

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

Houston Independent School District
www.bushelementary.org
 CHARACTER EDUCATION THEME: SELF-ESTEEM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 9	6:00 - 7:45 p.m.	Fourth Grade Writing Night
September 10	10:00 a.m.	Kindergarten "C" Parade
September 15-18		5 th Grade Camp
September 17	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Night at Bush
September 25		INDIVIDUAL PICTURE DAY
September 28		HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL
October 14	3:15 p.m.	BEC Meeting
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

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is available in the Bush cafeteria from 7:20 a.m. – 7:35 a.m. Students purchasing breakfast wait outside the school adjacent to the cafeteria door. Upon finishing breakfast, students will remain in the cafeteria to wait for the first bell.

Breakfast is free for students; adults may purchase breakfast for \$1.70. The HISD Food Service Department prints a calendar of menus each month. Please keep these and refer to them for breakfast menu information.

Breakfast not purchased from the Bush cafeteria will be consumed off campus.

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

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

Here is the Spectacular Science Word for the week of September 7: balance.

BOBCAT NEWS

GREAT PARENTS' NIGHT

Thank you to all the parents who attended Parents' Night. The teachers had a lot of valuable information to share about their classroom policies and curriculum. The key to Bush Elementary's success is the incredibly strong partnership between parents, teachers, and students. At Bush Elementary, bobcats are going to win in 2009-2010!

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

FOURTH GRADE WRITING NIGHT

Fourth grade students and their parents have an important event tonight from 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. at Bush Elementary. The fourth grade teachers will be explaining the writing process used in class so parents will have a better understanding and be able to assist their child at home. The evening is designed only for the fourth grade students and their parents. Please bring your ticket for admittance to this informative session. Also, bring a pencil as everybody will be writing tonight!

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.

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.

HAVE YOU JOINED YET?

Forms for PTO Membership, Birthday Book Club, Directory Information, and volunteer interest forms (VIPS) all went home in the PTO Packet last week. Thank you to all families who have joined the PTO and Birthday Book Club! **A big WOO HOO goes to the faculty and staff, 100% of whom have joined the PTO! What a terrific show of support.** In the interest of conserving paper, the forms are now posted in the Support our School section of the Bush website, www.bushelementary.org. Our membership drive and Birthday Book Club enrollment continue until September 30. Also, we need a Directory Information form from every family by September 18, even if you choose not to be included in the Directory.

FLAG FOOTBALL IS COMING TO BUSH!

We will be starting our first annual flag football season on October 8th. It will be every Thursday from 3:00-4:00 p.m. except for October 29th and November 5th. Flag football is open to 4th and 5th 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.

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.

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.**

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.

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.

CARPOOL COURTSEY

Cars that line up for dismissal should line up on Westerloch up to the stop sign at Park Bayou. The line should then continue along Park Bayou going towards West Briar Middle School. Please be respectful towards the cars patiently waiting in line and do not "cut" in the line at the stop sign at Westerloch and Park Bayou.

BOBCAT WEAR

Students may wear solid navy, red or white polo-type shirts (with or without the **official** Bush logo) or turtlenecks in the same three solid colors. **Official** Bush t-shirts may be worn on any school day. White Oxford cloth shirts with long or short sleeves are also acceptable. Shorts, pants, dresses, skirts, or skorts must be solid khaki or navy blue. Shorts, dresses, skirts and skorts must be below fingertips. The guidelines will continue to include **PLAIN** blue jeans. Jeans may **not** have embroidery, colored stitching, decals, logos, glitter, or any other type of decoration. Girls may wear "Bush plaid" items purchased from Parker School Uniforms, 12524 Memorial Drive.

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.

"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.

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

The Houston Independent School District is assisting the state of Texas to identify students who may qualify for the Migrant Education Program services that includes extra help in academics. Please complete the Employment Survey form that came home in the communication folder last week and return it to your child's teacher.

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 every day to get ready for dismissal. To ensure a safe dismissal, students will not be called to the office after 2:15 p.m. Thank you for helping to make dismissal safe for all our students.

FIRE DRILL

The City of Houston requires that schools conduct a monthly fire drill. All people in the building are required to leave the building whenever the fire alarm sounds. Parents and volunteers must exit the building as soon as they hear the alarm and follow the others in the hall to a proper evacuation site. Thank you for helping make Bush a safe and secure campus.

GIRL SCOUT RALLY NIGHT

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!

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.

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.