

AUGUST 2017

GREATWOOD

MONTHLY

Back to SCHOOL

Get the right school supplies, The
2017-2018 District Calendar,
Student Stories & More!

PLUS!

Betsy de Vega:
One woman's dedication
to education
And a personal matter that
taught her to 'focus on what is
truly important'

ENTERTAINMENT: The Avett Brothers
(rescheduled), Rod Stewart with Special Guest
Cyndi Lauper, Mary J Blige W/ Special Guest
Lalah Hathaway, and ZZ Top: The Tonnage Tour

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ADVANCING HEALTH

Contents & Staff

GREATWOOD *monthly*™ | August 2017

Featured this Month



BETSY DE VEGA | This woman has the tools for parents who want to support and improve their child's academic endeavors.

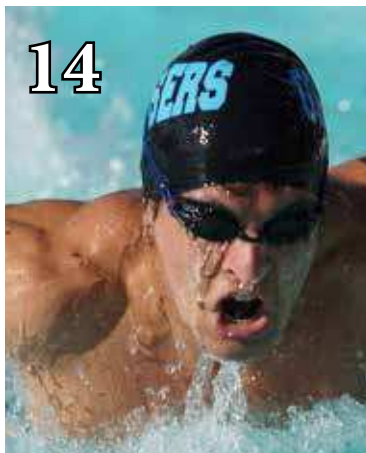
BACK TO SCHOOL | Preparation is key to starting the new school year off right. Find orientation dates, school supply lists and school spotlights.



HEALTH | OakBend Medical Center receives \$52K grant from Komen Houston.



GOOD NEWS GREATWOOD | Sue Austin shares what's going on in the neighborhood.



Also Inside:

Neighborhood News	18	School News	26
Non-Profit News	20	Library	23
On the Fort Bend Scene.....	30	Business	37

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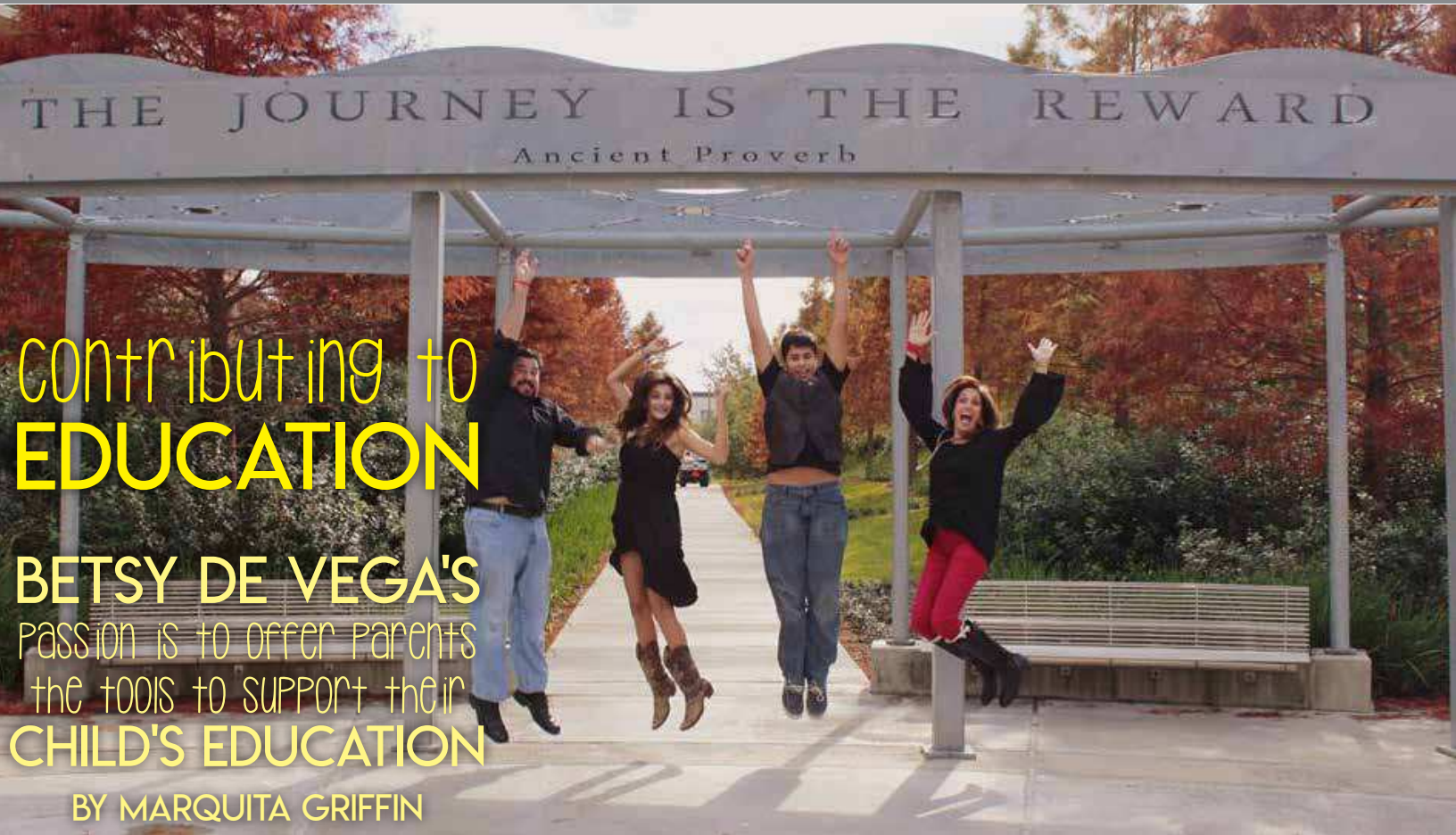
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Contributing to EDUCATION

BETSY DE VEGA'S PASSION IS TO OFFER PARENTS THE TOOLS TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION

BY MARQUITA GRIFFIN

Immediately following her graduation from high school, Betsy de Vega immersed herself into the educational realm. It was a field she knew she needed to be connected to and for the past 30 years, this Greatwood wife and mother has devoted her efforts to supporting to local education.

With a degree in Psychology from the University of Houston in her pocket, de Vega has worked in education, in various capacities, from a bilingual case manager/ teacher for MHMRA of Harris County to an administrator for the Southampton Montessori School.

She was the first person to bring a cognitive skills-based enrichment program, Learning Rx, to the Houston area, and she is also a certified Irlen Screener and is Virtus trained.

de Vega also carves out time to volunteer for organizations like Night of Superstars, Hope for Three and Child Advocates of Fort Bend and is a member of Learning Disabilities Association and International Dyslexia Association.

Today, however, she is known for her work as the founder and executive director of the KnILE Center, an educational resource center in Richmond that she founded in 2008. Referred to as the little red school house for the 21st century, the KnILE Center offers parents the option of focused and specialized educational instruction for their child.

“My passion has always been working with children and I have always had a soft spot for working with kiddos that learned differently,” de Vega said. “I, too, struggled in school and wanted to find a way to help other students so they didn’t have to work as hard as I did, or at least have other options so they could succeed in school and life.”

RECOGNIZING AND FILLING IN THE CRACKS

When she founded the KnILE Center, de Vega’s intent was to catch

the children who fell through the cracks. Recalling her own childhood as an “average student [who] always had to work hard to get to the end result,” de Vega said she understands the struggles some children face.

“School wasn’t easy and reading and literature weren’t either. Looking back, I think I may have been diagnosed with Dyslexia if given the opportunity in school.”

It would be naïve to think there are no figurative cracks in the school systems, but their presence does not anger, nor deter, de Vega, in fact they inspire her. Where some people would see an unavoidable deficit, de Vega sees an opportunity to fill in those cracks with something unrivaled.

“Everyone is unique and learns differently. Traditional schools are a great option for most students, but cannot accommodate everyone or every learning style,” de Vega said. “I wanted to offer an alternative learning environment to kiddos who tend to fall through the cracks in traditional school either because they have a learning concern or they are exceptional and feel stuck or get bored waiting for others to catch up.”

To parents who want to take control of and support their child’s education, de Vega said they absolutely can. Parents don’t have to feel at a loss, not when the right resources are around.

The Knile Center has a private school called KnILE Prep Academy, which is a self-paced, content mastery “boutique style” private school that works with students on both sides of the bell curve.

The academy works with students with anxiety as well as learning concerns like ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia and Dysgraphia, plus exceptional students, competitive athletes, actors, entertainers and those involved in other extracurricular activities who need a more flexible schooling environment and schedule also benefit from the services of KnILE Center.

