

Left – Art by Martel Award winner Valeria Gonzales  
Right - Jennifer Gerken, Lauren Hodges, Emma Lozano & Isabella Mao performing “Broken Mirror” choreographed by Olivia Courvelle

## PTO President’s Message

Dear Families and Friends,

It is hard to believe that the end of the 2018-2019 academic year is close upon us. Our students, faculty and staff continue to settle in to our beautiful new school, making it come alive with their presence and creativity in myriad art and academic forms, as our PTO continues to promote and support such endeavors through programming, funding, services and volunteerism. Following, and throughout this newsletter, are highlights of this year’s HSPVA PTO contributions towards the fabric of our school.

The Parents of Black History-Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PBH-CD&I) Committee was instrumental in providing mentoring, volunteering, programing and financial support for Koffee House – Celebrating Black History, and *Fela!* - Celebrating 30 years of Black History Productions All-School Musical. More inside this Newsletter on how parents and alumni partnered with local businesses and companies to support our students’ productions.

The PTO continues to support, through volunteerism and funding, the school’s Diversity Series with its Women’s History Celebration held March 20<sup>th</sup> and the Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration happening April 23<sup>rd</sup> – a celebration you will not want to miss! Last Fall, the PTO brought the Career Forum Luncheon, where HSPVA parents discussed their career development and profession with our students. We Intend to make it an annual event.

In addition, we are planning further community building events so HSPVA families in the same city area can get to know each other and perhaps carpool or have back-up transportation plans. I know as a parent I frequently relied on other neighborhood HSPVA families for school related activities, and we want to facilitate similar support networks among all parents.

To show our deep gratitude towards our dedicated and outstanding teachers and staff, the Teacher Appreciation Committee treated them to one of their favorite things – java! Details about March Coffee Madness and an April barista coffee bar inside. The committee will end the year with a catered luncheon on the last day of school, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The PTO partnered with JustFundItTX! in order to promote student knowledge of and advocacy for state school funding reform. Students were encouraged to write postcards to state legislators describing what they love about HSPVA and encourage passing of sound school funding reform. Students learned about the process of creating policy, writing and passing legislation, and how it directly affects their public education.

This year, the HSPVA PTO expects to donate **\$97,000 in school gifts for 2018-2019**. To date, the HSPVA PTO has provided \$42,000 in funding (\$33,000 pledged from last year’s budget) for capital and programing expenses not covered by HISD. It is the PTO’s intention to provide an additional \$55,000 in funding this academic year as academic, artistic, and structural needs are identified. PTO’s fundraising primarily comes from membership contributions, matching grants, school supplies, spirit wear sales, and the daily functioning of the schoolstore.

PTO President's Message Continued from pg. 1 –

The PTO School Store continues to provide food items and school supplies for purchase during the school day, and spirit wear in Pop-Up Shops during performances and school events, such as Signing Day and First Scoop. The School Store is powered by a dedicated group of 75+ parents who organize, purchase, stock, and work the store before/after school and during lunch. Students and parents appreciate the service and convenience of the store, and in return PTO generates 50% of our fundraising – 98% of which goes back directly in gifts and grants to HSPVA, with the other 2% going towards operational costs. A large part of the store's fundraising effort is making available school supplies and books, so please don't forget to order your 2019-2020 school supplies from the School Store! How-to inside this Newsletter.

The success of HSPVA PTO's School Store, fundraising and programming could not happen without the time commitment and dedication of this year's **300+ PTO volunteers**. We have AMAZING volunteers! Please join the PTO as we recognize and thank all our volunteers at our Pie & Punch reception Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Commons. This will also be our last General PTO Meeting of the year, where the general membership will vote on the 2019-2020 HSPVA PTO Executive Board Slate. Please join us for this important event!

A special thank you to our outgoing board members: Mignonne Anderson, VP Engagement (2018-2019) and Immediate Past-President (2016-2018), and Dena Linda (VP Membership 2017-2019), whose many contributions in various capacities towards PTO and HSPVA are numerous and highlighted inside this issue. Thank you both for your years of service!

It has been an honor to serve as HSPVA PTO President this year. A heartfelt thank you to the HSPVA community for making this a fantastic year.

