

# Neuhaus News

FALL 2022

TEACHING. READING. REACHING.

## LITERACY FOR ALL

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Does the launch of a new school year bring up powerful memories for you as it does for me? I have been in a flurry of activity as my daughter begins her senior year as a high school student. Remember buying supplies, uniforms and school outfits, and finishing up summer reading assignments?

The new school year is even more meaningful to me as my son steps into his first year as a full-time teacher. Coincidentally, he is teaching the same grade level (7th grade) I started with many moons ago! I taught American History and English. He will be teaching American History; and as you can imagine, I let him know he is also a reading teacher. We spent time together this summer talking about his responsibility to apprentice students in the literacy of his content area. Of course, this summer also included an investment in Developing Metacognitive Strategies – his first NEC professional development experience!

We also talked about the critical mass of children reading below the proficient level among public, charter, and private schools. In 2019, the national percentage of fourth-grade public school students performing at or above the National Assessment or Education Progress (NAEP) proficient level in reading was only 34 percent. Across the United States, the

percentage of public school fourth-graders performing at or above NAEP proficient in reading ranged from 24 percent to 49 percent. We can either shrug our shoulders collectively and accept status quo as a community, or we can look at upstream issues that have led to an inefficient, high-cost, low-return model of educating our children and adults.

Thank you for your part in advancing a lower-cost, high-yield model that ensures literacy for all through the amazing NEC team in partnership with dedicated educators who believe in applying evidence-based practices. The upstream dynamic I am the most excited about is our focus on partnering with universities willing to grapple with how we reinvent the way teachers and leaders are apprenticed for the right work! When educators are set up for success with a focus on becoming diagnostic and prescriptive in their practice, regardless of their role, it changes everything!

**If you have a personal story about how Neuhaus Education Center unlocked literacy for you, your child, or an adult in your life, please email [info@neuhaus.org](mailto:info@neuhaus.org) about how your life changed through the gift of literacy. We want to highlight stories that give hope to others. Your story matters, your influence matters, and our work matters because *Literacy for All* is a high stakes proposition!**

Here's to a remarkable school year for all, and to "all hands on deck," as we press into an achievable vision of promoting reading success.



*Tracy White Needen*

President & CEO

1: National Assessment or Education Progress, The Nation's Report Card, 2019.

### IN THIS ISSUE

02 Community Collaborations

03 Welcome New Board of Trustees & Advisory Board Members

04 Dyslexia Awareness

06 Professional Development

07 Family Support Office & Adult Literacy

08 Advancement



# HOMETOWN HEROES

## NEUHAUS EDUCATION CENTER RECOGNIZED BY AMEGY BANK AND THE HOUSTON ASTROS FOR THE 2022 HOMETOWN HEROES PROGRAM

Neuhaus Education Center was recognized as one of Houston's [2022 Hometown Heroes](#) and received a \$5,000 award from Amegy Bank and the Houston Astros Foundation. Hometown Heroes is a program that honors a local nonprofit organization that has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to building better communities.

"Literacy is a human right and it is more important than ever before to make sure our message is heard," said Dr. Tracy White Weeden, President and CEO of the Neuhaus Education Center. "I am thrilled that Amegy Bank and the Houston Astros Foundation will share the important work that Neuhaus does to close the literacy opportunity gap so that we can continue to unlock literacy for all, regardless of zip code. We thank everyone who went to Twitter to vote for Neuhaus."

Neuhaus Education Center was honored at the Astros game on Saturday, July 16, with Board of Trustees member Will Neuhaus and Neuhaus staff cheering in the stadium.

Amegy Bank contributes to local communities by targeting their charitable giving and volunteerism toward nonprofit groups that produce impactful results in the markets they serve. Amegy's charitable contributions support more than 250 nonprofits with the goal of improving the quality of life of the people in the communities where they do business.



