



# EDP Gazette



## Still Here After All These Years

The Extended Day Program has been part of Fort Bend ISD for the past 16 years and is still going strong.

As the program grows, so grows the employees. Some employees, though, have stayed with the program since the beginning.

Colony Meadows Site Coordinator, Kiran Sampat, has

been an original with the program as she was at her school when the YMCA ran the after-school program.

She then stayed as it became part of the district.

Kiran said she remembers it was quite a struggle getting the after-school program truly off the ground.

'I was a little luckier because I was already at this school and my principal wanted me to stay here,' she said. 'I already had some of my supplies, but we were always desperate for more supplies.'

Also in the program 17 years has been Dee Harris, site coordinator at Sugar Mill Elementary.

'I remember Sherran (Hargreaves) asking us a lot of questions when she was beginning the program because I had experience with after school care,' Dee said.

'We didn't have any supplies when it started here. We had to drag out buckets of toys and such every day before the kids were released from school.'

The Extended Day program was run in the cafeterias at most schools before the specific buildings were built.

Gwen Higginbotham, 14 years

at Dulles Elementary, said it was a daily chore

bringing out the toys, rugs and centers into the cafeteria.

'We created our own curriculum back then,' she said. 'We had to bring things from our homes to help get the program going. We had to be very creative with the kids to keep them busy and keep the program structured.'

Charlotte Camarda, an Extended Day employee beginning at the schools, is now the accounting clerk for the program.

She remembers walking into Highlands Elementary School with Sherran 16 years ago and seeing what they could salvage from the YMCA program that was there at that time.

'I think all we walked away

with from that day was a \$5 doll,' Charlotte said. 'We started out very low budget.'

The programs had the blocks and basic materials for the children. Charlotte said she liked to get the kids involved in sewing and cooking.

Lucy Shelton, going into her 15<sup>th</sup> year with the program, said she remembers the kids would play outside and loved it.

'We played all those old games like SPUD and games the kids probably don't even know any more,' she said.

'Every site needed supplies and Sherran did everything she could to get us supplies as soon as she could.'

The love of kids and the love of the program itself is what keep these employees coming back every day.

'Honestly, you can only do this job if you truly love it and the children,' Kiran said. 'I like to be around people and I like to be here for the children.'

To Gwen, Extended Day feels like a family.

'Every day, when I come to work, it feels like I am home,' she said. 'I get to laugh a lot at this job.'

'I look back 14 years ago and think about all we have gone through,' Lucy said. 'It just doesn't seem that long ago.'

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### Things to Know:

- Thursday, October 1, 2009 - Tuition is due
- Thursday, October 15, 2009 - Early Dismissal @ 10:45am
- Monday, November 2, 2009 - Tuition is due
- November 25-27, 2009 - EDP closed for Thanksgiving Break



## From the Program Coordinator..

I'd like to welcome back our parents and students to another great year with Extended Day. As with every year, we also have new parents, students, and staff who are joining us for the first time. We have opened our 44<sup>th</sup> campus at Seguin Elementary and are supporting the 21<sup>st</sup> Century After-School Program at Missouri City Middle School with their staffing and planning needs. We are also pleased to announce our partnership in the Ridgemont Early Childhood Center (RMECC) at that campus. This 10 year project is becoming a reality. The doors of RMECC are scheduled to open in January 2010 and will have a room specially designed for the Extended Day Program. This will mark the end of our programs being held solely in cafeterias and temporary buildings. We have much to celebrate!

The history of Extended Day has brought many of its employees full circle (from students themselves into current

employees and staff becoming certified teachers in classrooms across FBISD) but there are many who have continued to carry on the original values and beliefs from the beginning. This past spring we met with staff and parents to create a new mission statement that would take us through the next 16 years (take a look at our back page). We met with a sub-committee of our Parent Advisory Board and representatives of all levels of our employees. I appreciate everyone's time and commitment to keeping the Program growing strong.

The start of our school year began two weeks before your children entered the doors of Extended Day. We shared with our new employees the essential things that make a site run safely and efficiently at our New Employee Training and gave them a sample of a "day in the life" with a Mock Site fully staffed with a Site Coordinator (yours truly), Assistants (Area Supervisors), and parents

(Site Coordinators). The exercise was intended to be a learning experience for the new employees (the students), but I quickly realized just how important the campus-based staff are in our lives. They keep the schedules, routines, last-minute changes, student activities, teachable moments, laughter, and customer service all in a delicate balance.

We thank you all for your continued support of the Extended Day Program.