“Schools like mine exist to meet the needs of students that flourish in a different setting for whatever reason,” de Vega said. “In our school, we follow the child and his or her needs, not the other way around.”

FOCUSING ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Being in the position to work with students, to meet them at their level and helping them achieve impressive accomplishments brings a sweet satisfaction to de Vega, who said recent events have taught her to slow down and appreciate life — to “focus on to what is truly important.”

A year and a half ago de Vega, who has lived in Greatwood for 15 years, was diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson's.

“Although Parkinson's affects those 55 years old and older more frequently, there are many of us under the age of 50 diagnosed with it as well,” de Vega said. “One thing Parkinson's isn't, is prejudice. It doesn't matter your origin, age, race or gender. In addition, Parkinson's is an individualized disease, meaning symptoms may vary from person to person so finding the best treatment can be tricky at times.”

de Vega said she decided to publicly open up about her condition to primarily let everyone suffering from an illness know that she supports them.

“I know so many amazing people suffering from different illnesses, both physically and mentally and I want them to know they are not alone,” she said.

She also said she wants to bring awareness to the disease and organizations, like the Michael J. Fox Foundation, that are dedicated to research and development to help stop the progression or find a cure.

“As far as my story goes, I am doing great. I exercise regularly, take vitamins and work on continuing to improve myself. Don't get me wrong, I have good days and bad days, but doesn't everyone?” de Vega said. “The biggest challenge I face right now is my struggle to slow down and focus on me. If you know me, you know that's a difficult one for me, but I really think God gave me this cross to bear so I would be forced to slow down, not overflow my plate and focus on to what is truly important in my life.”

Like her husband, Charles de Vega, and their children Alex, 18 and Gigi, 16.

Like the joy of dancing — “It must be my Cuban heritage. I can be the first one on the dance floor and the last one to leave,” she said with a laugh.

Like trying new cuisines and traveling with family and friends.

Like being the head of an educational center that improves the lives of so many students.

“I feel so extremely blessed to be surrounded by so many incredible people, from my amazing family and friends to my staff and families at KnILE, to the incredible community I get to live in,” de Vega said. “I count my blessings daily. I have the best family ever and wake up every day doing what I love — making a difference in a child's life.”



The de Vegas: From left, Charles, Gigi, Alex and Betsy



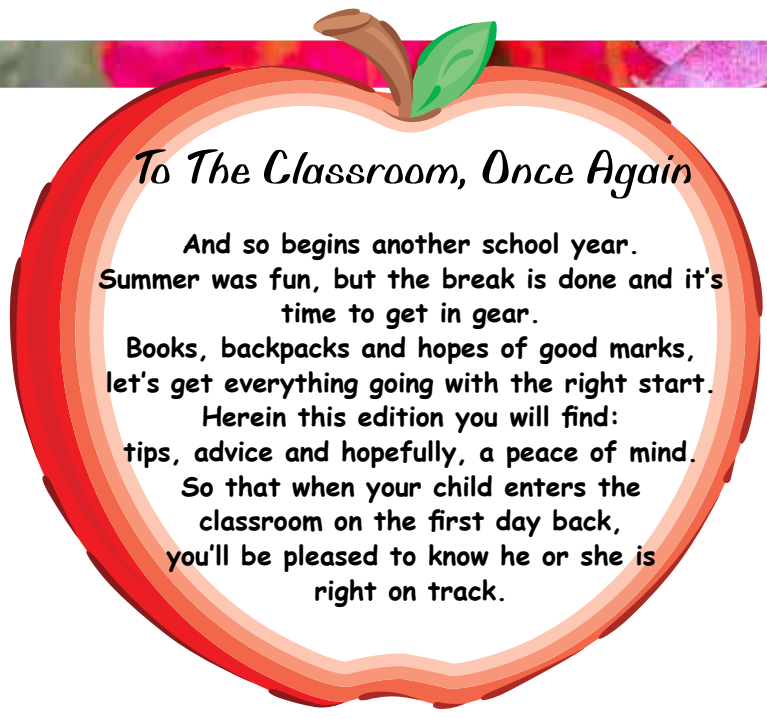
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To The Classroom, Once Again

And so begins another school year. Summer was fun, but the break is done and it's time to get in gear. Books, backpacks and hopes of good marks, let's get everything going with the right start. Herein this edition you will find: tips, advice and hopefully, a peace of mind. So that when your child enters the classroom on the first day back, you'll be pleased to know he or she is right on track.

Returning to the classroom can be a challenge for students and parents, but with a bit of preparation the first few weeks can flow smoothly for everyone involved.

In this special edition we have included a collection of back-to-school tips, from school supply lists and district calendars to school news updates and community resources that can assist your child in his or her educational endeavors. We wish everyone the best in this 2017-2018 school year and we look forward to sharing what neat stories, events and photos that will surely come out of this new year.

But before we take a look forward, we would like to congratulate students who recently graduated at the top of their class at George Ranch High School.

**2017 valedictorian & salutatorian
George Ranch High School**

Cara Hoffman is the Valedictorian for the Class of 2017 at George Ranch High School. She is the daughter of Sandra and Jim Elkins and Brinson and Christy Coffman. While at George Ranch, she was a member of the George Ranch High School Marching Band, drum major, marching leader/band librarian, a member of GRHS Flute choir and GRHS musical orchestra and GRHS marching percussion. She was also involved in National Honor Society, UIL social studies and competed at the finalist level at Texas French Symposium. She will attend the



Cara Hoffman



Mashal Mithani

University of Arkansas to study economics and accounting and plans to attend medical school.

Mashal Mithani is the Salutatorian for the Class of 2017 at George Ranch High School. She is the daughter of Rubina and Farid Mithani. While at George Ranch, she was National Honor Society President of Tutoring, UNICEF Co-president, Mu Alpha Theta (National Math Honor Society) member and Science Olympiad.

She will attend Texas A&M University to study biomedical engineering and plans to be a genetic engineer.

IMPORTANT DATES

George Ranch High School

Aug. 21: Fish Camp from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (9th grade)

Aug. 22: Ranch Round-Up - Pick up schedule, parking permit and schedule changes any time from 9 am - 11:30 am and 1 pm - 3:30 pm (9th - 12th grade)

Aug. 23: Ranch Round-Up - Pick up schedule, parking permit and schedule changes any time from 9 am - 11:30 am and 1 pm - 3:30 pm (9th - 12th grade)

Sept. 11: Open House at 6:30 p.m.

Reading Junior High

Aug. 23 at 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. (7th and 8th grade)

Sept. 18: Open House at 6 p.m.

Ryon Middle school

The annual Student Orientation Scavenger Hunt is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 17 from 5:30 - 7p.m.. This is a come and go event.

Sept. 25: Open House at 6 p.m.

Campbell Elementary

Aug. 22: Meet The Teacher, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.; PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.; Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 7: Parent Orientation (1st-5th grade), 6 p.m.

Oct. 12: Open House, 6 p.m.

Dickinson Elementary

Aug. 22: Kindergarten Orientation, 3:30 - 4 p.m.; Meet and Greet the Teacher, 4-5p.m.

Sept. 19: Parent Night, 6 - 7: 30 p.m.

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2017-2018

INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR

- Student and Staff Holiday
- Staff Development and Student Holiday
- Workday/Student Holiday
- () Six/Nine Weeks Begins/Ends
- ▲ New Teacher Staff Development Day
- Teacher DMA Day and Student Holiday
- ◆ Bad Weather Make-Up Day (if needed)
- ◆ Workday Make-Up Day (if needed)
- ▲ Early Release Day (K-5) - 11:30 a.m.
- ▲ Early Release Day (6-12) - 12:15 p.m.

