

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – NOVEMBER 13, 2013

Houston Independent School District

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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|-----------------------|-------|---|
| November 20 | 12:20 | EARLY DISMISSAL |
| November 20 | | Bush Spirit Night at Marco's Pizza |
| November 27-29 | | THANKSGIVING BREAK NO SCHOOL |
| December 23-January 6 | | WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS |

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

GIFTED AND TALENTED - VANGUARD PROGRAM

The Houston Independent School District provides a program for gifted and talented students. The Vanguard G/T program is designed to meet the needs of G/T students in grades K-12 by providing a homogeneous environment for students to work with their cognitive peers.

Bush offers the Vanguard program in grades kindergarten through fifth. All kindergartners are universally assessed. Students identified through this universal assessment enter the Vanguard program and receive service starting in late March or early April. Eligibility for the program is determined by classroom performance, standardized test scores, teacher recommendation, and specialized testing.

The entire handbook is available at:

www.houstonisd.org/bushelem

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of November 11 is mixture.

BOBCAT NEWS

EARLY DISMISSAL

The next Early Dismissal Day is Wednesday, November 20. The school day will be from 7:35 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. There will be an altered ancillary schedule and lunch times will run one hour and ten minutes earlier on these days only. Students must be picked up at 12:20 p.m.

CHORUS AT THE MARKET

The fabulous 4th and 5th grade chorus performed at the Nutcracker Market last week! The students sang beautifully and had quite a crowd watching them perform.

If you didn't make it to the Reliant Center, the chorus will also perform this show at Bush at 8:15 a.m. on December 17 for grades PK-2 and Special Ed., and December 18 for grades 3-5.

PARENT WRITING NIGHT

The fourth grade parent/student writing night was a huge success! Mrs. Jensen and Miss Diller had families taking notes and discussing complex sentences. It was wonderful to see so many fourth grade families, who took time out of their busy schedules, spend an evening learning ways to assist their child in the writing process.

Before the presentation, families enjoyed a pizza dinner, courtesy of the PTO. Thank you PTO for providing the Marco's pizza dinner! Way to go, Mrs. Jensen and Miss Diller, for the fantastic learning experience!

FOOD DRIVE

Our special education classes will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items from November 13th until November 25th. Please help us support our local food pantry and help make the holidays special for some of our less fortunate neighbors. For more information, please see the Food Drive flyer in your child's communication folder today. Donations boxes will be located by the front office.

FREE DRESS PASS DAYS

In honor of meeting and exceeding our Underwriting Campaign goal, there will be a few free dress pass days. Carefully read each week's Paw Prints to find out when students have a Free Dress Pass Day!

VACATIONS

Please remember to plan your family vacations and trips during regular school holidays like Thanksgiving, winter break, and spring break. Family vacations cannot be considered excused absences by the State of Texas. As a result, they are recorded as unexcused absences. All students must have a 98% attendance rate. Every day at school is important. All students **must** attend school up to and including the last day on May 29, 2014.

RAINY DAY PLAN

Make a plan for rainy or "bad" days. 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. **Please do not call the school office with instructions and messages. This should be handled in advance.** 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. **Remember every day at school is important, so please do not keep your child home just because it's a rainy day!**

PROSPECTIVE PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Do you have a child coming to Bush next year? 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. The next session for this school year will take place at 9:00 a.m. on January 22.

PTO NEWS

BUSH SPIRIT NIGHT

The next Marco's Pizza spirit night is Wednesday, November 20th. This is also Bush Box Night for all 5th graders. 5th graders will decorate a pizza box during art classes in the upcoming weeks, and when parents order from Marco's, the pizza will be placed in your child's box. Three boxes will be chosen as "Best Design" and those students will win a prize!

SCHOOL STORE WINTER SPECIAL

November 15 thru December 13

Just in time for the cool weather!

FREE jacket embroidery with new jacket purchase. Jackets are \$30.00 each (all sizes available). Long Sleeve T-Shirts will be on sale, two for \$25.00 (regular \$17.00 each).

Visit the school store on Tuesdays at 7:30 -8:30 a.m. and Fridays 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (*cash or checks only*). (Store will be closed on Friday, December 20 at 11:30am)

BACK TO NATURE!

Join us in the Nature Center on Friday, November 15, from 3:15-5:00 p.m. Bring your gloves and bug spray. If you have questions, feel free to contact Sarah Castro at shfcastro@gmail.com.

BUSH BOBCATS WILL DISCOVER A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES IN 2013-2014

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