

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – OCTOBER 21, 2009

Houston Independent School District
www.bushelementary.org
 CHARACTER EDUCATION THEME: HONESTY

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 19-23		Book-a-Palooza Week
October 21	9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	5 th Grade – Health Museum
October 22	9:00 a.m.	Prospective Parent Information Session
October 26	9:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Special Ed. – Kroger/McDonald's walk
October 26-30		Book Fair Week
October 26-30		Drug Free Awareness Week
October 29	5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Book Fair Night & Italian Dinner
November 1	2:00 a.m.	Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 3	9:00 a.m. -11:45 a.m.	3 rd Grade – Museum Fine Arts (Dow/Roe/1/2 Heimer)
November 4	9:00 a.m. -11:45 a.m.	3 rd Grade – Museum Fine Arts (Taylor/Ringrose/1/2 Heimer)
November 4	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Papa John's Pizza Pick-up at Bush
November 6	9:00 a.m.	Bush Vanguard Neighborhood G/T Forum
November 17	8:00 a.m.	Tea With Theresa

BOBCAT NEWS

HOW DID WE DO?

This summer, a randomly selected group of parents received an Organizational Health Inventory to survey Bush Elementary's ability to function effectively, cope with problems, focus on goals, change, and grow. Thank you to the parents who participated in this survey as feedback is valuable for all organizations and individuals in order to maximize potential and strive for excellence. The survey analysis showed the top skills for Bush Elementary were Communication, Autonomy (maintain ideals and goals as well as meet needs while managing demands from outside), and Cohesiveness (clear sense of identity, attracted to membership in an organization). The following skills were ranked at the lowest end with an average response of "agree" to "undecided:" Innovation (inventive, diverse, risk-taking) and Adaptation (maintain stability while coping with demands of the environment). This information was shared with the teachers in a faculty meeting followed by a discussion on continuing our best practices and tweaking areas that could be stronger.

Bush Elementary is one of the top schools in Texas as noted by the Texas Business and Education Coalition's Honor Roll Award. Thank you for being part of the incredible partnership of students, parents, community members, and faculty and staff who make Bush Elementary the "Best of the Best!"

SAY NO TO DRUGS

Drug Free Awareness Week - October 26-30

To promote Drug-Free Awareness Week, Bush students will have opportunities to demonstrate their pledge to be drug-free. Although we hope to see all students participating in each day's theme, participation is not mandatory. If a student does not participate, then the Bush dress code policies apply.

Monday, Oct. 26 – Pledge to be Drug Free (wear solid red dress-code shirt)

Tuesday, Oct. 27 – Team Up Against Drugs (wear team jerseys or shirts from their favorite drug-free activities)

Wednesday, Oct 28 – Texans give Drugs the Boot (western wear)

Thursday, Oct. 29 – Sock-it to Drugs (wear crazy or mismatched socks)

Friday, Oct. 30 – I'm a "JEAN"-ius (wear jeans)

TEA WITH THERESA

In honor of Book-a-Palooza week, Ms. Rose is encouraging parents to read *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell. The book is a fascinating read detailing why some people succeed more than others. On Tuesday, November 17, Tea with Theresa will focus on the educational implications of the book, *Outliers*, in a Parent Book Study. This summer, all Bush teachers read the book and participated in enlightening discussions on what schools can do to ensure all students have the opportunities for success. Now, it is time for the parents to discuss the book, *Outliers*. Even if you do not have the opportunity to finish or read *Outliers*, still plan to attend to discover tips for encouraging and furthering your child's potential.

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

CELL PHONES

Students are allowed to have a cell phone in their backpack to use **only** to communicate with parents after school. Cell phones are **not** allowed to be on or used during the school day. Cell phones that are visible (seen or heard) during the school day will be confiscated and turned in to the office. The student's **parent** will have to come to the office to retrieve the phone. Repeated confiscation will result in the cell phone being placed in the "June Box." Then, the **parent** will be able to pick up the cell phone on the last day of school at the earliest. Bush students are asked not to bring toys, electronic or other valuable items to school. The school will not be held responsible for valuable items if they are lost on school property.

