

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Houston Independent School District
www.houstonisd.org/bushelem

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 19	6:00 -7:30 p.m.	Parents' Night Grades 3-5 MP Room
September 22		Teacher Work Day- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
September 22	1:00 – 1:45 p.m.	BEC Meeting
September 26	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Parents' Night Grades 1-2 MP Room
October 16-20		Book Fair Week
October 19	5:00 – 7#30 p.m.	Book Fair Night MP Room
November 4	3:00-6:00 p.m.	Bush Bingo Bash
November 7	6:00-7:30 p.m.	4 th Grade Writing Night
November 20-24		Thanksgiving Holiday- NO SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Welcome back! Houston has been through a difficult two weeks. We know so many Bush families are still displaced due to flooding and have endured extreme hardships. We are so excited to get into our school routines. If any Bush family needs assistance with school supplies or children's clothes, please contact our incredible and generous PTO at mybushstore@gmail.com.

We've had three great days of school. The students have learned their school day routines and are busy learning. Bush Elementary is back in business and on our "Journey to Excellence."

Theresa Rose, Principal

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the school year, this section of the newsletter will highlight key points from the Bush Parent Handbook. School begins at 7:30 a.m. Students arriving after 7:40 a.m. are tardy. Students arriving after 9:00 a.m., without a doctor's excuse, are marked absent.

The entire handbook is available at:
www.bushelementary.org

BREAKING NEWS

HISD will not have any Early Dismissal days due to our lost instructional days from Hurricane Harvey. The following dates are now full regular school days from 7:30 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. September 21st, October 20th, November 10th, January 26th, and February 23rd.

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of September 11 is scientist.

BOBCAT NEWS

PARENTS' NIGHT

The most important meeting of the year for Bush is Parents' Night on **September 19, 2017 for grades 3-5, and on September 26, 2017 for grades 1-2**. These meetings are VERY EARLY in the school year and are purposefully not called an Open House. They are different in format and purpose from a traditional school open house. Each Parents' Night is from 6:00-7:30 p.m. PK and K Parents' Night was held on Wednesday, August 23. The meetings will be held in the Multi-Purpose room starting at 6:00 p.m. During these meetings, you will have an opportunity to be introduced to the Bush staff and hear Ms. Rose's State of the School Message. Then, PTO will review the year and discuss its budget. When this meeting is finished, parents will go to the classrooms.

Teachers will then outline the grade level curriculum, communication procedures, grading, test schedules, and much more. The goal is to give parents all the information they need EARLY in the year so that they can be supportive partners in their child's education.

These meetings are designated for adults. Please make other arrangements for children so that there is plenty of room for all the adults who will attend.

MORNING ARRIVAL

Starting **tomorrow**, students will walk unaccompanied to their classes. Parents will no longer be able to walk their children down the hall. Pre-K and K parents may stand at the entrance to the PK/K hall to watch their child walk to their classroom. Morning routines should be getting easier; therefore, beginning **tomorrow, September 14**, students who enter the building after 7:40 a.m. will need to go to the office for a tardy slip. Starting on **Monday, September 18, at 7:20 a.m.** all students will wait inside the building and walk unaccompanied down the hall to their classrooms. Due to the number of students, parents will not be able to wait inside the building.

BUSH EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE (BEC)

Every HISD campus is required to have a Site-Based Decision Making Committee (SDMC). The SDMC membership is comprised of selected classroom teachers, school-based staff, non-instructional staff, parents, community members, business members, and the principal. At Bush Elementary, this committee is called BEC which stands for Bush Excellence Committee. The BEC committee is involved in areas of planning, budgeting, curriculum, staff development, and school organization. BEC also discusses topics such as bond renovations, class size waivers, dress code, Safety Patrols, and dismissal procedures. BEC meeting minutes are posted on the Bush website.

FRIENDLY DRIVING

Please remember that there are over 900 students and many adults around Bush Elementary during arrival and dismissal. Please be extremely cautious, follow the posted 20 mph school zone speed limit, and pay attention to the stop signs around Bush. Patience is the key when driving around Bush Elementary between 7:15 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. and 2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Please do not speak on your cell phones when driving in the carpool lane and school zones.** All attention needs to be paid towards the students walking on the sidewalk. When you enter a school zone, please end your cell phone conversations and focus all your attention on safely passing through the driveway. Thank you for making Bush Elementary a safe environment for our students.

