

# HEAD START



## FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

TRADUCCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL INCLUIDA



### DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Venetia L. Peacock with Hattie Weston Family Service Provider and Cecile Porche Financial Assistant at 2019 HCDE Convocation

## Welcome back.

As we start another year, I want to share where we are headed and how we're going to get there – in other words we're Leveling Up! While we have been doing a good job so far, now is the time to go to the next level of excellence. Our goal is to see greater student growth from the beginning to the end of year. How do we do that? We know that one of the most significant indicators to student success is teacher preparation. With that in mind we looked at the hours our teachers work, planning time and staff attendance. We have created a new schedule to ensure teachers have enough preparation time. Teachers will work from 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. They will eat with the students, but they will also get a 30-minute lunch break. We believe this will support the mental wellness of our teachers. They will also have time after pick-up to work together to prepare for instruction so they can make the biggest possible impact on student outcomes.

Additionally, we are introducing CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) Talks, in which all teachers will be participating once a month. During these sessions teachers will be able to discuss practices in the classroom based on the CLASS Domains. They will also have the opportunity to discuss strategies and goals in an effort to develop proficiency and achieve mastery. The CLASS Talks are designed to help improve teaching practices. The CLASS Assessment Tool is used to measure teacher-student interactions. The data from the tool helps identify professional development needs.

Looking ahead, we are planning special celebrations for National Head Start Day on Oct. 25 and welcome parent input and involvement. Centers will start planting their gardens soon in anticipation of Harvest Festival celebrations during the month of November.

Let's get started!

— VENETIA L. PEACOCK



**HOME CALENDARS TO GO OUT** Centers will soon be issuing the Home Calendar, an invaluable tool that helps parents support their child's learning. Now in its third year, the Home Calendar provides ideas and activities for parents to do with their children at home each day and over the weekend. Activities might include learning about the letter "A," making dinner together or visiting the library. Staff members will be going over the calendar with parents during parent-teacher conferences and home visits.



Laura Dugas-Kelley



Nadia Epps

## What makes a Center unique?

Collaboration and partnerships are an essential part of the Head Start program and nowhere is that more evident than at Dogan and La Porte centers. Dogan has a partnership with Houston ISD, operating out of Dogan Elementary School, northeast of downtown Houston. Meanwhile, La Porte has partnerships with the City of La Porte and La Porte ISD.

Dogan Center Manager Laura Dugas-Kelley said the almost 100 students expected to enroll in the "dual-enrollment" program this fall will be taught by both Head Start and HISD teachers.

"We have a great relationship with the collaborating staff on campus," Dugas-Kelley said. "We are able to build relationships and work in challenging situations at times."

Of course there are other challenges. The partnership also means Dugas-Kelley has to contend with Head Start's guidelines as well HISD's. But overall, she said the partnership makes for a strong program.

"It makes for a literature-rich curriculum and a culture that is welcoming and inviting," said Dugas-Kelley, who has been Center Manager since moving to the site in 2013 and has worked for Head Start for 26 years.

At La Porte, where there are more than 90 students grouped in five classrooms this school year, each class will be bused to the city's nearby gym one morning a week for indoor play and exercise. The center also has on staff a teacher from La Porte ISD who alternates between the two classes of 4 and 5 year-olds.

Center Manager Nadia Epps, who has worked in education for more than 15 years, said these kinds of partnerships are beneficial for the students and a boost to their program in general.

Students from La Porte center, a stand-alone facility that was once a nursing home, go on to schools in La Porte ISD and Clear Creek ISD.

## Plantgistix donation to promote literacy

Houston-based Plantgistix once again made a significant donation to HCDE Head Start. The plastic logistics company gave \$5,000 to support literacy activities that will impact all of the centers.

"We remain grateful to this community-minded company for continued support of our families," Head Start Senior Director Venetia L. Peacock said.

