

The CONNECTOR

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for the HCDE Board of Trustees



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FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

Of Note...

It's hard to believe that Spring Break is already upon us. The spring semester is moving briskly, and we are near the end of yet another academic year.

On a somber note, I take this opportunity to extend prayers to the family of Houston City Councilman Larry Green of District K, as they mourn his unexpected death earlier this week. He was an avid supporter of quality education services within his district. I know his recently-silenced voice will be missed by both his colleagues and constituents. My thoughts are with them.

The week has been a busy one, as usual. Monday, I began with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team where we continue to advance the management of the Department in a systemic manner. Recent discussions have focused on our budget planning season. Budget hearings begin April 13 and will run intermittently through April 26. During that time, a total of 31 budget hearings will be convened. Each division director (or leader) will explain, justify, and defend any additions to respective program budgets as I have been clear that we will ultimately present a fiscally conservative budget to the Board for approval. Our budget process is a methodical one, and the planning season is lengthy.

To that end, I convened a Leadership Team meeting this past Tuesday where the budget was also a topic of discussion. Additionally, division directors and principals provided updates on their programs and significant projects. The meeting was informative, and as always, serves as an ideal opportunity for quality brain-sharing. Also, on Tuesday, I met with Head Start management to discuss possible methods of retention to ensure continuity in our Head Start classrooms. The meeting was timely and we will continue to work towards achieving that goal.

I visited Academic and Behavior Center-West (AB-West) on

Wednesday. That visit was productive and processes were running smoothly. I am pleased to report that faculty and students were advancing teaching and learning. The same was true at Academic and Behavior Center-East (AB-East) during my visit to that campus yesterday.

Today, I held my standing meetings with staff, and this week, they are especially important as we gear up for the Spring Break holiday.

With that in mind, the Department will be closed next week, March 12-16 for Spring Break, along with the other districts within Harris County. We will hit the ground running and resume normal operations upon our return Monday, March 19.

Looking ahead, during the week of March 19, I will be meeting with various representatives to ensure the Department's continued viability. The Scholastic ceremonies will also be held that week with several events surrounding that quality program that we facilitate on behalf of the school districts and private schools within Harris County. I will also be meeting with representatives from higher education and holding my standing meetings with staff.

In closing, please remember to "spring forward" this weekend as daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 a.m.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

- Board Meeting

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Shorts: CASE for Kids Employee Izaguirre Gives Back to Youth after Benefiting from Rodeo Scholarship



Harris County Department of Education Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids Program Coordinator Adrian Izaguirre believes in giving back what you take, an attitude that keeps him busy. As a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarship recipient, the Houston ISD Chavez High School alumni graduated debt free from the University of North Texas in 2016 with the help of a four-year scholarship.

During the day, Izaguirre helps facilitates grants to nonprofits which provide afterschool programs for at-risk, urban youth. Called CASE for Kids City Connections, the city of Houston afterschool funding spreads to youth throughout 11 Houston City Council districts.

As a division of Harris County Department of Education, the afterschool intermediary called CASE for Kids provides resources, trainings and funding for students in grades pre-k through 12 in afterschool programs in schools, child care facilities and community centers. The goal is to keep kids safe, help working families, provide enriching activities and improve academic achievement.

After hours, Izaguirre serves on two rodeo committees as a volunteer: The Alumni Task Force which recruits scholarship recipients as rodeo volunteers and the Go Tejano Committee, a rodeo committee which fundraises for scholarships for Hispanic youth. The group hosts a food booth during the length of the rodeo, a mariachi competition and a golf tournament.

Izaguirre is all about preserving culture. The south Houston resident likes volunteering for the rodeo because it brings people together for the common goal of preserving the Texas western culture.

“In doing so, we’re embracing that (western and Hispanic) culture and keeping it alive while also helping through an education aspect with youth,” he said.

“I believe the most rewarding part is passing the torch along as one of the students needing help to one of the volunteers giving back,” said Izaguirre.

(HCDE Shorts are short features about the people who serve or are served by Harris County Department of Education. Nominations may be emailed to communications@hcde-texas.org.)

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

MARCH 6, 2018

(NIMS) ICS 100,200,700,800

(2 Day Training)

MARCH 7, 2018

Proportionality (Grades 6-8)



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Afterschool Eases Stress for Families Hard-hit by Harvey through CASE for Kids City Connections



Schools hard-hit by Hurricane Harvey are benefiting from additional city funding earmarked for afterschool or out-of-school time through a

program called CASE for Kids City Connections. The program is administered by Harris County Department of Education's Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids.

Houston City Council District B represented by Jerry Davis and District E represented by Dave Martin awarded \$25,000 and \$85,000 respectively to area nonprofits to serve hurricane-battered schools like Kingwood High School. Kingwood High, which closed for the school year, shares space with neighboring Summer Creek High School and now benefits from \$30,000 for afterschool services from CASE for Kids which are provided by the Humble ISD Education Foundation.

Houston City Council voted for \$550,000 in funding to be issued to nonprofits in the 11 Houston City Council Districts A-K during school year 2017-2018. The first round of funding was announced in October and will be used through April 27. Each award ranged from \$4,000-\$10,000.

Because several council districts did not award all of the initial \$45,000 funding, they were allowed to solicit additional grantees through a request for proposal due by Nov. 7 and awarded in December.

