

Charter Chatter

March 4, 2009

Issue #25

Odyssey of the Minds Teams – Bring Home Victory!!!

Congratulations to Briar Meadow Middle School's two teams who competed this past weekend at the Houston Area Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition held at Paul Revere Middle School. Problem I team Earth Trek finished **3rd place**. Team members include: **Ariyan AlMassi, Serae Haliburton, Vaclav Cafourek, Melonie Miller, Jonathon Saldierna, Skylor Stewart, and Christina Dang**. Problem V team Superstition finished in **2nd place**. Team members include: **Kendall Williams, Kim Kattapong, Brittany Dimock, Toyosi Shusi, Enes Kolasinac, Darryl Beronque, and Rebecca Herd**. Both teams placed high enough to qualify for the state competition to be held Saturday, March 28th at Spring Forest Middle School. A BIG thanks goes out to our volunteer judges Laura Boston and Ellen Williams. Our teams would not have been able to compete without them! Way to go Broncos!



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Paper Retriever Program

Briar Meadow will have a Paper Retriever Program. Here are some tools to help with program. Letters and flyers are attached with assignments in English and Spanish with drive instructions.

Here are some "Must Do's" for the program success!

- Have a box or bin in every room to collect recycled paper!
- Post information on website and school marquee.
- Create a Recycling Team that will oversee the program, which can also be a learning tool.
- Start paper recycling efforts with a paper drive – pick a date and time, from 10 am – 12pm say, and ask everyone to bring their paper in then to launch your program!
- Ask your local paper to print an article about your fundraising recycling efforts at school.
- Remind the students during your morning or closing announcements to bring their papers from home.
- Update your parents with your progress!

The more you spread the word – the more successful the program will be! Everyone in the community likes to assist a good cause and it is free for them to use the school's bin! With these steps in place it should not be difficult to maintain our 2 ton monthly paper minimum

Another helpful tool is a short video that was released last year, which shows the full process of recycling, how recycled paper is made, and other helpful tips for your program. To view the video please visit <http://www.paperretriever.com/?id=269>. This video along with flyers, ideas, and other helpful information is available on www.paperretriever.com.

Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to the Briar Meadow 2008 – 2009 Teachers of the Year! The Teacher of the Year for our elementary school is Ms. Cristina Ramirez and for our middle school is Mr. Kendrick Brown. Extend your congratulations when you see them. Thanks Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Brown for making a difference in the lives of our students. Keep up the great work!

Explorations

Science Interactive Family Event #2
Tuesday Night, March 10, 2009
6 p.m.-7:30p.m.

Parents, reserve the evening to engage your children in a night of science activities chosen by different grade level classes and individual students for interest and challenge.

To benefit our Outdoor Learning Center, snacks will be sold. We hope to expand our resources to offer more Field Learning Experiences for Science like gardening, composting, and ecosystem study. Parents are required and welcome to share in this event to help inspire future scientists and thinkers.

Teacher Contacts: Linda Carlson, Ann Felton

Early Pick/up

If you need to pick your child(ren) before dismissal (doctor appt. dental appt.) please do so before the following times: 2:40 between Monday – Thursday and by 12 noon on Fridays. If students are not picked up prior to the above mentioned times, they will be released at normal dismissal times. Thanks for helping us with the dismissal procedures. Your cooperation is appreciated.

March Calendar of Events

- 4th Report Cards (Pre-Kindergarten)
PTO Board Meeting (6pm – 8pm)
- 9th-30th TELPAS Testing (Grades K-8)
- 10th Science Night Explorations – 6pm
- 12th Name that Book – Elementary School
Science in the Movie Guy
(5th-8th ~ 8:15 – 9:15)
(K-4th ~ 9:30 – 10:30)
- 16th-20th **Spring Break**
- 23rd-27th First Grade Tutorials
- 28th Odyssey of the Mind State Competition
@ Spring Forest Middle School
- 30th-31st High Frequency Word Testing (1st & 2nd
Grade only)



Westside HS presents "Grease"

"Grease" is definitely the word as Westside High School's Theatre and Dance Departments proudly present Jim Jacobs' and Warren Casey's musical *Grease*. Similar to *Grease Lightning* itself, the show is expected to be electrifying! So put down the hip-hop, get in the spirit of the sock hop, and come see *Grease* on March 5-8.

Grease will be performed at Westside High School, 14201 Briar Forest, in the mini-theatre. Curtain time for the shows on March 5-7 will be at 7:00 P.M. with matinees at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 after March 4. Please call the Westside Black Box at (281) 920- 8054 for tickets or group sales.

Lemonade Day 2009

Sponsored by Prepared 4 Life (P4L), Lemonade Day is a citywide event aimed at teaching Houston's youth how to start, own and operate their very own lemonade business while building on P4L's mission of instilling life skills, character education and entrepreneurship. This year Lemonade Day will take place on Sunday, May 3, 2009. Each participating student will receive a Lemonade Day backpack which contains the Entrepreneurial Workbook and the Caring Adult Guide to help the students understand the steps involved in operating a successful business. If you are interested in your child being part of Lemonade Day, please fill out the attached consent form and return it to Mr. Lewis by Friday, March 6th.

Support HISD Employees at AIDS Walk on March 15

To raise money in the fight against this disease, thousands of Houstonians will take to the streets on **Sunday, March 15**, in the annual **Houston AIDS Walk** at Sam Houston Park downtown (**1000 Bagby Street**). At least one team will be participating from HISD's Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center, so please consider supporting your fellow employees by joining the walk or making a donation. To do either, or to learn more about the AIDS Walk, visit http://www.aidshelp.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=1060&team_id=10660 and select a walker to support from the team roster. The HISD team is open to any and all HISD employees and family members who wish to participate, and its goal this year is to raise \$10,000 in donations. All money raised from the 5K walk will benefit the AIDS Foundation Houston and 18 other HIV and AIDS organizations. To make a donation in person, contact Director of Student Engagement Mark White at 713-556-7017.

