

# Charter Chatter

February 18, 2009

Issue #23

## GradeSpeed Gradebook Software Approved for Districtwide Use

Cell phones, iPhones, and Blackberries do a wide variety of things. So does GradeSpeed, the grade-book software that HISD will begin using district-wide in the 2009–2010 school year.

GradeSpeed will enable HISD to provide teachers with an online grade-book program that is compatible with the Chancery student data system. Campusware will also provide the StudentConnection and ParentConnection programs, which give students and parents access to daily grades, daily attendance, and homework assignments and can notify parents via e-mails or text messages when their child is absent or his or her grades drop below a specific level. Teachers will also be able to manage course selections and lesson plans online and even provide substitute teachers with a class roster that includes photographs of the students. With GradeSpeed and the HISD Virtual Private Network system, teachers will be able to work on their grade-books from home and create detailed assignments with attached documents if needed, without having to log on to Chancery. Campusware will provide live online technical support afternoons, evenings, and for half a day on Saturdays.



### ***INSIDE THIS ISSUE:***

- **GradeSpeed Grade-book Approved**
- **Go Texan Day !**
- **One Act Play Advances to Finals!**

## February 27 Is Go Texan Day Parade at BCS!



Dust off your boots and reshape your cowboy hats, rodeo fans. It's early springtime in Houston, Texas, and that means the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is right around the corner.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ will begin its annual run at the Reliant Park complex on March 3, 2009, and to recognize its significant contributions to public education, HISD will once again be observing the official “**Go Texan Day**” on **Friday, February 27, 2009**.

HISD employees and students who wish to participate are encouraged to come to work and school dressed in their finest “Western wear.”

The Rodeo's Western Heritage Community Challenge Committee is providing an extra incentive for businesses/organizations to show their “Go Texan” spirit during the days prior to the start of the rodeo this year—whether by dressing in their best Western outfits, decorating their offices and building lobbies, hosting a “best Western outfit” contest, or simply hanging a poster in the office for everyone to see.

**Three winners will be selected** based on their level of participation, signage, enthusiasm, and outfits, and each winner will receive four tickets to an exciting RodeoHouston™ performance!

Since awarding its very first scholarship in 1957, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ has contributed more than \$100 million to educational programs.

**So Broncos, it's time to ride again! Gear up!**

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## Help Us Gather Student Voices & Visions of Health

On February 20-21, 2009, the Houston community will participate in the *Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools Summit: Leveraging the Power of Our Community*. The Summit is about supercharging efforts to create healthier schools and healthier students within the Houston Independent School District. The Summit will bring together representatives from across the community – gathering the rich and varied voices of the many people who care about Houston schools and students, and the health of the community. Log to: [www.healthykidshealthyschools.org](http://www.healthykidshealthyschools.org)  
**We need your help!**

### Fun Foods Friday- February 20<sup>th</sup>

This Friday is Friday Fun Foods. It will be a picnic day for the students. Tickets for FRIDAY FUN FOODS are on sale through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Each ticket costs 50¢. Be sure to purchase your tickets early, you don't want to miss out on this event. Parents, please keep your child(ren)'s tickets in a safe place. Lost or stolen tickets will not be replaced. Please have your child bring a sack lunch as we will be picnicking outside.

### Spirit Ads Wanted!

The Yearbook Committee is requesting your help by selling ads spots for the Yearbook. The ads are \$5 each. All of the pictures and/or words need to fit within the box on the form. The only stipulation is that it be school appropriate. The ads and money can be turned into the front office and the deadline is Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your help!

## February Calendar of Events

- 18<sup>th</sup> Paper Drive- Collection in car pool area
- 19<sup>th</sup> SDMC @ 4:00 p.m.  
Community Night Out- Fajita Flats
- 20<sup>th</sup> Friday Fun Food
- 21<sup>st</sup> One Act Play- Second Round @Johnston M.S., 11:00 a.m.
- 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> Author's Week
- 27<sup>th</sup> Go Texan Day! -BCS Parade following announcements

## One Act Play Advances to Finals

Last Thursday the BCS One Act Play team performed *Bury the Dead* in this year's UIL One Act Play competition. Briar Meadow Charter School is among 20 schools performing in this year's competition. From each round of competition, the top 2 plays are advancing to the finals which will be held this Saturday, February 28th at Johnston Middle School. Our team is not only advancing to the finals but they also came home with several individual awards in this first round. Honorable Mention Cast Awards: Jesus Martinez, Jennifer Schultz and Kendall Williams. All –Star Cast Awards: Aaron Ahmadu and Jack Wolf. Best Actress Award: Mikala Lightning and Best Technical Crew Member Award: Jacob Lopez. Congratulations go out to Mr. Brown and all the cast members!!!! GOOD LUCK in the finals.

## BCS Idols

BCS Idols 2009 finalists have been announced. Congratulations to all who worked hard practicing their act to help us put on a great show this year. We have singers, pianists, dancers, musicians, and lots of surprises. The first rehearsal will be this Friday, February 20 1:00-2:30, all finalists are expected to stay the entire time.. Future rehearsals are scheduled for March 6, March 27, April 17, and a full dress rehearsal on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The BCS Idols show will be held this year on Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 sharp. Each member of the class with the highest audience attendance at the show will get a DVD of the performances! So be sure to invite your friends and family for a fun, free show Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 sharp.

## Attention BCS Parents

Parents please pick up a **Pre-Enrollment** form for 2009-2010 school year at the front office. This will ensure your spot for next year. *Also, any updated contact information is requested.* **Remember that picture proofs and money should be turn in to the teachers by Friday!**

### Parents of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders (only)

Would you like your child's baby picture to be included in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dedications? If yes, your child needs to bring a baby picture or a flash drive to school by Friday, Feb. the 20<sup>th</sup>. It needs to have the child's full name and age on the photo. The photos will be returned as they are only being scanned.

## PTO NEWS

On behalf of the PTO, thank you to all the families who took time to complete and return the "Spring Cleaning" survey. We are currently reviewing and compiling the results, which will be made available soon. For any family who has not returned a survey, please do so without delay. Surveys are still available on the parent table in the foyer. Just fill one out and place it the PTO mailbox. Again, thank you for your commitment of participation as we strive for excellence!