VISITORS TO THE BUILDING

ALL parents, grandparents, and visitors who wish to **enter the school** will need to have a valid state-issued driver's license or a valid state-issued picture ID. These may be attained at the Texas Department of Transportation Driver License offices. The license or the ID will be scanned, a background check performed, and if approved, a visitor's badge will be printed. The badge will have your picture, name, time, and visit location. Please make sure you bring your driver's license/state ID if you wish to go past the office. **Grandparents and other visitors who come for lunch must be accompanied by the parent or have the parent's approval (in the form of a note or the person is listed on the enrollment card).** Please be advised all IDs will be checked at the office before going into the building. Thank you for making Bush a safe and secure campus.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

One of the core values of HISD is "Safety Above All Else." In order to provide a safe environment for every student, HISD enacted a policy requiring a voluntary criminal history check for persons who volunteer in our schools.

If you have previously registered, please take your picture ID to the office for verification. If you are **NEW** to Bush and plan to volunteer in your child's room, help in the cafeteria, or would like to serve as a chaperone on future trips, please be SURE to follow the procedures for the background check. Log-on to www.houstonisd.org/vipslogin and follow the directions. **It takes two to three weeks to get clearance, so it is important to do it now.**

FACULTY AND STAFF PARKING LOT

In the morning, parents have been seen parking in the faculty/staff parking lot and letting their children out. These children have then been walking ***unaccompanied*** across the busy bus lane. This extremely dangerous and unsafe behavior must **not** occur. **All** students must be dropped off in the carpool lane. Please **do not** park in the faculty and staff parking lot; it is reserved for Bush Elementary faculty and staff **ONLY**.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM!

Summer reading paper(s) are due to the classroom teachers by **Thursday, September 21**. This paperwork must include the list of books (at least 5) the student read and a parent signature. This is open to all students. If a student was not here last year, then the paperwork can still be submitted if at least 5 books were read this summer. Ms. Rose read 21 books this summer. Did you read more books than your principal?

CARPOOL PROCEDURES

Our carpool system really does work but it is always a bit rough in the beginning! Please "hang in there" with us and follow the rules. We promise that it will operate quickly and efficiently very soon.

The goal of the carpool is to provide a safe pick-up system that operates the same way, rain or shine. Both drivers and riders need to be familiar with and use the number. Carpool drivers pull up in the carpool lane on the Westerloch side and display their number in the front window. Carpool students wait in the hallway under their number. Carpool numbers are called over the intercom. Students are dismissed directly to board their cars if the car is in the lane. As cars pull up, additional numbers are called. **Please adhere to the guidelines below to ensure smooth operation of the carpool system.**

- Remain in your car at all times when using the carpool lane.
- Hang the number from your rearview mirror
- In order to not have traffic backed up onto Eldridge, cars may line up on Park Bayou and merge into the line on Westerloch.
- Pull forward to minimize gaps in the carpool lane.
- **Do not use cell phones in the carpool lane.**

BIKERS & WALKERS

All kindergarten-5th grade bikers and walkers are dismissed at 2:50 p.m. If parents want a **safe** place for their child to wait inside the building until a parent is present for pickup, please use the carpool lane. Students of parents who are not here when walkers are dismissed will be assigned a carpool number so that parents may pick them up using the carpool lane. Please follow the procedures below to ensure a **safe** dismissal using the walker system.

- 1st – 5th grade walker pickup will be designated in the grassy areas behind the bike racks.
- Kindergarten walker pick up will be in the grassy area near the long, covered walkway.
- PK walker pick up will be along the brick wall parallel to the bus lane, near the front office.
- Please do not crowd the exit doors so students can exit the building safely to the grassy areas behind the bike racks.
- If you are picking up multiple children in different grade levels, please pick up youngest to oldest. Be sure to tell the older children to wait at their designated grade level posts until you arrive.
- Have an alternate plan for your walkers on rainy days.
- Carpool sidewalk is reserved for carpool riders only.
- Do not ask your child to cross in the middle of the block on Westerloch.
- Children cannot be dropped off or picked up at the curb in front of the school on Westerloch or on the east side of Parkway Plaza. This endangers the child **and** blocks the flow of traffic for parents who are attempting to abide by the rules and use the system properly.
- Be a good neighbor and do not block driveways.

Thank You, PTO, & Bush Family for helping our community by being a beacon of light the past two weeks.

BUSH BOBCATS – JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE - 2017-18

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