



April 2014

SHARED CORE VALUE SPOTLIGHT: STUDENTS FIRST

There is no greater value we uphold in our jobs than STUDENTS FIRST! The safety of all our DPS students is our TOP priority, and successfully executing our daily tasks helps us to ensure we accomplish this goal. Thank you to everyone for putting our STUDENTS FIRST each and every day. Go Team DPS!

REMINDERS

GET READY FOR ROADEO 2014!

The 21st Annual School Bus Invitational Roadeo is at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2014, at the Jefferson Co. Training Facility. There are three vehicle divisions (conventional, transit and SPED/lift buses), as well as a Rookie division. Sign up to participate TODAY with Venita Jackson, staff trainer.

Deadline to sign up is April 16.

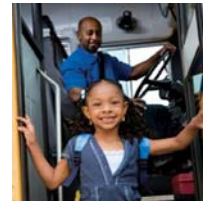
PRACTICE: There will be opportunities to practice for this event on April 28, 29, 30 and May 1 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. A bus will pick you up at your respective terminal and take you to these practice events.

CHECK RIDES & RETRAINS PROCESS

Currently, staff trainers are performing check rides for paras and drivers to observe the interaction of putting our students first during the check-ride or retrain evaluation. Due to our staffing shortage, Safety & Training is making temporary adjustments to this process. These evaluations will now include CTAs. Please [click here](#) to review the memo sent March 10, 2014, by Safety & Training to all employees.

SPRING EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS

Drills were rescheduled due to conflicts with student TCAP testing. Spring drills began on Monday, April 8, and will need to be completed by Tuesday, April 22. Since drills will be conducted via the rear or side emergency exit of the school bus, we expect minimal (if any) negative impact on bell times. For more info, [click here](#).



PLEASE REPORT BUS PROBLEMS

Put students first by reporting any problems with your bus as soon as you return to the terminal (whether AM or PM). This allows our Fleet department to adequately repair any problems or remove the bus from service (depending on severity of the problem) as soon as possible to prevent routes from running late and minimize the time a student would have to wait for a bus.

CLEAN YOUR BUSES

Having a clean bus and work place is essential to ensuring student and employee safety. Drivers, you get paid 15 minutes to wash and clean your bus regularly. Did you know 15 minutes each day equates to a week and a half's wages in an 180-day period?! Take advantage of this opportunity and keep your buses clear, free of trash and clutter, both drivers and paras! At Hilltop, supervisor Christa Hill would like to give Liz Martinez a shout out for modeling this for everyone every day, but also to Ezequiel (Bus 7306) who is giving Liz a run for the money!

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

Transportation Biggest Losers Crowned

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the first terminal-wide Biggest Loser Challenge, to promote healthy living and eating! Each participant took it on their own initiative to find healthy alternatives and exercises to rise to the challenge!!

At Northeast, they had 34 people weigh-in for the Challenge. Every person who participated lost more than 5 lbs, and several lost between 9-10 lbs in the eight week time frame. At Hilltop, 14 individuals participated in the competitive contest. All but three lost weight during the eight weeks, with a total 81.4 pounds lost combined.

For those of you who are participating in the [Thrive Across America Challenge](#), keep up the great work and keep motivating each other to live active and healthy lifestyles!!

FUN ALERT:

VOTE: DPS Employee Intranet

Have you cast your vote in naming our Employee Intranet? Our new Employee Intranet, which is set to launch early in the 2014-15 school year, will be a one-stop shop for all the information you need (and want) to know as a member of Team DPS. Vote for the name of this new portal by April 14, [click here](#).

Call for Baby Pictures

In April there is going to be a Baby Photo Contest in this newsletter that everyone will have a chance to participate. Those who get 100% right will win prizes courtesy from Our DPS! So dust off the old photo albums and dig out your own baby pictures and submit them to your supervisor by April 18. This is an optional activity, but the more baby pictures the funner it will become.



EMPLOYEE SHOUT OUTS

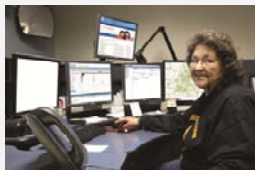


"I would like to recognize **Merlinda Rodriguez**, who has been a driver with us for 33 years. She is great with students and is an avid Bronco fan. She has attended Creating Connections, and sets an example for all employees to follow. I cannot say enough about her abilities."

Nita Reske, Hilltop Terminal manager

"I would like to recognize the whole **NET Fleet Team** for all of their hard work through some trying times and personnel shortages, in doing whatever needs to be done to keep up on our work, while helping out the terminal and the Hilltop shop."

Keith Sanchez, Fleet & Maintenance Supervisor



"I just wanted to let you know of the great customer service we got at CEC tonight. There was a miscommunication on a bus pick-up and when I got a in touch with one of your dispatchers she was super helpful in securing a bus to take a group of students and a panicked instructor to a Technology Students Association contest in the tech center. Please pass along our thanks to **Barbara Foster** that was manning the phone tonight, she made it happen."

Mark Bell, assistant principal, CEC Middle College



"I would like to send a shout out to one of our drivers **Alphonso Neita** he does a great job with his student management skills. Alphonso has a great report with his students. He told me the names were too hard for him so most of his students he gave them nick names such as Curly Sue , Miss Hollywood, Mary Poppins, Clint Eastwood, Romeo, and Matt Dillon. The students that don't have nick names were giving him suggestions of names for their selves. The students eat on the bus and before the leave they threw away their trash. When he asked them to stay in seats they reply yes sir. What a pleasure it was to be with a great driver and a great well behaved group of middle school students."

Venita Jackson, Safety & Training staff trainer

"When we forgot to order the bus for our Destination Imagination trip for the GT kids, and it was less than 10 days' notice to order, **Christel Gayles** found a way to make it happen so our kids will still have a way to get to their competition at GW. Thank you Christel!"

Kal Rao, principal, Cheltenham Elementary

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