

Charter Chatter

February 4, 2009

Issue #21

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.

Students in grades 3 and 4 can access their entire math curriculum, and grades 5 and 6 can access their online math class at RM City.

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!

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Attention First Grade Parents

Parents of Briarmeadow first grade students are invited to participate in a First Grade Literacy Workshop. Teachers and students will share literacy workstations, guided reading goals, and more. The workshop will be held Wednesday, February 11, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Come out and have an exciting time with our first grade teachers.

Extracurricular Activities

Do you want your child to participate in extracurricular activities? If your child has any interest in gymnastics, ballet/tap, Spanish or hip hop dance, please fill out the attached form regarding these enrichment activities that will be held after school.

FREE at your BCS Library

Use your BCS Library to make life easier.

Need some good books to read?

Family time is Friday 1:00-3:00. Come in and check out books.

Got Internet?

300 books are available to your child.

Go to www.TumbleBookLibrary.com.

User name: **briarmeadow**

Pass word: **hisd**

Need a rest before dinner? Check out a DVD of children's books.

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Help Us Gather Student Voices & Visions of Health

On February 20-21, 2009, the Houston community will participate in the *Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools Summit: Leveraging the Power of Our Community*. The Summit is about supercharging efforts to create healthier schools and healthier students within the Houston Independent School District. The Summit will bring together representatives from across the community – gathering the rich and varied voices of the many people who care about Houston schools and students, and the health of the community.

That collection of voices would not be complete without our students’ voices. One way we are bringing their ideas, hopes and desires into the Summit is through the project website:

www.healthykidshealthyschools.org

Students are invited to respond to engaging questions and post their “stories of health” and “visions of the future” in a special Student Forum on the site. Their posts and perspectives will act to energize and inspire Summit attendees.

Where we need your help. We are asking for your support in getting the word out to middle and high schools students about the chance to provide their input via the website. Please encourage them to take the time to visit the site and share their thoughts.

February Calendar of Events

- 4th Astronomy Night @ 6
- 6th Principal’s Coffee 9:00-9:30
Idols Tryout @1:00
- 9th 1st grade Parent Meeting @6:00
Middle School Parent Meeting @5:30
- 12th New Student Orientation @6:00
- 23rd -27th Author’s Week
- 20th Fun Food Friday
- Dare to Dream Every Thursday @3:30

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.

DON’T FORGET-OCEAN OF STARS Tonight

Ms. Boston, the school librarian, will be hosting the Oceans of Stars night tonight, Wednesday, February 4th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Pre-K to 5th grade parents are welcomed to bring your child(ren) to this event. We will have telescopes, microscopes, and mythology. Snacks and books will be sold. It will be fun to use the telescope and microscopes and to hear some really good stories. Can’t wait to see you there. It’s going to be a spectacular night.

Middle school students will need a signed permission slip if attending without a parent.

