



WEEK OF OCTOBER 8, 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

3 *School-Based Therapy Services Celebrates National Physical Therapy Month*

3 *Choice Partners Child Nutrition Expo 2018 Joins Vendors, Students, Nutrition Directors with Bounty of Food Samplings*

4 *Columbus Day Provides Opportunity for Schools' Professional Development*

Of Note...

It's been a busy and productive week at HCDE. I began the week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), followed by standing meetings with staff.

As usual, throughout the year, I visit superintendents within our client school districts to keep my finger on the pulse of their needs as it relates to HCDE's programs and services, and measuring the extent to which we are exceeding their expectations. To that end, this week, I met with the superintendent of Huffman ISD. The meeting was informative, and I am pleased to know that our partnership remains strong.

I also fulfilled my SuperMENTor volunteer obligation with our Area I Head Start division. I find this to be a rewarding program and I encourage other men to become involved. I also attended the special committee of the Board related to the legal RFP process.

I had the distinct honor of celebrating Principal Appreciation Month with our campus principals by taking them to dinner. While they are only celebrated but once a year, our principals deserve recognition each day. I am often in awe over the inspirational stories that are born out of their schools. I am thankful to our principals all year long and we enjoyed a great evening over dinner, a small expression of my gratitude.

This week, in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted and facilitated the following workshops: Workstation Make and Take in Counting and Composing and Decomposing Numbers with Objects and Pictures for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, as well as for grades 1 and 2; CPR/First Aid; Finding the Right Blend: Blending Content for the 21st Century Classroom; Bea Luchin: How Do I Know What They Know? Day 1 (Using Graphic Organizers to Assess Learning), followed by a three-day assessment training session.

Looking ahead into next week, I will begin the week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team and welcoming attendees to this year's Leadership Summit hosted by the Teaching and Learning Center.

Also, next week, I will continue my visits to Harris County school districts by meeting with superintendents in both Goose Creek CISD and Pearland ISD.

Please be reminded that Wednesday is the regularly-scheduled October Board Meeting. For the remainder of the week, I will be traveling to meet with experts in the equine therapy field as we continue to explore and implement innovative and effective programs that meet the needs of our unique student populations.

Again, thanks for all you do for HCDE. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector** and I hope you have a relaxing weekend. I look forward to seeing you at next week's Board Meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October Board Meeting—Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Dinosaurs Go to School? HCDE Superintendent Colbert Shares Love of Reading with Head Start Students as SuperMENTor



Why do dinosaurs go to school? Harris County School Superintendent James Colbert Jr. explained the concept to several dozen Harris County Department of Education Head Start students in Humble at a mentoring session. To become a SuperMENTor, email arodriguez@hcde-texas.org or call 713-696-2179.

Each month, the 15 HCDE Head Start centers welcome SuperMENTors, male volunteers who read and ultimately become role models for the 3-to-5 year olds. The SuperMentor commits to a year of visits, once a month.

Sessions involve about a 45-minute visit to a neighborhood center in northeast Harris County. A pre-selected book is read to students. The reward of influencing a child's life with a shared story is priceless.

To become a SuperMENTor, email arodriguez@hcde-texas.org or call 713-696-2179.



ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

OCTOBER 11, 2018

Workstation Make and Take in Counting and Composing and Decomposing Numbers with Objects and Pictures for Grades 1 and 2

CPR/1st Aid

Workstation Make and Take in Counting and Composing and Decomposing Numbers with Objects and Pictures for Pre-K and Kindergarten

Finding the Right Blend - Blending Content for the 21st Century Classroom

OCTOBER 12, 2018

Bea Luchin: How Do I know What They Know? Day 1 Only - Using Graphic Organizers to Assess Learning

Bea Luchin: How Do I know What They Know? A Three-day Assessment Training [Workshop Dates: Oct. 12, Nov. 12 & Dec. 12, 2018]

School Finance Council

Cooperative Learning

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

School-Based Therapy Services Celebrates National Physical Therapy Month



An appreciation shout-out to school-based physical therapists this month as October is Physical Therapy Month! Our 53 physical therapists and

physical therapist assistants support students in the school environment at their neighborhood campuses in greater Harris County. They use their knowledge of movement and function to help students with disabilities with mobility and positioning in the school and community setting.

