

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – AUGUST 26, 2009

Houston Independent School District
www.bushelementary.org

CHARACTER EDUCATION THEME: COMMITMENT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| September 3 | 6:00 – 7:45 p.m. | Parents' Night |
| September 7 | | HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL |
| September 8 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Boy Scout Night at Bush |
| September 9 | 6:00 - 7:45 p.m. | Fourth Grade Writing Night |
| September 10 | 10:00 a.m. | Kindergarten "C" Parade |
| September 17 | 6:00-7:30 p.m. | Girl Scout Night at Bush |
| September 28 | | HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL |
| October 14 | 3:15 p.m. | BEC Meeting |
| October 19-23 | | Book-a-Palooza Week |
| October 26-30 | | Book Fair Week |
| October 29 | | Book Fair Night & Italian Dinner |

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the school year, this section of the newsletter will highlight key points from the Bush Parent Handbook. School begins at 7:45 a.m. Students arriving after 7:50 a.m. are tardy. Students arriving after 9:00 a.m., without a doctor's excuse, are marked absent.

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

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

Here is the Spectacular Science Word for the week of August 24: scientist

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Welcome back! I hope you are all ready to work hard and have fun. Now is the time to establish good routines to carry you through the school year. Make sure you get a good night's sleep so you will be rested and arrive at school ready to go at 7:40 a.m. Eat a healthy breakfast every morning so your brain will have the fuel it needs to work and learn all day. A rested and healthy body will be needed as we all work together to make sure **"Bobcats Win in 2009-2010."**

Theresa Rose, Principal

BOBCAT NEWS

PARENTS' NIGHT

The most important meeting of the year for Bush is Parents' Night on September 3, 2009. This meeting is VERY EARLY in the school year and is purposefully not called an Open House. It is different in format and purpose from a traditional school open house. Parents' Night is from 6:00-7:45 p.m. The PTO meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose room starting at 6:00 p.m. This will give you an opportunity to be introduced to the entire Bush staff, hear about the new school-wide Grading Policy, and learn how to access the new GradeSpeed program from home. Most parents will be able to see their child's grades through this new program. Then, PTO will review the year and discuss their budget. When this meeting is finished, parents will go to the classrooms.

Teachers will then outline the grade level curriculum, communication procedures, grading, test schedules, and much more. The goal is to give parents all the information they need EARLY in the year so that they can be supportive partners in their child's education.

These meetings are designated for adults. Please make other arrangements for children so that there is plenty of room for all the adults who will attend.

MILLIONAIRE BOOK CLUB

All Millionaire Club paper(s) are due to the classroom teachers by tomorrow, Thursday, August 27. This paperwork must include the list of books (at least 5) the student read, a parent signature, and date. This is open to all students. If a student was not here last year, then the paperwork can still be submitted if at least 5 books were read this summer.

BUSH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE (BEC)

Every HISD campus is required to have a Site Based Decision Making Committee (SDMC). The SDMC membership is comprised of selected members of classroom teachers, school-based staff, non-instructional staff, parents, community members, business members, and the principal. At Bush Elementary, this committee is called the BEC which stands for the Bush Excellence Committee. The BEC committee is involved in areas of planning, budgeting, curriculum, staff development, and school organization. The BEC also discusses topics such as bond renovations, class size waivers, dress code, Safety Patrols, and dismissal procedures. BEC meeting minutes are posted on the Bush website.

SCOUT RALLY NIGHTS

Scout Rally Night, for boys is September 8th at Barbara Bush Elementary School from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Rally night for Girl Scouts is on September 17th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Come see what the excitement is all about. Scouting is FUN!

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.

MORNING ARRIVAL

Starting Wednesday, September 2, all students will walk unaccompanied, down the hall to their classrooms. The students need to develop independence. Pre-K and K parents may stand at the entrance to the PK/K hall to watch their child walk to their classroom.

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.

ART NEWS!!