The company, which has bases in east Houston and Baytown, has supported Head Start with child literacy efforts for a number of years, including a donation of back-to-school supplies after Hurricane Harvey.







## Operation School Bell provides vouchers for uniforms

Head Start families had a helping hand from Assistance League Houston's Operation School Bell just in time for school. Parent Ana Romero was amongst dozens of families from Dogan, Pugh and Fonwood who received \$60 vouchers to buy uniforms at a special event in July at Almeda Mall.

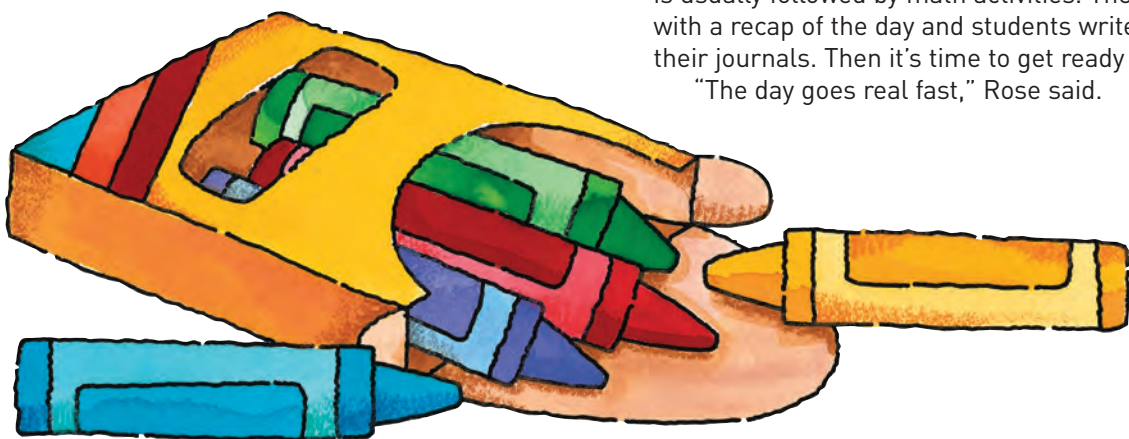


**Lois Rose Teacher**  
Fifth Ward Head Start

## What do the students do all day?

Now that the school year has started, parents may be familiar with the Head Start program, but they may not know what exactly goes on between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Education and Special Services Manager Pamela Jones-Lee and Fifth Ward teacher Lois Rose shed some light on what a typical day at Head Start looks like.

"When they get to my classroom I make sure always to be at the door to greet the students," Rose said of her 3 to 4 year-old students.



**Timothy Edwards**

## Your centers need you

Whether you're a mom or dad, have a spare five minutes or a half day, Head Start centers need parents to step up and volunteer. There are many opportunities where parents can make a difference, from Home Calendar activities with their child to Policy Council representative.

"I felt like I was really helping, because as a dad I brought a different perspective," former Fonwood parent Timothy Edwards said.

Edwards was a SuperMENTor and in the Watch Dog program. As a "Dad Dog," he helped with morning drop-off, patrolled the halls and checked on classrooms. With the SuperMENTor reading program, Edwards came in regularly to read to the children.

Karen Francette had a satisfying experience as an Alternate Policy Council Rep. for J.D. Walker, where her daughter was a student. She said there are many ways to contribute, and parents should find out what works for them.

Both parents said being a presence as a volunteer at the start of their children's education builds confidence and sends a strong message that education is a top priority. To volunteer, contact a Center Manager or FSP.

The day kicks off with a family style breakfast, followed by clean up and hand-washing before 8 a.m. circle time. Circle time involves talk about the day, the weather, colors and shapes, songs and independent learning through the different learning centers dotted around the classroom. Teachers may also take the opportunity to conduct one-on-one or small groups with children who need extra help.

"I make sure my students get up and move around and stretch every 15 minutes," Rose said.

