

Faculty News

SPOTLIGHT ON KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, MR. B

Admission Office

REMINDERS FROM THE ADMISSION OFFICE



Hugo Basurto with his completed project for the E.L.L.A. program



George Cox and Milam Howard, '32, enjoy Preschool 2s Splash Day; Eshan Vakli, '27, 2nd Grade Famous Americans Presentation



In 2013, Phillips 66 approached Rice University with the hope of making a difference in literacy in the greater Houston area with young children. The experts at School Literacy and Culture developed a three year program for teachers of toddlers through 2nd grade that emphasizes early literacy, child development, and leadership. In 2015 our commitment to supporting the growth of our teachers through active engagement in several programs offered at School Literacy and Culture began. Anne Jackson was the first St. Mark's teacher to participate in and complete the Early Literacy Leadership Academy (E.L.L.A.) program. The rigorous program included over 100 seminar hours, participation in a summer institute, presenting at the Early Literacy Summit, personal mentoring in the classroom, reflective assignments, a case study and research project which involved over 120 hours of research and design. Another kindergarten teacher, Mr. Hugo Basurto completed the E.L.L.A program this spring with his research project, "The Write Classroom," which focused on creating a risk free writing environment and creating developmentally appropriate content, supporting social emotional learning, 21st century learners, and developing the stages of writing.

Hugo shares, "My work at ELLA was deeply inspired by a child's curiosity to want to know more. The rewarding collaborations with my students thus far has helped me analyze the true power of a classroom environment. Despite the COVID constraints, my students and I were able to find the least restrictive ways in the continuum that ultimately lead us to the ideal, while still meeting the unique requirements of the moment. My research through Rice helped me create a risk-free environment that celebrates the uniqueness of each child, ultimately creating a classroom that fosters collaboration, curiosity, and joy!"

We are proud of the work of Mr. B and his journey to bring new ideas and techniques to some of our younger students at St. Mark's. His work in the ELLA program displays his own intellectual curiosity and passion for discovery.

Sources: <http://literacy.rice.edu/slc/>

Do you have a sibling that is interested in joining us at St. Mark's?

The application deadline for siblings of St. Mark's students is December 1, 2021. Decisions will be released on February 7 alongside our re-enrollment contracts for current families!

Know someone looking for a new school home?

Our admission application will be available by August 1, and we have many opportunities for families to get to know more about St. Mark's through the application process.

We are excited to welcome over 80 new students to our St. Mark's community in the fall of 2021! Of these new students, 20 are siblings of current students. Welcome, lions!

Why do we have Admission Ambassadors?

During their 8th grade year, St. Mark's students are invited to apply to be part of our Ambassador Program. As our student admission leaders, Ambassadors participate in campus tours and open houses, interact with visiting prospective students and parents, and speak at admission events throughout the year. Our visitors are most struck by their interactions with our students, specifically our Ambassadors. Not only do they provide authentic student perspectives, but they bring our Portrait of a Graduate to life!

Hey Class of 2022! Are you interested in serving as an Admission Ambassador? Stay tuned for more information on how to apply for this great leadership opportunity in the fall!



Amanda Duplantis,
Director of Admission