Maria J. Gomez, Kinder HSPVA PTO President

## WHAT DOES PTO DO FOR OUR STUDENTS AND SCHOOL?

- Run SCHOOL STORE -Our main fundraiser along with Membership
- Teacher Appreciation Activities throughout the year
- Produce School Wide Newsletter-Stay in the Know
- Parents of Black History-Cultural Diversity & Inclusion Committee Support Black History All-School Spring Musical, Koffee House, Awards Scholarships
- Produce School Directory -Online information at your fingertips
- Programming -Be part of it! Career Forum Lunch, Arts Panel, Support Diversity Series
- Fundraising for ACADEMIC and ART areas, as well as SCHOOL WIDE programs

**In 2018-19 HSPVA PTO will fund \$97,000.00 for:**

### School Wide -

Parking safety and security \* Storage, furniture and refrigeration \* Display boards throughout building \* Performance hall, theatre, and studio technical equipment \* Student Awards \* End of Year Gifts for Support Staff (bus drivers, custodians, food service workers)

### Curriculum & Instruction -

Subscriptions to news publications \* Academic software \* Science lab equipment \* Classroom supplies

### Technology, Equipment & Consultants for Art and Academic areas -

Visual Arts production equipment \* Viola, bow, case \* Theatre welding helmets\* Dance costumes \* Consultants \* Creative writing web tutor

# Math

On Saturday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to noon, the Math Department offered an SAT math review for junior students. Ms. Suarez, Ms. Nguyen, Mr. McCommis from the Math Department, and Ms. Saunders from the Science Department led four 50-minute sessions which focused on the Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Passport to Advanced Math, and Additional Topics in Math. The department has hosted this math review in April for the last several years, and we give a special thank you to Ms. Coffey and Mr. Landry for helping to organize the event.

We were happy to see 75 students at the event, and at the end of the morning, the students enjoyed pizza. In addition, students were happy to give their feedback of the event. Here are some words from our students:

- Grace Harrison: "It was helpful to brush up on math topics I had not seen in a while."
- Brandon Lazard: "Having the workshop three weeks in advance of the SAT helped give me time to identify and work on the topics I need the most help on."
- Madeline Nguyen: "It was a very efficient way to cover all of the different math topics. Having it focus on just SAT topics also helped me know exactly what to work on."
- Chloe Shupe: "It gave me more confidence that I did not forget as much math as I thought."
- Grace Evans: "It was a good refresher on Geometry and Algebra 2."
- Oliva Courvelle: "I wish I could have gone! It sounded like a great event."
- Josie Nunn: "It helped me see how to categorize each problem more effectively"
- Illeana Dragoi: "I feel a lot better after seeing problems solved by teachers."
- Alexandra Maynard: "The SAT practice really helped me. I think being thrust into all of the old information persuaded me to study."
- Andres Martinez: "It was a good review and helped me know what I need to study more."
- Gina Matos – "It was challenging, but I learned what I needed to prepare for on the SAT."
- Mogi Taylor – "It was the best time of my life. No joke."
- Zeta Zain – "Finally, my Saturday was productive."

Probably the best way to improve in math is to continue to review over the summer and avoid the "summer slide." Khan Academy is a great resource to keep your skills sharp. We look forward to seeing students return in the Fall!

Kinder HSPVA Math Department

# Diversity Series



**VenUS** took place on March 27<sup>th</sup> in the Studio Theatre. VenUS was the first event celebrating women and women's history and the 4<sup>th</sup> overall Diversity Series event of the year. The program featured performances from all six art areas that were designed to empower, unite, and celebrate women. 100% of this year's proceeds benefitted the Houston Area Women's Shelter, the charity selected by the students. All students involved are excited to see how this event evolves and grows in the years to come!

The final Diversity Series Event of the 2018-2019 School Year took place on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>; **790 Night Market**, celebrated Asian and Asian American culture and Heritage.

## Social Studies

We are in review mode for all our Advanced Placement classes! We have students taking a total of 435 AP tests this year spread out over AP European History, AP Macroeconomics, AP Psychology, AP US Government, AP US History, and AP World History. Also, Ms. Manchac is preparing her students for the US History STAAR End of Course exam.

In addition, several of our “humanities/social studies” extracurricular opportunities have had great semesters. First, the Kinder HSPVA Rho Kappa Honor Society was chartered and approved. Rho Kappa is managed by the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) and is a well-respected honor society at the collegiate level. We look forward to growing this honor society with students who have exhibited interest in history, economics, and other social sciences.

In January, our Ethics Bowl team won the Houston Ethics Bowl at Rice University and then went on to win the Texas Regional Bowl. This qualified them for the National High School Ethics Bowl hosted by the Parr Center for Ethics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where they competed for the first time. They did a fantastic job, coming in 13<sup>th</sup> overall against mostly private school teams (who have entire classes devoted to philosophy).

Our Junior State of America chapter attended the Texas Spring State Convention to debate and discuss current issues in politics with students from across Texas. Arielle Ollagnon received an Honorable Mention from the Houston Bar Association for her essay regarding the first amendment, which she wrote as a requirement of Rho Kappa membership.

