



# FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

TRADUCCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL INCLUIDA



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Venetia L. Peacock (left) congratulates Wanda Vinson for 35 years of service.

### Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year!

As usual, our work continued over the summer. There were the professional development opportunities, a successful job fair and staff changes. We would like to congratulate those promoted and welcome our new staff. We are extremely proud when our staff members move to the next level. It speaks to their level of commitment, as well as to their personal and professional development. Their dedication helps make HCDE Head Start a program of excellence.

Over the summer, we sadly said goodbye to Wanda Vinson, the Center Manager of Fifth Ward Head Start. Wanda retired after 35 years of service with Head Start, 19 of them with HCDE, and she leaves a legacy of love of children and families, mentorships and compassion for her staff. I was blessed to have been her colleague. She leaves behind some very big shoes to fill.

As we jump in to the school year, I want to encourage parents to participate in program governance by serving as a Parent Committee or a Policy Council Representative. Our program needs your expertise and support! Participating provides opportunities to develop leadership skills and network with other parents. In the meantime, all parents are expected to participate in monthly Family Connections sessions at their center. Please volunteer with the Center Based Management Team and help us provide great opportunities for our students. Only together can we run an excellent program for our students.

— VENETIA L. PEACOCK

## What makes a center unique?

As a center that collaborates with Houston Independent School District, Fonwood has always been about working together, according to Center Manager Markeysha Hinderman. But it was Hurricane Harvey that highlighted the spirit of cooperation. Staff from the school district and Head Start worked together to provide clothes, shoes and food for affected families.

"It was a difficult year for many students," Hinderman said.

Rated an exemplary early childhood center in HISD and the cleanest school in the area, Fonwood, 9709 Mesa Dr., has about 100 students. Hinderman described the center as big, colorful, educational and fun, where parents feel welcome. She said parents tell them they love the program because their children are well prepared for kindergarten, and they love school events.

"They appreciate being involved in their children's learning and being looked on to share ideas," she said.

It's the parents that help make Coolwood what it is, according to Center Manager Valerie Stephens. She cited the art show, which saw a dazzling display of creativity thanks to parents, who gave ideas, time and materials. One family created the solar system for the classroom, while another classroom featured a display of sea life with modes of water transportation.

"You find a lot of hidden talent and creativity from the parents, which empowers the teaching staff to transform their classroom into something amazing," Stephens said.

Stephens said the high level of parental support allows teachers to be more creative and ambitious, and she credited her staff, who work hard to create a loving, welcoming engaging, learning environment. Located at 767 Coolwood Dr., Coolwood counts about 60 students.

## Plantgistix donation allows for classroom extras

Center classrooms have a little extra money at their disposal thanks to the \$7,200 donation from Houston-based Plantgistix. Every classroom will receive \$100 to buy supplies or to go towards such activities as the annual art show, the Parent Child Food Science Fair or the Harvest Festival.

It is the second year for the company to make a donation to HCDE Head Start in its commitment to support young children in the community. Chief Executive Officer Marc Levine said it is up to everyone to help young children and youth, especially those who are disadvantaged.

"We at Plantgistix don't look upon what we're doing or what we are as at all special," Levine said. "We're simply doing the same right thing that everyone needs to be doing."



Plantgistix CEO Marc Levine

## Parents advise patience during Transition In

When Susana De La Cruz's son Matthew started Fonwood last year, she was so concerned about his inability to settle in she considered pulling him out. For several weeks, Matthew cried and refused to stay. Fortunately, the center staff pitched in to support both Matthew and mom, and he eventually settled down. Matthew might have taken longer than most children, but transitioning into Head Start can be a challenge.

"Children who haven't been in preschool before have to adjust to a different routine, and parents have a hard time letting go," Mental Health Professional Theresa Harris said.

Having been enrolled, pulled out and then reenrolled at Fifth Ward within a month, Rebecca Owens two grandsons Joshua and Joseph also had a difficult time transitioning in.

"There was a lot of catching up to do, but the staff worked with me," Owens said.

