

May 12, 2021



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BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS

Houston Independent School District

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National School Nurse's Day - May 12

School nurses have long been the heart of HISD campuses, but over the past year their efforts have become even more important. By keeping students healthy and safe, nurses create an environment where students are ready to learn.

Bush Elementary appreciates your dedication, Nurse Guider!

Bush UIL Team Makes Us Proud!

Our UIL Team competed in UIL Meet #5 on April 24th. This was one of two District Finals Meets to be held this spring. We are so proud of all of our students who competed and how well they did. They really did us proud. Bush Elementary earned three 1st Place Team Awards which is amazing! We earned first place in the entire district in these three events. Please join us in congratulating all of our UIL team members.

Bush UIL Team Awards:

Mathematics – 1st Place Team Award

Number Sense 5th Grade – 1st Place Team Award

Social Studies – 1st Place Team Award

3rd Grade Number Sense:

Rishaan Debnath – 7th place

Nivaan Debnath – 8th place

Brayden Li – 16th place

Aarush Mohanty – 17th place

Martin Guerreo -23rd place

4th Grade Number Sense:

Ryan Zhu – 5th place

Riya Patel – 6th place

Pranav Limaye – 8th place

Sabira Sajan – 19th place

5th Grade Number Sense:

Harshil Sanklecha – 2nd place

Vatsal Sharda - 4th place

Dhriti Koyya – 8th place

Sebastian Portillo – 17th place

4th & 5th Grade Social Studies:

Aditya Chowdhury – 1st place

Naomi McKay – 4th place

Holt Nguyen-Lee – 6th place

Abigail Mayces – 8th place

2nd grade Creative Writing:

Krithik Sathish – 5th place

Aadya Sripathi – 6th place

Quinn Nguyen-Lee – 9th place

4th & 5th Grade Mathematics:

Harshil Sanklecha – 3rd place

Dhriti Koyya – 5th place

Riya Patel – 6th place

Vatsal Sharda – 7th place

3rd Grade Ready Writing:

Nivaan Debnath – 7th place

4th Grade Ready Writing:

Lydia Smith – 4th place

Pranav Limaye – 8th place

Vihaan Soni – 10th place

5th Grade Ready Writing:

Arya Soni – 1st place

2nd & 3rd Grade Chess Puzzle:

Riona Hiwale – 4th place

Rishaan Debnath - 10th place

Nivaan Debnath – 10th place

Brayden Li – 13th place

4th and 5th Grade Chess Puzzle:

Arya Soni – 14th place

Sebastian Portillo – 15th place

Vihaan Soni – 16th place

Dhriti Koyya – 18th place

2nd & 3rd Grade Oral Reading:

George Kotochigov – 2nd place

Tessa Mayces – 3rd place

Honoree Spano – 17th place

4th & 5th Grade Oral Reading:

Abigail Mayces – 6th place

Holt Nguyen-Lee – 11th place

Eliza Smith – 11th place

Lydia Smith – 21st place

Naomi McKay – 21st place

Social Studies Grades 4 and 5:

Aditya Chowdhury – 1st place

Naomi McKay – 4th place

Holt Nguyen-Lee – 6th place

Abigail Mayces – 8th place

May 19 & 26 STAAR Testing Dates

Third - fifth grade students will be participating in online STAAR testing at Bush Elementary during the month of May. All in-person students are required to take the exam and virtual students have the option to come in and take the online STAAR assessment.

In order to adhere to social distancing and test security guidelines, we will need every Bush teacher to administer the STAAR on the following dates. **This means all in-person PK - second grade students will be at home on these days for asynchronous learning.**

Wednesday, May 19

Wednesday, May 26*

***In addition, all in-person third and fourth grade students will be at home on Wednesday, May 26 for asynchronous learning.**

We're providing this early notice so parents have time to plan for child care coverage on these days. The teachers will not be providing live instruction on these days as they'll be administering and monitoring the third - fifth grade students as they take the STAAR assessment. PK - second grade students as well as virtual third - fifth grade students that choose not take the STAAR will complete lessons in Imagine Literacy and Imagine Math by 2:30 p.m. to count as present for the day. Each grade level will notify their students of the required time necessary to meet the attendance requirement for these days.

Here's an overview of who will be at Bush Elementary on these specific May dates.