And finally, a project that began as a requirement for Mr. Krueger-Miller’s AP US Government class was up-cycled and presented at HISD’s Together With Tech conference. Eliza Pillsbury and Mad Chase won third place for Digital Media with their website, [OutOfTheCourtroom.weebly.com](http://OutOfTheCourtroom.weebly.com), a social action project to advocate for victims of sexual assault.



Mad Chase and Eliza Pillsbury



Kinder HSPVA Ethics Bowl Team at UNC Chapel Hill Amanda Reid, Ella Bernstein, Lauren Dotson, Izzy Mueller, Vera Caldwell, Marin Hart, Deena Fahed.

## Dance

HSPVA Concert Dancers traveled to Norfolk, Virginia March 21 – 24<sup>th</sup> to attend and perform at the Regional High School Dance Festival hosted by the Governor’s School of the Arts. Our fourteen dancers performed *Where the Birds Go to Die* choreographed by HSPVA Dance Alum Zachary Tang and *I Thought it Was Just Me*, choreographed by HSPVA Dance Alum and current Dance Faculty member, Courtney D. Jones. Nel Klimas a 2019 Senior Dance Major also presented her work *Hymn 223* in the Student Choreography Showcase and received Honorable Mention for her work and monetary award.



We have started our Dance Photography Course for twelve selected AM dancers taught by Talya Arbisser our Dance Photography teacher. They are exploring the workings of a camera using manual settings, digital photography, portraits, lighting, projections and dance action shots. They have spent many hours shooting, editing and improving their photography skills in and out of the dance studio and later in May will have their own gallery showing in the dance wing.

Our next big collaboration is with the Houston Symphony, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We are dancing in their student matinee series “Once Upon a Time”, performances at 10 am and 11:30 am at Jones Hall.

Lastly, rounding out our 2018-2019 Dance Season is our Senior Dance Recital, featuring 2019 Senior dance choreographers, Thursday, May 2nd at 4:00 pm and the Dance Showcase I & II, Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 pm, featuring our Level I & II dance majors in the Denney Theatre. All are welcome and we hope to see you in the audience.

The Kinder HSPVA Newsletter is published three times a year by the PTO, e-mailed to parents, faculty and staff, and posted on the school’s website. Printed copies can be found in the school’s lobby. To submit articles please email them to the newsletter co-editors, Irmi Willcockson and Barbara Haverkamp at [ptonewspva@gmail.com](mailto:ptonewspva@gmail.com).

Kinder HSPVA is located at 790 Austin St., Houston, TX 77002.

Join HSPVA PTO for 2019-2020 by going to:

<https://hspvpto.wufoo.com/forms/kinder-hspva-pto-membership-20192020/>

You will be able to buy a PTO Membership with your School Supplies as well.

# Science

Students at Kinder HSPVA have always had the challenge to find ways to merge their artistic self with academic requirements. The science teachers at a magnet art school have a special challenge, that of relating abstract content to students who struggle to find value in a subject seemingly so unrelated to their artistic pursuits. Each subject in science has its ties to art, though.

Biology and Anatomy, as the study of life and structure, can feed the imagination of an artist, enhancing their understanding of how the world functions, interacts, and grows.

Chemistry can help students increase the understanding of how materials differ at an atomic level, how chemical reactions change properties of those same materials, and the connection to materials they use in their art areas.

Physics relates to all arts as the study of the physical world and how interactions occur. From how sculptures are balanced, the motion of dancers, to sound waves of vocalists and instrumentalists, physics is present in everything our students do in life and art.

The importance of science education for artists will carry on throughout their lives and careers, helping them in their daily life but also in their art, creating new careers where the two can merge and coexist. Artists are currently helping science by using the natural world to create better designed technology, bringing issues of sustainability into the public eye, and helping to create realistic solutions which appeal to populations. The education of our students in both arts and academics has been important for alumni and will continue to be valuable as students continue to learn.

Rebecca Saunders

Academic Chemistry and Physics Teacher



Join **HSPVA PTO Alumni Network**, via this

link <https://hspvpto.wufoo.com/forms/w6grlcq16w6xd8/>

For the "Alumni HAPPENING" on **Sunday, June 9, 2019**, use these Eventbrite links:

Performer / Art submission form -

<https://forms.gle/vVCNCRpvPPhQ5YsQA>

Tickets - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hspva-ptο-alumni-network-happening-tickets-59385629015?ref=eios>

***Hope to see you all there!!!***

## Principal's Message

### A Letter from Dr. A.

April 16, 2019

PVA Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the spring weather! Not sure how long it will last, but things are sunny and close to perfect outside for now.

