



Of Note...

The Department resumed its normal operations this past Monday on the heels of the Thanksgiving Break at the end of last week. I trust each of you had an enjoyable holiday.

Upon my return to the office this week, I began as usual with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team, followed by a meeting with one of our Board Members regarding the Superintendent’s Annual Review. Later that afternoon, I met with one of my current mentees.

I held several internal meetings with staff this past Wednesday, and I had the pleasure of conducting New Board Member Orientation yesterday. It was a pleasure to spend time with one of our incoming members of the Board of Trustees, and to better familiarize him with the inner-workings of the Department.

This week in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted the following workshops and training sessions: TExES Core Subjects EC-6 Exam (#291) Social Studies Test Prep; Outer Edges Online—Investigating with Google; Online Instructors’ Training, Part II; Strengthening Elementary Social Studies: A Close Look at Geography in Picture Books, Grades 1-5; HCDE Principal Certification Academy Information Seminar; Music Therapy Leadership Group; Quest for Grants Training: The Grant Budget, It’s Not Just About the Math!; STAAR Academy Biology EOC: Essential Tools for RTI (November 28); Capturing Kids’ Hearts; New Leaders Connection: Three Day Collaborative; New Leaders Connection: One-Day Collaborative; Make Them Think: Argumentation in High School Biology; CPR/First Aid; and Clean it Up—Customer Service in Afterschool.

Looking ahead into next week, I will begin with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team and conduct other internal meetings with staff. On Tuesday, I will conduct Leadership Team Meeting followed by a meeting with a board member the following day regarding my annual review. I will conduct Agenda Review on Thursday, in preparation of the December Board Meeting. A Special Board Meeting will be held next Friday, December 7.

In closing, please be reminded of the Special Board Meeting to be held next Friday and the regularly-scheduled Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2018.

I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector** and I hope you have a relaxing weekend. Thanks for your continued service to HCDE.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December Board Meeting—Wednesday, December 19, 2018

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26, 2018

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Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

TLC Director and Committee Chair Tummy Welcomes Crowd of 8,000 at National Conference in Houston



Teaching and Learning Center Curriculum Director for English Language Arts and Social Studies Kelly Tummy delivered a big Harris County welcome and represented HCDE in front of an energy-charged crowd

of 8,000 educators attending the National Council of Teachers of English Nov. 15. The national conference was held at George R. Brown from Nov. 15-18, and Tummy acted as local committee co-chair to help organize 200 volunteers. Famed Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie opened the conference that same morning, and throughout the four days, 800 concurrent professional development sessions were offered to attendees. The record-breaking crowds at the conference made the volunteer leadership tasks even more critical to the conference's success.

"We're proud of Kelly and her leadership expertise in representing HCDE at this vital conference," said TLC Senior Director Frances Watson-Hester.



Tummy is the 2019 president-elect for the Texas affiliate of the NCTE, the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts. TCTELA hosts its conference in San Antonio in January, and Tummy will be actively involved in helping organize that conference.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

NOVEMBER 26, 2018

TEXES Core Subjects EC-6 Exam (#291) SOCIAL STUDIES Test Prep

Outer Edges Online - Investigating with Google

Online Instructor's Training - Part II

NOVEMBER 27, 2018

Strengthening Elementary Social Studies - A Close Look at Geography in Picture Books, Grades 1-5

HCDE Principal Certification Academy Information Seminar

Music Therapy Leadership Group

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Quest for Grants Training Series: The Grant Budget: It's Not Just About the Math!

STAAR Academy Biology EOC: Essential Tools for RTI [Event dates: November 28 & December 18]

NOVEMBER 29, 2018

Capturing Kids Hearts

New Leaders Connection: Three-Day Collaborative

New Leaders Connection: One-Day Collaborative

Make Them Think: Argumentation in High School Biology

CPR/1st Aid

NOVEMBER 30, 2018

"Clean it Up" Customer Service in Afterschool

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Academic and Behavior School Staff Know the Importance of CPR Training



Many people don't think they will ever have to use cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), but having the training will help save someone's life.