Sincerely,

Michelle P. Amos

Visit us on the web!  
[http://www.forthend.k12.tx.us/  
extendedday/](http://www.forthend.k12.tx.us/extendedday/)

## Extended Day Happenings

October 15<sup>th</sup> will be an early release day for the elementary school child. Various Extended Day programs are making sure the kids will be involved in plenty of activities.

Juan Seguin Extended Day will be planning on a craft day for the children.

Site Coordinator Evelyne San Claudio said the children will be working on a lot of fall-type crafts.

'We will be doing things with leaves and creating trees,' she said. 'We want to be ready for autumn.'

Walker Station Extended Day also has a full day planned for the kids.

Lunch will be catered in from a local

restaurant and the children will be enjoying a picnic at the park across the street from the school.

Along with the picnic, students will be involved in scavenger hunts, face paintings and carnival-type activities.

Sheri Fasching, Site Coordinator, also said they plan on painting pumpkins.

Dulles Elementary and Sugar Mill will be having a day of magic as they will be hosting magicians to entertain the students.

Commonwealth Elementary will be learning about fire safety. They will be having a presentation from one of the area fire departments.

Be sure and look on the parent board at your Extended Day for the day's activities. The cafeterias are closed on early-release days. Students are usually required to bring lunch and snacks on these days unless otherwise specified.

**Don't forget!! Thursday, October 15, 2009 is an Early Dismissal for Elementary Campuses**

## What Do Our Kids Like?

Some of our fourth, fifth and even sixth graders took part in a small survey, recently.

As always, our children have their own thoughts on what they like.

At Cornerstone Elementary the popular movie was *Transformers*.

*Magic* by Selena Gomez, is the favorite song.

PF Changs was the winner for the favorite restaurant.

Favorite vacations were California and Paris.

Meanwhile, at Quail Valley Elementary, which also houses a sixth grade program, the winners were...

*Madea Goes to Jail* was voted favorite movie.

*Love Story* by Taylor Swift won best song of the summer.

Pappasitos is the favorite restaurant.

Favorite activity over the summer was

Splashtown.

*High School Musical 3* and *Transformers* attracted the attention of the fifth graders at Commonwealth Extended Day.

Miley Cyrus/Hannah Montana had some votes for songs as did Selena Gomez.

Favorite restaurant was between Gramaldi's Pizza and Candelari's Pizza.

Disney World and cruises won the top votes for best summer vacations.

## Trained and Certified

All employees of Extended Day attend various trainings and certifications throughout their time of employment.

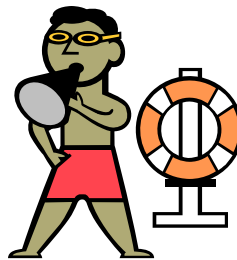
Each assistant site coordinator, as well as each site coordinator, is CPR trained in both child and adult CPR. They are also trained in First Aid.

Each CPR certification is valid for one year. First Aid is valid for three years.

In the Extended Day summer program, Extended Day employees are hired as

lifeguards at the Don Cook Natatorium. Each lifeguard is lifeguard certified, First Aid certified and CPR certified as well.

Site coordinators and assistants also attend various trainings throughout the school year to educate themselves to provide a better program.



### Did You Know?

- Extended Day purchased 44 playgrounds over the past 6 years.
- Kids receive a healthy snack every day they come to Extended Day
- Extended Day opened its 44th program this year at Juan Seguin Elementary
- We will be opening the 45th program next school year

## Looking Ahead...

In the upcoming months, the programs are also ready with activities.

Briargate Extended Day will be hosting a carnival day on October 30.

Site Coordinator Dawn Autrey said the children in her program make their own carnival games. Games include tic-tac-toe with bean bags, or pumpkin toss

games using tin cans and small toy pumpkins. The carnival will also have activities such as musical chairs, a cake walk and face painting.

Dawn said there will be a small drawing. Anyone bringing two canned goods for the food pantry will receive tickets for the drawing.

'We will collect the canned goods and it will be a type of service project for our kids,' she said. 'We will donate everything to the food pantry before the holidays.'

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### Mission

Extended Day will provide a safe, supportive environment where children can learn positive values, self-awareness, and leadership skills to prepare them for a lifetime of contributions to our community.

### Vision

Extended Day will be an exemplary program where professional employees recognize that all children are unique. We will promote children's interests and achievement, foster a successful work and play relationship, help them reach their full potential as responsible citizens in our culturally diverse community, and build respect for self and others.

## Children's Work