Beginning in September we will be offering an **Art After School** program for students in grades four and five. The classes, taught by Dr. Buza, will be held in the Art Room from 2:45 until 4:00 on Tuesdays. Each month the lessons will focus on a different type of art media. The sign-up sheets are outside the ART ROOM. Students may sign up for more than one month of lessons but they should indicate their **first choice** as class size is 10 to 12 students. Participants must have all E's in conduct and must be able to attend all of the month's lessons.

FACULTY AND STAFF PARKING LOT

In the morning, parents have been seen parking in the faculty/staff parking lot and letting their children out. These children have then been walking **unaccompanied** across the busy bus lane. This extremely dangerous and unsafe behavior must **not** occur. **All** students must be dropped off in the carpool lane. Please **do not** park in the faculty and staff parking lot; it is reserved for Bush Elementary faculty and staff **ONLY**.

NURSE'S RULE

Please do **not** send your sick child to school. If your child has fever, pink eye, or upset stomach, please keep him or her home. We have lots of folks under our roof every day. For the health and safety of **all** students, it is very important that children stay home when they are ill. Students who have thrown up during the night or who are running a fever **cannot** be sent to school. Students must be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school. When your child returns to school, please send a signed note stating the days your child was absent and the reason for the absence.

EARLY PICK UPS

Please do not plan to pick up your child between 2:15 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. The doors will be locked at 2:15 p.m. every day to get ready for dismissal. To ensure a safe dismissal, students will not be called after 2:15 p.m. Thank you for helping to make dismissal safe for all our students.

CARPOOL PROCEDURES

Our carpool system really does work, but it is always a bit rough in the beginning! Please "hang in there with us" and follow the rules. We promise that it will operate quickly and efficiently very soon.

The goal of the carpool is to provide a safe pick-up system that operates the same way, rain or shine. Please follow the rules printed below and soon you will be enjoying curb service pick-up for your child.

All carpool groups are given an opportunity to sign up for a carpool number. Both drivers and riders need to be familiar with and use the number. Carpool drivers pull up in the carpool lane on the Westerloch side and display their number in the front window. Carpool students wait in the hallway under their number. Carpool numbers are called over the intercom. Students are dismissed directly to board their cars if the car is in the lane. As cars pull up, additional numbers are called. **Please adhere to the following guidelines to ensure smooth operation of the carpool system.**

- Remain in your car at all times when using the carpool lane.
- Do not ask your child to cross in the middle of the block on Westerloch.
- Place the number in the front window on the passenger side or hang it from the mirror.
- Children cannot be dropped off or picked up at the curb in front of the school on Westerloch or on the east side of Parkway Plaza. This endangers the child **and** blocks the flow of traffic for parents who are attempting to abide by the rules and use the system properly.
- Be a good neighbor and do not block driveways.
- In order to not have traffic backed up onto Eldridge, cars may line up on Park Bayou and merge into the line on Westerloch.

BIKERS & WALKERS

All kindergarten-5th grade bikers and walkers are dismissed out of the building at 2:45 p.m. If parents want a **safe** place for their child to wait inside the building until a parent is present for pickup, please use the carpool lane. Students of parents who are not here at dismissal will wait at their assigned carpool number.

NO PARKING ZONE

The visitor lane driveway, along with the entrance and exit, is a **FIRE/NO PARKING ZONE**. Parents may line up for carpool in this area but must stay in their cars. Cars may not be parked and left unattended in this no parking zone. Thank you for following these guidelines which are designed to make Bush Elementary a safer school. **Please do not park in the handicapped spaces unless a valid handicapped tag is displayed.**

HAVE WHEELS WILL NOT TRAVEL

For safety reasons, we do **not** allow the use of rolling backpacks in the halls and walkways at Bush. Students may use the rollers walking to and from school.

BIG SAVINGS

Every time parents, students and school supporters give our school's 5% Back to Schools ID number when buying qualifying school supplies at Office Depot, Bush receives credits equal to 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for free supplies. Our ID number is 70098158.

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.