As we enter the home stretch, I want to take time to recognize the outstanding individuals who are retiring or leaving us this year:

- Patricia Bonner is retiring this year. She came to HSPVA in 1973 (HISD in 1968) and is the only teacher to have taught on all three campuses of HSPVA. She is HSPVA and while I know Ms. Bonner won't disappear, she will be missed after all these years. Special retirement events are planned for May 11<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for details!
- Virginia Ballard is retiring for a *second* time. Ms. Ballard came to HSPVA in 1991. She retired and continued part time in 2004. Ms. Ballard is an icon at HSPVA, and she truly will be missed.
- Nurse Penny Strauss will be leaving us after two years at HSPVA. Dr. Strauss will be relocating out of state.
- Nicole DiLuglio has decided to make a new start and will be leaving us to join the faculty at Sharpstown International High School. Mrs. DiLuglio joined the HSPVA faculty in 2012.
- James Taylor is leaving PVA to head to law school. He joined the English Department this year.

Each of these individuals has touched the lives of all who have had the honor of knowing and working with them. As they leave HSPVA this year, I hope each of these educators begin this new chapter of their lives knowing we appreciate the years of service they have given to HSPVA and our students!

These last few weeks of school are full of exciting events and performances in *every* department. We will drop the curtain on another magical year after our unique performance-based graduation on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Jones Hall for the Performing Arts at 7:00 pm. I hope you will plan on being a part of the excitement that *is* Kinder HSPVA!

Thank you for the role *you* have played in making the 2018-2019 year an outstanding one! It was full of excitement with the relocation. Thanks for your patience and flexibility as we made the move downtown. The tradition of excellence at HSPVA is important and remains the priority for our entire staff. As principal, I continue to enjoy our partnership in honoring that tradition and working to make our academic *and* art programs even more successful.

Have a good remainder of the year and thanks again for your support!

Sincerely,

R. Scott Allen, Ed.D. Principal

**Magnet Stats** This year our Magnet Program had more than 1,300 applications and over 1,600 auditions (including video auditions, live auditions and callbacks). We expect to welcome about 205 new students next year!

# Instrumental

## Band

The HSPVA Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band had excellent performances in the Waltrip High School Concert Band Festival on March 5 to help promote our program across the district and get some valuable performing experience. We've enjoyed many fine Senior Recitals and there are but a few left.

The Wind Ensemble got to work with Nebal Maysaud live over Skype in April in preparation for our performance of his piece "On the Mountains of Orphalese..." on our Spring Concert. The Spring Concert was on April 25.

In early April Jazz combo and wind chamber groups performed at lunch at our new neighborhood park, Discovery Green, next to the beautiful pinwheels. Later in April and in early May, strings and Mariachi get their turn. The final Mariachi Concert will be on May 15.

Both Band and Orchestra have enjoyed several masterclasses from Houston Symphony members this semester. They are a valuable partner and the students benefit greatly from close contact with them.

Please join us at any of the remaining performances.

Stephen Crawford

## Piano

### Long Distance Piano Master Class, March 25

Yamaha Artist and distinguished international Jazz and Classical pianist Giorgi Mikadze gave the HSPVA Classical Piano Department a long-distance remote piano master class from New York City using the Disklavier Yamaha technology allowing two pianos to be synced online, the first of its kind in the new campus, and the first one of many more classes. Classical pianist Mei Dickinson and Jazz pianist Ricky Kirk were the featured student performers. The master class was artistically insightful and technologically impressive, as the input on either end (Houston or New York) was transmitted instantaneously to the delight of everyone present.

Through this technology student can do all the following:

- Receive remote lessons from a teacher anywhere in the world
- Apply to schools of music that are part of the Yamaha Education Network without leaving home
- Record piano accompaniment parts so that rehearsals can happen even if a live pianist is not present
- Play "live" performances of distinguished pianists acoustically through the piano (using the Disklavier App), as though the artist was there in real life
- Record and deconstruct performances for performance analysis and assessment (like slowing down pieces to 25 percent tempo to listen to details)
- Create color-synced videos with soundtrack (through Apps)

### April 24: 2017 Van Cliburn Gold Medalist Winner master class

On Wednesday April 24, Yekwon Sunwoo visited HSPVA for a master class with the Classical piano department. Mr. Sunwoo was the Gold Medalist at the 2017 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, the largest and best-known competition in the music world. Ariel Workeneh, Everett Adkins, and Magen Zeng will be the student performers. This event is made possible through our collaboration with the Society for the Performing and Visual Arts.

### Saturday May 4: Houston ISD Fine Arts Extravaganza at the Miller Outdoor Theater

The Fine Arts HISD department will be featuring three Classical pianists in its annual Fine Arts Extravaganza at the Miler Outdoor Theater on Saturday May 4. Pianists Everett Adkins, Alice Tian, and Santiago Pena will be the student piano performers. This event will be showcasing the best fine arts our district has to offer, and we are proud of our student performers representing our school.

