

# **PAWPRINTS**

## BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

Houston Independent School District  
www.bushelementary.org

CHARACTER EDUCATION THEME: SELF-ESTEEM

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 15-18		5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Camp
September 17 & 23	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Night at Bush
September 24	3:00-6:00 p.m.	<b>Influenza Vaccinations – Public Welcome</b>
September 25		<b>INDIVIDUAL PICTURE DAY</b>
September 28		<b>HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL</b>
October 14	3:15 p.m.	BEC Meeting
October 16	8:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> 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

### HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

#### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Parents may bring cupcakes, cake, brownies, or cookies to be distributed during the last 5 minutes of the child's lunch time.

Please do not plan to have a birthday party in the cafeteria or in the classroom. Party hats, favors, decorations, balloons, etc. should be reserved for off-campus parties.

**Invitations to off-campus birthday parties are NOT to be distributed at school.**

Please do not have flowers, balloons, gift baskets, singing telegrams, etc. delivered to school for individual students. Such items will **not** be delivered to the classroom.

The entire handbook is available at:  
[www.bushelementary.org](http://www.bushelementary.org)

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### SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

Here is the Spectacular Science Word for the week of September 14: mass/weight

### BOBCAT NEWS

#### **PLEASE NOTE!**

Parent GradeSpeed access has been postponed until Monday, September 28.

#### **PARENT WRITING NIGHT**

The fourth grade parent/student writing night was a huge success! Mrs. Jay and Miss Ross had families taking notes and writing complex sentences. It was wonderful to see so many fourth grade families, who took time out of their busy schedules, spend two hours learning ways to assist their child in the writing process.

Before the presentation, families enjoyed a pizza dinner, courtesy of the PTO. Thank you PTO for providing the pizza dinner! Way to go, Mrs. Jay and Miss Ross, for the fantastic learning experience!

#### **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.

## MILLIONAIRE BOOK CLUB FINAL NOTES

Congratulations to the 233 students who read at least five books this summer and submitted their book list! As you found out with your summer reading adventure, reading makes you smart! Congratulations to the 25 faculty and staff who also completed the Millionaire Club requirements! If you remember, Ms. Rose challenged the boys and girls to read at least 19 books to exceed her total from the previous summer. This summer Ms. Rose read 23 books. She was very excited to hear from so many students who read more books than she did. Millionaire Club shirts will be distributed soon and the first day to wear them will be Thursday, September 24. From that day on, they will become part of the student dress code. Keep on reading!

## FLAG FOOTBALL IS COMING TO BUSH!

We will be starting our first annual flag football season on October 8<sup>th</sup>. It will be every Thursday from 3:00-4:00 p.m. except for October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>. Flag football is open to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls who would like to learn a safe alternative to tackle football. In flag football, all players wear a belt with two flags attached by Velcro. When an offensive player has the ball, the defense tries to remove one of the flags. If successful in grabbing the flag, the offensive player is considered "down" and the ball is then marked where the flag was pulled. Students will learn proper ways of catching and throwing a football, as well as receiving routes, formations, and game strategies. Parents with questions can contact Coach Justin Shorter at 281-368-2150 ext. 409.

## RAINY DAY PLAN

As the weather in Houston is very unpredictable, it is highly recommended that parents purchase an inexpensive fold-up rain poncho and place it in their child's backpack. This poncho can be "saved for a rainy day." We can load more students into cars if they can walk farther down the driveway to enter waiting cars. Be sure you have a rainy day plan for your child. Make sure that your child knows what he or she is to do if it is raining at dismissal time.

## LET'S DO LUNCH.....

We have always invited parents to come to school and have lunch with their children. Some parents opt to take their child from the cafeteria and eat in the courtyard. This is fine, as long as the child is back with his/her class by the end of the lunch period. For safety reasons, parents are not allowed to take any other child out of the cafeteria.

## OUCH!

The Texas Vaccine Institute is going to be at Bush on Thursday, September 24 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. to administer flu shots to anyone who wants to get a flu shot. The vaccination is targeted for adults and children six months and older. Children under eighteen must be accompanied by a parent. The vaccine is not recommended for people allergic to egg products, with a fever, or pregnant in the first trimester. The cost of the flu shot is \$20 per person. The flu mist or inhaled nasal spray will cost \$30 per person. Payment can be made by cash or check. The vaccine is given on a first come, first served basis. For more information please refer to the flyer from the Texas Vaccine Institute which came home today.

## LET'S PLAY

The new playground will be dedicated on Wednesday, September 23 at 9:00 a.m. on the hard top. ALL students love playing on the new equipment. Thanks to the generous donations from the students, parents, faculty and staff, businesses, and community members, the playground was built! Dreams do come true.

## SMILE PLEASE!

**Picture Day is Friday, September 25. On individual picture day, students do not need to follow dress code guidelines. However, students do need to be dressed appropriately for a regular school day. Ball gowns and suits are not practical for children to wear to school.**

## CANINE CURRICULUM

We know that we have a lot of exceptionally smart canines in the Bush community. Some of them have been coming to school, especially in the afternoon, to wait on the porches in hopes of soaking up some extra knowledge. We are sure that in addition to being life-long learners, the dogs are extra anxious to see their young owners. However, there has been concern expressed over the presence of dogs on campus. Although no mishap has occurred, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. To ensure the safety and security of students and to give peace of mind to parents, please do not bring animals on campus.

## GIRL SCOUT RALLY NIGHT

Rally night for Girl Scouts is, tomorrow, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Come see what the excitement is all about. The next meeting for Girl Scouts is September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Scouting is FUN!

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## SCHOOL NEWS NETWORK

(articles submitted by other area schools)

## WEST BRIAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Curious about West Briar Middle School's G/T Program??

On Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:00 p.m., West Briar Middle School is holding a G/T Parent Involvement meeting where the program will be explained and any questions answered. All parents interested in learning more about the G/T program are invited to attend.

## 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.