

# December 9, 2020



## PAW PRINTS



EST. 1992

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS

Houston Independent School District

[www.houstonisd.org/bushelem](http://www.houstonisd.org/bushelem)

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### The Spelling Bee Winner Is...

Congratulations to the following third, fourth and fifth grade super spellers who participated in the Spelling Bee last Friday:

3rd Grade - Serena Lim, Naomi Oyediran, Efran Priyono, Bolu Soneye

4th Grade - Natalia Ivanov, Nicolas Gonzales Pulido, Valentina Cedeno Ramirez, Sabira Sajan, Emma Vautrin

5th Grade - Gabriel Chinca-Gomez, Ori Fisher, Naomi McKay, Ayan Nadkarni, Ana Salvarria

After 20 exciting rounds, Ana Salvarria was the winner.

Runner Up : Sabira Sajan – 4th Grade

Ana will be representing Bush Elementary at the HISD Spelling Bee!

### Special Education - Fall Virtual Parent Summit

The Office of Special Education Services will host a Virtual Fall Parent Summit on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Summit is open to all HISD parents of students who receive services through the Office of Special Education Services.

The theme of the summit is “*Supporting Educational Success During a Pandemic.*” Parents who attend the virtual Summit will have opportunities to participate in learning and informational sessions regarding topics that matter to them in facilitating success for their child.

This year’s summit will offer a forum for parents to hear from Dr. Lathan, and ask questions related to their child’s needs.

All parents must register to attend. Please visit, <https://bit.ly/SPEDVirtualParentSummit>, to register. A **link to the Live Event** will be sent to all **registered** participants.



 Parent Summit with extended lin...

[drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com)

## We're #18!!!

The Children at Risk Foundation recently shared their rankings of the schools in the greater Houston area. With the coronavirus making it harder to track academic outcomes, the focus of the ranking was on a three-year analysis that showcased schools’ consistency over time. Bush Elementary was ranked as #18 out of over 800 elementary schools using this new method. Congratulations to our teachers for providing high quality instruction and our students for their hard-work year after year!

## In-Class Instructional Technology

Please make sure to send your child to school with a charged technology device every day.

Cell phones are not an appropriate technology device to use during the instructional day at school. If you are in need of a technology device to bring to school each day, then please contact Jennifer Bard at [jbard@houstonisd.org](mailto:jbard@houstonisd.org) and she will get back you with the permission forms once a device is available.

Cell phones must be kept in a student's backpack from 7:30 - 3:00 and be on mute.

## Updated - A Healthy and Safe Bush Elementary

Please continue to practice healthy habits. Please do not send your child(ren) to school if exhibiting even one of the COVID symptoms shown below. Please email Dianne Guider, our school nurse, [dguider@houstonisd.org](mailto:dguider@houstonisd.org) or call the school at 281 368-2150 if your child is at home sick. **Nurse Guider will need to determine when your child can return to school.**

If your child is exposed to someone who is a presumed positive COVID case or a positive COVID case, then your child will need to quarantine from school for 10 days (this is a change from 14 days) from the exposure date according to HISD's policies. If a student is a presumed positive, then your child will need to quarantine for 10 days.

We appreciate all the families that are being honest and letting us know of exposure or possible exposure and are self-quarantining. If you need to quarantine due to an exposure, then we switch your child to a virtual teacher for the quarantine time period so instruction can continue.

## Updated - Health and Safety Above All Else

HISD has a **VERY** broad definition of a presumed positive COVID case – you only need to exhibit symptoms with no COVID testing. Look at the symptom list and you will notice many of the common cold symptoms will trigger a presumed positive designation.

Children that are sick, regardless of a temperature, need to stay home. Previously, the nurse's message was if there's no fever, but sniffles and a sore throat, the child could be at school. Now, those symptoms qualify as a presumed positive COVID case.

HISD is considering any individual exhibiting one or more symptoms of COVID-19 as presumed positive. **Please do not send your child to school if exhibiting the symptoms shown below. Please email our school nurse, Dianne Guider, at [dguider@houstonisd.org](mailto:dguider@houstonisd.org) to determine when your child can return to school**

### COVID-19 symptoms:

- \* Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.00 F
- \* Loss of taste or smell
- \* Cough
- \* Difficulty breathing
- \* Shortness of breath
- \* Fatigue
- \* Headache
- \* Chills
- \* Sore throat
- \* Congestion or runny nose
- \* Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- \* Significant muscle pain or ache
- \* Diarrhea
- \* Nausea or vomiting

We have lots of folks under our roof every day. For the health and safety of **ALL** students, faculty, and staff, it is very important that children stay home when they are ill. Students who have thrown up during the night or who are running a fever cannot be sent to school. If your student complains of and exhibits any COVID19 related symptoms, they will be sent home to

quarantine for 10 days. Please contact Dianne Guider, our school nurse, at [dguider@houstonisd.org](mailto:dguider@houstonisd.org) to determine when your child can return to school.

