

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – OCTOBER 7, 2009

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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 10	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Parent Dyslexia Awareness Day
October 14	3:15 p.m.	BEC Meeting
October 15	12:30 p.m.	PTO Board Meeting
October 15	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Candidates Forum – Fondren Middle School
October 16	8:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	1 st Grade – Houston Arboretum
October 19-23		Book-a-Palooza Week
October 22	9:00 a.m.	Prospective Parent Information Session
October 26-30		Book Fair Week
October 29		Book Fair Night & Italian Dinner
November 1	2:00 a.m.	Daylight Saving Time Ends
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 6	9:00 a.m.	Bush Vanguard Neighborhood G/T Forum

BOBCAT NEWS

WOW!

We are proud to announce that the Fall Fundraiser was a HUGE SUCCESS! A big thank you goes out to Bush families, friends, faculty and staff who contributed so generously to our underwriting campaign. We raised an incredible **\$20,550!!** The outpouring of financial support for our great school is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations go out to the Zain and Alina Khan family. Their name was drawn as the winner of the "Principal for the Day" contest.

BOOK-A-PALOOZA

The theme for our week-long reading festival this year is "**Bush Reading Round Up.**" On Monday, October 19th, there will be a Book-a-Palooza kick-off ceremony for students in the courtyard. Every day during that week, something exciting will be going on to get the students curious about books. All students, faculty, and staff will begin every morning by reading from 8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. On Wednesday, students will attend the exciting THE WILD WEST READING SHOW presented by educational entertainer Julian Franklin. Friday is our big "**Bush Reading Round Up**" when upper grade students partner with lower grade students to share the reading experience. Make sure you continue the spirit of Book-a-Palooza at home and always encourage your child to read!

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

Look for more information to come home soon!

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS **CONFERENCES**

Parent/Teacher conferences are a valuable tool to be used in helping children be happy and successful at school. Be sure to take advantage of this tool! Because it is so important, please follow these guidelines to ensure that you have the best possible conference with your child's teacher. To arrange for a conference:

1. **Make an appointment** – write a note to the teacher, leave a message on the teacher's voice mail, or e-mail the teacher to arrange an appointment time.
2. Plan to come to school. Teachers can share work samples, clarify assignments, etc. when personal rather than telephone conferences are held.
3. Be "tuned in" to your child so you know when to request a conference.
4. Watch test papers, progress reports, etc. that signal trouble areas.

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

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

Here is the Spectacular Science Word for the week of October 5: variables

PARENT DYSLEXIA AWARENESS DAY

As part of the district's ongoing parent education program and in recognition of October as National Dyslexia Awareness Month, the Office of Special Populations – Dyslexia Program Support Services extends an invitation to you to our first Parent Dyslexia Awareness Day, Saturday, October 10, 2009, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Hattie Mae White ESC, 4400 West 18th Street.

The theme, *Parents Are Our Partners: Creating a K-12 College-Bound Culture Together*, reflects HISD's strong commitment to working closely with parents to ensure academic success for all students. Keynote presentations will be delivered by Brenda Taylor, Texas State Dyslexia Consultant, and James 'Jim' Carter, President - Houston Branch International Dyslexia Association (HB-IDA).

Regional representatives and/or Special Populations Managers will also be present to answer questions for parents.

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.

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. If you have a child who is at home sick, please do not bring that child to school to have lunch with his/her sibling or to any after-school campus-based event.

IT PAYS TO RECYCLE

Bush is joining THE CAPRI SUN Pouch Brigade! TerraCycle™ and Capri Sun have teamed up to keep used drink pouches out of landfills. TerraCycle™ reuses Capri Sun pouches to make cool, fun new products like pencil cases, pocket folders, and tote bags. The Bush Nature Center habitat will earn 2¢ for each empty Capri Sun and Honest Kids juice pouch we collect. We will begin collecting *empty* juice pouches during your child's lunch. You can also save your *empty* juice pouches at home and send them to your child's teacher. Don't worry if you do not drink Capri Sun products, TerraCycle™ pays 1¢ for all other juice pouches. No juice boxes please!

Thanks for supporting Bush nature center's backyard habitat. Contact michel.hinton@earthlink.net or terracycle.net for more information.

ORIGINAL WORKS UPDATE

Your child's art work for *Original Works* should be coming home in the next week or two. Examples of the items you can order are currently displayed outside the ART Room. Please return your orders ASAP and do not forget to return the beautiful art with your check or cash and order form. The last day to place an order for guaranteed holiday delivery is **October 19, 2009**. If you have any questions, please contact lbuza@houstonisd.org.

HELMETS AND CHAINS

If your child rides a bicycle to school, it is important to play it safe! Children are required to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle. Join the "helmet patrol" and see that all children are following bicycle safety rules.

We have a bike rack for parking. **All bikes and scooters should be chained and locked to prevent theft.** Be sure that your child has a bike lock he/she can operate.

CANDIDATES FORUM

Southwest Houston 2000 is hosting a Candidates' Forum on Thursday, October 15 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Fondren Middle School, 6333 S. Braeswood.

City of Houston: Mayor, Controller
Council Positions: Districts C and F
At-Large Positions 1-5
HISD School Board: Districts 5, 6, and 9

For more information, please refer to the flyer which came home today.

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 for 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.**

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.