STUDENT & STAFF HOLIDAYS

- Sept. 4 • Labor Day
- Sept. 29 • Fort Bend Fair Day
- Nov. 20-24 • Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 25 - Jan. 5 • Winter Break
- Jan. 15 • MLK Day
- Mar. 12-16 • Spring Break
- March 29 • Easter Break
- May 28 • Memorial Day

STAFF DEVELOPMENT & STUDENT HOLIDAYS

- August 14 -16 (New Teachers)
- August 17-18, 21-24, January 8, February 19, March 30

GRADING PERIODS

() ELEMENTARY (K-5) GRADING PERIODS

- First Semester: 86 Instructional Days
- 1st - August 28 - October 27: 43 days
- 2nd - October 30 - January 19: 43 days

Second Semester: 90 Instructional Days

- 3rd - January 22 - April 2: 43 days
- 4th - April 3 - June 7: 47 days

() SECONDARY (6-12) GRADING PERIODS

- First Semester: 78 Instructional Days
- 1st - August 28 - October 6: 28 days
- 2nd - October 9 - November 10: 25 days
- 3rd - November 13 - December 22: 25 days

Second Semester: 98 Instructional Days

- 4th - January 8 - February 23: 32 days
- 5th - February 26 - April 20: 33 days
- 6th - April 23 - June 7: 33 days

TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS - 176

JULY

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- 2 boxes tissues (200 ct)
- 1 8oz. hand sanitizer
- 1 5x8" plastic school box
- 2 boxes crayons (24 ct) *
- 1 box wide washable markers (8-10 ct) *
- 1 pkg #2 pencils
- 1 4 oz bottles white glue
- 2 large glue sticks
- 1 pair blunt-nosed metal scissors
- 1 pkg colored construction paper
- 1 pkg manila paper
- 1 box zip lock bags (quart)
- 1 box zip lock bags (gallon)
- 1 pkg baby wipes (100 count)
- 1 pair of ear buds

KINDERGARTEN

- 2 boxes tissues (200 ct)
- 1 8oz. hand sanitizer
- 1 5x8" plastic school box
- 2 boxes crayons (24 ct) *
- 1 box wide washable markers (8-10 ct) *
- 2 solid variety-colored pocket folders (3 brads)



- 2 pkgs #2 pencils (12 ct)
- 1 large eraser
- 1 4 oz. bottles white glue
- 8 large glue sticks
- 1 pair blunt-nosed metal scissors
- 1 pkg colored construction paper
- 1 pkg manila paper
- 1 box zip lock bags (quart)
- 1 box zip lock bags (gallon)
- 2 composition books (wide-ruled) 100 sheets 7 1/2 x 9 3/4
- 1 pair of ear buds

FIRST GRADE

- 2 boxes tissues (200 ct)
- 1 8 oz. hand sanitizer
- 1 5x8" plastic school box
- 2 boxes crayons (24 ct) *
- 1 box wide washable markers (8-10 ct)
- 2 pkgs #2 pencils (12 ct)
- 2 large erasers
- 1 4 oz bottles white glue
- 6 large glue sticks
- 1 pair small metal scissors
- 2 pkgs manila paper
- 2 pkgs colored construction paper
- 4 solid variety-color pocket folders (3 brads)
- 5 composition books (wide-ruled) 100 sheets 7 1/2 x 9 3/4
- 1 box zip lock bags (quart)
- 1 box zip lock bags (gallon)
- 1 pair of ear buds

SECOND GRADE

- 2 boxes tissues (200 ct)
- 1 8 oz. hand sanitizer
- 1 5x8" plastic school box
- 2 boxes crayons (24 ct) *
- 1 box wide washable markers (8-10 ct) *
- 3 pkgs #2 pencils (12 ct)
- 2 large erasers
- 1 4 oz bottle white glue
- 4 large glue sticks
- 1 pair sharp-pointed metal scissors
- 5 composition books (wide-ruled) 100 sheets 7 1/2 x 9 3/4
- 1 pkg colored construction paper
- 4 solid variety-colored pocket folders (3 brads)
- 1 pkg notebook paper (200 ct, wide-ruled)
- 1 pkg of manila paper
- 1 one inch 3-ring binder with cover sleeve
- 1 box zip lock bags (quart)
- 1 box zip lock bags (gallon)
- 1 pair of ear buds

THIRD GRADE

- 2 boxes tissues (200 ct)
- 1 8 oz. hand sanitizer
- 1 heavy duty pencil bag with binder holes
- 1 box crayons (24 ct) *
- 1 box markers (8-10 ct) *
- 1 box map pencils
- 3 pkgs #2 pencils (12 ct)
- 2 large erasers
- 2 glue sticks



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- 6 solid variety-colored pocket folders (3 brads)
- 1 pkg notebook paper (200 ct, wide-ruled)
- 3 composition books (wide-ruled)
- 100 sheets 7 1/2 x 9 3/4
- 1 pkg colored construction paper
- 1 one inch 3-ring binder with cover sleeve
- 1 box zip lock bags (quart)
- 1 box zip lock bags (gallon)
- 1 pair of ear buds

FOURTH GRADE

- 2 boxes tissues (200 ct)
- 1 8 oz. hand sanitizer
- 1 box crayons (24 ct) *
- 1 box markers (8-10 ct) *
- 2 highlighters
- 1 box map pencils
- 3 pkgs #2 pencils (12 ct)
- 1 package red pens
- 2 dry erase markers
- 4 glue sticks
- 4 composition books (wide-ruled)
- 100 sheets 7 1/2 x 9 3/4
- 1 pair sharp-pointed metal scissors

- 1 heavy duty pencil bag with binder holes
- 2 spiral notebooks (wide-ruled)
- 6 solid variety-colored pocket folders (3 brads)
- 2 pkg notebook paper (200 ct, wide-ruled)
- 1 pkg colored construction paper
- 1 one inch 3-ring binder with cover sleeve
- 1 box zip lock bags (quart)
- 1 box zip lock bags (gallon)
- 1 one-piece swim suit (swim program)
- 1 pair of ear buds

FIFTH GRADE

- 2 boxes tissues (200 ct)
- 1 8 oz. hand sanitizer
- 5 composition books (wide-ruled)
- 100 sheets 7 1/2 x 9 3/4
- 1 box markers (8-10 ct) *
- 1 box map pencils
- 2 highlighters
- 3 pkgs #2 pencils (12 ct)
- 1 pkg red pens
- 4 large glue sticks
- 1 pair sharp-pointed metal scissors
- 1 heavy duty pencil bag with binder

- holes
- 2 spiral notebooks (wide ruled)
- 2 pkgs notebook paper (200 ct, wide-ruled)
- 1 pkg colored construction paper
- 2 dry erase markers
- 6 solid variety-colored pocket folders (3 brads)
- 1 one inch 3-ring binder with cover sleeve
- 1 box zip lock bags (quart)
- 1 box zip lock bags (gallon)
- 1 pair of ear buds

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Good News Around Greatwood

By Sue Austin

Dickinson Elementary Talent Show



Sue Austin

Theater critics, agents and standing-room-only audiences gave Dickinson Elementary talent show five stars! Performed on May 26, acts listed on the playbill ranged from a vocal rendition of Disney's "How Far I'll Go" to a clever, on-stage synchronized swimming routine. Despite unexpected technical difficulties, performers learned the true meaning of "the show must go on." They carried on like pros and gained reputations fit for Broadway.

The show was directed and produced by counselor Kathryn Reaves, PE coach Wendy Rice-Hughes and classroom teacher Laura Bates.

Earlier this year, the creative team searched all corners of the school looking for rising young talent in the third, fourth and fifth grades. Eager performers gathered in droves to audition for a coveted spot in the show's line up. Casting directors included Amy Angell, Laura Bates, Megan Blair, Amanda Dickson, Laura Hardin, Kathryn Reeves and Wendy Rice-Hughes. Twenty acts made the cut with Grace Daaboul and Camille Paylik slated as the show's emcees.

The stars of this year's show included Luigi Amarante, Eve Bamber, Maddie Barnetson, Hamilton Bath, Rece Black, Harley Bourgeois, Rhett Carroll, Joshua Crawford, Addie Doss, Travis Duncan, London Finch, Noah Gunn, Krystal Huynh, Grace Horton, Grace Jessup, Marilyn Johnson, Isabelle Keast, James Keenan, Carson Lee, Carter Love, Jenna Martinez, Owen Minor, Chloe Moczygemba, Travis Morrey, Ava Newlin, Abigail Noyes, Caroline Noyes, Luke Pickett, Sarah Love Pizzitola, Luke Pulford, Ellie Randolph, Emmi Rautio, Jackson Reifel, Major Richardson, Noah Richards, Kennedy Runions, Cooper Schwank, Keenum Self, Briggs Surratt, Hannah Waters and Kathleen Yan.

The Dickinson box office accepted clothing donations to Common Threads in exchange for free admission.

Common Threads is a nonprofit organization that assists Lamar CISD families in need by collecting clothing, backpacks and toiletries for children ages 8—18. Common Threads is located at the Jane Long Elementary campus, 710 Houston Street in Richmond, Texas.

Those wishing to make donations may contact Jill Duban at 832-223-0335 or email her at jduban@lcisd.org.

Team Campbell triathletes race to the finish line at NRG Stadium

On your mark, get set, go! Campbell Elementary athletes dove head-first into the Houston Texans Kids Triathlon at NRG Stadium. The 3-part race, which included swimming, biking and running was held on May 20 and 21. Team Campbell, which consisted of 43 current and former students, joined the race for the first time this year. Texans football cheerleaders and Toro, the Texans mascot, were on hand to cheer from the sidelines while each participant received a medal for crossing the finish line.