Read aloud comes next, during which the teacher reads a specific book, perhaps as a way to introduce a new concept. Time permitting there may be music and movement before a 30-minute recess, a mix of planned activities to promote gross motor skills and free play. Another story perhaps before the class prepares for lunch. The family style lunch provides time for students to relax and chat. After lunch, they clean up, wash their hands and brush their teeth. Rose said there may be time to go over specific concepts with those children who need it, while others might look at books. Nap time, from noon to 1 p.m., is usually followed by math activities. The day ends with a recap of the day and students write or draw in their journals. Then it's time to get ready for pick up.

"The day goes real fast," Rose said.

## ESQUINA DEL DIRECTOR

## Bienvenidos de Vuelta

Al comenzar otro año, quiero hablar sobre hacia dónde nos dirigimos y cómo vamos a llegar allí; en otras palabras, como vamos a subir de nivel. Si bien hemos estado haciendo un buen trabajo hasta ahora, ahora es el momento de pasar al siguiente nivel de excelencia. Nuestro objetivo es ver un mayor crecimiento estudiantil desde el principio hasta el final del año. ¿Cómo hacemos eso? Sabemos que uno de los mayores indicadores del éxito de los estudiantes es que tan preparados están los maestros. Con eso en mente, observamos las horas que trabajan nuestros maestros, el tiempo de planificación y la asistencia del personal. Hemos creado un nuevo horario para asegurar que los maestros tengan suficiente tiempo de preparación. Los maestros trabajarán de 7:15 a.m. a 3:45 p.m. Ellos comen con los estudiantes, pero también tienen un almuerzo de 30 minutos. Creemos que esto se sumará al bienestar mental de nuestros maestros. También tendrán tiempo después de entregar los estudiantes para sentarse y trabajar juntos y prepararse para tener el mayor impacto en los resultados de los estudiantes.

Además, presentaremos charlas CLASS (Sistema de calificación de evaluación en el aula), en las que todos los maestros participarán una vez al mes. Durante estas sesiones, los maestros podrán discutir prácticas en el aula basadas en los Dominios de CLASS. También tendrán la oportunidad de discutir estrategias y objetivos en un esfuerzo por desarrollar la competencia y lograr el dominio. Las charlas CLASS están diseñadas para ayudar a mejorar las prácticas de enseñanza. La herramienta de evaluación CLASS se utiliza para medir las interacciones profesor-alumno. Los datos de la herramienta ayudan a identificar las necesidades de desarrollo profesional.

Mirando hacia el futuro, estamos planeando celebraciones especiales para el Día Nacional de Head Start el 25 de octubre y agradecemos la participación de los padres. Los centros comenzarán a plantar sus jardines pronto antes de las celebraciones de los Festivales de Cosecha durante el mes de noviembre.

¡Vamos!