Rodolfo Morales, Director of Piano Studies



### String

- Many guest artists visited during the first three months at the new campus.
- Two string quartets won notable recognition in the Coltman Chamber Music Competition. Quartet d'Avril (Carson Howell, Katie Butler, Matthieu Girardet, Victoria Lin) advanced to the final round, the Juniper Quartet (Sofia Puccio, Angela Goodearl, Lia Stallmann, Alexandra Maynard) was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Junior Strings/Piano division.



### Jazz

HSPVA had three students selected to participate in the 2019 NEA/ Herbie Hancock Institute National Performing Arts Peer-to-Peer Sextet Tours. Drummer Nino Aiyer participated in a week-long performance tour with saxophone great Steve Wilson in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Pianist Tyler Henderson and saxophonist Sasha Ripley will participate in the next Hancock Institute tour. Guest artist with the group will be trumpet great Sean Jones.

The week of our Spring Jazz Festival was indeed a busy one. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Lawrence University jazz faculty worked with our two "official" jazz combos. Also, on Tuesday, with the help of Ernest Walker, General Manager of KTSU FM, we hosted a visit by the prestigious Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. Other schools in attendance included Parker ES, Meyerland MS, Westbury HS, Willowridge HS, and Thurgood Marshall HS, as well as students from Texas Southern University. On Friday, drummer extraordinaire Mark Guiliana gave a masterclass to our 3rd Period Rhythm section Class. **Thank you, Da Camera of Houston, for sponsoring his visit!** And finally, on Friday and Saturday, the HSPVA Jazz Program made its official debut in the new Denney Theatre with the 43rd Annual Spring Jazz Festival with Guest Artist saxophonist Greg Fishman. The event featured our two large ensembles and two small groups.

The following week HSPVA Jazz Ensemble I participated in the Bill Watrous - SHSU Jazz Festival held Friday, March 29 in Huntsville. On March 30th, the same group participated in the very first Texas Regional Essentially Ellington Festival held at Texas Southern University. Winning All-Star Awards at both events were pianist Tyler Henderson, vocalist/woodwinds Kate Kortum, and saxophonist Sasha Ripley. In addition, alto saxophonist Mogi Taylor received an All-Star Award at the Ellington Festival. And finally... The entire saxophone section received kudos from all the judges for their performance of the Woody Herman classic, "Four Brothers!"

## Thank You, Mignonne Anderson & Dena Linda

A big THANK YOU and SHOUT OUT to Mignonne Anderson, mother of Calie Holley ('18 Theatre) and outgoing board member, for ALL her contributions to PTO and HSPVA over the last five years. Mignonne has been an integral part of our parent-teacher organization through her leadership, program development, fundraising and mentoring. Mignonne has held various leadership positions in PTO. As Parents of Black History - Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PBH-CD&I) Committee Chair (2015-2016), Mignonne used her program development experience and organizational and fundraising talents to grow parent volunteerism, student participation, and ensure that PBH-CD&I had a solid financial foundation to provide crucial support for and insure the success of Black History Productions and Koffee House. As an example of her program development, this year PBH-CD&I is awarding summer and college scholarships to student participants of Black History Productions and Koffee House. As PTO President for two years (2016-2018), Mignonne led the growth of the organization, increased parent participation, collaborated with the administration to develop the Diversity Series, all the while



still being highly involved with PBH-CD&I and the Theatre Guild (2014-2018). This year, as VP Engagement (2018-2019), Mignonne continued her work with PBH-CD&I, but now as consultant and mentor, overseeing the Fall Arts Panel, and working with Denise Ward ('12 Vocal) to create the Black Alumni Network and the HSPVA Alumni Network -- organizations whose aim is to mentor and provide artistic opportunities for current students. This does not include all the work she has done behind the scenes volunteering in PBH-CD&I (securing donations for and working the pre/post events), the Theatre Department (chaperone to Nebraska Theatre Auditions, Middle School Workshop), Diversity Series (during the first year of the Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Mignonne secured catering for 300 the day before the event and served the day of; this year she volunteered again); and this is not a comprehensive list! On a personal note, I want to thank Mignonne for being such a wonderful mentor and role model while I was President-Elect (2017-2018). THANK YOU Mignonne, for everything you have given HSPVA!