This year's coaches included PE teacher Debbie Nesbitt, PE aide Shelby Lipasek and second grade teacher Fara Harkrider. For the triathlon,

juniors (ages 6–10) were challenged with swimming 100 yards, biking three miles and running a half-mile. Seniors (ages 11-15) doubled those figures by swimming 200 yards, biking six miles and running one mile. The coaches were tasked with recruiting triathletes, informing them of event details and posting training tips along the way. They went extra mile by holding a transition clinic at Campbell Elementary.

Earlier this spring, a Houston Texans triathlon representative came to Campbell Elementary to kick off the event. Students tested the waters during a practice "dry tri" in the gym. To simulate swimming, students waded on scooters on their stomachs, barefoot. For the biking round, they had to quickly throw on their shoes and helmet, sit on the scooter and wheel around cones. The final round included sprinting a lap around the gym to the finish line.

According to coach Shelby Lipsek, the school plans to build an even bigger team for next year's triathlon and looks forward to increasing the size of the team. She has some helpful advice for students who are thinking about giving it a "tri." "Don't be afraid to try something new. Finishing a race is an excellent goal to set for yourself. Training and dedication to achieving your goal will get you over the finish line!"

Congratulations to this year's "Team Campbell" triathletes who include kindergarten students Anneliese Nuno, Tilla Clague and Weston Ritter, first grade students Olivia La, Ava Campbell, Sidney Miller, Kiera Pham, Brooklyn Olvera, Layla Smith, and Remy Oestreich, second grade students MacKenzy Baldwin, Delaney Winters, Cameron Jackson, Taryn Downey, Macy McWhirter, Dalton Barrera, Francesca Marro, Iggy Bentancor, Jake Ritter, and Caylin Smith, third grade students Hailey Kulcak, Grant Edelbrock, Matias Farish, Allison McKale, Luke Diamond, Christian Nuno, Cruz Nuno, Bernardo Borges, and Josh Smithers, fourth grade students Brody Lipasek, Brayden Olvera, Maddox Laurie, Quillin Fraser, Rachel Siba, Patrick Reed, and Hayden Nelson, fifth grade students Cody Ford, Emerson Hunter, Angie Banning and Nicole Smithers and Campbell alumni Dominic Accardo, Cristian Johnson, and Phoenix Tafoya.



karate kids Travis Duncan, Luigi Amarante and Hamilton Bath kick it up a notch at the talent show

10th annual state of the schools

The Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce's Education Division will host the 10th Annual State of the Schools, on Wednesday, October 25 from 11:30 AM - 1 PM at the Safari Texas Ranch, 11627 FM 1464 in Richmond.

The State of the Schools luncheon brings together the Superintendent of Schools from Stafford Municipal School District - Dr. Robert Bostic, Lamar Consolidated School District - Dr. Thomas Randle, Fort Bend Independent School District - Dr. Charles Dupre, to address issues and share successes in public education in 2017. This luncheon is celebrating its 10th year and will be sure to bring about excitement, diversity, and involvement from the students in Fort Bend County.

The mission of the Education Division is to provide a critical link between the academic and business sectors in the county by engaging community leaders to build awareness of the positive impact of education.

winner of fort bend county Kids & cops annual design contest

Local nonprofit, Fort Bend Kids & Cops announced the winner of their annual design contest in partnership with Mazda. Earlier this year, students in Fort Bend County submitted their design to be enlarged and wrapped on the hood of one of the Mazda CX-5 Kids & Cops' vehicles.

This year's winner was Jenny Lau from Lexington Creek Elementary and her winning hood design was presented by Sherriff Troy Nehls,



Sherriff Troy Nehls, Sgt. Roger Barton, Deputy Diane Fullinwider and Stephanie Keener and Lindsey Cavazos with Mazda presented Lexington Creek Elementary student, Jenny Lau her design enlarged and wrapped on one of the Mazda CX-5 Kids & Cops vehicles.

Sgt. Roger Barton, Deputy Diane Fullinwider and Mazda Gulf Region representatives, Stephanie Keener and Lindsey Cavazos.

Each year, the Fort Bend Sheriff's Department chooses local schools to participate in the Kids & Cops program with an assigned deputy for each school to help encourage a positive relationship between law enforcement and youth. Their goal is to reach every school age child in Fort Bend County with a positive message about growing up, life and the real world.

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GOOD NEWS GREATWOOD Continued from page 14

Greatwood Geysers make a splash at summer swim meets

The Greatwood Geysers swim team is just one of the many reasons Niche.com recently rated Greatwood No. 1 among the top 30 Houston-area suburbs to raise a family. Those who live in Greatwood aren't surprised by the report, which focuses on neighborhoods offering family-friendly groups like the Greatwood Geysers.

The Geysers are a volunteer organization which has been serving children in the Greatwood community since 2003. Head coach Derek Zerber has been leading the organization for the past 11 years.

Since its inception, the competitive swim team has grown to include nearly 200 swimmers.

Coach Zerber swam competitively for Eastern Michigan University where he won 4 conference championships and is currently ranked sixth in the 100 meter backstroke at his alma mater.

Other mentors for the Geysers include assistant coach Rachel Johnson, junior coaches Charlotte Johansen and Aaron O'Reilly and volunteer coaches Kate Hartman and Jake Gamble.

The Geysers mission statement emphasizes "...good sportsmanship, team pride and great swimming skills while competing in a fun, safe and relaxed atmosphere..." They are members of the Southwest Houston Recreational Swim League and participate in several meets throughout the summer season.

Swimmers receive awards for placing first through sixteenth in their races and top finishers automatically advance to the All-Star meet.

Junior coach and Geysers swimmer Charlotte Johansen says "It's been great to see how much the team has grown over the years. The

kids put in a lot of hard work at practice and that definitely shows at the meets. The kids are always having fun and do any task the coaches ask of them with a smile on their faces! As a swimmer, the Greatwood Geysers swim team has been a big part of my summer for as long as I can remember. Through the Geysers I have formed many great friendships. I have had so much fun over the years and am looking forward to finishing out my final season as a swimmer strong."



Competitors Francesca Marrow, Macy McWhirter, Cameron Jackson, Dalton Barrera, and Taryn Downey pose in front of NRG stadium, ready to roll!




"Team Campbell" coaches Debbie Nesbitt, Shelby Lipasek and Fara Harkrider



Quillan Fraser, Brooklyn Olvera, Brayden Olvera, Brody Lipasek, Rachel Stiba and Ava Campbell proudly display their "Team Campbell" poster

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Swimmers Remy Oestreich, Keira Pham and Olivia La are all smiles after completing the swimming portion of the triathlon

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Swimmer Michael Kurmadas shows spectacular butterfly form



Sofia Yowell flies into the pool during a relay



Swimmers Marisa Mueller, Amanda Bowen, Maddie Fridge, Kate Culpepper build lasting friendships through Geysers swim team



Junior coach and Geysers swimmer Charlotte Johansen is proud to be a part of the team



Back row: Harley Bourgeois, London Finch, Rece Black, Ava Newlin, Camille Pavlik, Grace Daboul, Hannah Waters, Luke Pulford, Luke Pickett, Cooper Schwank, Noah Ritchards, James Keenan; **Middle row:** Isabelle Keast, Addie Doss, Eve Bamber, Jackson Reifel, Sarah Love Pizzitola, Kennedy Runions, Emmi Rautio, Krystal Huynh, Kathleen Yan, Noah Gunn, Carter Love, Travis Morrey, Briggs Surratt, Carson Lee, Rhett Carroll, Owen Minor, Keenum Self; **Front row:** Caroline Noyes, Joshua Crawford, Major Richardson **Sitting:** Grace Horton, Grace Jessup, Abigail Noyes, Jenna Martinez, Madeline Barnetson, Ellie Randolph, Luigi Amarante, Marilyn Johnson, Hamilton Bath and Travis Duncan.



Girls in the 9 to 10 year-old age group dive into a fun season of swimming: Addison Heffernan, Jenna Mock, Chloe Cahill, Hayden Bourgeois, Paige Babinat, Abigail Thomas, Bekah Gerard, Faith Parle, Brooke Billedo, Avery Blocker, Sofia Yowell, Madison Blackmon, Maria Resendez



Boys in the 9 to 10 year-old age group celebrate their swimming successes: Carter Richards, Devan Lyons, Jack Schanck, Briley Byers, Charles Thomas, Jack Buckner, Carter Love, Noah Gunn, Rhett Carroll, Mitchell Maier, Aven Gorriaran



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At Greatwood Veterinary Hospital, we are dedicated to providing excellent and compassionate care for your furry, family friends. We offer full veterinary services in our new, spacious 6,500 square foot facility. Our experienced and caring veterinarians and staff strive to provide the best quality care available for your pets, with an emphasis on client education and an understanding of your pet's specific needs. We would like to be partners with you in ensuring your pet's good health and well-being. In addition to full medical, surgical, and dental veterinary care, we also offer boarding, grooming, and cremation services. Greatwood Veterinary Hospital has been providing affordable and quality veterinary care to the Fort Bend area for over 15 years. It is our hope that we can meet all your animal's health care needs with our warm, friendly, and knowledgeable services.

