



AROUND THE HOUSE

Avondale House eNewsletter



Mark Your Calendar

- May 18: Virtual Unluncheon
- Oct 8: Avondale House Annual Bingo Bash

We Are Going Live!

COVID-19 has changed the way we approach many things in our daily lives – including Avondale House’s biggest event of the year – the annual Embracing Autism Luncheon, scheduled to take place on April 8, 2020. Because we are not able to socialize this month, our originally scheduled event was cancelled, yet we still need to raise critical funds to support our mission and services. Our development team got to work and will now be hosting a virtual “unluncheon” on May 18, 2020, still featuring our highly-anticipated local speaker from Baylor College of Medicine, but now our guests have the advantage of viewing from the comfort of their own homes!

Along with Co-Chairs Dr. Kathleen Mahon and Dr. Milan Jamrich, we hope you will join us for this [Facebook Live chat](#) with Dr. Huda Zoghbi. Dr. Zoghbi is Professor of Pediatrics, Molecular and Human Genetics, Neurology, and Neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine, an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the founding Director of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children’s Hospital. She will be discussing "Lessons From Studying Genetic Causes of Autism" with a short Q & A after her talk. You don't want to miss this!

Can't tune in but still want to help? [Click here to make a contribution](#) to ensure Avondale House can continue providing essential services to individuals most profoundly affected by autism.

EMBRACING AUTISM VIRTUAL UNLUNCHEON

Presented by Texas Children's Hospital

WITH DR. HUDA ZOGHBI
FOLLOWED BY Q&A

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE
MAY 18, 2020
12:00PM



AVONDALEHOUSE.ORG

We are so thankful to our generous sponsors who continue to support our virtual event!

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Learning in the Time of COVID-19

Avondale House Day school is currently operating like the rest of the schools in Houston – with remote learning. This is a new challenge for not just the Avondale House staff, but it is uncharted territory for all educators in this country. We do our best work when we are interacting with the students at Avondale house and physically present in our classrooms. That is the best way to serve our students but these difficult times have made us rethink the entire education system.



Having said that, I am amazed at how creative the awesome staff at Avondale House has been. The first week of remote learning started on March 23, 2020 and we were all at a loss as to how we are going to do this. As time has gone by, the Avondale House staff has reinvented the whole education delivery system. I have been amazed at their creativity and imagination. Every child is unique and has different styles of learning and adjusting. The teachers and paraprofessionals have designed their support system to meet the individual needs of each child. Whether it be designing a website for their classroom or recording daily lessons on their phones and sending to their students, or have daily zoom meetings or face timing them to guide them in their learning, you name it and they have done it. Daily contacts are made with all families and their needs are assessed on a regular basis. The school districts have been working with us hand in hand to make sure our families have what they need.

The Day school staff has developed some truly remarkable tools for our students and families and as we continue to get more comfortable doing this, more and more creativity and innovation is coming into play every day. I have seen the students' faces light up when they participate in daily lessons with the staff. They are adjusting to this new way of learning. We will continue to grow and evolve during these challenging times and eagerly await for things to return to normal when we can go back to the more traditional ways of doing what Avondale House does best, while incorporating all the valuable lessons learned along the way.

We truly miss our students and look forward to seeing them soon!

Sincerely,
Paul Kandola, Principal

A Letter From a Grateful Parent

Good morning,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and the whole Avondale House crew for trying to establish a new normal for Noah during this very stressful and uncertain time. His teachers have really stepped up to the plate sending me resources to use to help him learn, and setting up "class chats" so he has the opportunity to see that his other classmates are at home as well. We have really struggled to get Noah to understand that all of the kids and teachers are also at home waiting for this virus to pass. Claudia has called or texted me daily to check on Noah as well as she sends him pictures of herself throughout the day so he can see what she is doing. You have an amazing staff!! My true hero and lifesaver in all of this mess is Sharon Harrison. She has driven to my house and dropped off stories, crafts, gifts and most of all she made Noah a new schedule for home. She Zooms with him daily to sign the stories and communicate with him, so that he still feels connected. The first week out of school, Noah cried constantly. We were lost. I did not see him really happy until Sharon met us (6 feet apart) in the street to explain to him what was going on. She is a lifesaver. We now have daily lessons with Sharon on Zoom where Noah gets the opportunity to truly communicate and learn. I could not ask for more. I know this email is droning on and on, so in short, I just want to say thanks to the whole Avondale House Crew! YOU GUYS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



Tracy Johnson
Mom to Noah

Blue is for Autism Awareness

Avondale House has gone blue for Autism Awareness! April is Autism Awareness Month, a time to promote awareness of those living with the challenges of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and to assure that all affected by ASD are able to achieve the highest quality of life possible. At Avondale House, we celebrate the differences that make our students and clients unique and our mission is to provide them the resources, education, and training to develop to their full potential. During the month, you will notice that all of our group residential homes and our main facility are illuminated with blue lights to spread awareness, promote acceptance, and ignite change!



Team Member of the Month

Paul Moore is our April team member of the month!

He has worked at Avondale House for almost two years as a Special Education Teacher. Paul runs his classroom in a very organized and efficient manner. He has had excellent progress with his students and is always looking for creative ways to meet them where they are! He often plays musical instruments for the students and is not afraid to get creative to make learning fun. Paul has stepped up his efforts over the last several weeks of remote learning, by creating videos and musical lessons to engage his students from afar.

Congrats and thank you for your hard work, Paul!

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