When Dena Linda arrived at HSPVA in 2012 as the parent of Sam ('16 Theatre) she got involved right away. First, as the PTO Beautification Chair (2012-2013), where she planned and implemented improved landscaping of 4001 Stanford Street. As with many parents, she simultaneously got involved in her son's art guild and ran the Middle School Theatre Workshop for two years (2013-2015) and was PTO School Store Treasurer (2014-2015). With another child at HSPVA, Freddi ('19 Dance), Dena increased her involvement and began to volunteer with HSPVA Friends and ran the Dance Department box office for three years (2015-2018), adding Friends Luncheon host to her generous involvement in 2016-2017. For the last two years (2017-2019) Dena has been PTO's Vice President of Membership. Under her leadership, the PTO's membership funding increased by 36%, added membership level rewards -- such as spirit wear, all-school musical tickets, and a reception with Dr. Allen -- and implemented an online system to ease parent membership participation. These volunteer positions do not include the numerous behind-the-scene jobs Dena has done for HSPVA PTO and Friends over seven years of service. Dena's enthusiasm and belief in the school's mission is contagious. As Dena and her senior graduate, we want to say, "THANK YOU, Dena, for all your service and contributions to HSPVA!"



Maria J. Gomez, HSPVA PTO President

# Vocal

There will be a concert for the student body and a few invited middle schools on May 10 at 4:30 pm.

The Vocal Pop Concerts will be Saturday, May 11, at 2:00 and 6:00. They will feature the Young Performers and Madrigals performing some of Ms. Bonner's favorites from the past years. These will be Ms. Bonner's retirement concerts. All concerts will be in the beautiful new Denney Theatre. Watch for Details.

The Kinder HSPVA Madrigal Singers received a superior rating and an outstanding performance recognition at the Madrigal and Chamber Choir Festival in Richardson, TX, on March 9th. Their coach in the clinic session of the festival was Dr. Craig Jessup, conductor emeritus of the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

The Kinder HSPVA choirs were very successful at the University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading Contests. The non-varsity Concert Singers, Bella Voce and Tenor-Bass choirs all received sweepstakes awards at their contests on March 26 and 27 at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Katy. The varsity Chorale, Women's Choir and Men's Choir also received sweepstakes awards at their contest on April 3 and 4 at Westbury Baptist Church. This is the first time HSPVA has been represented by three varsity choirs. Congratulations to the singers and to their directors, Ms. Hall and Mr. Carter.

The HSPVA Chorale presented the Honor Choir Concert at the American Classic: A Celebration of Excellence Choral Festival at South Main Baptist Church, Tuesday evening, April 23.

Senior Ulysses Chevez was surprised in class when he was awarded a \$1000 scholarship by Wingstop and Telemundo TV. The day before, Ulysses had received notice that he had been accepted to Brown University.

Senior Matilda Smolji was a finalist in the new German Music and Language Scholarship Competition for high school seniors sponsored by the Houston Saengerbund, the oldest musical association in Houston. In addition to winning \$500 for placing as a finalist, she also was selected to receive an additional \$500 finalist award from the Houston Bach Society.

On Friday, March 22, the Trinity University Concert Choir visited HSPVA and presented a concert for the vocal music department. In the choir were four HSPVA vocal department alums: Basilos Desta, Sara Hadsell, Mariana Rodriguez and Kiana Saidi. All four appeared in the university's production of the opera *Dido and Aeneas*. The production was April 12 and 13.



## Kinder HSPVA Wins 2019 Landmark Award

The new Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts building was named the winner of the Houston Business Journal 2019 Landmark Award the week of April 7th.

The annual award program recognizes impressive real estate projects that make a significant impression on the Houston landscape and help sculpt the look, feel, and image of the city.

Excerpted from <https://blogs.houstonisd.org/news/2019/04/16/kinder-hspva-wins-2019-landmark-award/>

## Disconnect to Connect

A Student Council Event

On Tuesday, April 2nd, HSPVA students were encouraged to NOT use their phones during the school day by Student Council. According to promotional information (a letter emailed to parents by Dr. Allen), Student Council members, in order “to create activities and opportunities that will better our PVA community”, concluded that “one of the biggest problems that we have to learn to deal with is technology, specifically phone usage..... As a society, we have slowly become disengaged from both our peers and the present.”

The Disconnect to Connect event was designed to help PVA students “become more engaged and create stronger connections.” On April 2nd, students started the day in Advocacy where they listed their phones and placed their phones in a bin. The bin was placed in a secure location. The normal school day resumed. Just before the end of the day, students retrieved their phones and were given wristbands marking their participation. Student Council provided free pizza to participants.

Student Council sponsor Miguel Angel Alarcón said, “this dream came true because of the effort of every member and the valuable ideas of Mr. Landry.”

It is generally accepted that Millenials and Gen-Zs (currently HS-age) spend way too much time glued to their cellphones. This was a marvelous exercise in bringing human connections back into focus. Thank you, Student Council, for organizing and executing this event.

## PTO SCHOOL SUPPLY SALE

**Starting a new school can be complicated. At Kinder HSPVA, school supplies don't need to be.**

**Be on the lookout this May for a special email from our PTO School Store, a chance to pre-order school supplies for the 2019-2020 school year *online*. No standing in lines! Save time!**

**A link will be sent to parents. They will be able to choose a school supplies package and pay the bill online. Supplies will be ready for pick up at registration in August.**

**Simple! Easy! Efficient!**

# Theatre

## UIL Theatrical Design

Congratulations to the following students who advanced to State this year.