To make an appointment for your pet or for more information, please call us at (281) 342-7770 or visit us at 401 Crabb River Road in Richmond.



Participants from Campbell Elementary who participated in the Texans Triathlon were: First row: Emerson Hunter, Brody Lipasek, Patrick Reed, Quillin Fraser, Brayden Olvera, Cody Ford, Luke Diamond, Nicole Smithers, Angie Banning, Delaney Winters, Maddox Laurie, Debbie Nesbitt; second row: Bernardo Borges, Cruz Nuno, Josh Smithers, Christian Nuno, Matias Farish, Hailey Kulcak, Grant Edelbrock, Allison McKale; third row: Rachel Stiba, Taryn Downey, Macy McWhirter, MacKenzy Baldwin, Iggy Bentancor, Bruno Martinez, Jake Ritter, Caylin Smith, Francesca Marro, Dalton Barrera, Cameron Jackson, Fara Harkrider; fourth row: Ava Campbell, Brooklyn Olvera, Anneliese Nuno, Olivia La, Kiera Pham, Tilla Clague, Remy Oestreich, Weston Ritter, Layla Smith, Sidney Miller, Shelby Lipasek.



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LITERACY COUNCIL OF FORT BEND COUNTY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

The Literacy Council of Fort Bend County's Program Committee and Board of Directors held its 2017 Volunteer Appreciation event, underwritten by Comcast, celebrating volunteers and community partners and more than 100 of the agency's volunteer tutors, event volunteers and community partners joined the agency's staff in honor of volunteers with a year or more of service.

Volunteer Appreciation is also when the annual Jan Schiff Scholarship Winner is announced and recognized.

The 2017 Jan Schiff Scholarship Recipient Emma L. shared her story of coming to the United States, how she learned of the Literacy Council and her plans to use her scholarship towards her college endeavors. The Literacy Council of Fort Bend County would like to congratulate Emma for her outstanding work!

- Literacy Champion 2017: David Timmermeyer
- Outstanding Outreach Volunteer 2017: Suzanne Mottin
- Outstanding ESL Tutor 2017: Paula Reiger
- Outstanding Basic Literacy Tutor 2017: Deb Masters
- Event Volunteer of the Year 2017: Gena Horak and Helen Bow
- Literacy Leader 2017: CenterPoint Energy
- Rookie of the Year 2017: Virginia Kennedy
- Literacy Legacy Award 2017 for 20 Years of Service: Mary Jackson
- Outstanding Community Partner 2017: C&M Favre Foundation

CATCH THE BUZZ and join the Literacy Council of Fort Bend County for its 8th Annual Great Grown- Up Spelling Bee, presented by CenterPoint Energy, Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Constellation Field-Inspireity Club!

Special Recognition award winners were:

Mr. Ed Tye was recognized for 26 years of service to the Literacy Council of Fort Bend County.

For 15 years of service: Nancy Liebensperger

For 10 years of service: Ursula Baide, Dee Connors, Robin Danziger, Rosemary E. Jones and Nora Rabby

For five years of service: David Ciarella, Mona Fogt, Sharon McGlaun, Shalini Mulchandani, Almas Mustafa, Steve Smith, Greg Aranda, Violet Chen, Allan Davies, Bente Davies, Shobha Kulkarni, Richard Tam, Susan Denman-Briones and Bill Stratton

Outstanding Outreach Site 2017: Grand Parkway Baptist Church



Helen Bow and Gena Horak, Event Volunteers of the Year 2017; Colleen Mayer, LCFBC Program Director; Leticia Lowe, CenterPoint Energy/Literacy Leader Award Recipient; Kelli Metzenthin, LCFBC Executive Director

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AUTISM ADVOCACY THROUGH READING!

Hope For Three, Autism Advocates, has announced its partnership with a children's bookstore that is distinct from others.

Poppy's Place Book Store, a place where every child matters, is tailored to children including those with unique abilities like autism. It will feature a range of children's books, games, and toys.

This new partnership allows Hope For Three to earn 50 percent of all book purchases for an entire year. Currently, items can be purchased through Poppy's Online Market Place www.poppysplace.store.

At checkout, please select Hope For Three in the drop down menu to ensure your 50 percent donation is registered.

The brick and mortar location of Poppy's Place Bookstore is set to open this Fall in Fort Bend County.

For more information on Hope For Three's programs, resources or how you can volunteer or become a sponsor visit www.hopeforthree.org or call 281-245-0460. Hope For Three. Providing Help. Creating Hope.



Robert "Poppy" Lampkin, owner of Poppy's Place Bookstore and the Montgomery Triplets - Lauren, Londyn and Lakin.



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AUGUST 12

Rod Stewart with Special Guest Cyndi Lauper

Two of music's most acclaimed artists and powerhouse live performers will tour together this summer when Rod Stewart is joined by special guest Cyndi Lauper for an 18-city tour.

Stewart and Lauper have been awarded nearly every industry award and honor for their incomparable catalog of hits and activism, among them Grammy and American Music Awards, two inductions into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the ASCAP Founders Award for songwriting and a knighthood for Stewart; and an Emmy and Tony Award for Lauper.

AUGUST 18

The Avett Brothers

The Avett Brothers concert originally slated for March 31 has been rescheduled to Friday August 18. The band's new album, *True Sadness* [American Recordings/Republic Records], achieves the group's highest career debut to date and dominates multiple charts. The Rick Rubin produced album arrives at #1 on Billboard's



AUGUST 23

Yestival 2017:

Yes, Todd Rundgren & Carl Palmer's ELP Legacy

YES revealed their initial summer touring plans, called YESTIVAL, which will feature a set list of greatest hits from all of the band's studio albums up to 1980, showcasing the storied history of one of the world's most influential, ground-breaking, and respected progressive rock bands. "We are looking forward to presenting songs from each of the first nine studio albums, including some surprises," says YES guitarist Steve Howe. YESTIVAL will feature special guest Todd Rundgren and an opening set from Carl Palmer's ELP Legacy honoring the magic of Keith Emerson and Greg Lake.

AUGUST 25

Mary J Blige with Special Guest Lalah Hathaway

Nine-time GRAMMY® Award-



winner, Golden Globe® Award nominee and multiplatinum R&B legend Mary J. Blige has announced plans to embark on her highly anticipated North American STRENGTH OF A WOMAN TOUR. Featuring special guest Lalah Hathaway. The tour announcement comes on the heels of Blige's 13th studio album release, STRENGTH OF A WOMAN, which debuted at #1 on Billboard's R&B Album Chart and has received critical praise since its April 28th release on Capitol Records. The New York Times called the album "empowering" in a recent review while the Guardian hailed that "Blige's vocals alone are a reminder of why she remains so important to the genre."

AUGUST 27

Lost 80's Live

Celebrating its 13th year, Lost 80's Live is the longest running retro tour of its kind, bringing together some of the most recognizable acts of the 80s for one night, on one stage, playing hit after hit. This year hosts more dates, more music, and more fun at what thousands of concert goers



have described as a timeless "80s' greatest hits show."

SEPTEMBER 1

Shreya Ghoshal

Shreya Ghoshal: First Time With Symphony will be hosted by Rehan Siddiqi. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.com or by calling (800) 745-3000.

SEPTEMBER 7

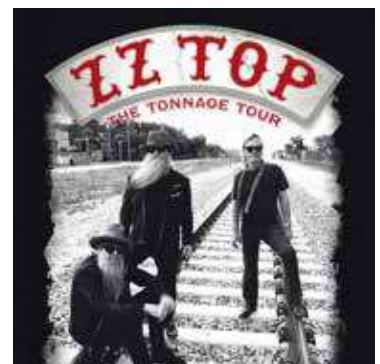
Sturgill Simpson

Sturgill Simpson will embark on a series of tour dates later this year. The performance will feature material from throughout Simpson's catalog and is his way of thanking fans—both old and new—for a series of unprecedented years.

