

## THE BEST ARE IN THE EAST — HISD EAST REGION SCHOOLS



The **Houston Independent School District's East Region** is made up of 43 schools throughout Houston's East Side. The East Region serves more than 32,000 students in Pre-K through grade 12. Students from across the Houston area travel to East Region schools to participate in innovative programs for engineering, oil industry technology, early college preparation, dual credit courses, gifted and talented, and Magnet programs. East Region schools offer challenging academic curricula that supports the college-bound culture of HISD.

### Second Annual Writing Exhibition

HISD's East Region, in collaboration with the University of Houston Downtown (UHD), held its second annual Student Writing Exhibition November 2-6, 2008. The exhibition, featuring writing samples of 120 student authors from all 43 East Region schools, was held at the UHD Commerce Building. The event culminated with an afternoon reception Thursday, November 6, 2008.



Student authors, their families, school staff members, and East Region Office personnel joined UHD Urban Education Department staff members and students to celebrate their work. The student authors were treated to tours of the UHD campus, and took photographs with Gator, the UHD mascot. Brief congratulatory remarks were made by Dr. Cohen, UHD Urban Education Department; Dr. Bedard, the UHD event sponsor; and East Region administrators.

Parents, staff members, students, and community members had the opportunity to view student work and displays along with feedback comments from UHD staff and students. Each author was honored with a medal and certificate of accomplishment for his participation in the event.

### Cesar Chavez High School Blood Drive

**Chavez High School** students and East End residents surpassed previous blood drive records, bringing in 258 donations at the Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center blood drive.

Every day, more than 900 donations are needed by the Regional Center to help treat patients in our area. With the help of The Blood Center's high

school initiative, *The Power of Life* program, participating high schools help meet this ongoing need.

While every donation is important, the largely Hispanic student body at **Chavez High School** helps the Blood Center meet a special need. More than half of all Hispanics have type-O blood, the blood type used for most emergencies; but less than 15 percent of the Blood Center's donor base is Hispanic. Blood donations are needed everyday to help a variety of patients. **Chavez** students are helping fill that need.



### “REACH-ing” Elementary Campuses

Students at **REACH Charter School** are learning that one small degree of change can make a huge difference! During the first nine weeks of school, under the tutelage of the *Coca Cola Valued Youth Program*, twenty-five **REACH** students completed a competitive selection and training process in preparation for tutoring students at nearby **Whittier** and **Port Houston Elementary** schools.



Every Monday through Thursday, **REACH** students provide targeted assistance to small groups of students who are struggling in mathematics and reading. Spanish-speaking tutors help students enrolled in bilingual programs acquire English language skills. This innovative program is mutually beneficial to the **REACH** students and to the students who are being tutored. While **REACH** students experience the satisfaction of helping a younger child master

educational concepts the elementary students improve in their skills and benefit from the association with older role models. Principals at the elementary campuses point out that the **REACH** tutors strengthen their instructional programs. Reid Whittaker, principal of **Port Houston Elementary** states: "I have seen some wonderful things occurring with our tutors."

Lori Lupetow, **Whittier Elementary**

principal noted: "I am beyond thrilled with this program! It is so exciting to watch the **REACH** students interact with our students. It is such a win-win program for everyone involved"



The dance studio shares space with a new fitness center. Physical education classes and sports team utilize the center. Equipment for the center was partially funded by the *Texas Fitness Now Grant* which fund programs designed to help fight childhood obesity.



### East Region Schools

Belfort Academy	Lantrip Elem.	Whittier Elem.
Bonner Elem.	Laurenzo ECC	Project Chrysalis
Briscoe Elem.	Lewis Elem.	Deady Middle
Burnet Elem.	Oates Elem.	Edison Middle
Cage Elem.	Park Place Elem.	Holland Middle
Carrillo Elem.	Patterson Elem.	Jackson Middle
Crespo Elem.	Pleasantville Elem.	Stevenson Middle
Dávila Elem.	Port Houston Elem.	Ortíz Middle
De Zavala Elem.	Robinson Elem.	Austin High
Franklin Elem.	Rucker Elem.	Chávez High
Gallegos Elem.	The Rusk School	Eastwood Academy
Harris, J. R. Elem.	Sánchez Elem.	East Early College
Harris, R. P. Elem.	Southmayd Elem.	Furr High / REACH
Henderson Elem.	Tijerina Elem.	Milby High

### Davila Banks on It

Thanks to a partnership with Amegy Bank of Texas students at **Jaime Davila Elementary School** are learning more about the value of a dollar, the importance of saving money, and the principles of earning interest. October 28<sup>th</sup> marked the grand opening of a new "branch" of Amegy Bank located at **Davila Elementary**. The branch is part of Amegy's "Bank at School" program. The bank is open every other Friday and is staffed by students with support from Amegy's Lawndale branch.



Bank personnel help teach basic financial lessons to **Davila** students on a bimonthly basis. Amegy staff mentor students, sponsor the school's academic bowl and assist with field trips. With help from the Amegy Bank

**Davila** students are banking on a brighter future.



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Thelma Garza, East Region Superintendent

### Dancing with the Stars at Holland

**Holland Middle School** students are excited about the opening of their new dance studio. The studio is used for elective classes and extra curricular activities. During class students learn hip hop, jazz, ballet, and Latin dance. After school, cheerleaders and dance team members prepare for upcoming performances.



It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, or political affiliation in its educational or employment programs and activities.