



Communities
In Schools

Houston

Classnotes

July 2010

Our New Look

As some of you may have noticed, Communities In Schools is going through a national rebranding process and recently unveiled its new look. We look forward to shifting to our new look over the summer and ask for your patience in this process.

Our new mission statement is as follows: ***Communities In Schools Houston surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.***

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Donor Spotlight

This month CIS would like to thank the following donors for investing \$25,000 or more in monetary and in-kind donations:

[Episcopal Health Charities](#)
[Microsoft Corporation](#)
[Plains Exploration and Production Company](#)

News

Nursing Program



The end of the summer is near and with that comes an end to our nursing program. CIS partners with [St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital](#) and [Methodist Hospital](#) during the summer to provide nursing externships to graduating seniors. This year we had 25 students participate in this program after completing a rigorous selection process.

These students attended an orientation as well as training for 10 days before they could start their externship. Students at St. Luke's participated in the Patient Care Attendant (PCA) program while students at Methodist participated in the Certified Nurse Aid (CNA) program.

CIS in the News

Bar Association Honored with Award

The Houston Bar Association (HBA) received the Stars of Texas Bars Partnership Award for its collaboration with Communities in Schools Houston on the Summer Legal Internship Program.

You can read the article on Chron.com.



Bastian Elementary School students



St. Luke's Students



Bastian Elementary School students

During their externship the students learned the ropes of what it takes to be a valued contributor in a fast-paced hospital environment. CIS is proud to say that they all displayed professional work ethic and every supervisor had nothing but positive feedback on these students.

We are already working on the process for summer 2011. As part of this effort we hope to raise \$10,000 to provide students in the CNA program with the necessary funds to take the required coursework and state exam. If you are interested in supporting this effort please contact Donna Wotkyns at dwotkyns@cis-houston.org or 713.654.1515 x117.

Summer Enrichment Program

Bastian Elementary School



Summer just wouldn't be the same without summer camp. But the junior high school students attending summer camp at Faith Lutheran Church did a lot more than participate in arts & crafts. They decided to have a book drive for a local elementary school.

Approximately 100 books were donated to students at Bastian Elementary School who are participating in the CIS/Houston Galveston Institute (HGI) Summer Enrichment Program 2010. Students were allowed to choose four books to take home. CIS Project Manager, Cynthia Bell, believes that this will encourage the students to begin building a home library and will enrich their literacy skills.

Educating the Student Body



Thanks to [HealthCorps](#), students at Sharpstown High School learned to take charge of their health. HealthCorps is a proactive health movement founded by heart surgeon [Dr. Mehmet Oz](#) who has been seen on Oprah and The Dr. Oz Show.

HealthCorps empowers students and citizens to become agents of change through school-based peer-mentoring, community activism and advocacy. Coordinators work in classrooms, the lunchroom and run after-school clubs to provide lessons, activities and experiences that integrate mental, physical and nutritional health education.

Stewart Schaefer is the coordinator on the Sharpstown campus and was very enthusiastic in his efforts in educating CIS students of the important role that health plays in their lives. He facilitated support groups with CIS students on a regular basis and worked with parenting teens to show them how to make the healthiest choices for their bodies and their babies. This year Mr. Schaefer also challenged the staff at Sharpstown High School by giving them all pedometers to see who walked the most for one week.

Thanks to Mr. Schaefer and HealthCorps for educating our youth and faculty about their bodies, their environment and their abilities to affect their world.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Clay Briggs
Executive Director
Communities In Schools Houston, Inc.