### Individual

Jordan Sheldon- Scenic Design    Cassie Barham- Make-Up Design    Gabe Barron- Costume Design  
Corinna Snow- Marketing/Publicity    Savanna Menzel- Costume Design

### Team Design

Peyton May- Make-Up Design    Lilli Lemberger- Scenic Design  
Alyssa Rivera- Marketing/Publicity    Christa Eagleton- Costume Design

The competition was held in Austin on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Round Rock Performing Art Center.  
Kinder HSPVA Theatre is the 2017-2018 defending State Champion.

### Please join us for:

Lower Level Showcases- April 22-24 @ 6:00- Studio Theatre

*Compleat Female Stage Beauty*    *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*  
*(Anon)ymous*    *A Grand Night for Singing*

*The Crucible* -May 1-4 @ 7:00 and 2:00 (on Saturday)- The Black Box Theatre

*The Wolves* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*- May 8-11 @ 6:00 and Sat at 2:00- The Studio Theatre

# FELA! Cast Party hosted at Kulture

Members of the band, cast and crew of KHSPVA's 2019 All-School Black History Production, *Fela!*, enjoyed a Cast Party hosted by PTO Parents of Black History Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee at KULTURE restaurant.

**Kulture**, dubbed "an urban komfort kitchen," the restaurant explores food, spirits, art and music through cultural contributions of the African diaspora, including Caribbean and Southern items, in a casually-elevated, yet comfortable dining atmosphere.

Many KHSPVA alums and students have performed live on Friday and Saturday nights at **Kulture**.

Go and enjoy delicacies featured at KULTURE and say thanks to owner, Marcus Davis, for his ongoing support of KHSPVA artists and programs.



701 AVENIDA DE LAS AMERICAS, HOUSTON, TX 77010 • PHONE: 713-357-9697  
LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF RUSK AND AVENIDA DE LAS AMERICAS

## Visual Arts

We love the new art gallery. The seniors have displayed amazing shows this year in our new space. The Junior Scholarship Show was also a highlight of the year by filling the gallery from floor to ceiling. A handful of juniors win scholarship money distributed by HSPVA Friends and the Watercolor Arts Society of Houston. This money assists students to attend summer art programs throughout the nation. Part of this process also awards HSPVA designated spots to attend Stamps School of Art, Otis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and Glassell Adult classes.

Many of our current and former students have work in the show *Shapeshifters* at the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston. Their work will be up through June 16<sup>th</sup>. Around the corner, the Jung Center hosts an annual summer exhibit of our students' work. This is organized by the Art Guild.

Valerie Gonzalez is this year's winner of the Martel Award, provided through the Contemporary Arts Museum. Her work is on display at its website.

There was a blood drive on April 17<sup>th</sup> in honor of Eileen Montgomery. She has leukemia and the school has stepped up to support her cause. If you would like to donate, please go to MD Anderson and tell them that you are giving in her name. Ms. Montgomery is the former chair of the Art Department. She has been an integral part of forming the cutting-edge curriculum and structure of this department. She was a leader in planning this new building. Thank you, Ms. Montgomery, for your dedication to the arts and educating young creators for many years. We are truly lucky to have your guidance.

This marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year that Sharon Dennard has been a consultant for the Art Department. Sharon has been an important mentor to students throughout the years. She provides her expertise as well as love and structure to the students. Congratulations to our consultant Alex Goss! He will be moving onto another phase of his life as he goes onto graduate school.

Thank you to our guest artists from our local art scene. They have provided feedback, critiques and advice to our students. We were fortunate to host alumni such as Patrick Renner, Lisa Harris and Jamal Cyrus this year in addition to many other successful artists.

Lastly, the freshmen have been working on a few collaborative projects. This includes accordion books illustrating the Creative Writer's work and paintings that will be on display in the courtrooms.

Hugh Waddell

## Koffee House



THANKS to our student artists, parents, supporters and sponsors, especially **Throughgood Coffee** and **Royal Cup**, the 12th Annual Koffee House was a huge success! The organizers, HSPVA Black Student Union and HSPVA PTO Parents of Black History Cultural Diversity and Inclusion (PBH-CD&I) committee are truly grateful to all who purchased tickets, donated items and money to benefit the selected charity, Project Row Houses, and our minority scholarship fund.

## Tribute to Ms. Bonner

There will be many tributes to Ms. Bonner as she retires at the end of this school year. For the PTO newsletter, we decided to highlight remembrances from her alumni who chose to send their children to HSPVA. Here are some of their thoughts.

