

Charter Chatter

Briar Meadow BRONCOS Newsletter

April 30, 2008

Issue # 33

IBM Grant Programs

IBM Corporation programs for schools are looking for parents/grandparents/friends of Briar Meadow Charter School students who are employees or retirees of IBM! Penne Graham would like to coordinate efforts to apply for various IBM programs and grants for BCS. IBM volunteer hours can be pooled to obtain the greatest possible benefits for our school. Please contact her at penne.graham@us.ibm.com if you work for or are retired from IBM.

Return Car Tags by May 9th!

End-of-year car tag roundup starts April 30th. Look for a return envelope in this week's issue of Charter Chatter. You may return your car tag 1. to your teacher, 2. by placing in the car tag box at the front desk, or 3. by giving it to the volunteers who will be picking them up in the afternoon carpool lane the week of May 5-9. All tags must be returned no later than May 9th. **Remember there a \$10.00 charge for missing car tags.** Please call Violet O'Brien at 713-202-4222 if you have any questions.

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Morning Arrival

Since returning from Spring Break, we have seen an increase in the number of students arriving after 7:55 a.m. Almost 30 cars are arriving after 7:55 a.m. everyday. Many of those cars have 2 or more students inside. That means that almost 25% of our children are not attending morning reading and are not present when instruction begins at 7:55 a.m. At Briar Meadow, we have 2 major priorities: the safety of our children and the academic success of every student.

Arrival after 7:55 a.m. affects academic success because students miss instruction. Those who do not attend morning reading WILL perform at a lower level on academic measures than those who attend. With 25% of the children arriving after instruction begins, the remaining 75% are experiencing an interruption of their learning opportunities.

It is for these reasons that timely arrival is included as a critical part of enrollment at BCS. We are a school of choice and parents must sign the Parent Commitment Form, which addresses excessive tardies and unexcused absences. Enrollment at BCS will be jeopardized by tardies and attendance.

Parent conferences will be scheduled prior to May 15th with parents of children who have excessive tardies and/or unexcused absences (a written excuse was not turned in within 3 days after absence). If your child has more than 5 unexcused absences, you will be asked to attend your zoned school.

Important Numbers

Phone (713) 458-5500 Fax (713) 458-5506

April Calendar

- 30th **TAKS Reading 4th, 6th, & 7th
PTO Board Meeting
Car Tag Pick Up Begins!**

May Calendar

- 1st **TAKS Science 5th & 8th Grade**
- 2nd **TAKS Social Studies 8th Grade
Faculty Picture
Chess Lock-In**
- 5th **Talent Show Day Performance 8:30 & 10:00
Night Performance 6:00**
- 7th **PTO Parent Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.**
- 8th **Kids Hope Party (Permission Slip Required)
St. Luke’s Music Program & Celebration**
- 9th **6th and 7th Grade field
Field Day - Kinder through 5th
Girls Slumber Party w/Ms. Russell
Car Tag Pick Up Ends**
- 13th **TAKS Math Retest 5th & 8th**
- 14th **Dinner w/the Principal 5:00 P.M.**
- 15th **Principal for the Day**
- 16th **Boys Slumber Party w/Mr. Heinze**
- 17th **Pre-K & Kindergarten Round-up 9:00 A.M.**
- 19th-23rd **Middle School Finals**
- 22nd **5th, 6th, & 7th Grade Awards**
- 23rd **Pre-Kinder & 8th Grade Awards**
- 27th **Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd 3rd and 4th Awards**
- 28th **Perfect Attendance Award Luncheon at CiCis**
- 29th **Last Day of School – Early Dismissal
Report Cards Go Home**

Spring Testing Schedule

- TAKS Science (5th & 8th) May 1
- TAKS Soc. St. (8th) May 2
- RETEST M 5th & 8th May 13

**Annual PTO Spring Meeting
and Board Elections**

May 7th, the BCS PTO will hold its annual spring meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room. This meeting is important to everyone - parents, students and teachers. Not only will we have time to reflect on the awesome work our parents have done for the school during 2007-08, but we also have the opportunity to vote for 2008-09 PTO Executive Board Members. All parents and faculty will vote for next year's President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer! We are having a performance by our choir. Mitzi Scott from St. Luke’s music program has put together an outstanding program that shows off our students’ talents. Finally, we can thank the 2007-08 officers - Alice Lebkuecher, President, Michele Alexander, Vice President, Jeff Fetzer, Treasurer, and Christina Kimmel, Secretary. In addition, Fundraising Chair, Kim Sullivan, carnival chairs, Carrie Robertson & Monica Harrington, auction chair, Michelle Alexander, and Sally Foster Chair, Mary Beth McColpin have given so much to our school this year. Please come out to honor students, thank our PTO, vote for the new board, & see our 1st-4th grade choirs perform! It should be great.

Slate of Nominees:

President
Jeff Fetzer

Vice - President
Michele Bua Alexander

Secretary
Christina Kimmel

Treasurer
Amy Stodghill