SEPTEMBER 10

ZZ Top: The Tonnage Tour

Rock and Roll Hall of Famers ZZ Top will keep on rolling as they bring The Tonnage Tour to Sugar Land, following the release of their new live greatest-hits album last fall. Don't miss the blues-rock trio that set its roots in Houston and are Texas through-and-through.



August Programs At University Branch Library

Fort Bend County Libraries' University Branch Library, 14010 University Blvd in Sugar Land, on the UH campus, presents a variety of free children's programs, adult computer classes, book clubs, and special programs for people of all ages each month. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the University Branch Library (281-633-5100) or the library system's Public Information Office (281-633-4734).

SPECIAL EVENTS

"Home-Buying 101" – **Wednesday, Aug. 2, 7 pm, Meeting Room 2.** Keller Williams real estate consultant Judy Burfict will provide an overview of the home-buying process, from beginning to close. Learn about the mortgage-loan process, programs that are available, and the steps involved in obtaining financing. Burfict will also talk about the different types of loans that are available and how to qualify for them, as well as things that mortgage lenders look for

when approving a loan. This program is for first-time home-buyers as well as others who are interested in the home-buying and financing process.

"Introduction to Facebook" – **Thursday, Aug. 3, 2 pm, Computer Lab.** Learn how to set up a Facebook account, search for friends, make "friend requests," and write wall posts. Those attending should have a basic working knowledge of computers, and must have a personal email account before attending the class. Reservations required.

"Introduction to Twitter" – **Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2 pm, Computer Lab.** Learn how to set up a Twitter account, search for and communicate with other people, and post "tweets." Those attending should have a basic working knowledge of computers, and must have a personal email account before attending the class. Reservations required.

"Classical Music of India" – **Saturday, Aug. 12, 2 pm, Meeting Room 1.** Members of the Indian



Music Society of Houston – will perform classical Indian music on the sitar, tabla, and flute.

"Culinary Book Club" – **Wednesday, Aug. 16; 1:30 pm, Conference Room 1.** This month, the theme is "Lunch-Box Foods." Cooking enthusiasts of all ages and experience levels – from beginners to advanced – are invited to join. Those attending are welcome to bring their own cookbooks and recipes, or they may browse the library's collection of cookbooks. Share tips, get ideas, and enjoy the camaraderie of other individuals who have an interest in cooking and good cuisine! Meets on the third Wednesday of every month; different cooking genres are explored each month.



"Social Security Disability Benefits" – **Monday, Aug. 28, 6:30 pm, Meeting Room 1.** Andrew Hardwick, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration, will provide an overview of disability benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, and the qualifications and application process for each. Learn about other Social Security programs that are available and how to qualify for them. Hardwick will also demonstrate how to access one's work record online and how to use other online services. Those attending this workshop may want to set up a "my Social Security" account online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and print out a Social Security Statement before arriving at the

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

class so that Hardwick may address any questions they have.

“All About Apps” – Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2 pm, Computer Lab. Learn about the free or low-cost apps (applications) that can be downloaded to digital mobile devices such as iPhones or Androids. The apps are available in a variety of categories, such as Health and Fitness, Business, Finance, Sports, Travel, Food and Drink, Entertainment, Games, Education, News, and much more. Find out how you can stay on top of world affairs, manage your finances, get the latest sports scores, find a movie time at a theater or a place to eat, or simply relax with a game or a book – all conveniently available on your mobile device! Reservations required.

SUMMER READING CLUBS

Fort Bend County Libraries presents special reading clubs during the summer to encourage reading among people of all ages. There is no charge to join the Summer Read-

ing Clubs (SRC), and they are open to everyone, regardless of the county of residence. Participants may register at any Fort Bend County library, or they may register online by going to the FBCL website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us) and clicking on the “SRC Sign-Up” image. When the online registration form has been completed, readers will then have their own online page on which to record their books or reading time. Prizes must be collected from the “primary library of use” that the reader indicated on the registration form. The last day to pick up awards is August 31.

The Summer Reading Clubs are sponsored by Fort Bend County Libraries, the Friends organizations that support the county library system, and the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a consortium of states working together to provide high-quality children’s summer-reading program materials for public libraries.

Summer Reading Club for Children

Children from infancy through

elementary school-age are encouraged to read as many books as they can and they will earn rewards based on the total number of books they read or have read to them. For the first five books read, the child will receive a bookmark. The rewards continue with a certificate for 10 books, a pencil for 15 books, and a reading trophy for the first 20 books read. For every 20 books read, the participant’s name will also be written on a picture of a builder’s block to be displayed in that branch library. The names of participants will be entered into a drawing for gift cards from area stores – donated by the Friends of the Library organizations – that will be awarded to several lucky readers of 20 books or more, in a drawing scheduled in August at each library location.

Middle School Summer Challenge

Area youth in grades 6-8 can participate in the SRC by logging online the time they spend reading. Kids are encouraged to read as many books as they can, and they will earn rewards based on the total amount of time they spend reading. For the first 10 hours (600 minutes) of reading, each reader will receive a mystery prize. Upon completion of 20 hours (1200 minutes) of reading, readers will receive a trophy. The names of participants who complete 20 or more hours of reading will be entered into a drawing for a \$25-gift card – donated by the Friends of the library – that will be awarded to one lucky reader at each branch library in a drawing that will take place in August.

Summer Reading Club for Teens & Adults

Adults of all ages, including young adults in high school, may participate in the YA & Adult SRC by reading books and participating in optional weekly “challenges” that can be completed individually at home online. The last day to pick up awards is August 5.

BOOK CLUB

The book to be discussed is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, written by Stieg Larsson. New members invited to attend! Wednesday, Aug. 9, 7: pm, Conference Room 1.

ADULT COMPUTER CLASSES

All computer classes take place

in the Computer Lab. Seating is limited, and reservations are required. To register online at the library’s website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on “Events,” select “University Branch Library,” and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the library at 281-633-5100, or by visiting the library.

MS Excel Survival Basics – Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2 pm

MS Access Survival Basics – Thursday, Aug. 10, 2 pm

MS Excel: Pivot Tables – Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2 pm

MS Word Survival Basics – Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2 pm

MS PowerPoint Series

MS PowerPoint Survival Basics – Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2 pm

MS PowerPoint: Intermediate – Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2 pm

MS PowerPoint: Advanced – Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2 pm

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

“YA Wonderful Wall Art” – Thursday, Aug. 17, 2 pm, Meeting Room 2.

Learn how to make monogram wall art with your initials, using a variety of materials, to dress up and define a bedroom or other space. Materials for this program are made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the University Branch Library.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Mother Goose Time – Mondays at 10:30 am – provides caregiver/infant multisensory circle-time activities – including simple sign language, folksongs and lullabies, and finger plays – that are especially designed to stimulate babies’ social, emotional, and physical development through rhythm and music. Mother Goose Time is intended for infants from age 1 month to 12 months. This activity will NOT take place on August 7.

Toddler Time – Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:30 am – offers caregiver/child activities, stories and songs for older babies, from 12 to 36 months of age. This activity will NOT take place on August 1, 2, 8, or 9.

Preschool Story Time – Thursdays at 10:30 am – presents stories, movies, and age-appropriate craft activities for children 3 to 6 years of age. This activity will NOT take place on August 3 or 10.

Continued on page 26

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George Ranch High School counselor WINS POWELL AWARD

By **DIANA NGUYEN**

As George Ranch High School students enter into College and Career Counselor Rebecca Mobley's office, Mobley always seems to greet them with a smile, an open ear and words of advice for their future pathways.

One particular subject she has helped students understand better is the enlistment in the armed services.

Mobley is one of only four public school employees to receive the Colin Powell Award, "for exceptional service to your students, school and a grateful community."

The Colin Powell Award is a public service award presented to outstanding high school guidance counselors, principals, teachers, or other staff members in recognition of their providing guidance, counseling and mentoring to students.

The honor is awarded annually by Our Community Salutes-Fort Bend, a local, nonprofit organization, created to recognize and honor graduating high school students (and their parents) who plan to enlist in the armed services after graduation.

At a coffee shop in Richmond, Mobley took out the Colin Powell award plaque. A quote by Powell, a retired U.S. Army general, former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is printed on it. It reads: "We need to understand that we as citizens and as a government in any community throughout this country, have no more important obligations than to educate those who are going to replace us!"

'A Wonderful Organization'

Mobley noted that Air Force Staff Sgt. Denise McHaney was the one who nominated her for the award, which was presented at a ceremony recognizing Fort Bend County students enlisted in armed services.

"I didn't know when I went [to the ceremony] that she had nominated me," Mobley recalled.

"She was very sweet to nominate me. It's a wonderful organization and a very nice event celebrating our enlisted graduating seniors."

