

Charter Chatter

February 11, 2009

Issue #22

Look Us Up!

Students, teachers, parents, and members of the online learning community are making our technology web site very popular. The web site statistics for www.briarmeadowtechnology.com during the week ending Jan 27, 2009 showed we averaged 414 requests (people visiting the web site) per day! Even during the winter vacation the site averaged 218 requests per day and on Christmas day we had 178 requests.

On our web site you can find online learning activities, resources including encyclopedias and safe searching tools, subscription based web sites such as brainpop and brainpop junior, and online technology lessons at learning.com.

You can also watch, download, and subscribe to our school news reports by clicking on the Podcast icon. Here you can find videos of everything from 8th grade fundraising events to the school spelling bee.

Many classrooms have a link to their own website where you can find calendars of class events, homework information, and photos of field trips and class activities. So, look us up!

The official website for Briarmeadow is www.briarmeadowtechnology.com.

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Friday Fun Foods Friday, February 20th

Tickets for FRIDAY FUN FOODS are going on sale beginning Monday, February 16th through the 19th. Each ticket costs 50¢. Be sure to purchase your tickets early, you don't want to miss out on this event. Remember that FRIDAY FUN FOOD is scheduled for Friday, February 20th. Parents, please keep your child(ren)'s tickets in a safe place. Lost or stolen tickets will not be replaced. Please have your child bring a sack lunch as we will be picnicking outside.

GO TEXAN DAY!!

It is that time of the year again...RODEO TIME! Briarmeadow is having a GO TEXAN DAY on Friday, February 27th. All teachers, staff, students, and parents are invited to wear their best western attire...so dress to impress to try to win the contest!

Briarmeadow UIL Competition

Theatre Arts Instructor, Mr. Kendrick Brown is taking Briarmeadow's outstanding UIL Drama team to Johnston Middle School for the UIL stage play performance. The students will be doing BURY THE DEAD...a play that centers on a war that runs into two years with no end in sight. A group of soldiers attempt to bury a half-dozen men killed in battle, the corpses rise up in the mass grave into which they've been placed, refusing to be buried. The cast members are **Zaid Waseem, Ashley Fajardo, Menelik James, Eduardo Bustamante, Ariyan Almassi, Brittany Woodard, Jesus Martinez, Lara Hattab, Raneem Hamdan, Kendell Williams, Jack Wolf, Jennifer Schulze, Drake Zierlein, Mikala Lightning, Aaron Ahmadu, Jacob Lopez, and Maziar Zarea.**

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PTO Fundraising

- Please turn in all **Box Tops and Nestle water labels** by Friday 2/27 for the next submission deadlines!!
- Save the date! Our next restaurant night will be Thursday 2/19 at **Fajita Flats** on Fondren. Watch next week's Charter Chatter for the restaurant flyer!
- **Gifts cards** are still on hand if you need any gifts in the near future. Available gift cards are AMC, Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Chipotle, Gap/Old Navy, and Chili's/Macaroni Grill/Maggiano's/On the Border. Please contact penne.graham@us.ibm.com if you would like to purchase a gift card!

Paper Recycling

We are off to a good start on our recycling!! We have collected almost 2 1/2 tons of paper in our first 2 months. Your recycling efforts to date have saved:

- 43 trees
- 17,383 gallons of water
- 147 pounds of air pollution
- 7.65 cubic yards of landfill space
- 10,193 kilowatt hours of energy

February Calendar of Events

- 12th One Act Stage Play
(Middle School @ Johnston M.S.)
- 13th Pre-K Workshop @ 9:00
- 13th Classroom Valentine Celebrations
- 16th Authors' Week/ends on 20th
- 17th Mtg. w/ 5th & 6th Grade parents regarding promotion/retention standards & expectations 5:30
- 18th Black Pilots (5th – 8th Grade) @ Noon
- 18th Paper Drive – 5th Grade collects paper in car pool
- 19th SDMC Meeting @ 4:00 p.m.
- 19th Community Night @ Fajita Flats
- 20th Fun Food Friday – starts @ 10:30
- 21st One Act Stage Play Finals @ Johnston M.S.
- 23rd Science Week/ends on 27th
- 28th Odyssey of the Mind (Paul Revere M.S.)

Sign Up to Help Schools Raise Money AND Save for College

Upromise is a free program that allows participants to raise money for HISD schools AND save money for college by making purchases from various retailers.

Registration is quick, easy, and free. HISD parents, family members, and friends can sign up at www.Upromise.com/schools.

For each qualifying product or service bought, HISD schools will receive a percentage of the sale to support campus projects—and students will begin accumulating additional funds for college.

For more details about the Upromise program, including printable information about how to sign up in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, visit the district's **Marketing and Business Development Department** Web site.

PTO NEWS

The PTO would like to welcome Ms. Kim Stubblefield to the board. Ms. Stubblefield will be in responsible for community relations. Parents, attached to the Charter Chatter is a survey that the PTO would like for you to fill out and return to your child(ren)'s teacher by Friday, February 13th. In efforts to continuously promote Briar Meadow we are making strides to bring more awareness to what we have to offer and make a statement in the community that attracts more students.

GREAT SUCCESS!!

If you missed Ocean of Stars, you missed a fantastic event. Seven telescopes, two microscopes and a room full of storytellers. Great job BCS! You really are *Out of this World*. The ocean of the stars night was a great success. The students learned a lot and were able to have meaningful conversations about stars and astronomy. Thank you Ms. Boston for your hard work. Parents, thank you for bringing your child(ren) out to the event. Your continued support is needed and greatly appreciated.