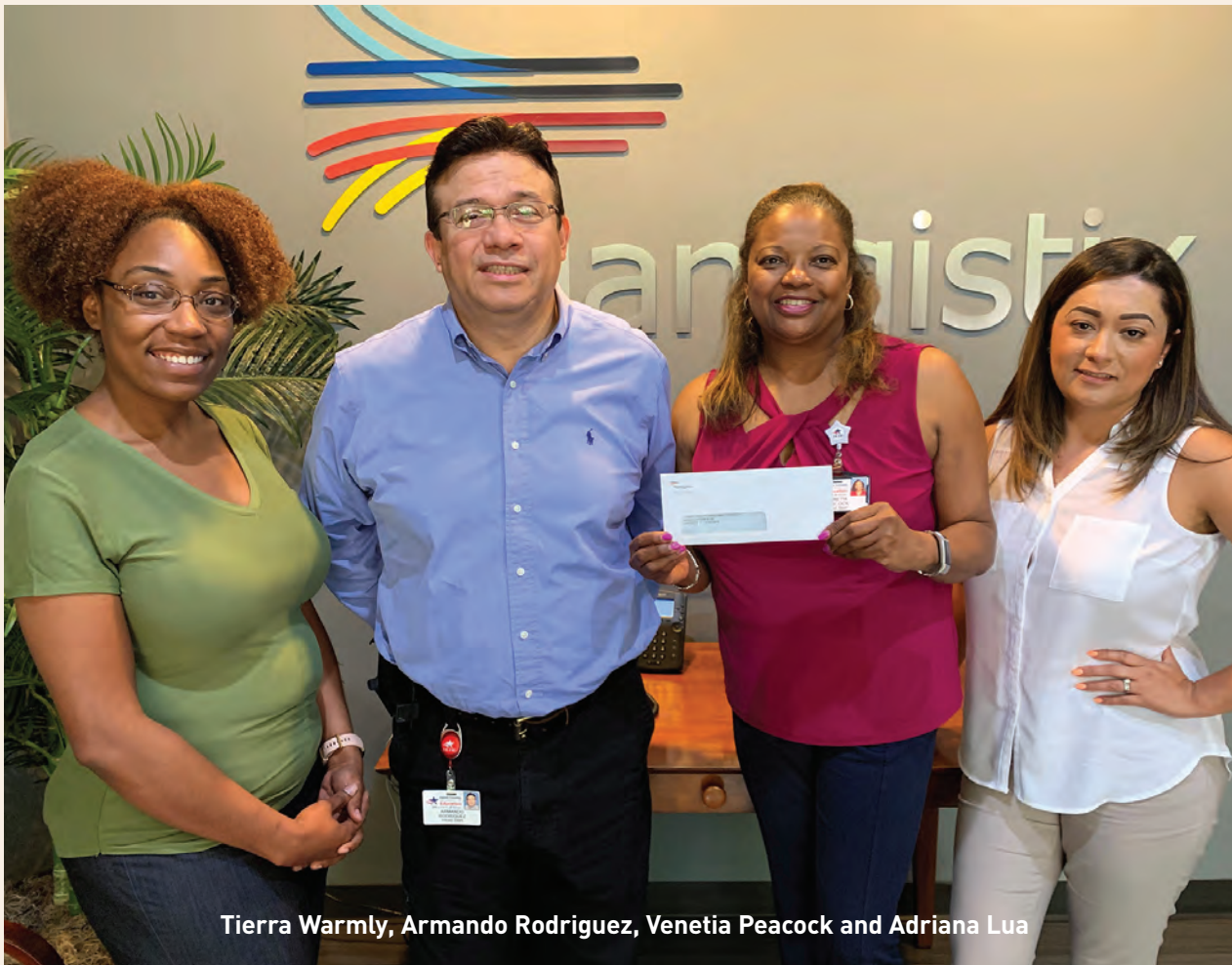
— VENETIA L. PEACOCK



## CALENDARIOS PARA EL HOGAR

Los centros pronto publicarán el Home Calendar, una herramienta invaluable que ayuda a los padres a apoyar el aprendizaje de sus hijos. El Calendario del hogar proporciona ideas y actividades para que los padres hagan con sus hijos en casa todos los días y durante el fin de semana. Los miembros del personal revisarán el calendario con los padres durante las conferencias de padres y maestros y las visitas al hogar.





Tierra Warmly, Armando Rodriguez, Venetia Peacock and Adriana Lua

## Plantgistix dona \$ 5,000 para apoyar la alfabetización

Plantgistix, con sede en Houston, donó \$ 5,000 para apoyar actividades de alfabetización que impactarán en todos los centros. La compañía de logística de plástico, que tiene bases en el este de Houston y Baytown, ha apoyado a Head Start con los esfuerzos de alfabetización infantil durante varios años, incluido el suministro de suministros para el regreso a la escuela después del huracán Harvey.

