October 21, 2020

Read the Paw Prints

The Paw Prints is a weekly parent newsletter written by the principal, Theresa Rose. Please take the time to read this newsletter with important information for parents.

Morning Arrival Reminders

Morning arrival is moving along! Please remember the following simple, but helpful tips for the carpool lane drop off:

- Have your child’s window down as soon as you enter the carpool lane.
- Have your child prepared to say the grade, last name, and first name.
- Have the backpack and lunch box ready to grab to speed up the exit from the car.

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.

Social Economic Information Form - Due October 23

Thank you to all the parents who already have completed this form. If you haven't completed the social economic form, please complete the form for your child. We have a screenshot (to the right) of what the link looks like in the HISD Connect Parent Portal [https://www.houstonisd.org/psc](https://www.houstonisd.org/psc). These are due by October 23, 2020.

Tuesday, November 3 - NO School, Student Holiday

Bush Elementary will be closed on Tuesday, November 3 as the cafeteria will be used as a polling site for Harris County.

This is a student holiday for both in-person and virtual students.

Bush Elementary Dress Code Guidelines 2020 - 2021

While there is no specific dress code, there are dress code guidelines that must be followed.

**Masks**
- Masks must be worn at all times while at Bush Elementary, whether inside the building or on school property.

**Shirts/Sweaters/Sweatshirts**
- Must have sleeves and cover the stomach (ie. no tank tops, no crop tops)
- No words or writing on the shirt, unless it's a Bush Elementary t-shirt
- No t-shirts, unless it's a Bush Elementary t-shirt
- No jerseys or team uniforms unless it's for a specific school event

**Jackets**
- Any type of jacket is allowed if it's worn as a jacket (outside for recess, walking into/out of the building)
Dresses/skirts
· Must be longer than the end of the child's fingertips while standing up with arm along the side of the body
· No ball gowns, fancy dress, or costumes

Pants
· No rips, tears, holes, words on the pants
· Leggings may not be worn as pants, but may be worn under an appropriate length dress/skirt
· Pants must be at the waist
· No sweatpants, jogger pants, compression pants, athletic pants

Shorts
· No rips, tears, holes, or words on the shorts
· Leggings may not be worn as shorts, but may be worn under an appropriate length dress/skirt
· Shorts must be at the waist
· No athletic or team uniform shorts

Shoes
· Tennis shoes are recommended for safety.
· Toes must be covered and the heel is secured in the shoe
· No flip flops, sandals, shoes with heels

Earrings
· May not be longer than 1/2 inch

Hats
· No hats may be worn inside the building, unless there is a spirit day

Clothing must not be disruptive to the educational process.

Rolling Backpacks
· Will be allowed due to carrying extra materials

HISD Reopening Plan and Communicable Disease Plan

Please click on the button to access the document.

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

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS MONTH

October is College and Career Readiness Month in HISD. Yes, even in elementary school our students need to think about their post-high school future and need to be prepared to enter the work force and/or go to college. Students are encouraged to wear college shirts on Fridays during the month of October. Students may wear a college shirt on Friday, October 30th. This is a great time to talk about all the incredible collegiate opportunities that await your child. Make sure your child knows why he/she is wearing a shirt from that college. Did any of your family members attend the college? Are you supporting a local college? Is this where you and/or your child want to attend college?

UNIVERSAL GT TESTING for K & 5 Students Not Previously Identified

HISD screens all kindergarten and fifth grade students who were not previously identified as gifted and talented in what is called Universal Testing. This process begins the week of November 9th, 2020.

The universal testing of kindergarten and fifth grade students allows identified students to receive G/T services in HISD’s Gifted and Talented Programs during the Spring of their current school year. All students who are identified as gifted and talented in HISD will retain their G/T status providing they subsequently enroll in an HISD Gifted and Talented Program upon identification and are continuously enrolled in an HISD Gifted and Talented Program thereafter.

Parents of K and 5th grade students not previously identified as GT do not need to complete any paperwork, all the students will be tested for GT.

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 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.
GT Testing for Students in Grades 1 - 4

If your child is in grades 1st - 4th and not already identified as a Gifted and Talented, you may request that your child is tested for GT if you feel your child would qualify for the GT program. The deadline to submit applications is November 6th. The applications can be found at https://www.houstonisd.org/Domain/32983.

Completed applications must be submitted in an email to Jessica Ayala, (Jessica.Ayala@Houstonisd.org) in the front office by Friday, November 6 at 3:15 p.m.

Gifted and Talented Parent Informational Sessions

**TOPICS:** GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM, ASSESSMENT, INSTRUCTION, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, GATES, TIMELINES, & FAQS

**WHEN:** November 9, 2020 December 8, 2020

**WHERE:** Microsoft Teams

**FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:** GiftedandTalented@houstonisd.org

Website: https://www.houstonisd.org/Domain/32983

Translating Virtual Paw Prints

One of the reasons we selected this tool for our Paw Prints is the program's ability to translate the content into almost 100 different languages. Use the translate tab at the upper right to change the Paw Prints into another language. We want all our families to be able to have access to this content regardless of their first, second, or even third language.

**SPECTACULAR SCIENCE**

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of October 19th is **variables**.
Ms. Rose would like to wish a very special birthday to:

Samuel C. who turned 10 years old on October 20 and is a fourth grader in Ms. Jensen's class.

Isabella C. who turned 6 years old on October 21 and is in kindergarten in Ms. Onwuzuruike's class.

Happy Birthday and Welcome to the Bush Birthday Book Club!

As we transition our classes to accommodate Reopening, make sure you don't lose touch with your friends--our annual Directory can help your child connect with friends for video calls, playdates, and birthdays. Make sure your family is not left out--go online to submit your information so we can make a comprehensive Directory. Remember, YOU can choose which
non-required fields you want to fill out to include in the Directory. The **deadline is Friday, October 23**, so don't wait...**complete your information submission now**!

**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.

**Attention all Fifth Grade Parents!**

Please visit [www.BBEPTO.com](http://www.BBEPTO.com) to pay your Fifth Grade Fee and to order additional Fifth Grade T-shirts for your student or yourself. You can also choose to Help A Friend to make sure all Fifth Graders receive a T-shirt and get to join in the Fifth Grade Fun!

**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," "Astros Play-offs," 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 and label pictures with students’ grade.

**Business Sponsorships Program**
Thank you to each and every Business Sponsor for your support of BBE PTO. If you have not already submitted your advertisement for your sponsorship, please email them to our Business Partnerships and Directory teams as soon as possible for inclusion in this year’s Directory. If you still need to complete your payment, visit www.BBEPTO.com to purchase your package.

Attention: Room Parents

Thank you to everyone who signed up to be a Room Parent. We know you have some questions about being a Room Parent, whether your child is returning in-person or staying virtual. Our Volunteer Chairpersons are currently working on a plan to accommodate all of the recent changes due to Reopening. They will be communicating directly with you as soon as they have a plan in place.