With therapists' help, students can participate alongside their non-disabled peers. Moreover, therapists with School-Based Therapy Services share these strategies with the classroom teachers they work alongside.

HCDE's School-Based Therapy Services serves over 7,000 children in multiple area school districts. We urge you to thank or hug a physical therapist today! (Flower and chocolates could work, as well.)



Choice Partners Child Nutrition Expo 2018 Joins Vendors, Students, Nutrition Directors with Bounty of Food Samplings



The largest annual Choice Partners Child Nutrition Expo to date attracted more than 500 attendees at the Humble Civic Center this week. The Oct. 11 event highlighted new food offerings that may make their way into local school cafeterias.



Students were hungry for healthy options that also tasted good. They left without being disappointed as offerings included personal pan pizzas, dipping

dots ice cream, fancy breads, smoothies, culturally influenced cuisine, breakfast sandwiches and many more options.

Several media outlets covered the expo, including morning show coverage which showcased vendor offerings on Fox 26 with Client Development Manager Janet Wachs representing Choice Partners.



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Grants Training Series ‘Takes Planning to Save the World’



Stages of program planning and the various components of successful plans were taught to attendees in the Quest for

attendees draft a plan that they could use as a blueprint for future work within their organizations.

“She was so thorough and was able to incorporate our current needs and ideas that we want to implement in real world experience,” Shaun Babineaux, Houston ISD grants administrator said.

Grants Training Series “It Takes Planning to Save the World” this month. Center for Grants Development Manager Joyce Akins had

Look for upcoming grant workshop ideas at <https://bit.ly/2IKI9dq>.

Columbus Day Provides Opportunity for Schools’ Professional Development



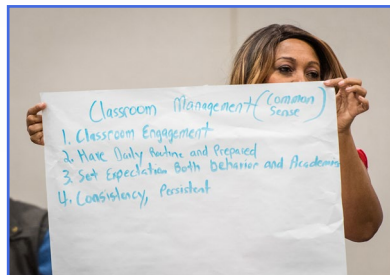
Schools division staff joined together for several strands of professional development on Columbus Day, Oct. 8.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) strategies for life skills classrooms. ABA is the understanding and modifying of behaviors in the learning environment.



Fortis and Highpoint staff spent the day

Behavioral teachers also reviewed strategies for the classroom.



reviewing student learning objectives. At AB East and West campuses, instructional staff reviewed

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Management of Fiscal Functions and Community Relations

In accordance with the Board's goal of me to

- **Implement and oversee a planning process that results in goals, targets, or priorities for major areas of operation;**
- **Establish and maintain a program of public relations to keep the public well-informed of the activities of the Department, affecting a wholesome and cooperative working relationship between the Department and community; and to**
- **Work with other governmental entities and community organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinated way**



Yesterday, the largest annual Choice Partners Child Nutrition Expo to date attracted more than 500 attendees at the Humble Civic Center. The event highlighted new food selections that could make their way into local school cafeterias.

Students hungered for healthy options that were also appealing to their



taste buds. As a result, they left without being disappointed as offerings included personal pan pizzas, dipping dots, ice cream, fancy breads, smoothies, culturally influenced cuisine, breakfast sandwiches, and many more options.

Media outlets covered the expo, including morning show coverage that showcased vendor selections on Fox 26 with Janet Wachs, Client Development Manager, representing Choice Partners.



By HCDE's Choice Partners continuing to host this event, they are assisting school districts to make informed food purchasing decisions. Also, by the Department maintaining visibility and involvement in the community with school districts, and to increase HCDE's visibility on all platforms, I am working to meet the goals of me in the areas of both Management of Fiscal Functions and Community Relations.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

October Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