Wednesday, May 19 - Only third, fourth, and fifth graders at Bush.

Wednesday, May 26 - Only fifth graders at Bush.

May 28 At-Home Asynchronous Instructional Day

According to guidance provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), districts may apply for a waiver for spring 2021 that allows a district to change a traditional school day to an asynchronous instruction day to provide additional planned teacher professional development or preparation days.

The district was approved by the HISD Board of Education during the April regular board meeting to apply for this waiver from the state to offer asynchronous instruction for students and teacher professional development on **Friday, May 28**.

As a result, all students will participate in at-home virtual learning on Friday, May 28.

SAVE THE DATES! Spring Virtual Book Fair May 24 - June 4

Our Book Fair is online this year! Support our school and help your child discover new books, favorite characters, complete series, and more! The Book Fair is exclusively online this year, which includes an interactive booklist. All purchases over \$25 for books-only will receive free shipping. You also have a chance to add funds to your student's teacher(s) to help purchase books for the classroom.

We are excited to be participating in this new way of book shopping and to continue to instill a love of reading for all students!

If you have any questions please contact our Librarian, Mrs. Miller at BMILLE12@houstonisd.org

[BUSH ES VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR](#)

Morning Carpool Quick Tips

The morning carpool lane is moving a bit slower now that we have added more in-person students. In order to keep the drop off lane moving smoothly, please remember the following tips:

- As you enter the carpool lane, make sure your child has their mask on, has their backpack on and lunchbox is ready to go.
- If your child is not able to exit the car independently, please remain in the carpool line until you are at the front of the line. People stopping to help their children out of the car in the middle of the line are slowing everyone down. Also, have your children practice exiting the car by themselves. We are so proud of all of our students who have mastered this skill this year!
- Do not stop to drop off your children as you enter the carpool lane. Pull all the way up as far as you can in the line and then let them off.

If we all work together, our carpool lane will move quickly and everyone will enter the building safely and in a timely manner.

PK Lottery for Bush Elementary

The deadline to register for the PK lottery for next school year ended on April 30. The Bush Elementary PK program is populated from an HISD run lottery. We have almost 50 PK aged siblings of currently enrolled Bush students in our lottery. These children will be the only children in the lottery for the 22 Bush PK spots. HISD schools are allowed to give preference to the siblings of the currently enrolled students.

HISD, not Bush Elementary, will contact the families via email to notify them of receiving one of the 22 spots or their official number on the waiting list. HISD will notify families by Thursday, May 20 by 11:59 p.m. In this communication, the next steps for accepting a position or the wait list number will be shared.

School Store on the Go!

Now selling various goody bags (ranging from \$1 - \$5) packed with novelties in our brand new school store On The Go cart! We will be selling these goodies in the hallways **each Friday during your child's lunch break**. This will be on a rotating schedule:

Week 1 – Grades 1, 3 and 5

Week 2 – Grades 2, 4 and 5

All covid safety measures will be followed to ensure this is a SAFE and FUN activity for your child. Social distancing will continue to be practiced and proper PPE will be worn at all times. Empty your piggy banks and come shop at the school store On The Go cart starting this Friday! Goody bags can be previewed online at www.bbepeto.com. All proceeds directly benefit the PTO. Thank you for supporting the BBE PTO and happy shopping!



Last Day of School - Friday, June 11

The students' last day of school is Friday, June 11. Students must be in attendance through this date to receive an end of year report card showing promotion status for next school year.

Bikers, Walkers, and Bus Lane Safety

Please make sure that bikers and walkers have the right of way when crossing over the entrance to the bus lane. Cars must stop when bikers and walkers are close to the bus lane to allow for the safe passage of the students and parents. Cars must be extra vigilant as they approach the entrance to the bus lane to ensure the safety of our walkers and bikers.

2021 - 2022 Registration Dates

The first day of school for the 2021 - 2022 school year is Monday, August 23. At this time, we don't know if virtual learning will be offered.

2021 - 2022 Bush Elementary Registration Dates*

May 19 - 26 - New Students in Grades 1 - 5

June 16 - 23 - New Students in Grades K - 5

August 9 - 11 and August 17 - 19 - New Students in Grades K - 5

These dates are subject to change.