Photo credit: 1: Clay Melder, Amegy Bank; Will Neuhaus, Amegy Bank; Paula McCann Harris, Astros Foundation; and Dr. Tracy White Weeden, Neuhaus Education Center President & CEO; 2: Orbit, Houston Astros mascot; Clay Melder; Will Neuhaus; and Dr. Tracy White Weeden



AmegyBank

PROUD SPONSOR

# NEUHAUS EDUCATION CENTER WELCOMES NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES & ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Neuhaus Education Center is pleased to introduce newly appointed Board of Trustees and Advisory Board members who are positioned to serve as valued volunteers advancing our mission of reading success for all.



1: Jamie Grissom; 2: Katherine Kardesch; 3: Kristen Stubbs; 4: Jason Burdine; 5: Christine Butler; 6: Kathleen Noel Camp; 7: Cynthia Goehringer; 8: Jack Lyons; 9: Linda Nunnery; 10: John Robinson

## Board of Trustees Members

**Jamie Grissom** is the founding Executive Director for Books Between Kids. As a fundraising consultant, she has worked with over a dozen non-profit organizations to manage and create successful fundraising events. She has held several leadership positions for nonprofits including Director of Development for both the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston and Neuhaus Education Center (2004-2007). She co-chaired the 2022 NEC Annual Benefit Luncheon with Amy Melton and the 2013 NEC Luncheon auction.

**Katherine Kardesch** has been a philanthropic supporter within the Houston community serving for organizations including The Children's Fund, The Fay School, and Texas Parents. Her involvement with Neuhaus began in 2004 when she co-chaired the Annual Benefit Luncheon.

**Kristen Stubbs** serves as Executive Director for the Arthritis Foundation. She has been instrumental in helping create and drive the strategic direction of several large nonprofits in Houston, including the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation and the Salvation Army in Houston, through deliberate and intentional efforts in revenue generation and program development.

## Advisory Board Members

**Jason Burdine** is a Financial Advisor/Consultant whose son was diagnosed with dyslexia and greatly benefitted from Neuhaus programs. He previously served on the Fort Bend ISD Board and advocates for Neuhaus programs.

**Christine Butler** is a Senior Vice President in PNC's Corporate and Institutional Banking group, providing credit and banking services to companies in the Houston area. She has previously co-chaired the Annual Benefit Luncheon with her husband, Chris; and their son has received Neuhaus tutoring.

**Kathleen Noel Camp** is an active volunteer within the Houston area. In 2017, she and her children created A Novel Idea to assist in placing libraries in high schools that do not currently have one. Her family has been very involved at Neuhaus, and she received tutoring from Neuhaus-trained tutor, Pat Sellers, as a child.

**Cynthia Goehringer** currently serves on the Advancement Committee. Originally from Beaumont and a former teacher, she is very passionate about supporting Neuhaus' mission.

**Jack Lyons** is the former Managing Director of Wortham Insurance and Risk Management, an organization that focuses primarily on the energy and petrochemical business. He has served for many Houston-area organizations including the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Harmon Family Foundation, and the RITE Program.

**Linda Nunnery** is Vice President and Client and Community Relations Director for PNC Bank. She currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Children's Museum of Houston Board of Directors, the Houston Regional Council for First3Years, and is an active member of both the Corporate Advisory Board for the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation and the Greater Houston Partnership's Public Education Policy Committee.

**John Robinson** is an educator, trainer, national keynote speaker, and lecturer for Scholastic's Read and Rise program. He is the Director of Education and Youth Development at the Houston Area Urban League (HAUL) and the founder and president of John Robinson Consulting (JRC), a for profit organization focused on providing training, mentoring, and coaching to professional development teams in the education arena.

# DYSLEXIA AWARENESS

Each year, October is recognized worldwide as Dyslexia Awareness Month, a time to come together to raise awareness, share resources, and tell stories about dyslexia successes. Diagnosed at an early age, **Avery Martin** was embarrassed to learn she had dyslexia, but with the support from her family, especially her mother, **Paige Martin**, she has learned to focus on her strengths and embrace her learning difference.