Mobley pointed out that it was sometimes a challenge to find times for the military to visit George Ranch.

"Our instructional times at our high schools are protected so we don't have colleges or military come into our classrooms to present," she said. "So we have lunch visits."

"This year, I have the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marines represented to us, and I recently got the National Guard. I have students for the first time, that I know of, enlisted in the National Guard."



George Ranch High School College and Career Counselor Rebecca Mobley holds up the Colin Powell Award.

The reason behind her nomination, Mobley shared, was for her efforts in organizing the "Distinguished Educator Tour." The tours consisted of basic military training, technical training facilities, flying squadrons, education and medical facilities at the joint bases in San Antonio-Randolph and Lackland.

The students were also able to hear from influential Air Force speakers.

Skills and Trades to Use

Parents are oftentimes skeptical about having their children enlisted in the military, which Mobley understands.

Continued on page 28

Continued from page 24

Pajama Night Story Time - Tuesdays at 7 pm - gives families an evening option for some activities presented during the day time. This activity will NOT take place in August; the schedule will resume in September.

Rise & Shine Family Story Time - Saturdays at 10:30 am. Families with children of all ages are invited to come and enjoy stories, movies, and crafts together. This activity will NOT take place on August 5 or 12.

Kinder Korner - Tuesdays at 4 pm - is a time for kindergartners

to enjoy stories, movies, crafts, and other activities. This program will not take place in August; it will resume in September.

After-School Breaks - 2nd and 4th Wednesday beginning at 4 pm. Crafts, movies, stories, and more for school-aged children in grades 1 through 3. This program will not take place in August; it will resume in September.

Creative Connection - 1st and 3rd Saturday at 2:30 pm. Activities for youth in grades 4 through 8. This program will not take place in August; it will resume in September.

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IRON CROSS


Continued from page 26

“It’s a typical [parent] thing to be nervous about your son or daughter going into the military, unless your family has been in the military for a while as a tradition,” she said. “Going into the military, sometimes students don’t know for sure what they want to do. Some students know what they want to do but can’t afford it. So the military is a really good option for them financially. Some of my son’s friends have been in the military and it taught them different skills and trades that they can use.”

Mobley recalled a conversation discussing the George Ranch stu-

dents enlisted. “I remember [a woman] telling me, ‘I wish there was some other way we could recognize him.’

“We do the red, white and blue military cords and recognize them at our senior awards ceremony and the graduation,” Mobley said.

But she wanted to do something extra special.

“At our school, we had banners of the five different military branches,” she noted. “When I find out who’s enlisted in those branches, I put their names up on the banner.

“I didn’t know about the Our Community Salutes Fort Bend until this year. I was so excited that they offer this for the families. They

CAMPBELL ELEMENTARY

By JULIE SAMS

As we prepare for the first day of school, we want to explain some of the basics you need to know as we begin the new school year.

Our Annual Theme (Year-round):

Each year Bess Campbell Elementary determines a theme that the students and faculty will enforce throughout the year in the classroom and through school activities. This year we unveil our new school theme: Adventure Under the Stars. The students of Campbell will have as much fun with this theme as well as the teaching staff as we host Camp Campbell! This year we are inviting parents and students to purchase our school themed shirts as well. Visit https://stores.inksoft.com/bess_campbell to place an order for a Magellan camp shirt to wear on Fridays this school year. If the link asks for a password use “cougars.”

School Forms:

For the 2017-18 school year, Campbell will be using LCISD’s Skyward ‘Beginning of Year’ online forms to reduce the number of paper forms students are required to have signed and returned at the start of the school year. This online functionality will be a seamless integration with the Skyward Family Access Center and will save you, the parent, time in filling out these forms as well as the campus staff in entering that data in our student information system. In order for your child’s homeroom teacher to place a call to the parent for class placement, the on-line forms must be completed.

FORMS ARE TO BE COMPLETED BY: Wednesday, August 16.

Visit <http://www.lcisd.org/students-parents/registration> to register online. We will also update our PTO Website with more information about beginning of year forms (LCISD and Campbell specific forms), instructions for completing these forms, as well as important dates.

Meet the Teacher & Back to School Bash

Campbell will host a meet the teacher on Tuesday, Aug. 22 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Come visit the campus and drop off school supplies then meet up with friends. Several food vendors will be in the front circle drive to help host our back to school bash!

PTO Meeting

Join the PTO in kicking off the new school year. Get involved and meet new people Aug. 22 from 6-6:30 p.m. in the gym. There is no better way to help support the students and teachers of Campbell Elementary. Get introduced to the PTO and get a good feeling for what the organization does throughout the year and how you can participate.

August 2017 PTO Calendar		
Dates	Events	Notes
8/22/2017	Meet the Teacher/Back to School Bash	4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
8/22/2017	PTO General Meeting	6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
8/22/2017	Parent Only Kindergarten Orientation	6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
8/28/2017	First Day of School	7:30 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Parent Only Kindergarten Orientation

On Aug. 22 at 6:30 p.m. Campbell Elementary will host a special night just for our kinder parents where you will be able to participate in a walk-through of all the details for ‘how it works’. Everything will be covered from when and where to drop off your child, to what to bring and what to wear.

First Day of School

Doors to the school open at 7 a.m. Aug. 28 Your child can be dropped off starting at that time. The tardy bell rings at 7:30 a.m. sharp so make sure you leave plenty of time for your child to walk to class before the tardy bell rings at 7:30 a.m. The front doors of the school are locked at that time. After 7:30 a.m. you can access the school by visiting the front office door located to the left of the front doors. School ends at 2:40pm.

Dress Code for Campbell Elementary

Bottoms: Solid khaki or dark blue chino style slacks with no trim. No sagging, baggy, or oversized slacks are allowed. Corduroy and overalls are not permitted. Khaki or dark blue shorts, skirts, skorts, Capri pants or jumpers are allowed as long as they are finger tip length or longer. Blue jean pants, skirts or shorts may be worn on Fridays with a uniform dress shirt or school spirit shirt.

Tops: Tops are to be collared solid navy blue, red or white polo shirts or blouses. Solid colored undershirts or turtlenecks worn under polo shirts or blouses must be navy blue, red or white. Denim shirts and navy, red or white shirts with the Bess Campbell logo can be worn any day and purchased through the PTO or Land’s End.

Footwear: It is highly recommended that tennis shoes are worn daily for recess. For safety reasons, tennis shoes are required to participate in Physical Education classes. Acceptable colors of socks, leggings or tights: One to three colors that are mostly solid with no prints, patterns or stripes visible on the legs.

Jackets - Outer wear, such as, jackets, sweaters, or sweatshirts, can be worn of any color but must follow the LCISD dress code

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Assistance Fund: The school will solicit donations from private sources and the PTO. Please consider donating outgrown uniforms.

New Students: Students will be informed of the dress code policy at enrollment and given two weeks to comply.

Enforcement Policy: For students who do not comply with uniform dress, the following steps could be taken: Change into uniform dress at school, send home letter with explanation of dress code violation, student/parent conference with teacher and/or administrator, home visit by the social worker, or follow LCISD Student Code of Conduct for violation of dress code.

Exemptions: The following exemptions of the uniform dress may be allowed: Boy/Girl Scout Uniforms, Field Day, School/District sponsored days (i.e. Western Day), special event days, celebration days and Spring Individual Picture day. Parents / Guardians, who have a bona fide religious or philosophical objection, may submit a written petition to the campus principal. The SBDM Committee will approve or deny the petition.

New PTO Website Coming Soon

Be on the lookout later this summer for an email from the PTO unveiling our exciting new website which will help us transition to being entirely electronic (paperless) by serving as the one place to conduct all PTO business (submit forms, make payments, find the latest PTO news, etc.).

DICKINSON ELEMENTARY

By KRISTIN JOVEL

PTO Board Message: The summer months have flown by and we are ramping up for back to school. We have lots of fun and exciting activities planned for the kids this school year, many opportunities to get families involved, and ideas to continue making Dickinson Elementary the fantastic school it is! Kindergarten Orientation is Aug. 22 3:30pm-4pm in our Library and Meet & Greet the Teacher is August 22 4pm-5pm in the classrooms.

We will also have Spirit Wear on sale in the gym, so stop by and see us.

The first day of school is Monday August 28 with school starting at 7:30 am.

Kinder parents please come by the Library for a Boo-Hoo/ Woo-Hoo Breakfast from 7:30-8am. There will be light breakfast items and Kleenex. We look forward to seeing you all in the next few weeks!

Announcements

With the new school year, the PTO Board Members have changed. For the 2017-2018 school year, the following volunteers represent you!

