

# **PAWPRINTS**

## BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

Houston Independent School District  
[www.bushelementary.org](http://www.bushelementary.org)  
 CHARACTER EDUCATION THEME: SELF-ESTEEM

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 3	6:00 – 7:45 p.m.	Parents' Night
September 7		<b>HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL</b>
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 25		<b>INDIVIDUAL PICTURE DAY</b>
September 28		<b>HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL</b>
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

#### COMMUNICATIONS' DAY

Wednesday is Communications' Day at BBES. We will make every effort to send all notices, calendars, newsletters, etc. home on Wednesday. **Please** purge your child's backpack each Wednesday; there will probably be at least one important note! Bush students use a red pocket folder to carry communications. Be sure to look for it and to use it when sending notes to the teacher. The newsletter, *Paw Prints*, is published weekly. It contains important dates and information regarding events and issues at Bush Elementary.

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 August 31: hazard.

### BREAKING NEWS

Bush Elementary has made the Texas Business and Education Coalition (TBEC) Honor Roll for 2009. Woo Hoo!!! We like to call it the "BOB" award for being named the Best of the Best in Texas. **The TBEC Honor Roll is the most prestigious award for sustained, academic excellence in Texas.** It recognizes schools that have demonstrated three years of consistent, high performance in all subjects compared to other schools serving similar student populations. The TBEC Honor Roll schools have the highest percentage of students performing at the state's most rigorous standard – commended – in every subject. Bush Elementary achieved this award through hard work and a dedication to excellence. Way to go to the students, faculty, and staff!!! Thank you to the parents for sending your students prepared for learning every day and your continued support!!!

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### BOBCAT NEWS

#### PARENTS' NIGHT

The first PTO meeting of the 2009-2010 school year will be extremely important as it will focus on the new school-wide grading policy, the new grade book program, and PTO's activities and budget for the year. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3 in the Multi-Purpose room. The morning session will be at 8:00 a.m. The evening session will be at 6:00 p.m. (followed by Parents' Night.)

Parents are highly encouraged to attend one of these sessions to learn how to access their child's grades online using the new GradeSpeed program.

At Parents' Night, teachers will 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.

There will be a follow up GradeSpeed meeting on Wednesday, September 9 at 8:00 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose room. Parents will have access to GradeSpeed on September 8 and this session will once again show how to access their child's grades on GradeSpeed.

**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.**

### GOOD NEIGHBORS

Please be considerate of the homes neighboring Bush when visiting, dropping off, or picking up your children. Also, we are expecting a huge turnout on Parents' Night. A big crowd means lots of traffic and street parking on all the streets around the campus. Be a good neighbor and remember the following parking rules:

- Don't park in front of fire hydrants.
- Park at least 20 feet from an intersection.
- Do not block driveways.

## THE SCHOOL LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

The Library relies on volunteers to shelve books, label items, and help Mrs. Zeagler keep everything in tip top shape for our students. This is a great volunteer opportunity for parents who want to have a set day of the week to come in and work. The Library has been reorganized to accommodate over 2,500 new books on the shelves this year. Whether you're a new volunteer or an experienced veteran, you're invited to a training session conducted by Mrs. Zeagler on Friday, September 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

## CELL PHONE MISUSE!

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 parents may come to the office to retrieve the phone. Repeated confiscation of the cell phone will cause the cell phone to be placed in the "June Box." Then, the parent may pick up the cell phone on the last day of school at the earliest.

Please follow the established procedures for dismissal. Refrain from using the cell phone to communicate to your child during dismissal because it slows the process down for everyone.

## 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.

## CARPOOL TIPS

Here are some tips to help keep the carpool lane moving.

- Help your child memorize his/her carpool number.
- Have the seats on the carpool side (passenger side) of your car free of clutter or obstructions so children can easily enter their cars.
- Have your carpool number displayed from your rear view mirror. If some other item is also hanging from the mirror, place the carpool number in front.
- Do not get out of your car, for any reason, in the carpool lane.

## CROSSING GUARDS

Bush Elementary is fortunate to have many crossing guards. The crossing guards have the very important job of ensuring a safe passage across busy streets for parents and children. Parents and children need to wait for crossing guards to blow their whistles and raise their signs before crossing the intersections. It is extremely unsafe for parents and/or students to walk into the busy streets without waiting for the crossing guard. The traffic flow is drastically slowed when parents cross in the middle of the street or do not follow the crossing guards' directions. Please work with us to ensure everyone's safety while walking and driving around Bush Elementary.

## 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.

## EVERY DAY IS IMPORTANT

Children enrolled in public schools are required to attend every day that school is in session. Children who are sick need to stay at home. However, extended vacations that conflict with the school calendar are counted as unexcused absences. Many families add a few extra days or weeks to existing school holidays. The students are losing out on valuable instructional time when they are not in the classroom learning.

HISD attendance policy states "students who have accumulated more than 7% unexcused absences in their courses during the school year will be denied credit in these courses unless the attendance committee grants credit." An attendance referral will be made to the district attendance specialist after three (3) consecutive absences if the school is unable to determine the reason and/or its validity. The district may file a complaint against the student's parent in court if the student fails to attend school without an excuse for 10 or more days within a six-month period.

All these policies are designed to improve student attendance and achievement. Please continue to support your child's education by making sure he/she is at school every day.

## "C" PARADE

The kindergartners have been busy learning about the letter "C." In honor of completing the first letter book, the kindergartners will don costumes depicting words starting with the letter "C" for a parade to be held on September 10 at 10:00 a.m. Parents, grandparents, friends, and families are invited to man the parade route (the main hallway) to watch the kindergartners.

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Earn cash for our school with Box Tops for Education.

1. **Clip Box Tops** - Find Box Tops on hundreds of your favorite products. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ to our school.
2. **Send Box Tops to School** - Turn in your Box Tops to your child's homeroom teacher. We will collect the Box Tops and send them to Box Tops for Education.
3. **Our School Earns Cash** - Twice each year, Box Tops will send Bush a check worth 10¢ for each Box Top redeemed, up to \$20,000. We earned over \$500.00 last year and our goal this year is \$1000.00!!



## SCOUT RALLY NIGHTS

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

## 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.