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**Avery, you were diagnosed with having dyslexia in elementary school. How have your feelings evolved throughout the years?**

When I was younger, I was scared and embarrassed, and I didn't want anyone to know I was diagnosed with dyslexia. I could tell my parents were upset and that they weren't sure what to do. Luckily, with the support of some great teachers and a dyslexia specialist, they advised my parents and shared valuable resources. My mom found Neuhaus Education Center and was able to get me a tutor outside of school, which helped a lot. Now, I am not embarrassed about it at all. My family and I don't see dyslexia as a disability, and we don't see it as a gift - dyslexia to us is a learning difference. Everyone has a learning style; mine just has a label.

**What are your strengths and how have you improved when it comes to learning?**

As a creative person, I find myself great at memorizing and storytelling. If I can tell you my answers verbally, I am great, and you can see how much I know about a subject. I have also learned how to stay organized and limit after school activities so I can schedule time to study. To improve on my struggles with spelling and reading, I type often so I can use spellcheck, listen to texts, and watch videos about information to fill in the blanks on things that I am studying.

**What advice or words of encouragement would you give to others who have learned they have dyslexia?**

Focus on what you CAN do, not what is HARD. Having dyslexia is challenging, but you can do anything that you set your mind to. And, find something that you are good at that you love outside of school.



The Martin Family

For me, I love theatre, and it has motivated me to work hard at reading so I can read the scripts and memorize lines. If you have something that you really love, you will find a way to do it.

**As a parent, Paige, you are invaluable, serving as a role model and providing a family support network. Some parents can be quite lost when it comes to finding ways to cope with their children's learning difficulties. How did the Neuhaus Education Center provide support?**

Neuhaus was instrumental in getting me information on dyslexia, what steps we needed to take, and where to find additional help. Neuhaus also has amazing classes that we have taken part in, and we were able to get information on additional tutoring outside of school. We were given a list of tutors in our area and we were able to begin with the Orton-Gillingham program and get a head start before she began getting additional help at school.

**What advice or words of encouragement would you give parents?**

It is very difficult to watch your child struggle. You never want your child to have a hard time with anything, but don't give up. Your child is smart and capable. You just have to find what motivates them and the strategies that help them learn the way their brain needs to. Reach out and ask questions. Find someone that you can talk to. In my opinion, people with dyslexia not only learn differently, but they also think differently. With the right support team, you can do it.

*Home is where literacy takes root, and when a child struggles with reading, the search for answers and specialists trained in detecting learning difference can be difficult and intimidating. Neuhaus resources and referral services provide families with a welcome first step in unlocking a path to reading success. We're here to help! Contact the Family Support Office at [NeuhausFSO@neuhaus.org](mailto:NeuhausFSO@neuhaus.org).*

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

### **BAHIYYIH AUTRY**

*Instructional Staff*

### **KATI BARNETT**

*Content Writer*

### **HOLLY FINDEISEN**

*Instructional Staff*

### **ROXANNE LOPEZ**

*Literacy Initiatives*

*Administrative Assistant*

### **ADRIANA MELESIO**

*Advancement Coordinator*

### **ROBERTA NORDSTROM**

*Director of Institutional Giving*

### **TRAVIS SIMOND**

*Community Programs Assistant*

### **NICOLE SIMPSON**

*Content Writer*

## STAFF PROMOTIONS

### **KAROL ANN MOORE**

*Director of Research/ Associate Vice President of Curriculum & Instructional Design*

# THE NOOK

IN CELEBRATING OUR PHILANTHROPY-SUPPORTED WORK, WE'RE HIGHLIGHTING NEW AND EXCITING INITIATIVES, TEAM UPDATES, AND SHARING THE CONNECTIONS AMONG OUR BOARD MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF PROMOTING LITERACY SUCCESS FOR ALL.