## Tu centro te necesita

Ya sea que usted sea mamá o papá, tenga cinco minutos o medio día libre, los centros Head Start necesitan que los padres den un paso adelante y sean voluntarios. Hay muchas oportunidades en las que los padres pueden marcar la diferencia, desde las actividades del Calendario del hogar con sus hijos hasta el ser representantes en el Consejo Político.

"Sentí que realmente estaba ayudando, porque como padre aporté una perspectiva diferente", dijo Timothy Edwards, un expadre de Fonwood, quien era un SuperMENTor y estaba en el programa Watch Dog.

Karen Francette, quien se desempeñó como Representante alternativo del Consejo Político de J.D. Walker, dijo que hay muchas maneras de contribuir y que los padres deben averiguar qué funciona para ellos. Para ser voluntario, comuníquese con el Gerente de su centro o el FSP.

## Operation School Bell proporciona vales para uniformes

Las familias de Head Start contaron con la ayuda de Operation School Bell de Assistance League Houston justo a tiempo para la escuela. La madre Ana Romero estaba entre docenas de familias de Dogan, Pugh y Fonwood que recibieron vales de \$ 60 para comprar uniformes en un evento especial en julio en el centro comercial Almeda.



Student activities at Fonwood

## ¿Qué hacen los estudiantes todo el día?

Ahora que ha comenzado el año escolar, los padres pueden estar familiarizados con el programa Head Start, pero pueden no saber qué sucede exactamente entre las 7:30 a.m. y las 2:30 p.m. El día comienza con un desayuno al estilo familiar, seguido de limpieza y lavado de manos antes de las 8 a.m. cuando empieza la hora del círculo. El tiempo del círculo implica hablar sobre el día, el clima, los colores y las formas mediante canciones y el aprendizaje independiente utilizado en el aula. Los maestros también aprovechan la oportunidad para hacer pequeños grupos o actividades individuales con niños que necesitan ayuda adicional. La lectura en voz alta viene a continuación, y cuando el tiempo lo permite, tenemos música y actividades corporales antes de un recreo de 30 minutos. A veces incluimos una historia antes de almuerzo estilo familiar, lo que brinda oportunidades para que los estudiantes se relajen y conversen. Después del almuerzo, los estudiantes limpian, se lavan las manos y se cepillan los dientes. Antes de la hora de la siesta, los maestros pueden repasar conceptos específicos con aquellos niños que lo necesitan, mientras que otros pueden mirar libros. La siesta, desde el mediodía hasta la 1 p.m., generalmente es seguida por actividades de matemáticas. El día termina con un resumen, los estudiantes escriben o dibujan en sus diarios antes de prepararse para ver de nuevo a sus padres.



Laura Dugas-Kelley Center Manager with Family Services Providers - Courtney Oles and Olga Hernandez

## ¿Qué hace que un centro sea único?

La colaboración y las asociaciones son una parte esencial del programa Head Start y en ningún lugar es tan evidente como en los centros Dogan y La Porte. Dogan tiene una sociedad con Houston ISD, que opera desde la Escuela Primaria Dogan, mientras que La Porte tiene sociedades con la Ciudad de La Porte y La Porte ISD.

La gerente del Centro Dogan, Laura Dugas-Kelley, dijo que los casi 100 estudiantes que se inscribirán este otoño tendrán maestros de Head Start y HISD. Por supuesto, el desafío es que Dugas-Kelley tiene que lidiar tanto con las pautas de Head Start como con las de HISD.

En La Porte, donde hay más que 90 estudiantes en cinco clases, cada clase será llevada en autobús al gimnasio cercano una vez por semana para jugar y hacer ejercicio bajo el techo. El centro también cuenta con un maestro de La Porte ISD que alterna entre las dos clases de niños de 4 y 5 años.