## Updated - HISD COVID Terms - A Primer

HISD has different quarantine timeframes for the various designations. Below is an overview to all the terms being used:

**Exposure** - Students not showing signs of any symptom, but was around and in close contact with a presumed positive COVID individual or a confirmed positive COVID individual. This is a 10 day quarantine because the individual has not shown any symptoms, but could over the 10 day time period. There is **now an option for early return**. *Students may return early after a 7 day quarantine with a negative test result taken on or after day 5 from the exposure date. If the test is negative, the student may return on day 8.*

**Presumed Positive** - Individual is exhibiting or complaining of one or more of the COVID symptoms. Individual must quarantine for 10 days, but **may return early** with the a doctor's note diagnoses an ailment other than COVID **and** a negative COVID test.

**Confirmed COVID Positive** - Individual has tested positive for COVID with or without symptoms. Individual must quarantine for 10 days and **NO early return**.

**If your child needs to quarantine, then we switch your child to a virtual teacher for the quarantine time period so instruction can continue.**

## New - Early Return from an Exposure

HISD identifies any student as an Exposure case if the student was around and in close contact with a presumed positive COVID individual or a confirmed positive COVID. The student falls into the exposure category without showing any symptoms and must be quarantined.

Exposure is now a 10 day quarantine, down from the previous 14 days. There is **now an option for early return**. *Students may return early after a 7 day quarantine with a negative test result taken on or after day 5 from the exposure date. If the test is negative, the student may return on day 8.*

**If your child needs to quarantine, then we switch your child to a virtual teacher for the quarantine time period so instruction can continue.**

## Updated - Early Return from Presumed Positive Quarantine

HISD classifies any individual exhibiting one or more symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) as presumed positive and needing to quarantine for 10 days. **Please do not send your child to**



**school if exhibiting the symptoms shown below.**

**COVID-19 symptoms:**

- \* Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.00 F
- \* Loss of taste or smell
- \* Cough
- \* Difficulty breathing
- \* Shortness of breath
- \* Fatigue
- \* Headache
- \* Chills
- \* Sore throat
- \* Congestion or runny nose
- \* Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- \* Significant muscle pain or ache
- \* Diarrhea
- \* Nausea or vomiting

**If your child needs to quarantine, then we switch your child to a virtual teacher for the quarantine time period so instruction can continue.**

Students can return early from a presumed positive 10 day quarantine if they meet both of the following requirements:

- A note from a doctor stating that the symptoms s/he was experiencing are related to something other than Covid-19 (allergies, cold, food poisoning).
- A negative Covid-19 test.

**Please scan and email these items to Dianne Guider, our school nurse, at [dguider@houstonisd.org](mailto:dguider@houstonisd.org) or bring them up to the office. Dianne Guider is the only person with the authority to allow for a student's early return from a presumed positive or exposure quarantine.**

## **Celebrate 12 Days of Code with a variety of coding exercises for every grade level**

HISD is inviting all students to celebrate the 12 Days of Code in December with interactive calendars that allow them to engage in a new coding experience every day.

Coding helps students solve problems, use logic, and think creatively, and it gives them a foundation for success in 21st-century careers. The activities in these three calendars for elementary, middle, and high school include Block-based coding, Python, and JavaScript, developing skills in computational thinking, sequences, loops, and debugging programs. Activities are made fun and engaging incorporating characters from StarWars, Frozen, and the Grinch with music from some of the industry's top artists. To access the 12 Days of Code calendar of activities, go to [HoustonISD.org/12DaysofCode](https://HoustonISD.org/12DaysofCode)

HISD's 12 Days of Code, which runs from Dec. 1-16, coincides with Computer Science Education Week, which is Dec. 7-13. During this time, students and the greater HISD

community are encouraged to join the worldwide movement and try one hour of coding as an introduction to computer science. Through this "[Hour of Code](#)," students are challenged to think critically and solve problems as they learn the basics of computer programming. After completing an hour of code on the 12 Days of Code activity board, participants can scroll down to get a certificate of completion. Post pictures of your campus coding activities or post your coding event and a selfie with your certificate on social media using #HISDecoded.

## Temperatures are Dropping!

Now that cooler weather is finally here in Houston, we need to make sure that all students are dressed appropriately. All students have at least 30 minutes a day outside for recess. Therefore, students must come to school with a jacket. If it is cooler outside, shorts should not be worn. Please check the weather report each morning as we know how unpredictable the weather is in Houston.

## PK Lottery 2021 - 2022

On September 19, HISD School Choice opened up the system to apply for the PK lottery for the 2021-2022 school year. The Bush PK program is only for families that are already enrolled at Bush Elementary and have another child that will be 4 on or before September 1, 2021. Students must meet PK eligibility requirements such as being economically disadvantaged or qualifying as English as a Second Language.