Both Owens and De La Cruz said it is important for parents to have ongoing communication with center staff and with their children, and they also stressed the need for patience and consistency. Owens said she made sure there was structure and routine at home. De La Cruz set up a reward system — small prizes or a special outing at the end of the week.

"Be patient and ask for help from the teacher or Center Manager," said De La Cruz, whose son is now a well-adjusted prekindergartener. "We couldn't have done it without them."

### Harris had these tips to help with the Transition In.

- Establish a school routine.
- Stay positive.
- Figure out a goodbye routine and remind your child you'll be back to pick them up.
- Trust the teachers – they know what they're doing.





## ESQUINA DEL DIRECTOR



Jinneh Dyson, Venetia Peacock and Vicky Coffee-Fletcher at Healthy Minds Healthy Families Conference

## Agreement defines parent, Head Start partnership

New parents should have met with center staff and signed their Commitment Agreement. The agreement outlines the role of parents, whether it's reading to their child at home or bringing their child to school on time; and it outlines the responsibilities of Head Start, which involves delivering a high quality education to students and supporting families.

"It's truly a partnership between parents and staff," said HCDE Head Start Director Venetia L. Peacock. "It defines how we will work together to ensure our children's success."

Olga Magallon, foster parent of 4 year-olds Benjamin and Avi, who attended J.D. Walker, appreciated knowing what to expect of Head Start. She said the Commitment Agreement instills accountability and commitment to students and families.

"It's important that parents understand what's required of them, and the Commitment Agreement makes it clear," Magallon said. "It also supports strong, positive relationships between staff and parents."

Peacock said Head Start staff will refer to the agreement throughout the year to build a strong partnership so children can be successful now and in the future.

## Officers sought for Policy Council, Parent Committee

With the start of the new school year, centers are seeking volunteers for Parent Committee and Policy Council. Volunteers on the Parent Committee, whose function is to plan events, recruit volunteers and share ideas, would be required to meet twice a month. The Policy Council Representative and an Alternate would need to attend the monthly Policy Council meetings. Their role is to share information and ideas between the centers and the administration. Policy Council, a group comprised of representatives from each center and administrators, oversees policy.

"Involvement in these groups brings parents out of their shell and empowers them to be advocates for their children's education, and it develops leadership," said Family Services Coordinator Marissol Montalvo.

Parents Karen Francette and Alana Cooper said their experience with Policy Council was invaluable. Francette, an Alternate for J.D. Walker, said she learned about the business side of Head Start and to be an advocate, not only for her daughter but for all Head Start children.

As Policy Council Representative for Sheffield, Cooper wanted to be part of the decision-making process for her son Israel, now in kindergarten. She urged parents to get involved and set the tone for their child's education now and in the future.

To find out more about Policy Council or Parent Committee, contact a Center Manager or Family Services Provider.

### ¡Bienvenido de nuevo!

Espero que todos hayan encontrado tiempo para recargar energías y relajarse durante el verano y estén listos para el semestre de otoño.

Hemos estado ocupados durante el verano. Nuestra feria de trabajo de verano fue un gran éxito y dio lugar a una serie de nuevas contrataciones. Nos gustaría dar la bienvenida a nuestro nuevo personal y felicitar a los miembros del personal que asumen nuevos roles administrativos. Estamos extremadamente orgullosos cuando nuestro personal puede crecer y desarrollarse a otro nivel en el programa. Tenían el deseo de crecer profesionalmente y estaban preparados para aprovechar las oportunidades que estaban disponibles para ellos.

Durante el verano, lamentablemente nos despedimos de Wanda Vinson, la gerente del centro de Fifth Ward. Wanda se retiró después de 35 años de servicio con Head Start, 19 de ellos con Head Start de HCDE, y deja un legado de amor por los niños y las familias, y mentores y compasión por su personal.

