR: A Closer Look at Matter and Energy

NO LONGER AVAILABLE - Grade 8 Science STAAR: A Closer Look at Force, Motion and Energy

Educator Certification and Professional Advancement Career Choice Recruitment Seminar

MARCH 1, 2017

Science Fiction: Teaching Chemistry with Children’s Literature

Science Fiction: Teaching Physics with Children’s Literature

Creating Safe and Successful Citizens

Build Your Bookshelf Series: What’s New in Children’s Books: Expository

HCDE Math Leadership Meeting

Test Prep Series for TEXES Core Subjects EC-6 Exam (#291) - ART/MUSIC/THEATRE/PE/HEALTH Sessions ONLY

MARCH 2, 2017

Push SEL Practice Workshop

Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Biological Processes and Systems

No Longer Available - Build Your Bookshelf Series: What’s New in Children’s Books: Expository

Quest for Grants Training Series: Effective Grant Research

Attendance Officers’ Share Session

Push SEL Practice Workshop

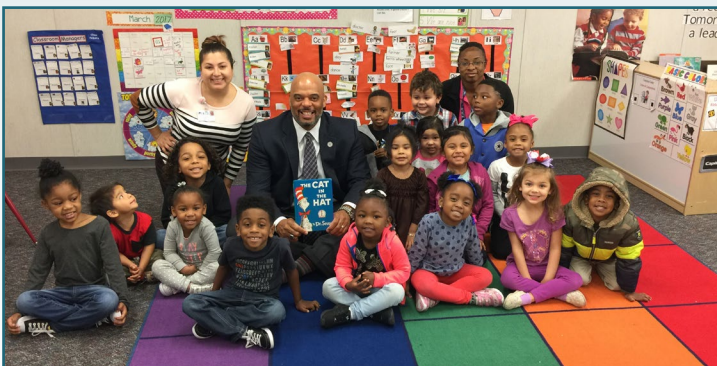
MARCH 3, 2017

lead4ward: Rockin’ Review for Math (3-EOC)

No Longer Available - STAAR/EOC Close-Up-RC1-History

Youth Voice

HCDE Participates in National Read Across America Day



Superintendent James Colbert reads to Area I Head Start Students (see back page for additional details)

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CASE for Kids Hosts Professional Development Symposium for Afterschool Professionals



Afterschool professionals of a variety of ages attended the CASE for Kids Spring Symposium on February 25 at HCDE, where they buckled down to learn important concepts.

Every afterschool teacher or program coordinator needs to master certain principles, such as planning and reflection, to run a successful out-of-school

time program. CASE for Kids uses a curriculum developed by the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, which underlines key strategies for keeping youth engaged and on task.



Harris County Department of Education Hosts Four Celebrations with Fine Arts Supporters to Celebrate Teen Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Talent



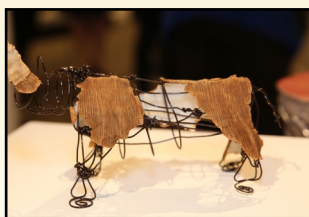
Harris County Department of Education stages four events to highlight the talents of more than 1,000 local teens who earned Scholastic Art & Writing Gold and Silver

Key Awards. Regionally sponsored by HCDE, the Awards showcase art and writing from Harris County students in grades 7-12 in public, private, and home schools. For the complete list of Awards recipients and for more details, go to www.hcde-texas.org/scholastic.

Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Award events span throughout March. Here is a list of events:

Artist Reception at Spring Street Studio, Saturday, March 11, 2-4 p.m. Join us

for a gallery full of art in a festive celebration of talent as we honor both students in grades 9-12 who earned Gold and Silver Keys for their art and writing. This come-and-go event includes readings from writers. Light refreshments are served. Location: 1824 Spring St., Houston, TX 77007



Artist Reception at Texas Art Supply, Thursday, March 23, 4:30-6:30 p.m. View a gallery full of art and hear selections from writers as we honor students in grades 7-8 who earned Gold and Silver Keys for their art and writing. This is a come-and-go event. Light refreshments are served. Location: 2001 Montrose Blvd., Houston, TX 77006

Artist Ceremony at Alley Theater, Saturday, March 25 for 9-12 grade students. Students receive Gold and Silver Key Awards at the Alley, 615 Texas Ave., Houston, TX 77002
Silver Key Art: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Gold Key Art: 10-11 a.m.
Gold and Silver Key Writing: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Artist Ceremony, Thursday, March 30 for 7-8 grade students at Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston, or MATCH, 3400 Main St. Houston, TX 77022
Silver Key Art and Writing: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Gold Key Art and Writing: 7:30-8:30 p.m.



Parents/guests and educators must RSVP through the MATCH website.

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Organizational Morale

In keeping with the Board's expectations of me as it relates to this element of performance to

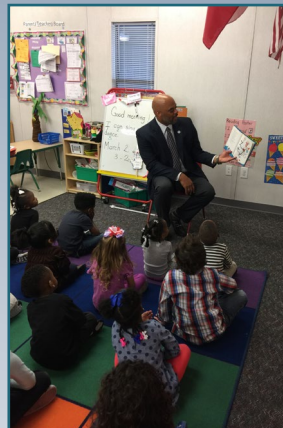
- Create an open and positive environment for sharing resources and exchanging ideas to improve organizational climate;
- Seek systemically to improve the climate by obtaining and utilizing feedback from employees of the Department; and
- Model and support responsible risk-taking so that all employees can be innovative and try new ideas



Yesterday, the country celebrated Read Across America Day, in observation of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Each year, National Read Across

America Day is celebrated on March 2. It serves as a motivational and awareness day by bringing children together in every city in the United States to celebrate reading. The first observation was held in 1988.

In keeping with this celebrated national tradition, I continued my SuperMENTor efforts as a volunteer in our Area I Head Start program



as I read a Dr. Seuss book to our students. It was a very rewarding opportunity and encourages other staff to become involved in this great mentorship program. I think I enjoyed the opportunity as much as the students.

By participating in this valuable activity, I am working towards meeting the Board's expectations of as it relates to this element of performance.

HCDE BOARD

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UPCOMING BOARD EVENT:

Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