Just ask the staff at Academic and Behavior Schools West when they had to put their skills to use after a fellow teacher collapsed from a heart attack.

Harris County Department of Education's Academic and Behavior Schools specialize in educational services for students with emotional and academic special needs. June 7 started out as any other day for life skills teacher Karen Weiskopf by going to work for a teacher workday before summer break.

"I felt fine just like any other day and had just signed in at the front office around 8 a.m.," Weiskopf said.

Principal Victor Keys was passing through the front office to go to the counselor's office, but stopped to talk to Weiskopf. After their conversation, he went back to his office then proceeded to go to the counselor's office.

"As I was going to the counselor's office, I saw Mrs. Weiskopf beneath the desk in the front," Keys said. "I called for the nurse to get help."

AB West nurse Barbara Hurd was just down the hall and heard Keys yelling nurse when he usually calls her Mrs. Hurd.

"I ran over and that's when I saw Mrs. Weiskopf on the

floor," Hurd said. "She started experiencing strained breathing then stopped breathing." At that point, they began CPR.

Keith Oliphant, who is currently the principal at AB East but was the assistant principal at the time, was in his office when he heard the commotion.

"Mr. Oliphant is the type of person that will finish what he is doing before getting up," Weiskopf said. "That day, he heard his mother say 'move,' so he did."

Keys gave her rescue breathing while Hurd and Oliphant performed chest compressions with help from the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Weiskopf had stopped breathing for about 10 minutes then a pulse was found.

"We just knew that we wanted her to stay with us and did everything we could to help her," Hurd said.

EMS was called and transported Weiskopf, along with assistant principal Gaylynn Sanders, to the hospital for treatment.



"The EMS and doctors told me that they were very impressed with what they did and how fast acted because they did everything right," Sanders said. "I couldn't wait to come back to tell everyone because we do participate in CPR trainings."

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Kindergarten Students Learn Chemistry Through Children's Literature



When you think of kindergarten classes, you picture kids playing with building blocks and coloring. However, kindergarten students at Franz Elementary in Katy Independent School District are learning chemistry through children's literature. This curriculum was made possible from Harris County Department of Education

Teaching and Learning Center's Science Fiction: Teaching Chemistry with Children's Literature workshop.

HCDE Curriculum Director of Science Lisa Felske taught the course for many years, but it is now offered online for busy educators who can work at their own pace like Katy ISD Title 1 Science Facilitator Tammy Matthews.

"In searching for trainings to go to better myself this year, I searched the HCDE website and found that they were offering several online courses," Matthews said. "Of course, with our busy schedules I thought great, this would be perfect for me to do."

The title of the workshop seemed intriguing to her because she wanted to better the science curriculum in her district.

"I am trying to grow my rigor in the lower elementary in science courses as well as the upper elementary," Matthews said. "In looking into it, I just



felt like it was a great fit for me especially being online."

This course covers topics in chemistry like metals, nonmetals, dissolving, properties of matter and soil chemistry. Children's books used in the course are "Zack's Alligator," "Two Bad Ants," "Gregory the Terrible Eater" and "Diary of a Worm."

Franz Elementary kindergarten bilingual teacher Patricia Muskus went through the same workshop about eight years ago and has been using "Zack's Alligator" in her classroom.

"I liked it so much because it is more orientated towards kindergartners, so I brought it back to my team and have been doing the lesson every year," Muskus said. "We did the measurement portion of the lesson, but this year added the sections of weight and absorption."

Students enjoyed the fact that there's an alligator named Bridget in the story. Each classroom has their very own Bridget to water and see how she grows.

"It's truly engaging because we're learning vocabulary, changes and measurements, which is a very wide range of learning," Muskus said. "It takes about two weeks for this lesson because we're observing the changes in size of Bridget the Alligator and recording them in a journal."

Currently, Franz Elementary is the only school in Katy ISD using the program but Matthews will be sharing the curriculum with teachers at other Katy schools.