A medida que nos preparamos para el próximo año, animo a los padres a participar en el gobierno de liderazgo. Como parte de las responsabilidades en el compromiso de los padres con Head Start, les pido a los padres que consideren ser un oficial del Equipo de Administración con Base en el Centro o que se unan al Consejo Político para participar en el gobierno del programa. Los padres también pueden participar asistiendo a las reuniones de Parent Connection y ayudando en su centro. Solo podemos ser un programa excelente cuando todos los padres participan.

Esperamos un increíble año escolar 2018 -19.

— VENETIA L. PEACOCK



Job Interview Fair held June 14 2018 at HCDE

## Parents encouraged to apply for teaching positions

Parents interested in a career in early childhood education are encouraged to apply for the available HCDE Head Start teaching and other staffing positions. Currently, there are about 10 teacher and more than a dozen teacher assistant openings that need to be filled, as well as cook positions in La Porte and Baytown.

Lisa Boone, Assistant Director of Operations, said they try where possible to draw from the parent pool, because they know what's going on in the classroom. She said parents interested in a teaching position should, if they haven't already done so, volunteer in the classroom to see what the job entails.

"Ideally, if you are Head Start parent you are fully engaged — and then it's easy to transfer knowledge as a parent to knowledge as an employee," Boone said.

Boone said the Head Start program offers opportunities to grow professionally as an educator. Teacher assistants are encouraged to earn qualifications, including childcare certification, an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree. Applications should be submitted online. To find out more, visit [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org) or call 713-672-9343.







Markeysha Hinderman and Valerie Stephens

## ¿Qué hace que un centro sea único?

Como centro que colabora con el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Houston, Fonwood siempre ha hecho lo posible para tener buen trabajo en equipo, dice la gerente del centro, Markeysha Hinderman. Pero fue el huracán Harvey quien destacó el espíritu de cooperación. El personal del distrito escolar y Head Start trabajaron juntos para proporcionar ropa, zapatos y alimentos a las familias afectadas por Harvey.

Calificado como un centro de primera infancia ejemplar en HISD y la escuela más limpia en el área, Fonwood tiene unos 100 estudiantes, con ocho docentes, además de personal administrativo y de apoyo. Hinderman describió el centro como grande, colorido, creativo, educativo y divertido, donde los padres se sienten bienvenidos.

Son los padres los que ayudan a hacer de Coolwood lo que es, según Valerie Stephens, gerente del centro. Ella citó el espectáculo de arte, que vio una deslumbrante muestra de creatividad gracias a los padres, quienes dieron ideas, tiempo y materiales.

Stephens dijo que el alto nivel de apoyo de los padres les permite a los maestros ser más creativos y ambiciosos. Stephens también le dio crédito a su personal, que trabaja arduamente para crear un ambiente de aprendizaje amoroso y acogedor.

Ubicado en 767 Coolwood Dr., Coolwood alberga a unos 60 estudiantes y cuenta con ocho profesores y otros cinco miembros del personal.

## El contrato establece una asociación entre padres y Head Start

Los padres que son nuevos ya deberían haberse reunido con el personal del centro y haber firmado su Contrato de Compromiso, y haber comprendido claramente la asociación entre ellos y HCDE Head Start. El contrato establece el papel de los padres, ya sea que le lean a sus hijos en casa, traigan a sus hijos a tiempo a la escuela o se ofrezcan como voluntarios. Y establece la función del programa Head Start: brindar un alto nivel de atención a los niños y brindar apoyo a las familias.

"Es realmente una asociación entre padres y personal", dijo Venetia L. Peacock, directora de Head Start de HCDE. "Esta asociación explica cómo apoyar a los niños para que sus necesidades sociales, emocionales y educativas sean satisfechas".

Peacock dijo que el personal de Head Start se sigue las estipulaciones del contrato durante todo el año para construir una asociación sólida que permita a los niños tener éxito.

