

# Charter Chatter

## Briar Meadow BRONCOS Newsletter

January 6, 2010

Nominated for Blue Ribbon Recognition

Issue # 17

### Holiday Fun

After most students had forgotten all about school and rushed into the winter holiday, some students at Briar Meadow had a wild and crazy 24 hours! Friday night they performed before and during the Houston Aeros game at Toyota Center, and Saturday morning, many of them went to an opera that turned out to be a movie called Blind Side. Great movie, by the way! Many parents were involved in the logistics of moving our groups to and fro, and the outings had their success in the great work of all to achieve the common goal.

Choir and drum students are already scheduled to perform off campus in March – so the fun continues. Thank you so much, students and parents.

It's intellectual, it's physical, it's social, it's musical, and it's aesthetic!

Mitzi Scott  
Briar Meadow Charter School

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*Important Numbers*  
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### Spelling Bees This Thursday

The Annual BCS Spelling Bee for Elementary and Middle Schools will take place this Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. The competition will begin at 9:00 a.m. for all Briar Meadow students. Coach Dorfman is our Spelling Bee Coordinator again this year and has done a great job of organizing our Spelling Bees. All parents are invited to attend these events. The winners will move on to the West Region Spelling Bee to be held in February.

### Stanford Testing

Next week all kindergarten students in HISD will be administered the Stanford Achievement Test. The test is used as part of HISD's criteria for admission to Vanguard programs. Because these scores do not affect promotion or grades, it is not something that children should "prepare for." During the testing times each day, there will be no visitors to assure a quiet environment for all students. There will be scheduled meetings to explain the scores when they are returned sometime in March.

Starting January 20<sup>th</sup> the students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will begin their Stanford Testing. It is important to note that students' scores on this assessment do affect promotion to the next grade level and scores are used for placement into Gifted and Talented programs. It is imperative that students get a good night's sleep and that they eat a good breakfast. The Stanford 10 Test is a Norm-Reference test and compares students from all over the United States. Again you can not study for this test, but being mentally ready is very important.

- 1/6 PTO Board Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- 1/7 Wear Orange
- 1/7 Briarmeadow Spelling Bee 9:00
- 1/7 Girl Scouts 6:00 P.M.
- 1/8 Stanford Practice – Kindergarten
- 1/11 Kindergarten Begins Stanford Testing
- 1/12 Daisy Troop Meeting – 3:30 P.M.
- 1/13 Report Cards Go Home ☺  
SCHEDULED CONFERENCES REQUIRED
- 1/14 Fourth Grade Field Trip – Science Museum
- 1/15 Pre-Kinder Parent Intervention
- 1/16 Stanford Practice Test 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 1/17 Houston Marathon – Go Mr. Heinze
- 1/18 School Holiday – Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- 1/19 Daisy Troop Meeting – 3:30 P.M.
- 1/20 Kindergarten Testing Ends  
Stanford Testing 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 1/21 Principal Network **Cancelled** Due to Testing
- 1/21 Class Picture – Uniform Required (After 11:00)
- 1/21 Girl Scouts 6:00 P.M.
- 1/22 Academic Reward – Middle to the Movies
- 1/26 Daisy Troop Meeting – 3:30 P.M.
- 1/28 SDMC 4:00 P.M.

February 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Pictures, Free Dress

## Spring Testing Schedule

SAT Kinder	January 11-20
SAT (1 <sup>st</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> )	January 20-28
TAKS Writing (4 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> )	March 3
TAKS Math (5 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> )	April 6
TAKS Reading (5 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> )	April 7
TAKS M (3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , & 7 <sup>th</sup> )	April 27
TAKS R (3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , & 7 <sup>th</sup> )	April 28
TAKS Science (5 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> )	April 29
TAKS Soc. St. (8 <sup>th</sup> )	April 30
TAKS M Retest (5 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> )	May 18
TAKS R Retest (5 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> )	May 19

## Testing

The fifth and eighth graders are under the Student Success requirements and may take the retest if they do not meet standards on the first administration of the TAKS tests. Please note grade levels and dates – No visitors are allowed in the school on any testing days to assure a secure testing environment for all of our students. Due to Stanford testing the “Principal’s Network Meeting” has been postponed until February 18<sup>th</sup>. Stanford 10 Testing will be completed each day by 10:30 a.m.; however TAKS will require a full day of testing.

## Show another Color

This Thursday night is the College Football BCS Championship game - The Texas Longhorns vs. Alabama’s Crimson Tide. We are asking all BCS students to show their Texas Pride by wearing ORANGE on Thursday! Parents, this is a great way to show your college spirit - so wear orange.

## Academic Rewards for Middle School

On November 20<sup>th</sup> we had planned to reward all our middle school students who had all “A’s” and “B’s” on their report card to a movie at the AMC Theater. The trip was cancelled due to bad weather. It is now time to reschedule. We are planning to take all students in the middle school who have an 85 average on either their first or second report card to the movies. A special reward will be given to those students who have an 85 average for two marking periods. Permission slips and movie information will be given out on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

## School Holiday

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is January 18<sup>th</sup> and schools will be closed in HISD to honor Dr. King