Details for each of these registration dates will be published in the Paw Prints. There are no guarantees for enrollment space at Bush Elementary after the May registration dates. Registration is a two part process. Parents register their children and then students are present on the first day of school, August 23. If you have submitted all your registration documents to the registrar, then your child will be assigned a teacher in August. Then, you will receive a phone call during the week of August 16 from your child's teacher.

COVID-19 Guidelines

Please use this helpful link for information regarding COVID-19



SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of May 10th is habitat.

Helping Children Learn

View our May newsletter by clicking [here](#).

May 19 STAAR Reading Testing Gr. 3, 4, & 5 only

When

Wednesday, May 19th, 7:30am-3pm

Where

13800 Westerloch Drive
Houston, TX

More information

All PK - 2nd grade students will be at home for a virtual asynchronous learning day due to the STAAR testing at Bush Elementary.

1st - 5th Grade - New Student Registration

When

Wednesday, May 19th, 7:30am to
Wednesday, May 26th, 3pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

These dates are subject to change.

May 26 STAAR Science Testing Gr. 5 only

When

Wednesday, May 26th, 7:30am-3pm

Where

13800 Westerloch Drive
Houston, TX

More information

All PK - 4th grade students will be at home for a virtual asynchronous day due to the STAAR testing at Bush Elementary.

May 28 - Asynchronous Learning Day

When

Friday, May 28th, 7:30am-3pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

No students will be on campus. This is an asynchronous learning day for all PK - 5th grade students.

Last Day of School

When

Friday, June 11th, 7:30am-3pm

Where

13800 Westerloch Drive
Houston, TX

K - 5th Grade - New Student Registration

When

Wednesday, June 16th, 7:30am to
Wednesday, June 23rd, 3pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

These dates are subject to change.

K - 5th Grade - New Student Registration

When

Monday, Aug. 9th, 7:30am to
Wednesday, Aug. 11th, 3pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

These dates are subject to change.

K - 5th Grade - New Student Registration

When

Tuesday, Aug. 17th, 7:30am to Thursday,
Aug. 19th, 2pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

These dates are subject to change.

First Day of School

When

Monday, Aug. 23rd, 7:30am-3pm

Where

13800 Westerloch Drive
Houston, TX

More information

[2021 - 2022 HISD Academic Calendar](#)



**BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

PTO Board 2021-22 Nominees

Our Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate of candidates for the 2021-22 PTO Board:

President – Valerie Shaikh

Vice President – Michelle Jackson

Secretary – Nikki Vedi

Treasurer – MJ Gernale

Business Partnerships – Tosha Perkins & Maria Hartley

Directory – Michelle Xiao & Mayra Gonzalez

Family Hospitality – Maria Tapia & Horea Owen

Nature Center – Kyndra Jones-Aboagye

Publicity – Rebecca Minnock

Safety – Constantin Platon

School Store Coordinator – Beatriz Cunha

Teacher Hospitality – Amy Gnau & Nikki Vedi

Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) Coordinator – Rachel Pleasant & Jana Howe

Art Coordinator – Kati Collins

Birthday Book Club Coordinator – Mayra Gonzalez & Randee Barnes

Drama Coordinator – Katy Bate

Fifth Grade Coordinator – Eliza Machala

Library Coordinator – Sevana Melikian

Music Coordinator – Martha Gonzalez

PayPal Coordinator – Randee Barnes

Website Coordinator – Snezana Kato

Yearbook Coordinator – Maha Aburas

We are still in search of volunteers to fill the following positions:

Fundraising (2 positions available) – oversee Underwriting Campaign, Fall & Spring Fundraising Events (like Bush Bingo Bash), and any other Fundraising events at the Chair's discretion

If you are interested in one of these positions, please email PTO President, Kara Bemis, at presidentbbpto@gmail.com.

Please cast your vote to approve the slate of nominees using [this link](#). You may also access the election form through our website at www.BBEPTO.com. Elections close on Saturday, May 15.

Many thanks to all of the above nominees for volunteering to help serve Bush Elementary and the PTO!

School Store – 2021-2022 School Supplies on Sale Now

As this school year is coming to an end, it's time to start planning for the next. Order your 2021-2022 school supplies now by visiting our ONLINE School Store!

