



In this issue...

- 3 *Partnership Project Funding through Harris County Department of Education's CASE for Kids Provides \$550,787 to Fund Area 24 Programs*
- 5 *Teachers Gain Guided Math Strategies at HCDE Workshop*
- 6 *CASE for Kids Students Perform at Kids' Day at Hobby Center*

FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

Of Note...

As mentioned in last week's issue of **The Connector**, Assistant Superintendent Jonathan Parker and I attended the Summer UT/TASA 2017 Conference which was held in Austin. The conference began this past weekend and we returned to the office Wednesday. This 69th annual event's theme was centered around Grassroots Advocacy: Engaging Your Community for Public Education. Because this conference took place on the heels of the 85th Texas legislative session, and prior to the summer special session, it offered tremendous insight from legislators and education proponents on changes coming to schools across the state of Texas. Presenters discussed how grassroots advocacy can be a powerful force in shaping educational policy. In summary, the conference was informative and productive for me, and my fellow superintendents, as well as other education executives.

Upon my return to the office Wednesday, I conducted a variety of regularly scheduled meetings with staff. It also served as a day to catch up on correspondence, projects, and other responsibilities.

Yesterday, I attended the Northwest Assistance Ministries' ribbon cutting for its retail and training center. This event sheds a great ray of hope for the citizens in the northwest quadrant of the city, and beyond. As previously mentioned, I serve on the executive board of this outreach organization. HCDE continues to benefit from this association, especially through our Adult Education division.

Next week, I will begin the week with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team as well as my other regularly scheduled Monday meetings. Please be reminded that Tuesday is a holiday, and as a result, the Summer Flex Schedule will be suspended next week as employees will work the regular 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. schedule, since the Department will be closed in observation of the Fourth

of July (Independence Day) holiday. We will resume our summer schedule during the week of July 10.

On Wednesday of next week, I will hold a meeting with the Leadership Team, which consists of the executive team, directors, and principals. Thursday, we will have agenda review in preparation for the regularly-scheduled July Board Meeting.

This week in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted the following trainings and workshops: Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Cell Structure and Function; Train-the-Trainer: Guided Math That Really Works! (k-2); Biology EOC: A Closer Look at the Mechanisms of Genetics; Online Instructor's Training, Part II; National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800; Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Biological Processes and Systems; Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Evolution and Classification; Train-the-Trainer: Guided Math That Really Works! (3-6); A Problem-Based Learning Approach to Farming through Explorative Science Stations; and Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Interdependence and Environmental Systems. Harris County Department of Education remains committed to providing innovative approaches to advancing the teaching and learning process.

In closing, please be reminded that the Department will be closed Tuesday, July 4. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**, and I hope you have a relaxing weekend and holiday.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

- Board Meeting

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Lynnice Hockaday Shares Tips for Making the Most of Summer



While some may think teachers have the entire summer to sit by the pool and have fun in the sun, teachers also spend time preparing for the next year and for personal enrichment. According to Lynnice Hockaday, digital education and innovation specialist for HCDE's Teaching and Learning Center, it won't be long before teachers are back to lesson planning and decorating the classroom

"However, it is important to get the most out of summer," writes Hockaday, on HCDE's News Blog.

How do teachers go about doing this?

Hockaday recommends that teachers take affordable outings.

"First and foremost, take a little time to relax," she writes, "and when you are out visiting your favorite sports venue, amusement park or museum, remember to carry your educator ID."

Hockaday notes that many places offer substantial educator discounts and some free admissions.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

JUNE 26, 2017

Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Cell Structure and Function

Train-the-Trainer: Guided Math That Really Works! (Gr K-2)

Biology EOC: A Closer Look at the Mechanisms of Genetics

Online Instructor's Training - Part II

JUNE 27, 2017

National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS 100,200,700,800

Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Biological Processes and Systems

Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Evolution and Classification

JUNE 28, 2017

Train-the-Trainer: Guided Math That Really Works! (Gr 3-6)

A Problem-Based Learning Approach to Farming through Explorative Science Stations

Biology EOC: A Closer Look at Interdependence and Environmental Systems

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Partnership Project Funding through Harris County Department of Education's CASE for Kids Provides \$550,787 to Fund Area 24 Programs



Afterschool is made possible for 600 children across Harris County for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year through \$550,787 in funding to Harris County Department of Education's Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids. The CASE for Kids Partnership Project is the result of collaboration between HCDE, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the Texas Workforce Commission, and awarded sites. HCDE commits local funds to supplement comprehensive afterschool programming.