## Oficiales buscados para el Consejo de Políticas, el Comité de Padres

Los centros están buscando voluntarios para el Comité de padres y el Consejo Político. Los voluntarios en el Comité de Padres, cuya función es planear eventos, reclutar voluntarios y compartir ideas, deberían reunirse dos veces al mes. El Representante del Consejo Político y un Suplente necesitarían asistir a las reuniones mensuales del Consejo Político. Su función es compartir información e ideas entre los centros y la administración. El Consejo Político, un grupo compuesto por representantes de cada centro y administradores, supervisa las políticas.

La Coordinadora de Servicios a la Familia, Marissol Montalvo, dijo que los puestos de voluntariado ofrecen oportunidades para el desarrollo personal a la vez que apoyan a los centros y a Head Start en general.

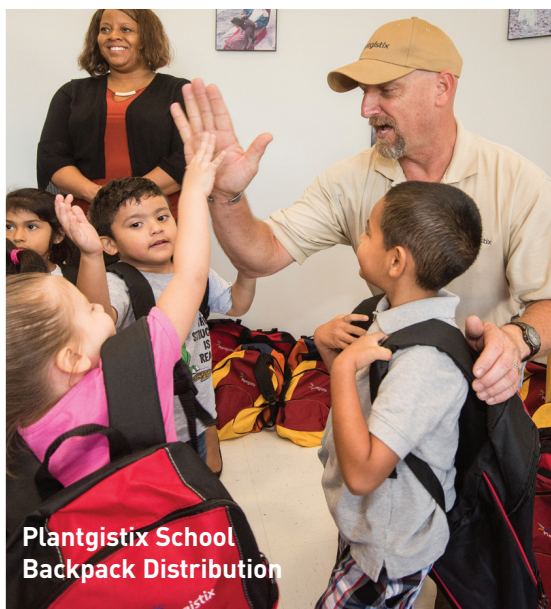
Los padres Karen Francette y Alana Cooper dijeron que su experiencia el año pasado con el Consejo Político fue invaluable. Francette, una suplente de J.D. Walker, dijo que aprendió sobre el aspecto comercial de Head Start y como ser una defensora, no solo de su hija, sino de todos los niños. Cooper fue Representante del Consejo Político de Sheffield porque quería ser parte del proceso de toma de decisiones de su hijo. Instó a los padres a participar y establecer el tono para la educación de sus hijos ahora y en el futuro. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con un Gerente del Centro o Proveedor de Servicios para la Familia.

## Se anima a los padres a postularse para puestos docentes

HCDE Head Start todavía tiene vacantes para puestos de enseñanza, y se recomienda a los padres interesados en una carrera en educación infantil temprana que presenten su solicitud. Hay alrededor de 10 maestros y más de una docena de ayudantes de maestros que deben contratarse. También hay puestos de cocinero en las ubicaciones de La Porte y Baytown.

Lisa Boone, subdirectora de operaciones, dijo que intentan, siempre que sea posible, contratar a padres de Head Start porque saben lo que sucede en el aula. Animó a los padres interesados en un puesto de docente a que sean voluntarios en el aula para ver qué implica el trabajo si aún no lo han hecho.

Boone dijo que Head Start ofrece oportunidades para crecer profesionalmente como educador. Se anima a los asistentes de maestros a obtener certificación de cuidado de niños, un título de asociado y una licenciatura. Para obtener más información, visite [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org) o llame al 713-672-9343



Plantgistix School Backpack Distribution

## La donación de Plantgistix permite extras en el aula

Las aulas del centro tendrán algo de dinero extra a su disposición gracias a la donación de \$ 7,200 de la empresa con sede en Houston Plantgistix. Cada aula recibirá \$ 100 para comprar suministros o hacer actividades en el aula. Es el segundo año que la compañía con sede en Houston realiza una donación al programa HCDE Head Start en su compromiso de apoyar a los niños pequeños en la comunidad. El director ejecutivo de Plantgistix, Marc Levine, dijo que depende de todos ayudar a los niños y jóvenes, especialmente a los que están en desventaja.