*Among Neuhaus' greatest assets are the highly competent staff who are passionate about the life-changing work we do to promote reading success. As the new Director of Research/ Associate Vice President of Curriculum & Instructional Design, Moore discusses her new role, current research, and thought leadership opportunities.*

### **ON HER POSITION AT NEUHAUS...**

Karol Ann has been at NEC for just over a year as a content writer. She is a recent Ph.D. graduate from Texas A&M University with an endorsement in Advanced Research Methods. With strong ties to the Texas A&M research community and beyond, Moore also has seven research papers published in research journals and has spoken to various audiences on dyslexia identification, reading comprehension, teacher knowledge, and orthography.

As the Director of Research she will be coordinating and managing third-party research, identifying relevant research that supports the work and mission of NEC, and conducting research to provide NEC with qualitative data to inform and support programming. In addition to this role, Moore will also be assuming the responsibilities of Associate Vice President of Curriculum and Instructional Design by managing program development.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**DR. KAROL ANN MOORE, PH.D., LDT, CALT, SLDS**



### **ON HER CURRENT RESEARCH...**

Languages are classified as transparent or opaque based on the complexity of their letter-sound correspondences. Finnish and Spanish are transparent languages because their sounds and symbols are very consistent, unlike English where we have 26 letters and 44 speech sounds that can have more than 200 variations for reading. Thus, English is a complex and opaque language. In my current research, I look at these characteristics and how they contribute to reading acquisition, including informing the way we identify dyslexia, especially when students come to us from a different language background. Shifts in the field of dyslexia to use models that account for ecological factors such as language and instruction are being promoted to more effectively identify students with dyslexia.

### **PROMOTING LITERACY FOR ALL...**

This fall, I will attend and conduct a presentation with Dr. Malt Joshi from Texas A&M University and Dr. Rui Alves from the University of Porto in Portugal at the International Academy for Research on Learning Disabilities (IARLD) in Oviedo, Spain. Dr. Joshi also serves on the Neuhaus Education Center National Advisory Council.

My presentation will discuss employing a dimensional framework to identify dyslexia using the Ten Dimensions proposed by Daniels and Share in 2018, and how the structure of a language might affect the variation in reading abilities and dyslexia.

To connect with Karol Ann, email her at [kamoore@neuhaus.org](mailto:kamoore@neuhaus.org).

## LITERACY FOR ALL

At Neuhaus, we believe that a diverse team, informed by different perspectives, makes us stronger.

We live our core values boldly in our approach to making a difference.

### **CORE VALUES**

- Act with Integrity
- Serve as a Trusted Partner
- Think Big and Innovate
- Grow Knowledge and Expertise

# NEUHAUS EDUCATION CENTER TO HOST TWO FALL CLASSES IN-PERSON

VIRTUAL CLASSES WILL CONTINUE WITH THE ADDITION OF SELECT IN-PERSON OPPORTUNITIES

Neuhaus Education Center is devoted to developing comprehensive literacy solutions to prevent reading failure. And the best prevention is a knowledgeable and skilled teacher.

Two classes will be held in the fall, concurrently with the same live instruction virtual offering. Neuhaus will offer **Reading Readiness** Thursday, November 3rd, and **Developing Metacognitive Strategies** on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 8th and 9th. Registration opens September 12.

Visit [www.neuhausstore.org](http://www.neuhausstore.org) to learn more.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PART-TIME SUMMER STAFF

The Teacher Professional Development team had a busy summer teaching over 200 classes and engaging in coaching and mentoring sessions with participants from all over the country. The team grew to include 46 full-time and part-time instructional team members to make the two and half months seem like a breeze!

