



May 2014



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

"Commissioner's Corner" (May Edition)



Click the link to watch the May edition of Commissioner's Corner:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13WUUhQo45c>

Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Bend County

Ready for Summer!



As summertime quickly approaches, kids will be anxiously looking for something to do while parents will be looking for a safe, productive place for their kids. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Bend County are the perfect place to satisfy the child's and parent's needs during the summer!

Boys & Girls Clubs deliver evidence-based programs that engage youth in diverse activities to help them achieve three priority outcomes: **1. Academic Success, 2. Healthy Lifestyles, and 3. Good Character & Citizenship.**

This year, each club will participate in the Summer Learning Program. As part of this program, participants will be exposed to fun learning opportunities through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), ELA (English Language Arts), as well as Fine Arts activities and

"Saved by the Bell" Improving Attendance



Pictured from L to R: Brad Slater-Director Field Services, Bruce Bell-Lead Truancy JPO, Desmond Davis-Truancy JPO, John Boutte-Truancy JPO, William Bates-Truancy JPO, Judge Cannata, Judge Shaw, Judge Janssen, Crystal Gonzalez-Truancy JPO, Leonard Pralour-Truancy JPO, Kyle Dobbs-Juvenile Probation Department Executive Director, Osborne Winston-Truancy JPO, Jimmy Winfrey-Truancy JPO

When most of us think of the phrase "Saved by the Bell," we think of the early 90's NBC hit TV show. From the catchy theme song to the misadventures of the characters at Bayside High School, this show will always be a classic for many viewers. However, in Fort Bend County, the phrase "Saved by the Bell" has taken on a completely new meaning.

"Saved by the Bell" is a truancy reduction program created by the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department in partnership with area schools. It provides support for students who regularly miss school to encourage them to get to class.

The program started in 2008 with six Fort Bend County ISD schools and all Katy ISD schools under the jurisdiction of Judge Kenneth Cannata. It was then expanded in late 2011 and again in 2012

programs.

Components of the Summer Learning Program include:

- Interactive learning blocks in STEM, reading and fine arts, dance & drama
- Awesome field trips to local attractions-museums, sporting games, parks, nature centers, colleges & universities
- Community Service Engagement-club care, garden projects, health & career fairs
- Exhibition Week-quiz bowls, talent shows, and science fairs

“Here at the Boys & Girls Club, our most important responsibility is to create a safe environment so our members can enjoy our programs. In our Summer Learning Program, we offer diverse activities based on the interest and needs of the boys & girls served in our community”, stated Ashley Shield, Program Director at the Stafford Boys & Girls Club.

The Summer Learning Program extends from June 9th – August 15th with an enrollment fee of \$20.

For more information on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Bend County, contact the following:

3110 5th Street
Stafford, Texas 77477
281.261.5737
Stafford@bgclubs-houston.org

5525 Hobby Road
Houston, Texas 77053
281.438.4720
ftbend@bgclubs-houston.org

Expanded in late 2011 and again in 2012.

Judge Gary Janssen serves Lamar Consolidated and Needville ISDs and Judge Ruby Shaw serves Fort Bend ISD.

The goal of this innovative program is to apply pro-active casework management strategies together with meaningful sanctions in order to address truancy issues and ultimately reduce delinquency.

Of the 1742 students identified for the program since 2008, 86% have improved attendance rates. Better attendance results in a decrease in suspensions and school write ups, and an increase in grade point averages for those students.

Juvenile probation officers act as liaisons for truant students for the purpose of coordinating and providing follow up with the judicial system, as well as working with school truancy officers, counselors and community resources to address the social factors behind trancies.

Since the program started in 2008, “Saved by the Bell” has served 1742 students in Fort Bend County school districts including Fort Bend ISD, Katy ISD, Lamar Consolidated ISD, and Needville ISD. The efforts of the program have decreased In-School Suspensions by 81%, decreased out of school suspension by 75% and increased grade point averages by 49% for those students involved.

For more information on the “Saved by the Bell” program, please visit the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department page at www.fortbendcountytexas.gov.

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