Make sure your child is all set for the coming school year and order now at www.BBEPTO.com. Your child's school supplies will be delivered directly to the classrooms, ready for them to start the new school year! Avoid the crowds and long lines, and order now by visiting our ONLINE School Store at www.BBEPTO.com. EPI school supply packs can save you up to 40% compared to shopping for the same supplies at national retailers.

Order NOW, and buy your supplies at a discounted rate. **This offer expires Friday June 11, 2021.**

ALL School Store proceeds directly benefit the Barbara Bush Elementary PTO. For questions, please contact the School Store at mybushstore@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!
(ALL SUPPLY PACK PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX)

Yard Signs on sale now

Have you seen Bush Elementary yard signs springing up around our area? It's just what you need to spruce up your home! We now have double sided yard signs available for sale on our website at www.BBEPTO.com. The \$15 sign measures 18" wide by 24" tall, and is a great way to show your Bobcat spirit! Each sign comes with removable stakes, so the sign can be posted in a window or in the ground. Order now for classroom delivery (for in-person students) or drive-thru pickup (for virtual students) to show your pride in our Bush Bobcats!

Birthday Book Club – Deadline for submission is May 15

With just a few weeks left in our school year, it is time to think about those summer birthdays! The deadline to purchase Birthday Book Club memberships and/or electronic sign recognition for your student(s) is **Saturday, May 15**. To allow for processing and scheduling, no orders will be accepted after this time. Summer birthdays will be recognized the last few weeks of school. To purchase a Birthday Book Club membership or electronic sign display for your child, please visit our website at www.BBEPTO.com.

Nature Center Sign Up

We have been overwhelmed by requests to join us in the Nature Center! To accommodate more families, we have already increased the number of people allowed from 10 to 15 individuals. To allow for even more visitors, our Nature Center chair has now added a second

session to each Nature Center event. The first session (for all events except June 5's Poetry Picnic) will run from 10 am – 11:30 am, and the second session will run from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. As a courtesy to other Bush families, and to allow for as many children as possible to get to experience the fun in the Nature Center, we do ask that families who have already signed up for multiple Nature Center events be mindful of those who have not been able to find an open slot. If you have already had a chance to visit the Nature Center these past few weeks, please allow others to sign up and have a chance to participate as well. Thank you!

Upcoming Nature Center Events

Here are the upcoming events and special things to know....Can't wait to see you there!
FYI:

- Masks must be worn at all times in the Nature Center.
- Only **15 individual people allowed (This is up from 10 people before)**..... so sign up fast with the Sign Up Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4FAFAE2CA2FA7-nature1>
- There is limited access to the grounds during these events.
- We can be in the Nature Center only (no one allowed in the building or on the playgrounds).

Nature Center Happenings.....

Saturday, May 22, 10 am – 1 pm: Nature Center Scavenger Hunt

We'll use the clues to find Garden Treasures!!

Sunday, May 23, 10 am – 1 pm: Handprints and Planting

MAKEUP from April 17 event cancelled due to inclement weather

Make your Mark! Paint your handprint on the bridge and sign your name for all time.

Let's plant marigolds and more!

Saturday, June 5, 12 pm: Poetry picnic and Wild Rumpus

Let's enjoy the nature center for the last event of the season!!

Bring a blanket, lunch, and a short song or poem.

Reserve a spot today! Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4FAFAE2CA2FA7-nature1>

Family Movie Spirit Event – “The Croods: A New Age”

BBE PTO will be sponsoring another Virtual Family Movie Screening! On **Saturday, May 22**, we will be showing Universal Pictures' “**The Croods: A New Age**” for all BBE families to enjoy. You and your family will be able to stream the movie for **FREE** all day from the comfort of your own home.

To access the movie any time on Saturday, May 22, please click this [Watchlink](#):

<https://digitalcampus.swankmp.net/vs-bbepto380975/passphrase-watchlink/>

You will also need the Passphrase to log in. For security purposes, the Passphrase will be sent separately.

We are also excited to announce that this month we will be partnering with **BB's Tex-Orleans**

Saturday, May 22, just let your server know that you are part of Bush Elementary, and BB's will donate 25% of your purchase price to BBE PTO! Thank you so much to BB's Tex-Orleans for their generous support of Bush Elementary and the BBE PTO!

