

Charter Chatter

Briar Meadow BRONCOS Newsletter

April 2, 2008

Issue # 29

TAKS and TAX

The month of April has dual meaning when we talk about TAKS and TAX. Both come due in April and can be challenging. The testing dates are quickly approaching and we are confident that our students and staff are ready to undertake the next TAKS test. Our fifth and eighth graders will be taking the math portion of the test on April 8th. The third, fourth, sixth and seventh will take their math portion on Tuesday, April 29th and the fourth, sixth, and seventh graders will take the reading portion on April 30th. The fifth and eighth graders will take the science portion on May 1st and then the eighth graders will finish up the TAKS testing with the social studies portion on May 2nd. We will celebrate with our Talent Show on May 5th.

We are asking for everyone's support in making the testing environment the best we can possibly provide. Please make sure your child gets plenty of sleep, eats a nourishing breakfast either at home or at school, and is sent off with lots of encouragement and confidence.

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Important Numbers
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TAKS AND TAX continued

We are asking the parents not to visit on testing days so we may provide a secure testing environment. Everyone has worked diligently through the TEKS curriculum toward the goal of passing and the students are well prepared for these assessments. Attitude plays an important part in any stressful situation and we are continually working with our students to have a positive "can do" attitude in regards to the TAKS tests. We will share the test results as soon as we receive the final information from the state.

Parents, thank you for supporting Briar Meadow, and more importantly, your child. It is always sincerely recognized and greatly appreciated.

Spring Safari Carnival Next Saturday!

Load your camera and get ready to shoot some wild pictures because it is a jungle out there! Come this Saturday, April 5, 2008 to the front of BCS from 11 – 3 for the 2008 Spring Carnival Safari. The Carnival has free admission, reasonably priced attractions, fun games, great prizes, tasty food, live animals, and a lot of fun. Oh, did somebody say silly string? I think they did! Homeroom parents will be rounding up volunteers, so please respond generously as we honor our yearly commitment to our kids and our school. Work a little, play a little and we'll make this an incredible and memorable carnival for our children.

Anyone needing additional information or wanting to help should call Carrie Robertson at 713.715.5060, or Monica Harrington at 713.857.9045. Can't wait to see you there on the 5th!

Talent Show Reminder

All students participating in the talent show must stay for the entire rehearsal (1:00-3:00). Participants may not leave following their performance.

April Calendar

1st	Name That Book Middle School
2nd	Elementary Report Cards PTO Board Meeting 6-8
5th	BCS Carnival 11-3 OM State Competition
7th	LAT Math Test 5th & 8th Grade SDMC 4:00 – 5:00
8th	TAKS Math 5th and 8th Grades 7th Grade Field Trip to Minute Maid Park
10th	West Region 5th Grade Parent Meeting for Gifted and Talented 6:30 – 7:30
11th	Talent Show Practice Science in the Movies Presentation
18th	Earth Day Picnic – BBQ Talent Show Practice
19th	Barnes & Noble Book Fair
21st	Name That Book Elementary
23rd	Middle School Report Card
24th	Auction Item – Skate Party 10 Students
25th	Talent Show Rehearsal 1:00-3:00
28th	LAT Math Test 3rd, 4th, 6th, & 7th S.D.M.C. 4:00 – 5:00
29th	TAKS Math 3rd, 4th, 6th, & 7th
30th	TAKS Reading 4th, 6th, & 7th PTO General Meeting 6:00 – 8:00

Spring Testing Schedule

LAT M (5 th)	April 7
TAKS M (5 th & 8 th)	April 8
LAT M (3 rd , 4 th , 6 th & 7 th)	April 28
TAKS M (3 rd , 4 th , 6 th , & 7 th)	April 29
TAKS R (4 th , 6 th , & 7 th)	April 30
RETEST R for 3rd, 5th & 8th	April 30
TAKS Science (5 th & 8 th)	May 1
TAKS Soc. St. (8 th)	May 2
RETEST M 5th & 8th	May 13

Middle School Girls Design Toys for National Competition Again!

Repeat winners! Lara Hattab, Leticia Duarte and Emily Guerra have once again been selected to compete in the TOY Challenge in San Diego. Last year we had two teams of 6th grade girls compete. Now we have one seventh grade team, led by our wonderful math and algebra teacher, Amber Bays, going to the finals in San Diego. The girls were picked from hundreds of teams from across the country. This fun-fueled toy and game design competition gives students the chance to develop engineering and design skills by creating their dream toy.

Leticia Duarte, Emily Guerra & Lara Hattab were selected to compete in the national challenge based on their preliminary design submissions. During the Preliminary Round, teams submit toy or game descriptions and visual presentations of an original design in one of 3 categories: Games for the Family, Get Out and Play, and Toys that Teach. Each toy/game concept was judged on originality, creativity, feasibility, design process description, team participation and clarity of communication. Only 150 Preliminary Round finalist "teams" were invited to advance to the TOY Challenge Nationals to be held later this month. Congratulations, girls!

The girls must raise the funds to travel to California, so you will see a flier in this week's Charter Chatter. Anyone wishing to make a donation may submit cash or a check made out to Briarmeadow Charter School, noting that it is for the TOY Challenge competition.

Earth Day Picnic

We will celebrate Earth Day on April 18th. Earth day is a day intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth's environment. Please join us for our annual Earth Day Picnic.

What to eat? The school will be providing barbeque hamburgers and hotdogs as part of the school lunch. They will be grilled out back and then brought into the cafeteria to be served. In addition Turkey Legs and Sausage-On-A-Stick can be purchased separately. Please come and join us for a celebration of Earth Day. Picnics will begin at 11:00 and we hope to get everyone eating by 12:00 noon.