- President- Corinne Pinter
- Vice President- Rachel Dickerson
- Secretary- Terri Brown
- Treasurer- Brandi Lucher
- Hospitality- Danika Holt
- Communications- Kristin Jovel

*We still need to fill the following Committee/Coordinator Spots and would love your help:

- Trunk or Treat Planning Committee, Box Tops Coordinator, Tag Sale
- Please email president@dickinsonpto.com if you are interested in any of our Committee/Coordinator spots or have any PTO related questions.

Stay Connected

Like/Follow us on Facebook @DickinsonElementaryPTO

Visit our website www.dickinsonpto.com

Dickinson Elementary School website <http://www.lcisd.org/campuses/dickinson/home>

2017-2018 Dickinson Elementary Calendar		
Dates	Events	
22-Aug	Kindergarten Orientation in school library	3:30-4:00 pm
22-Aug	Meet the Teacher	4:00-5:00 pm
28-Aug	First Day of School	7:30 am- 2:40 pm
28-Aug	Boo Hoo/ Woo Hoo Breakfast Kinder Parents	7:30-8:00 am
4-Sep	No School- Labor Day	
29-Sep	No School- Fort Bend Fair Day	



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“Practice Bee & Party with a Purpose”

Photos By **DIANA NGUYEN**

The Literacy Council of Fort Bend held its “Practice Bee & Party with a Purpose” at The Rouxpour in Sugar Land. The event allows participants to practice for the upcoming Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee and mix and mingle, and it kicks off the 8th Annual Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee at the Constellation Field in September.



From left, Kelsay Lake, Nilou Iken and Angela Parker



Jeff Tallas letting loose and having a good time.

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From left, Chitra Rao, Priya Rebba and Paula Rieger, who together make up the team called “The Wordsmiths.”

Continued on page 32

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Continued from page 30



From left, Cindy Picazo, Emily Rhodes, Tracee Tallas, Dana Loper.

YMCA Summer Outreach

Photos By *DIANA NGUYEN*

YMCA's Summer Outreach Program Theater Camp included a performance of "Chicken Big," a Noyes Fine Arts Foundation musical-theater production. The musical performance was part of the YMCA Summer Outreach Program's Theater Camp, partnered with ArtReach.



From left, YMCA T.W. Davis board members Ray Lehrmann, Andy Wolf and Darren McCarthy, Rosenberg City Council members Jacob Balderas and Jimmie Pena, were given posters handmade and signed by YMCA kid. The organization thanked the sponsors for their services, donations and support.

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From left, soon-to-be fourth-graders Jared Rodriguez, Pedro Salgado and Alessandro Garcia, laugh with their "Little Chicken" puppets.



Above Left: T.W. Davis YMCA kids surround actor Jayden Key — playing the character of “Chicken Big” — in the Noyes Fine Arts Foundation original musical-theater production of “Chicken Big.”

Above Right: YMCA Community Development Executive Jess Stuart, who played the character of Mr. Fox, acts out a chase scene with Books Alive! actor Jayden Key, who played the character of Chicken Big, in the musical performance of “Chicken Big” at Smith Elementary School.

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Oakbend Medical Center Receives Grant From Komen Houston For The Fort Bend County Breast Screening Project

Susan G. Komen® Houston has awarded a \$52,200 grant to OakBend Medical to provide breast cancer screening for low income women ages 40 and above in Fort Bend County.

At OakBend, the grant from Komen will support the Fort Bend County Breast Screening Project, an initiative to provide more than 250 women with screening mammograms. Partnering with AccessHealth to identify patients that qualify for the program, will help those women who could potentially go undiagnosed. Patients whose screenings return abnormal results will also receive diagnostic imaging services.

“The Fort Bend County Breast Screening Project will allow women to receive the screening and follow-up care that they need without having to travel to Sugar Land or further. Through this project, women can remain close to home and receive quality service from a local provider that they trust,” stated Sue McCarty, VP/Administrator of OakBend Medical Center.

Komen Houston is one of more than eighty local Affiliates of the world’s largest breast cancer organization, working in communities across the U.S. to meet the most critical needs. To help achieve Komen’s goal to reduce current breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in the U.S. by 2026, Komen Affiliates fund innovative breast health projects that provide vitally needed breast cancer screening, diagnostic and treatment services and support, including patient navigation,



Komen Houston executive director Emelda Douglas; OakBend Medical Center Development Director Alicen Swift; OakBend Medical Center Radiology Manager Mary Chambless and Komen Houston board president Debbie Scanlon

education, medical supplies and financial assistance.

“We conducted a needs assessment of our community to understand the breast cancer burden and unmet needs in the service area,” said Emelda Douglas, Komen Houston Executive Director. “We are confident that through the Fort Bend County Breast Screening Project, women who previously would not receive mammograms can now get the necessary testing to identify potentially undiagnosed breast cancer.”

Oakbend Medical Group Adds Interventional Cardiologist

OakBend Medical Group is pleased to announce the addition Dr. Vijaiganesh (VJ) Nagarajan. Born in South East India, Dr. Vijaiganesh Nagarajan is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Echocardiography and Nuclear Cardiology. Nagarajan’s primary specialty is Interventional Cardiology with a secondary specialty in Cardiology.

Known as Dr. VJ, he chose a career in medicine to alleviate suffering, spread basic medical knowledge to the community and to perform the minimally invasive treatments needed to treat cardiac conditions. His specialized procedures include Cardiac catheterization through the leg and the wrist to know about blocked heart arteries, balloon angioplasty and stent placement to treat heart artery obstruction, angiogram to look at blocked leg arteries and using laser atherectomy, balloons and stents to treat blockages in leg arteries.

Nagarajan received his medical degree from Thanjavur Medical College in India. His residency was at the Cook County Hospital in Chicago. He was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic from 2010 - 2013. His honors and awards include: American Heart Association Young Investigator Award, 2012; Mulholland Resident and Fellow Teaching Award, University of Virginia, 2016; Clinical Skills and Scholarship Award, Cook County Hospital, 2008 & 2010; Humanitarian Resident Award, Cook County Hospital, 2010; American College of Cardiology Virginia State Jeopardy Winner 2015; American College of Cardiology Texas State Jeopardy Runner 2016; Student Education and Teaching Award, RUSH University, 2009. Additionally, he is the author of more than 25 publications in reputed medical journals

and has presented more than 25 presentations at national and international conferences.

He lives with his wife, 4-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter and enjoys playing tennis, ping-pong and cricket. He speaks Tamil as well as English and loves spending time with his family.

Dr. Nagarajan is located at 1601 Main Street, Suite 502, Richmond, Texas 77469. If you’d like to meet the new doctor or need an appointment you can reach his office at 281-633-4925.



Dr. Nagarajan

Oakbend Medical Center's Certified Vestibular Therapists Help Patients Keep Their World From Spinning

Do you sometimes feel that you are on a carnival ride with your world going round and round? Do you get dizzy when you jump out of bed or stand up or turn around too quickly? At OakBend Medical Center's rehabilitation clinic, they frequently hear patients ask... "Do I have the Vertigo?" or the common complaint "Every time I move, my world is spinning and I can't stand up!" Does this sound familiar to you or someone you know? In some cases, just a few positional maneuvers can help "reset" your world upright again.

Many people have seen Alfred Hitchcock's movie Vertigo where Jimmy Stewart has difficulty running up the tower to save Kim Novak because his world is spinning out of control. Vertigo is an imbalance of a person's Equilibrium, specifically the Vestibular System. The Vestibular System is a person's internal compass, located in the inner ear that tells your head which way is up. Disturbances to the Vestibular System can linger for a few seconds or become chronic. Simple daily activities such as dressing, walking, or sitting up from bed can become terrifying due to the fear of having a vertigo spell. The fear of falling from dizziness can also become debilitating which may impact your quality of life or even rob you of your independence. Fortunately, in most cases this does not have to happen.

Many types of vertigo are treatable by Certified Vestibular Therapists. It may take several sessions or, in some cases, can be relieved in only one treatment. Receiving vestibular rehab therapy early has been shown to reduce the risk of recurrence, and significantly reduce the risk and fear of falling. OakBend Medical Center has two certified vestibular therapists, Mia Williams and Kristi Rice-Council. These therapists are trained to help patients discover how vertigo is affecting their lives and what can be done to treat the cause.

If you are having these types of experiences, don't delay. Speak with your doctor and explain your symptoms; he or she can write you a prescription for therapy for Vertigo/Dizziness. You don't have to live with certain types of dizziness and having treatment from Certified Vestibular Therapists can set your world upright again!



Mia Williams and Kristi Rice-Council

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