CASE for Kids provides resources, trainings, and funding for afterschool programs, serving students in grades pre-k through 12 in afterschool programs in schools, child care facilities, and community centers throughout Harris County. Specifically, Partnership Project funding begins as school opens in August and extends through summer. Amounts vary from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for each program.

The following districts and sites gain the funding: Aldine ISD (Goodman Elementary, Raymond Academy and Stehlik Intermediate); Academy of Accelerated Learning (charter); Alief ISD (Kennedy Elementary and Miller Intermediate); Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Houston (Harvard,

Morefield and Stafford); Houston ISD (Benbrook, Briscoe, Field, Park Place, Port Houston, Sequin, Whidby and Whittier elementary schools); Pasadena ISD (Frazier Elementary and Connections at Teague), Precinct2gether, Inc. (YET II); Sheldon ISD (Carroll, Monahan and Sheldon elementary schools); and Southwest Schools Charter (Bissonnet Elementary).

The goal of Partnership Project is to provide supplemental funding for comprehensive afterschool programs in order to promote several areas of learning. Funding provides increased support for numeracy, literacy, and social and emotional learning, explained Lisa Thompson-Caruthers, director of CASE for Kids.

"At Harris County Department of Education, we remain committed to supporting afterschool as a means to keep kids safe and provide enriching activities before and after school and during summer months," said HCDE County School Superintendent James Colbert Jr. "Partnership Projects is a cornerstone for meeting that goal."

HCDE Family Service Providers Attend Annual Institute



HCDE Head Start employees attended the annual Family Service Providers Institute this week to prepare for the upcoming school year and advance professionally. Guest speakers included representatives from Harris County Public Health who talked about safety in schools.

HCDE Family Service Providers assist Head Start families with health, nutrition, education, and financial services to ensure they are successful.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Andrea Segraves Selected for Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Affiliate Advisory Council



HCDE Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Coordinator Andrea Segraves was recently selected as a member of the Affiliate Advisory Council (AAC) with the Scholastic Art & Writing

Awards. The AAC is a working committee of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers Board of Directors and was formed to provide a communication conduit between members of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Affiliate Network, the Alliance Board of Directors, and national staff.

Segraves will serve a 2-3-year term as the School Districts and Departments of Education representative. Roles and responsibilities include gathering feedback through communications with members of the Affiliate Network and providing advice and input to Alliance staff on policies and

initiatives affecting the Affiliate Network, among other duties.

“It is truly an honor to be selected as a member of the Affiliate Advisory Council,” said Segraves. “The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards change the lives of students across the nation, and I’m proud to have the opportunity to be more involved in these efforts.”

Segraves, representing HCDE, also received the 2017 Gold Key for Excellence in the Field Award earlier this year. This award is presented annually to an outstanding affiliate partner of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, sponsors of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

To learn more about the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, visit <https://www.smcore.com/t7v0u>.

Center for Safe and Secure Schools Trains Districts on Incident Management



To help make sure area schools are ready to respond to incidents in an organized and effective manner, HCDE’s Center for Safe and Secure Schools provided National Incident

Management System (NIMS) training on Tuesday, June 27. This emergency management training, which includes an introduction to the Incident Command System and the National Response Framework, is the first of three workshops that HCDE provides at a discount to Harris County districts.

“This training is essential for central office personnel and other key staff members,” said Ecomet Burley, director, Center for Safe and Secure Schools. “We’re making use of the summer months to provide training, assessment and certification all on the same day.”



The next NIMS training, ICS-300, which covers expanding incidents, will be held July 11 at HCDE.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT BRIEFS

Center for Safe and Secure Schools

The Center for Safe and Secure Schools presented an “Overview of Restorative Discipline Practices” at two different conferences. The staff presented to 1,500 school leaders at HISD’s Professional Learning Series, in line with the annual PLS theme, “Support Every Child: Create a Culture and Climate for all Students.” The staff also visited San Antonio to present to school board members and personnel at the Summer Leadership Institute, Texas Association of School Boards’ annual training conference.

Educator Certification and Professional Advancement

The School Reform Initiative had its second annual Pre-Service Retreat, hosting educators from Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts and Texas. ECPA Grants Development Manager Jonett Miniel organized the Pre-Service Workgroup six years ago to convene educators working with aspiring teachers. This year the group gathered at Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center in Estes Park, Colorado to plan the

next five months using improvement sciences. They will reconnect monthly and present their results at the initiative’s November meeting in Atlanta.

ECPA’s Principal Preparation and Certification Academy hosted a four-day seminar series on cultivating cultural intelligence in aspiring leaders. The series is part of ECPA Leadership Advancement Officer Dr. Deirdre Williams’ and Prairie View A&M’s Dr. Kelly Brown’s research on the necessary goals of professional development.