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

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

Here is the Spectacular Science Word for the week of October 19: matter

BOOK FAIR

The annual Bush Book Fair will be held October 26-30. Students will preview books with their classes early in the week and may bring cash or a check (payable to Bush PTO) to purchase books **any time during the week**. Students love the excitement of selecting items and making purchases all by themselves! Parents and other family members are welcome to shop during the week as well. Our big event is the Italian Supper and Book Fair Night on Thursday, October 29. The Book Fair will be in the Multi-Purpose room all week long, and our hours will be:

7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Friday

VIVA ITALIA

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, October 29. It's Italian Supper and Book Fair night at Bush. Dinner will be catered by *Piatto Ristorante* and will be served from 5:30-7:00 pm. The dinner will consist of grilled chicken, pasta, salad, bread, drink, and a dessert! Tickets are \$8.00 each and will be available by advance purchase only. Tickets may be purchased by returning the form which came home in the communication folder last week. Your tickets will be sent home with your child in an envelope marked "Italian Dinner Tickets." The last day for purchasing tickets will be Wednesday, October 28. No tickets will be sold at the door the night of the dinner. PTO will send home additional information. See you at the Italian Supper! Ciao!

LET THEM EAT PIZZA!

Papa John's Pizza -Teacher Delivery Night is Wednesday, November 4! Once again, instead of teachers delivering pizzas, families will come to Bush to pick up their pizzas from the teachers. The pizza will be pre-ordered and forms are in the communications folder today. Please return the order forms to school as soon as possible. The teachers and staff will be in the carpool lane "delivering" pizzas to the cars that pull up between 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Payment and tips will be collected in the carpool lane that night when you get your pizza.

This will be a fun **FUN**raising evening!

BUSH BOBCATS SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Please help to make life a little more comfortable for our troops serving overseas. We will be having a gift drive from October 22nd - November 13th. Each grade level has specific items to donate. Please check the flyer which came home last week.

Thank you for your support. Your gifts mean so much to our troops.

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 a.m.** in the Bush Multi-Purpose room. Parents of G/T students should plan to attend this meeting to see and hear from teachers about G/T classroom differentiation. We will also select parents to be on the Bush G/T Advisory Council. Also, come hear about the G/T testing of PK students and future kindergartners for a Vanguard Kindergarten class to start August 2010.

KEEP RECYCLING BOBCATS!

Save your empty Capri Sun, Honest Kids, Kool Aide Jammers, etc juice pouches at home or from birthday parties and drop them off at the Italian Dinner and Book Fair on Thursday, October 29th. Look for our specially marked containers and drop off your recycling. It's that easy!

LONG DISTANCE PHONE NUMBERS

It is imperative that all information on each child's enrollment card be complete and kept current. We have a few parents who still have long distance phone numbers listed. Please make sure we have local phone numbers on file because we are unable to make long distance calls from school.

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

Dr. Buza will be placing a late order for Original Works products for families who missed the deadline. For those families who would still like to order, the new deadline is Friday, October 23.

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)

WEST BRIAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

It's Carnival Time!

West Briar welcomes all of the families from our feeder schools to join in the fun! Bring the whole family and invite your neighbors and friends to the West Briar Fall Carnival on Saturday, November 7 from 11:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. Enjoy inflatables, an obstacle course, games, prizes, food and music. This event is sponsored by the Booster Club and benefits all athletics & P.E. programs at WBMS.

WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

The Westside Music Boosters is now taking orders for poinsettias from The Brookwood Community. They are florist-grade 16-inch plants with 5-7 blooms, each wrapped in decorative foil for \$15 each. They will be delivered to WHS on Friday, December 4th. All proceeds benefit the Band, Choir and Orchestra program at Westside HS.

We are also selling Blue Wave Car Wash cards for \$5. Each card is loaded with a \$14 credit. That is \$9 of free car wash credit and it helps fund the great music programs at Westside HS.

For more information or to place an order, please contact Jordana Ford at 281-788-6241 or jordanaf@att.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.