**ASHLIE BALLARD**

Guide

**SARAH BOYD**

Instructor & Guide

**DANIELLE BRYANT**

Guide

**LISA CANN**

Guide

**JANE CHILDERS**

Guide

**STEPHEN COOK**

Guide

**LINDA CORBETT**

Instructor

**AMANDA COTTLE**

Guide

**SHERRY DRAKE**

Guide

**HOLLY FINDEISEN**

Instructor & Guide

**ARIE FLOYD**

Guide

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Instructor & Guide

**KRISTIN WALKER**

Guide

**DANETTE WOFFORD**

Guide



## TESTIMONIALS

*Thank you for the opportunity to further my learning in literacy instruction! Thank you for the kind words of encouragement and motivation during such a trying time in the education field.*

**Leadership Literacy Institute participant**

*This was very helpful, allowing me to grow as an educator and become more confident in the classroom.*

**Language Enrichment participant**

*The information presented in this course was very helpful and provided systematic instruction that can be used with all students. I'm so happy I took the course!*

**Reading Readiness participant**

*I appreciate that you are offering classes virtually because they are more accessible for me as I live in Washington State. It was very expensive to travel to Neuhaus and stay for 2 weeks for BLS #1. I would not be continuing if it weren't for your virtual classes! I hope they continue to be offered this way. Thanks!*

**Developing Metacognitive Strategies participant**

*This was the best reading readiness professional development I have attended in 22 years of teaching.*

**Reading Readiness participant**

*This was a great course. It was very helpful in expanding my toolbox of materials and knowledge for effective therapy delivery for a variety of student needs.*

**Developing Metacognitive Strategies participant**

# EMPOWERING FAMILIES

## FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICE & ADULT LITERACY

### LITERACY TEXAS AWARD

A Neuhaus Education Center adult literacy student has received the 2022 Literacy Texas Annual Award for the second time. Nominated by her NEC instructor Carol Ciampi, who wrote the glowing nomination, **Chau Hua** was recognized as the student award winner for “Student Achievement in ABE/HSE” across the state of Texas.

Chau’s story is one of a child growing up in a multi-generational family, all living together in a small house or apartment. She went through some rough times in her life during her adolescence but found a career as a hairdresser as a young adult.

Although she has been a small business owner, having her own salon for quite a few years, she still yearned for the knowledge she felt she had missed in school during her youth. Chau started taking literacy courses at Neuhaus Education Center a few years ago; and during that time, she was also reading different books of interest at home to increase her vocabulary and comprehension skills.

After making the decision to start taking courses at the college level, Chau was determined to choose the college or university that would meet her needs. She took the time to visit different campuses, meeting with different people to discuss her plans and ask questions.



Chau selected the University of Houston-Downtown and has taken a course in writing, knowing that it was an area of weakness and that she wanted to improve. Chau’s drive to learn is evident in her attendance and participation in class. She has become a life-long learner who recently completed a course in writing at University of Houston-Downtown.

**Watch Chau Hua’s inspiring welcome speech [here](#).**

*The Literacy Texas Annual Awards are an opportunity to show your admiration and affection for those with whom you work alongside. Awardees are recognized at the Literacy Texas Annual Conference. For more information about Literacy Texas, visit [www.literacytexas.org](http://www.literacytexas.org).*

## 2022 VIRTUAL FALL EVENTS

### MONTHLY INFORMATION SESSION

Each month on a select Wednesday and Saturday, join us for a free virtual information session on reading challenges, including dyslexia, multisensory, research-based instruction, and the Texas dyslexia legislation. This repeating presentation includes information on resources available at Neuhaus and within the Houston-area community.

