

# "The Monthly Energizer"

EARLY EXPERIENCES Last a Lifetime

## Energized for Excellence Academy, Inc. Early Childhood Center

Ada Cooper, Principal  
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## Newsletter Volume 1

## October

**Mission Statement:** The mission of **EEA** is to provide an accelerated learning environment that clearly charts a path of empowerment for students to become tomorrow's problem-solvers, thinkers, and leaders through participation in a wide variety of educational experiences, appropriate to their age, interest and needs.

### Principal's Corner



Mrs. Ada T. Cooper graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, and holds a Master of Education degree from Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. She began a career in education as a classroom teacher

and gained a wealth of experience through the appointment of a myriad of positions within in the Houston Independent School District. From the classroom, she was promoted to Home School Community Agent, Instructional Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Dean of Instruction, and Principal. She ended this 30 plus years career as the organizer and first Director of the district's Grant Development Department, where she was responsible for leading school stakeholders in applying for and garnering over ten million dollars in federal, state, and community-based funds.

Mrs. Cooper believes that she was destined to help children. After finding that retirement was not fun she decided that others in the community could use her expertise. She is currently the Principal of the Early Childhood component at Energized for Excellence Academy, Inc., a charter school that provides early education services to low socioeconomic students in the Houston area. Additionally, she is active in community faith-based endeavors as a member of St. Catherine of Sienna Episcopal Church.

Ada Cooper is the proud mother of two children; Phillip Cooper, Jr. and Jacquelyn Ruth Cooper. The light of her life is grandson Redick Edwards, VI, better known as "Seis."

### Hispanic Heritage Month

**Early Childhood Students Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15)**



Mrs. Hernandez and her class celebrating. Throughout this time frame, the staff and students will be celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. Each year,

Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period. This year, the Early Childhood Campuses were abuzz with excitement as they made preparations to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Colorful banners proclaimed this time of the year as "Hispanic Heritage--Month (September 15 - October 15) Students, parents, and teachers participated in hands-on activities as they created colorful piñatas and created crafty life-like figures to represent the different Latino countries represented at the school. The displays and piñatas were put on display in the "Room of Salsa" for the viewing pleasure of all parents and visitors. Because music is a huge part of Hispanic culture, and in anticipation of the big parade, students made maracas and other musical instruments using beans, rice, paper plates, cups and other household materials. On October 1, dressed in attire from different countries, all students marched in the Hispanic Heritage Parade to the different rhythms created by their instruments. They were cheered on by a multitude of parents and relatives. Students with heritages from countries other than Latin America showed their pride by wearing clothing representing their cultures. Classroom instruction focused on music as students learned a variety of Spanish songs and dances.

On the Ashcroft campus, *The House of Salsa* provided the environment for the day's culminating activity. Much to the delight of the parents and relatives, students from the classrooms of Mrs. Yicet Capajella and Mrs. Indira Ceballos, performed a rhythmic salsa dance. Dancing in circles, to music that had flavor and spice, the students shimmied and moved to a steady Latin beat.

On the West Airport Campus, the culminating activity occurred on the lush back lawn of the facility. Each class had selected a selection to perform for their parents. Selections included: music from the Ice Princess, "Hello Friend" (English

and Spanish), and selected Spanish songs.



Students in Mr. Gastulo's class displayed their heritage from the countries of Peru, Honduras, Mexico and Columbia.

## And the award goes to.....

### Most Original and Creative Piñatas:

Prek-4 Mrs. Joshelin Fuentes-W. Airport Campus  
Prek-4 Mrs. Indira Ceballos-Ashcroft Campus

### Best Hispanic Heritage Display:

Mrs. Blanca Hernandez-Ashcroft Campus

## Upcoming Events

### Family Night at the Museum of Natural Science



On October 23, 2014, the Prekindergarten students and their parents will participate in their first Family Night at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Our focus for the night will be to learn as much as possible about the

Image provided by the Museum of Natural Science

prehistoric beasts that roamed the earth millions of years ago. The museum's Morian Hall of Paleontology is packed with ancient skeletons in action—chasing, eating and escaping as they struggle for life. In preparation for this Family Night Adventure,

students will learn the names of various dinosaurs and some characteristic of each; sing and act out the motions of a dinosaur; and create a play dough dinosaur and name them.

Follow-up activities will include: each class creating a diorama showing interpretations of what the dinosaurs' surroundings were like, what they ate, etc.

### Field Trip to Dewberry Farm November 13, 2014

Students will mix hands-on agricultural learning experiences with good down home farm fun!

In the fall, students have many activities available to them, such as, taking a wagon ride to pick their own pumpkin from our pumpkin patch, learning about barnyard animals, and enjoying a self-guided venture through the corn maze. Just in time for Thanksgiving pumpkin pies, our students



*Photo credited to Dewberry Farms Inc.*

will enjoy the pumpkin patch, the corn maize, and all the farm animals. Parents wishing to accompany their children on this adventure must be

approved volunteers. If you have not signed up, please do so immediately.

**October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.** Show Your Support in October. With Pink Items. Think Pink, Buy Pink!



*Photo courtesy of The Susan G. Komen Foundation*



## Volunteers in Public Schools



*Photos and logo provided by HISD*

VIPS recruits thousands of parents and community partners to donate their time, resources, and knowledge in support of the district's primary goal to increase student achievement. Volunteers contribute in areas such as mentoring, tutoring, fundraising, career education, enrichment programs, extracurricular and community service activities, and office and classroom assistance. After registering online and undergoing the annual background check, volunteers can work in any HISD school for the school year. All schools can track volunteer hours donated to the school district by establishing an online VIPS account.

Follow the steps below to become a VIPS:

1. Register online at [www.houstonisd.org](http://www.houstonisd.org) and click on the Student and Parents tab, then Participate
2. Once you have registered, you must go in person to the school of interest and show proof of identification.
3. Identification information will go into our database for processing by the Volunteer Coordinator at each campus.
4. The criminal history background check can take 2-3 weeks to complete.
5. Once you are CLEARED to volunteer, you are eligible to volunteer throughout HISD.

## Health and Fitness



Did you know?

You burn more calories sleeping than watching television. With that being said it is very important that children get a good night's rest (6-8 hours) in order to be alert and focused at school.

## Homework Haven



1. **Select a quiet place to study.**
2. **Don't wait until the last minute.**
3. **Use your daily planner for assignments.**
4. **Dedicate a space for every class in your book bag.**
5. **Stay organized throughout the year.**
6. **Make study cards.**
7. **Make your own study guide.**
8. **Talk about assignments with friends.**
9. **If you are struggling, ask for help.**



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- **Student Recruitment**
- **Event Planning & Coverage**
- **Campus Newsletters**
- **Website Updates**
- **Parent Involvement**
- **Community Affairs**

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We are so excited about the first edition of the campus newsletter! We want to thank each and every one of you for providing outstanding pictures and information. We plan to go from good to great, but we can't do it alone. Please continue to share your articles, pictures, events, teacher and student of the month, principal's letters and whatever else you would like included in this publication. Send all correspondence to [ggallien@houstonisd.org](mailto:ggallien@houstonisd.org) and [trobers3@houstonisd.org](mailto:trobers3@houstonisd.org).

Warm Regards,  
Tashanya Roberson

**Don't forget...Soar high eagles!!**