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

National Adult Education Honor Society Set for Dec. 13



The National Adult Education Honor Society induction ceremony is set for Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. in the Conference Center, 6300 Irvington Blvd. Thirty-two adult learners from the Adult Education division have been nominated for the award which honors adult learners who exercise leadership skills to help fellow classmates, among other virtues. The student stories are a testament to the obstacles adults must overcome to prove “it’s never too late to learn.” Students range in age from 18-60. The often-emotional event is a moving experience, especially during the holidays.

HCDE Hosts 2 National Education Thought Leaders: DeWitt, Almarode



Area educators came together for the popular Foundation Day Institute and The Science of How We Learn Nov. 15-16 as the Teaching and Learning Center hosted Corwin Publishing and national presenters Peter DeWitt



and John Almarode. The two-day session focused on how students retain information and learning achievement best practices.

Peter DeWitt: “Be the student’s guide to the answer, not the answer-giver.”



TLC will host more national presenters in 2019 through the Leadership Series. Go to www.hcde-texas.org/teaching-and-learning-center/leadership for upcoming workshops.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Head Start Students Enjoy Fall Festivals in November



Channelview Head Start students learned about the autumn season as cool weather officially arrived during their Fall Festival this month. Students enjoyed fall-themed arts and crafts and a Thanksgiving lunch. Further down I-10, students at J.D. Walker Baytown Head Start were entertained with a magic show at their fall festival. Help desk manager Jaime Salinas performed for the children.



YOU'RE INVITED! JOIN US FOR A

UGLY SWEATER

Holiday Social



Hosted by
The Harris County Department of Education
Teaching and Learning Center

DECEMBER 5, 2018 | 4:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
6300 IRVINGTON BLVD., HOUSTON, TX 77022

Join us for a fun-filled holiday mixer. Network with educators from across Harris County and compete in our Ugly Sweater contest and other raffles to win free workshops.

TLC Hosts Ugly Sweater Holiday Social Dec. 5

Teaching and Learning Center directors host a holiday mixer and networking opportunity as educators from across Harris County are invited to meet colleagues and TLC staff from 4:30-7 p.m. at 6300 Irvington on Dec. 5. Prizes include free workshops from TLC and the event also calls for an "Ugly Sweater Contest." RSVP at <https://bit.ly/2qIWxtn>

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Professional Growth and Development Community Relations

In an effort to meet the Board's expectations of me to achieve the element of performance related to this goal to:

- Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration;
- Ensure that appropriate staff development is available and monitor staff development for effectiveness;
- Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration;
- Establish and maintain a program of public relations to keep the public well-informed of the activities of the Department, ensuring a wholesome and cooperative working relationship between the Department and the community; and to
- Work with other governmental entities and community organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinated way.



Kelly Tummy, director of English Language Arts and Social Studies in HCDE's Teaching and Learning Center recently welcomed a crowd of 8,000 at a National Conference in Houston: The National Council of Teachers of English.

Tummy's participation in this event brought exceptional visibility to HCDE as she delivered the welcome, representing HCDE

before an energetic crowd of educators attending the conference which was held at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

She served as the local committee co-chair to help organize 200 volunteers. The conference was opened by a renowned Nigerian novelist on the same morning, and over 800 concurrent professional development sessions were offered to attendees throughout the four-day conference.

Tummy is currently the 2019 president-elect for the Texas affiliate of the NCTE, the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, which will hold its conference in January.



By Tummy serving in this capacity, we are ensuring that I am striving to meet the Board's goal of exposing staff to quality professional development, but I am also ensuring visibility for HCDE on a grand scale.

To that end, I am meeting your goal to communicate the needs and accomplishments of HCDE through a variety of formats including public meetings. HCDE is represented by attendance at such events and ensuring that staff members are making professional presentations to all audiences in all areas of the community—listening and taking into account—differing viewpoints of various constituencies, and using good judgment to discern the best decision and action for the Department.

HCDE BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

December Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 19, 2018