**DATE:** September 17, 28; October 15, 19; November 2, 9 (Spanish), 19; December 3, 7

**TIME:** 10 AM to Noon (CDT)/ Virtual

### DYSLEXIA 101

Understand how and why some people struggle with learning to read, which of these people might be considered dyslexic, and what kind of reading instruction is essential to their learning. *This presentation will not be recorded.*

**DATE:** Thursday, October 6, 2022

**TIME:** Noon to 1:00 PM (CDT)/ Virtual

### DYSLEXIA 201

Participants will have a hands-on experience learning key vocabulary and procedures typical of a structured literacy lesson for a student with dyslexia. This session is open to any interested audiences and those who want to understand their child’s experience in dyslexia therapy. *This presentation will not be recorded.*

**DATE:** Thursday, October 20, 2022

**TIME:** Noon to 1:00 PM (CDT)/ Virtual

### DYSLEXIA SIMULATION

Students with dyslexia frequently experience feelings of anxiety, frustration, and failure. This simulation guides you through reading and handwriting activities that allow you to experience a sense of the struggles and frustration that students with learning differences often face. Understanding the difficulties that students face can help us provide more effective support. *This presentation will not be recorded.*

**DATE:** October 26, 2022

**TIME:** 3:00 to 4:30 PM (CDT)/ Virtual

### COLLEGE SHARE

Join **Angie Maxey, Director of Access and Disability Services at the University of St. Thomas**, as she speaks about what to expect with a transition to college and how it could be helpful to connect with a disability office.

**TIME:** 7:00 PM (CDT)/Virtual

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022

# WAYS TO GIVE

**MAKE A GIFT TO THE NEUHAUS EDUCATION CENTER. YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP TURN THE PAGE ON ILLITERACY.**

Neuhaus Education Center relies on the generosity of donors to provide educators with a proven multi-sensory approach to teaching reading, writing, and spelling to all students, including those with dyslexia. Our community programs for families of struggling readers and adult literacy students are also underwritten by donations.

Make a gift to Neuhaus Education Center in honor of a teacher, student, or loved one. They will receive a special acknowledgment of your contribution. Your support will help turn the page on illiteracy!

Contact **Katie Wisian, Vice President of Advancement** at (713) 664-7676 or email [kwisian@neuhaus.org](mailto:kwisian@neuhaus.org) for questions or to learn more.

## TEACHING. READING. REACHING. ANNUAL FUND

September is Literacy Awareness Month and a time to make a gift to Neuhaus' annual **Teaching. Reading. Reaching. Annual Fund.**

This annual giving campaign financially supports our operating fund, building upkeep, and community programs. Your support is critical to closing reading achievement gaps and improving reading skills across the United States. Together, let's ensure all students have access to quality literacy education.

**To make an online donation, click [here](#); or to donate over the phone, call (713) 664-7676.**

Neuhaus Education Center will host a celebration on Thursday, October 28, 2022, at the Neuhaus building in recognition of all donors who support the Annual Fund with a gift of **\$500 or more**. We hope to see you for a lovely evening in the garden with light bites and drinks.



## SAVE THE DATE

### READING CIRCLE

Thursday, October 27, 2022 | 6:00 P.M.  
Neuhaus Education Center (4433 Bissonnet, Houston)

Join us for entertainment, lite bites, and drinks as we celebrate our generous donors.

*This event is in appreciation for donors who have supported Neuhaus at \$500+ in the past year. A formal invitation will be sent to qualifying donors.*

### J.MCLAUGHLIN IN-STORE EVENT

Thursday, November 17, 2022  
5:00 to 7:00 P.M.  
J.McLaughlin (1963 W Gray St, Houston)

Neuhaus is partnering with J.McLaughlin for an in-store event. Please stop by and encourage others to start holiday shopping and enjoy lite bites and drinks. Neuhaus will receive 15% of the day's sales. If you or someone you know is not in Houston, you can call the store at (832) 831-9240 to make your purchase.

### SHOP & SUPPORT: AMAZON SMILE



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Simply use our [link](#) to connect your account and begin shopping on Amazon to donate to Neuhaus Education Center!

**SHOP NOW**

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Neuhaus Education Center  
is a nonprofit educational  
organization dedicated to  
promoting reading success for all.

We provide evidence-based  
training and support to  
teachers, supplies information  
and resources to families, and  
offers direct literacy services  
to adult learners.