## Los padres aconsejan paciencia durante la transición

Susana De La Cruz y Rebecca Owens tuvieron dificultades cuando sus hijos y nietos comenzaron Head Start el año pasado. El hijo de De la Cruz, Mateo, lloró y se negó a quedarse en la escuela durante varias semanas. Los dos nietos de Owens lo pasaron mal, lo inscribieron, lo sacaron y lo volvieron a inscribir un mes después de comenzar la escuela. Durante este período, Owens había tomado la custodia de sus nietos, porque su hija estaba teniendo problemas personales.

Afortunadamente, los niños prosperaron gracias al apoyo del personal de Head Start y una gran dosis de paciencia. Tanto Owens como De La Cruz aconsejaron a los padres que establezcan comunicación continua con el personal del centro, para que puedan ofrecer apoyo a sus hijos, para que entiendan lo que está sucediendo. También hicieron hincapié en la necesidad de paciencia y coherencia.

**La Profesora de Salud Mental Theresa Harris tiene estos consejos para ayudar con la transición.**

- Establezca una rutina escolar.
- Hable con su hijo sobre lo que va a suceder.
- Manténgase positivo.
- Desarrolle una rutina de despedida y recuérdela a su hijo que volverá a buscarlo.
- Confíe en los maestros, ellos saben lo que están haciendo.



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Mary Crather, Center Mgr.

## Mark Your Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

14.....Staff Development day  
21.....Early Dismissal (HISD SITES ONLY)  
25.....Policy Council meeting  
28.....Early Dismissal (HEAD START SITES ONLY)

### OCTOBER

2.....Program Governance training  
5.....Staff Development day (CENTERS CLOSED)  
8-22.....Assessments  
19.....Early Dismissal (HISD SITES ONLY)  
23.....Policy Council meeting  
31.....Early Dismissal (HEAD START SITES ONLY)

### NOVEMBER

9.....Early Dismissal (HISD SITES ONLY)  
13.....Policy Council meeting  
19-23.....Thanksgiving Break (CENTERS CLOSED)  
30.....Early Dismissal (HEAD START SITES ONLY)

### DECEMBER

11.....Policy Council meeting  
14.....Staff Development day (CENTERS CLOSED)  
21.....Early Dismissal (HEAD START SITES ONLY)  
21.....Student Holiday (HISD SITES ONLY)  
24.....Start of Winter Break (CENTERS CLOSED)

Check with a Center Manager for details of these and other happenings as dates may vary according to centers.

## Marquen Sus Calendarios

### SEPTIEMBRE

14.....Día para desarrollo del personal  
21.....Salida temprano (HISD UNICAMENTE)  
25.....Reunión del Consejo Político  
28.....Salida temprano (HEAD START UNICAMENTE)

### OCTUBRE

2.....Entrenamiento de gobierno para el programa  
5.....Día para desarrollo del personal (CENTROS CERRADOS)  
8-22.....Evaluaciones  
19.....Salida temprano (HISD UNICAMENTE)  
23.....Reunión del Consejo Político  
31.....Salida temprano (HEAD START UNICAMENTE)

### NOVIEMBRE

9.....Salida temprano (HISD UNICAMENTE)  
13.....Reunión del Consejo Político  
19-23.....Acción de gracias (CENTROS CERRADOS)  
30.....Salida temprano (HEAD START UNICAMENTE)

### DICIEMBRE

11.....Reunión del Consejo Político  
14.....Día para desarrollo del personal (CENTROS CERRADOS)  
21.....Salida temprano (HEAD START UNICAMENTE)  
21.....Día del Estudiante (HISD UNICAMENTE)  
24.....Vacaciones del invierno (CENTROS CERRADOS)

Revise con el gerente del centro los detalles y eventos ya que las fechas pueden variar en cada centro.

## AREA I HEAD START

6300 Irvington Blvd., Houston, TX 77022 713-672-9343

### 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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Pastor Maceo Dillard,  
SuperMENTor  
Compton Head Start

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**Mental Health**  
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**Nutrition**  
Melissa Wilder

**Operations**  
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**Training**  
Taiwan Reliford

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