### How did Ms. Bonner influence your life/career?

"Ms. Bonner taught me professionalism. Regardless of the genre of music you are performing, professionalism is so very, very important. It's the difference between music being a hobby and musicianship. She also taught me how to use my voice properly through vocal technique. She really cares about her students and that care and concern has helped many a time throughout my life. I cannot tell you how wonderful it makes us feel that, no matter when we graduated, she still remembers each and every one of her students. When I graduated PVA, I didn't keep in contact with anyone there, but on the opening night of Beehive at the Alley, flowers were waiting for me backstage. From Ms. Bonner! "- Kathy Crumpler, '85

"Ms. Bonner is a pillar of persistence and determination. She influenced me by demanding I present myself in a way that shows my integrity and grit. Everything from posture to who I speak to and how I speak to them gives a very clear message about who I am. I think fondly on times when she would expect more from me than I was delivering. I wanted to please her, not just for a good grade but I knew if I passed her "muster" I was on the right track. "- Georgia Lister, '86

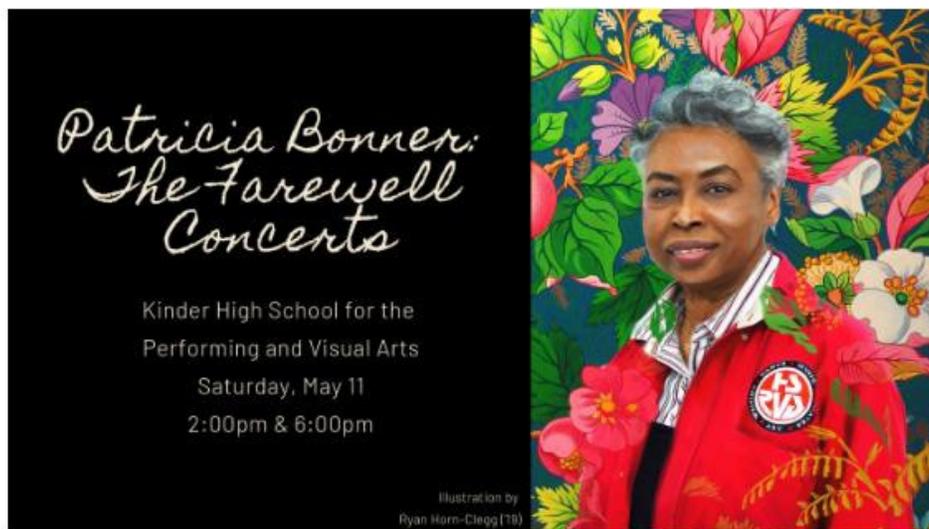
### Any memories/anecdotes you'd like to share about Ms. Bonner?

"I don't think Ms. Bonner was ever absent, unless she was taking kids on a trip related to school. I remember she was ALWAYS there... everywhere I turned, there she was. And walking through the school now, I swear, she is still ALWAYS there, wherever I turn. I don't know how she does it!! - Georgia Lister

"I remember to this day the following:

Don't chew gum!

Watch my vibrato: "That's a vibrato I could throw a cat through!" - Kathy Crumpler



For tickets, please visit HSPVA Friends

## Creative Writing

The Creative Writing Department hosted its first “Expo” on April 25. It opened at 6:30 p.m. with **Off the Page**, a reading of new works, and ran through April 26 in the Multipurpose Room. Included in the Expo were examples of student work that included photography, collage, film, and sound explorations in addition to work the students do on the printed page. If you didn’t make it to that event, we hope you will join us at the **Fish Fry**, our freshmens’ first public reading, on May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre.

In addition to these performances, we are looking forward to welcoming several guests in May. **Laura Spector** will work with the writers teaching them how to pair their words with basic illustrations. **Kate Schmidt** will lead the students through the creation of a simple book - from the writing to the binding. All of this coming off the heels of workshops that included graphic novels, spoken word, and the art of conversation.

Exciting things happening in the Creating Writing Department as the school year rushes to a close!

Judith Switek

### HSPVA PTO Pie & Punch Reception

May 13 at 7 p.m.

The Commons

Please join the PTO as we recognize and thank all our volunteers at our Pie & Punch reception in the Commons. This will also be our last General PTO Meeting of the year, where the general membership will vote on the 2019-2020 HSPVA PTO Executive Board Slate. Please join us for this important event!

## PBH - CD & I Scholarships



The Parents of Black History-Cultural Diversity & Inclusion 2018-2019 scholarship recipients are:

**College/University**  
\$1000 - Piper Hudson

**Summer Intensive/Program**  
\$500 - Joshua Garvin  
\$500 - Jacquelyn (Jackie) Simmons

Congratulations Students!