

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Houston Independent School District
www.bushelementary.org

CHARACTER EDUCATION THEME: SELF-ESTEEM/HONESTY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 14	3:15 p.m.	BEC Meeting
October 15	12:30 p.m.	PTO Board Meeting
October 16	8:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	1 st Grade – Houston Arboretum
October 19-23		Book-a-Palooza Week
October 20		Bush Night @ Papa John's Pizza
October 22	9:00 a.m.	Prospective Parent Information Session
October 26-30		Book Fair Week
October 29		Book Fair Night & Italian Dinner
November 3	9:00-11:45 a.m.	½ 3 rd Grade – Museum Fine Arts
November 4	9:00-11:45 a.m.	½ 3 rd Grade – Museum Fine Arts
November 5	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Volleyball Tournament @ Bush
November 6	9:00 a.m.	Bush Vanguard Neighborhood G/T Forum

BOBCAT NEWS

The new online grade book program, GradeSpeed, is now up and running. This new program is a valuable tool for communicating students' academic progress in grades 1 – 12 as parents and students may access grades from home. To register for the program, parents need their child's HISD number and social security number. If your child does not have a social security number or it was not shared with the school at registration, then your child was assigned an "S" number. If you need your child's HISD or "S" number, then stop by the office. Due to security concerns, these numbers will not be shared over the phone. The Powerpoint presentation from Parents' Night is available on the Bush Elementary website, just click the link on the upper right side. This reference will assist in registering and navigating through the system.

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is available in the Bush cafeteria from 7:20 a.m. – 7:35 a.m. Students purchasing breakfast wait outside the school adjacent to the cafeteria door. Upon finishing breakfast, students will remain in the cafeteria to wait for the first bell.

Breakfast is free for students; adults may purchase breakfast for \$1.70. The HISD Food Service Department prints a calendar of menus each month. Please keep these and refer to them for breakfast menu information.

Breakfast not purchased from the Bush cafeteria will be consumed off campus.

The entire handbook is available at:
www.bushelementary.org

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

Here is the Spectacular Science Word for the week of September 28: hypothesis

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

One of the core values of HISD is "Safety Above All Else." In order to provide a safe environment for every student, HISD enacted a policy requiring a voluntary criminal history check for persons who volunteer in our schools.

If you are NEW to Bush and plan to volunteer in your child's room, help in the cafeteria, or would like to serve as a chaperone on future trips, please be SURE to follow the procedures for the background check. Log-on to the HISD website, www.hisd.org. Click on the 'VIPS' log-in from the quick links column and follow the directions. It takes two to three weeks to get clearance, so it is important to do it now.

BUSH VANGUARD NEIGHBORHOOD G/T FORUM

Save the date! The next Bush Vanguard Neighborhood G/T Forum is scheduled for **Friday, November 6 at 9:00** in the Bush multi-purpose room.

FLU SEASON

This is the season of the year when colds and flu hit hard. If a student is absent for several days, the teachers will be happy to gather work for the child so that he/she does not get too far behind. If you request work for your child, be sure to call early in the day and plan to pick the work up around dismissal time or before 4:00 p.m. This allows teachers to gather assignments for a child without interrupting the instructional time of the other students.

MESSAGE FROM THE ART ROOM

In the next week or two, students will be bringing home a folder from *Original Works*, a company that turns children's art work into gift items to share with family and friends. Our school has participated in this program for several years and the products have always been of the highest quality. Your child's beautiful art work will be in the folder along with a price list and an order form. If you are interested in purchasing gifts with your child's art, please fill out the order form and enclose it with the **art work** and a check made out to **Bush PTO** in the folder. There will be a box in the art room for orders. Remember to enclose the **completed order form, check, and the art work** in the folder. The ordered items will arrive in November.

VISITORS TO THE BUILDING

ALL parents, grandparents, and visitors who wish to enter the school will need to have a valid state-issued driver license or a valid state-issued picture ID. These may be attained at the Texas Department of Transportation Driver License offices. The license or the ID will be scanned, a background check performed, and if approved, a visitor's badge will be printed. The badges will have your picture, name, time, and visit location. Please make sure you bring your driver's license/state ID if you wish to go past the office. Grandparents and other visitors who come for lunch must be accompanied by the parent or have the parent's approval (in the form of a note or the person is listed on the enrollment card.) Please be advised all IDs will be checked at the office before going into the building. Thank you for making Bush a safe and secure campus.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE PTO YET?

The Barbara Bush Parent Teacher Organization provides volunteer support to our teachers and financial support to enhance the educational experience of all Bush Students.

We are proud to announce that 100% of the faculty and staff joined the PTO. We already have a strong show of support from Bush families and encourage those who have not yet signed up to join other parents and our wonderful teachers and staff in working together "**To Win in 2009-2010.**"

Membership is only \$15 per family. Please show your support and join today!

PROSPECTIVE PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Do you have a child coming to Bush next year? Then come and join a prospective parent information session that will answer all your questions about Bush Elementary programs and curriculum. We will tour the school and discuss all of the wonderful things Bush has to offer. If you know a neighbor or friend who would like to attend one of these information sessions, please pass the invitation on to them. These sessions will take place at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: October 22, November 19, January 29, February 18, March 25, May 6, May 13, and May 21.

SCHOOL NEWS NETWORK

(articles submitted by other area schools)

WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL DANCE WITH INERTIA!

Join Westside High School's INERTIA Dance Company for an exciting performance experience! The Inertians would like to invite you to perform with them during halftime on **Saturday, October 3rd**! First, attend the rehearsal in the WHS Gym from **12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.** to learn all the moves. Then meet at Delmar Stadium at 6:00 p.m. to perform at halftime! This clinic is open to **girls and boys ages 5-14**, and the cost is \$40 per child which includes instruction, game ticket, game t-shirt, snacks and door prizes. Application forms are available in the Bush office. **For more information, contact Abby Cramer at 713-898-0135 or n.cramer@sbcglobal.net**

BOBCATS WIN IN 2009-2010

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, or political affiliation in its educational or employment programs and activities.