Adult Education

Adult Education staff attended the Texas Workforce Commission’s Adult Education and Literacy Summer Institute in Austin to learn about key financial and performance changes. Changes included increased flexibility for demonstrating student progress and new employment performance measures for next year.

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Teachers Gain Guided Math Strategies at HCDE Workshop

Guided Math can be a powerful teaching strategy to increase math achievement among students. At this week’s “Train the Trainer” math workshop, presenter and author Mary Peterson focused on helping teachers use Guided Math for small group instruction and setting up highly motivating math centers.

Teachers left with proven classroom strategies to implement, organize, and manage Guided Math and better meet the needs of all students – from the struggling to the highly capable.



Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CASE for Kids Students Perform at Kids' Day at Hobby Center



June 23 was show time for students at nine area schools enrolled in summer enrichment programs coordinated by the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids.



Kids spent the day in dress rehearsals and learning the nuts-and-bolts of professional theatre productions with presentations and tours from Hobby Center staff. Later that evening, family and friends arrived for live performances.

Over the summer, CASE for Kids sent nonprofit organizations and professional artists to work with students in their Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) 21st Century afterschool programs in elementary, middle and high school at their campuses. Kids' Day at the Hobby Center is the culminating event to give students opportunities to show off what they learned. Artistic mediums included puppetry, dance, drumming, photography and theatre.

Students attending were from Aldine, Alief, Clear Creek, Galena Park, Pasadena, and Spring Branch independent school districts.



Artists and arts organizations participating included Healthy Hip Hop, Ensemble Theatre, Puppet Pizzazz, Shamelessly Saved Productions, Dinky Drum Company, Foto Fest, Ondi Love, Multicultural Education, and Counseling through the Arts, and the Brazilian Arts Foundation.



To view photos from this event, visit <https://hcdetx.smugmug.com/CASE/2017-Kids-Day-at-the-Hobby-Center/>.

CASE for Kids Promotes Event on Fox 26 Morning News



CASE for Kids Assistant Director Trina Finley and afterschool provider Houston Healthy Hip Hop visited Fox 26 Morning News to promote the June 15 Kids' Day at Hobby. The segment included an interview with Finley along with a dance presentation from the providers, one of nine fine arts providers who brought kids to Hobby Center for a culmination event to show off what they learned in their afterschool programs. View the segment: <https://youtu.be/-dMb7s0M61Q>.

Summer learning programs through Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids offer fun experiences for youth while helping to prevent summer learning loss. Providers like Houston Healthy Hip-Hop help cultivate teamwork and critical thinking skills with our youth. Fox 26 News helped promote the event: Kids' Day at Hobby Center. View story: <https://youtu.be/-dMb7s0M61Q>

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Professional Development Community Relations

In keeping with the Board's expectations of me to

- Ensure that appropriate staff development is available and monitor staff development for effectiveness;
- Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration; and
- Work with other community and governmental entities and educational organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinate way

This past week I attended the University of Texas/ Texas Association of School Administrators' (UT/TASA) Summer Conference. The conference was beneficial and informative, and it allowed me the opportunity to network with my colleagues from all parts of Texas and bring further awareness to HCDE.



Relations lobby team regarding specific legislation passed by the 85th Legislature, and how our communities would be affected.

We also heard from an advocacy panel featuring Texas Parent PAC volunteer/fundraiser who also serves on the Austin ISD Board of Trustees; the Texas PTA President; a representative from the Pastors for Texas Children; a representative from the business sector; a spokesperson from Friends of Texas Public Schools; and the Fort Bend ISD Board President, among many others.

The knowledge gained from this professional development opportunity benefited both HCDE and me, while also creating further awareness of the Department within the community that supports public education.

By attending such professional development opportunities and creating awareness of HCDE, I am working towards the Board's goals of me to assess new and effective development tools available and determine their applicability to HCDE and its staff, in addition to communicating the needs of the Department in a variety of formats; representing HCDE at various events—listening to, and taking into account—different viewpoints of the many constituencies. I am also using good judgment to discern the best decision and action from the Department.

The conference focused on Grassroots Advocacy: Engaging Your Community for Public Education. We had the opportunity to hear from the TASA Governmental



HCDE BOARD

Board President

Louis Evans, III

Position 4, Precinct 3

Vice President

Eric Dick

Position 2, Precinct 4

Erica Lee Carter

Position 6, Precinct 1

George Moore

Position 1, Precinct 2

Don Sumners

Position 7, At Large

Diane Trautman

Position 3, At Large

Michael Wolfe

Position 5, At Large

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

- Board Meeting