Houston City Council Member Dave Martin awarded \$85,000 to four nonprofits which will serve five schools

in flooded areas through May 25. Martin increased his district's overall grant budget for City Connections, dipping into his district funding to pay the balance. Council Member and Houston Vice Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Davis awarded \$25,000 to two organizations to serve two schools.

"We saw and still see a great need for services in schools where families were devastated by Hurricane Harvey," said CASE for Kids Director Lisa Thompson-Caruthers. "Many of these children suffer from great emotional distress. These afterschool programs provide a layer of care that are helping families along the road to recovery."

For more information about City Connections, view the October 2017 press release: http://hcde-texas.org/media-page/2016/2016_1013_case-city-connections/

For additional information about nonprofits and schools awarded grants in District B and E, view this link: <http://www.afterschoolzone.org/users/0002/docs/City%20Connections/2017-2018%20%20Round%202%20Award%20List.pdf>

About the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids: As an afterschool intermediary, CASE for Kids provides resources, trainings and funding for students in grades pre-k through 12 in afterschool programs in schools, child care facilities and community centers. As a branch of Harris County Department of Education, the division was founded in 1999 with a goal to keep kids safe, help working families and improve academic achievement.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Head Start's Shonika Kwarteng Serves Families Through Nutrition Education



Harris County Department of Education Head Start's Shonika Kwarteng is dedicated to serving Harris County families enrolled in the Head Start program through nutrition education. As the Nutrition Services Manager, Kwarteng oversees all nutrition functions in the program and helps families develop and maintain healthy eating habits.

Nutrition and health services are among the benefits provided to families of children enrolled in the HCDE Head Start program at no charge. While Kwarteng ensures children receive nutritiously adequate meals at the centers, she also works with Head Start performance standards to make sure children are screened, nutritional risks are handled and that children with food allergies and dietary needs are accommodated.

"Many of the services we offer Head Start families come through nutrition education," said Kwarteng. "However, if a family identifies a need, we meet with them and complete a nutrition assessment, similar to what they would get in an outpatient setting."

Kwarteng and her team also work with others in the Head Start program to incorporate nutrition and healthy lifestyle

topics into the curriculum. Students learn about healthy foods in the classroom and how healthy eating benefits their bodies.

The annual Head Start Food Science Fair is one example of adding nutrition into the curriculum. For a project each year, students select a fruit or vegetable and work with their families to create a healthy dish to be judged at the month's Parent Policy Council Meeting.

"An additional layer to nutrition education is that our children are eating those foods in the classroom," said Kwarteng. "Our goal is to show children a wide variety of nutritious foods and teach them the benefits of healthy eating from a young age. Hopefully they will build on that foundation down the road."

March is National Nutrition Month, a nutrition education and information campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. For more information, visit <https://goo.gl/xGzfyS>.

For information on HCDE Head Start visit www.hcde-texas.org/headstart.

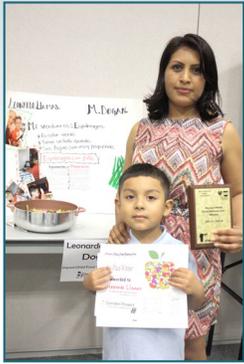


HCDE Purchasing Division Receives TASBO Award of Merit

The Harris County Department of Education Purchasing Division received the Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations at the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) Annual Conference Awards Luncheon this week. In total, TASBO recognized 30 school districts/organizations for following best practices in the area of purchasing operations. Purchasing Assistant Director Kendra Jackson accepted the award on behalf of the HCDE Purchasing Division.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS



Head Start Hosts Annual Parent/Child Food Science Fair

Head Start recently hosted the annual Parent/Child Food Science Fair at each of the Head Start centers. Judges at each center selected one dish to move on in the competition to be named the top recipe at the month's Policy Council Meeting.

The Food Science Fair ignites creativity and fuels education about nutrition as students and their families select a fruit or vegetable and create a healthy dish. This year, the first place entry went to 4-year-old Leonardo Llamas at the Dogan Head Start Center for his dish, asparagus with chicken.

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Wanted: All-Earth Ecobot Challenge Volunteers



All-Earth Ecobot Challenge which is provided through the Education Foundation and CASE for Kids is soliciting volunteers for the All-Earth Ecobot Challenge on April 21 at Kashmere High School,

6900 Wileyvale, Houston, Texas. The biggest demand for the daylong event is for judges who will review team

performance from either 7 a.m.-noon or noon-5 p.m. (or for both sessions). Other volunteer positions include liaisons, monitors, lab assistants and administrators. Volunteers must be age 16 or above.

The competition is for teams of three-five students in grades fourth through fifth and sixth through eighth. This year Best Buy Foundation is helping to sponsor the event. View the flier <http://www.hcde-texas.org/media/5229/2018-ecobot-volunteer-flyer.pdf>.



Humble, Katy ISD Teachers Attend HCDE Proportionality Workshop

Math teachers from Humble ISD and Katy ISD attended the Proportionality math workshop this week led by the Teaching and Learning Center's Nicole Shanahan. During the workshop, teachers got an in-depth look at proportionality across grades 6-8, examined problem-solving activities and investigations, and analyzed the vertical alignment between the grades. Upcoming Teaching and Learning Center workshops can be found at <https://goo.gl/b95uvc>.

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Header

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

- Board Meeting