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR | MARQUEN SUS CALENDARIOS

### SEPTEMBER

24.....Policy Council meeting  
27.....Staff Development day (CENTERS CLOSED)  
27.....Early Dismissal (HISD sites only)

### OCTOBER

3-4.....Program Governance training  
7-18.....Assessments  
9.....Fall Holiday (HISD Students only)  
14.....Staff Development day (CENTERS CLOSED)  
18.....Early Dismissal  
22.....Policy Council meeting

### NOVEMBER

4-15.....Parent/Teacher Conferences  
8.....Early Dismissal  
11.....Staff Development day (CENTERS CLOSED)  
19.....Policy Council meeting  
25-29.....Thanksgiving break (CENTERS CLOSED)

### DECEMBER

3.....Policy Council meeting  
20.....Early Dismissal (Head Start sites only)  
23.....Winter break (CENTERS CLOSED)

Check with each Center Manager for details of these and other happenings, as dates may vary for each center.

### SEPTIEMBRE

24.....Reunión del Consejo Político  
27.....Día del desarrollo del personal (CENTROS CERRADOS)  
27.....Salida temprano (unicamente HISD)

### OCTUBRE

3-4.....Entrenamiento del programa de gobernación  
7-18.....Estimaciones  
9.....Día festivo de otoño (unicamente estudiantes de HISD)  
14.....Día del desarrollo del personal (CENTROS CERRADOS)  
18.....Salida temprano  
22.....Reunión del Consejo Político

### NOVIEMBRE

4-15.....Conferencia de padres y maestros  
8.....Salida temprano  
11.....Día del desarrollo del personal (CENTROS CERRADOS)  
19.....Reunión del Consejo Político  
25-29.....Celebración de Acción de gracias (CENTROS CERRADOS)

### DICIEMBRE

3.....Reunión del Consejo Político  
20.....Salida temprano (Head Start unicamente)  
23.....Vacaciones del invierno (CENTROS CERRADOS)

Revise con su centro los detalles ya que podrían cambiar.

## HCDE HEAD START

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**HCDE Head Start Mission and Vision:** To improve school readiness for children, families and the community | To create a learning environment of excellence dedicated to positively impacting our children, families, employees, community partners and society | Para mejorar la preparación para la escuela para niños, familias y la comunidad | Para crear un ambiente de aprendizaje excelente dedicado a impactar a los niños, familias, empleados, socios de la comunidad y la sociedad.

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Don Sumners

**Meet your HCDE Trustee** Parents and staff may or may not be aware that as well as the Head Start administration there is a board of trustees who represent them. Meet Don Sumners, the at-large Position 7 on the board of trustees for HCDE and the representative for the Head Start program. Parents and Policy Council representatives will encounter Sumners at the monthly Policy Council meetings, but he has other duties. Sumners liaises with federal administrators, works with HCDE's administrators and represents parents. • "I welcome parents' input and suggestions. If there are any, I bring them up at the (board) meetings," said Sumners, citing his support of parents who lobbied for safer parking facilities at La Porte center. • Now in the fifth year of a six-year term ending in December 2020, Sumners, a retired certified public accountant, said he looks forward to meeting and interacting with returning and new parents. Sumners is one of seven trustees currently serving on the board. Contact Sumners at [donsumners@yahoo.com](mailto:donsumners@yahoo.com)

**Conozca a su administrador de HCDE** Los padres y el personal no siempre son conscientes de que además de la administración de Head Start, hay un consejo de administración que los representa. Conozca a Don Sumners, el puesto general 7 en el consejo de administración del Departamento de Educación del Condado de Harris y el representante del programa Head Start. Los padres y los representantes del Consejo Político se reúnen con Sumners en las reuniones mensuales del Consejo Político, pero él tiene otras obligaciones: se pone en contacto con los administradores federales, trabaja con los administradores de HCDE y representa a los padres. Ahora, en el quinto año de un período de seis años que termina en diciembre de 2020, Sumners, un contador retirado, dijo que espera reunirse e interactuar con los padres. Póngase en contacto con Sumners en [donsumners@yahoo.com](mailto:donsumners@yahoo.com)