

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

Houston Independent School District

www.bushelementary.org

CHARACTER EDUCATION THEME: SELF-ESTEEME

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 13		Fall Holiday – No School
September 13	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Nature Center Work Day
September 18	9:00 a.m.	Prospective Parent Information Session
September 20		Book-a-Palooza Millionaire Reader Day
September 25	12:20 p.m.	Early Dismissal
October 1		Individual Picture Day
October 16	9:00 a.m.	Prospective Parent Information Session
October 21-25		Book Fair Week
October 24	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Book Fair Night & Dinner
October 30	12:20 p.m.	EARLY DISMISSAL
November 1	3:15 p.m.	Report Cards Go Home
November 1	TBA	Family Movie Night
November 12	6:00-7:30 p.m.	4 th Grade Writing Night

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

CONFERENCES

Parent/teacher conferences are a valuable tool to be used in helping children to be happy and successful at school. Be sure to take advantage of this tool! Because it is so important, please follow these guidelines to ensure that you have the best possible conference with your child's teacher.

To arrange for a conference:

1. Make an appointment: Call the office at 281-368-2150, write a note to the teacher, leave a message on the teacher's voicemail, or e-mail the teacher to arrange an appointment time.
2. Plan to come to school: Teachers can share work samples, clarify assignments, etc. when personal rather than telephone conferences are held.
3. Be "tuned in" to your child so you know when to request a conference. Watch test papers, progress reports, etc. that signal trouble areas.
4. Please do not drop in for just a minute at the beginning or end of the day. These are especially crucial times when the class needs and deserves the teacher's full attention.
5. Please do not ask to have teachers called out of class for a conference. Instructional time belongs to all the students.

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of September 9 is **balance**.

BOBCAT NEWS

GREAT PARENTS' NIGHT

Thank you to all the parents who attended Parents' Night. The teachers shared a lot of valuable information about their classroom policies and curriculum. The key to Bush Elementary's success is the incredibly strong partnership between parents, teachers, and students. All Bush Elementary Bobcats are discovering a World Of Opportunities in 2013-2014!

ATTENDANCE

The attendance goal for all HISD schools is 98%. Last year's attendance rate was 97.5% which was a decrease by just 0.3% from the previous year; yet it contributed to a reduction in Bush Elementary's operating budget by \$69,944. Please ensure your child is at school on time every day so your child receives the maximum learning opportunities in the classroom.

Please do not schedule extra trips on school days.

Help us achieve our 98% attendance goal and all students will benefit by learning more and having a better-funded school.

LONG DISTANCE PHONE NUMBERS

It is imperative that all information on each child's enrollment card be complete and kept current. We have a few parents who still have long distance phone numbers listed. **Please make sure we have local phone numbers on file because we are unable to make long distance calls from school.**

FIRE DRILL

The City of Houston requires that schools conduct a monthly fire drill. All people in the building are required to leave the building whenever the fire alarm sounds. Parents and volunteers must exit the building as soon as they hear the alarm and follow the others in the hall to a proper evacuation site. Thank you for helping make Bush a safe and secure campus.

CELL PHONE MISUSE!

Cell phones are not allowed to be on or used during the school day. Cell phones that are visible (seen or heard) during the school day will be confiscated and turned in to the office. The parents may come to the office to retrieve the phone. Repeated confiscation of the cell phone will cause the cell phone to be placed in the "June Box." Then, the parent may pick up the cell phone on the last day of school at the earliest.

BOBCAT WEAR

Students may wear solid navy, red or white polo-type shirts (with or without the official Bush logo) or turtlenecks in the same three solid colors. **Official** Bush t-shirts may be worn on any school day. White Oxford cloth shirts with long or short sleeves are also acceptable. Shorts, pants, dresses, skirts, or skorts must be solid khaki or navy blue. Shorts, dresses, skirts and skorts must be below fingertips. The guidelines will continue to include **PLAIN** blue jeans. Jeans may **not** have embroidery, colored stitching, decals, logos, glitter, or any other type of decoration. Girls may wear "Bush plaid" items purchased from Parker School Uniforms, located at 12524 Memorial Drive.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Earn cash for our school with Box Tops for Education.

1. **Clip Box Tops** - Find Box Tops on hundreds of your favorite products. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ to our school.
2. **Send Box Tops to School** - Turn in your Box Tops to your child's homeroom teacher. We will collect the Box Tops and send them to Box Tops for Education.
3. **Our School Earns Cash** - Twice each year, Box Tops will send Bush a check worth 10¢ for each Box Top redeemed, up to \$20,000. We earned over \$1,500.00 last year and our goal this year is \$2,000.00!!

PROSPECTIVE PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Do you have a child coming to Bush next year? Then 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 first session for this school year will take place at 9:00 a.m. on September 18.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

2013-2014

HISD has selected five early dismissal days that are to be used for professional development or parental involvement. All schools will participate in the early dismissal schedule and the school day will be reduced by two hours and thirty minutes.

The first Early Dismissal Day is Wednesday, September 25. 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.

PTO NEWS

JOIN THE PTO

If you have not already joined the PTO, please consider doing so! Only **26%** of our total student body has joined. Our goal this year is to have **70%** of the entire student body join PTO. Thank you to the **120** families who have already joined the PTO! The PTO Membership drive has been extended to **September 20th**. Every family who joins PTO will receive the **school directory**, **BBE wristbands**, and a **\$5 gift certificate from Red Robin** for joining the PTO. If you have not joined the PTO yet, please fill out the membership form in your child's communication folder today!

PTO – Underwriting Fundraiser

September 23, 2013 kicks off our most important Bush Elementary Fundraiser of the year! In addition to needing your generous contributions, **we need great prizes** to offer as incentives for others to give. If you own a business or know business owners that might donate funds or prizes to this worthy cause, please contact Rhedonda or Florencia on the PTO at:

Ph# 281-741-3224; 281-814-7845

Or Email bushptohouston@gmail.com

Thank you for your help and support for a successful school year!

ATTENTION

BUSH FAMILY BUSINESS OWNERS

The Barbara Bush Student Directory is well underway. We are attempting to reach out to all Bush families who are business owners. Keep in mind the directory reaches 350 Bush families and is a great advertising tool that has the added benefit of helping your child's school. A full page ad is \$125(BW), \$300(color) and a half page ad is \$75(BW), \$150(color). The deadline to submit your ad is September 27th. If you are interested, please contact Shibani Gupta or Sonya Mehta at bushdirectory@gmail.com

BACK TO NATURE!

Join us in the Nature Center on Friday, September 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. 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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