The site will accept applications from September 19, 2020 - April 30, 2021. Families will be notified by HISD School Choice on May 20 if their child was accepted into Bush Elementary's PK program or if their child is on the waitlist. Go to [HISDChoice.com](https://HISDChoice.com) to apply. Bush Elementary's PK program is only one class with 22 students that must be comprised of siblings of currently enrolled Bush students. The only way to apply for and be part of the lottery for Bush Elementary's PK program is to apply online at the address shared above.



## SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of December 7th is energy.

## Safe Morning Arrival

Morning carpool is moving smoothly. We are now taking student temperatures outside of the car and this is helping move the arrival carpool line.

We can still make the process quicker and still stay safe. Please make sure your child:

- Is wearing his/her mask.
- Opens the car door as soon as your car has come to a complete stop.
- Is prepared to say the his/her last name, and first name.

In the true walker/biker line, please remember these simple tips:

- Stand 6 feet apart
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Have your child prepared to say the grade, last name, and first name.

## Dismissal Reminders

**Dismissal is no longer first come, first serve.** There are set dismissal times to ensure a safe and healthy release of students to the carpool lane.

**Second and third grade parents do not need to arrive before 2:45 p.m.** If you do arrive before your time, then park on Park Bayou Drive, but **NOT** Westerloch Drive.

- **PK parents** are the only parents that may park in the carpool lane starting at 2:00 p.m.
- **Kindergarten and First Grade parents** may park on Westerloch Drive, outside the carpool lane at the driveway that goes into the grass starting at 2:15 p.m.

**Fourth and fifth grade** are dismissed from the **bus lane** starting at 2:40 p.m.

## HISD launches COVID-19 Dashboard to Track Confirmed Cases

"As we navigate this pandemic together, we want to ensure that we are transparent as we provide crucial updates," HISD Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said. "This new dashboard will give our staff members and families the information they need in an accessible and easy-to-use way to make informed decisions."

The dashboard was developed using Texas Education Agency guidelines for reporting COVID-19. It will be updated daily, allowing users to review student and staff data by location and districtwide. It also includes a map to visibly show where cases are throughout the district. The district will strictly follow all applicable privacy laws as it relates to the release of personal health information.

To view the COVID-19 dashboard, go to <https://www.houstonisd.org/COVID19Dashboard>

## Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts have free membership in December!



 Holiday Flyer - Houston ISD.pdf

[drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com)



 giftofgirlscouting.pdf

[drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com)

## The Parent Institute



 December 2020.pdf

[drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com)

## Report Cards on Parent Connect

When

Friday, Dec. 11th, 3pm

Where

This is an online event.

## Winter Holiday Parties - In-Person and Virtual Classes

When

Friday, Dec. 18th, 1:30pm

Where

This is an online event.



# Winter Holiday Break

When

Monday, Dec. 21st, 7:30am to Friday,  
Jan. 1st 2021 at 3pm

Where

13800 Westerloch Drive  
Houston, TX



## Underwriting Campaign

PTO's largest fundraiser is our Underwriting Campaign. Each year, PTO asks Bush Elementary families to donate directly to the PTO to help cover the cost of programs and materials which directly benefit our school. This year, PTO has already been hard at work making sure our school is prepared for Reopening by stocking our Nurse Clinic and helping teachers with the supplies they need to be ready to teach in-person or virtually. Understandably, the uncertainties and economic downturn this year have impacted many in our community, but any donation you can make will help ensure the continued success of our school. Each donor of \$25 or more will receive a mask lanyard (one per Bush student). This year's Underwriting Campaign has also been extended until June 30, 2021 (February 28, 2021 if you would like your donation recognition included in the Yearbook), and we are offering payment plans if you choose to donate at the \$500 Red & Navy Club level or above.

Visit [www.BBEPTO.com](http://www.BBEPTO.com) for more information or to make your donation.

## School Store

School Store is now selling various T-shirts, long sleeve and short sleeve polos, and fleece hoodies for those chilly classrooms. Let us help you adhere to the new dress code guidelines by shopping online at [www.BBEPTO.com](http://www.BBEPTO.com)! We also have school supply packages still available

as well as agendas, notebooks, zipper bags, and more. Order now for classroom delivery (for in-person students) or Friday drive-thru pickup (for virtual students).

## Yearbook needs your help

We are looking for some pictures for the yearbook. We need pictures for the following pages: "First Day of School," "Siblings," "College Shirt Day," and "Distance Learning Looks Like..." If you have any, please share them with us! Please send no more than 5 photos to [bushptoyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:bushptoyearbook@gmail.com) and **label pictures with students' grade.**

## Did you remember to join the PTO?

Our Directory is in process, and we want to make sure that everyone receives one! Go online TODAY to Join the PTO to make sure your Directory is included in our order!

**NEW for 2020:** Become a **PTO Pal** for \$10 and help purchase a PTO Membership for those who cannot. Your optional donation will be recognized in a BBE PTO publication.

Join online at [www.BBEPTO.com](http://www.BBEPTO.com) to purchase your membership or become a **PTO Pal** today!

