

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – APRIL 15, 2015

Houston Independent School District
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 20		STAAR Testing 5 th Grade Math - NO VISITORS
April 21		STAAR Testing 3 rd & 4 th Grade Math - NO VISITORS
April 22		STAAR Testing 3 rd & 4 th Grade Reading, & 5 th Grade Science - NO VISITORS
April 25	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Color Run
May 4-8		IOWA Grades 1-5 – NO VISITORS
May 7	12:30	PTO Board Meeting
May 13	8:30a.m.-12:30 p.m.	2 nd Grade Museum of Natural Science

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW

The Texas Legislature has passed laws stating that a student shall be required to attend school for the entire instructional period (school year). If a student is absent from school without excuse for any portion of the school day for three (3) days in a four-week period or for ten (10) or more days in a six-month period, the student and the student's parent or legal guardian are subject to prosecution by the Harris County Justice of the Peace Courts. The student may also be referred to a juvenile court.

Principals may excuse the absences for personal illness, death in the family, or other legitimate reasons. **Vacations and trips out of the country during the time school is still in session are not considered excused absences.**

It is a parent's duty to require the student to attend school, monitor the student's attendance and request a conference with school officials to discuss any concerns about attendance.

Recent legislation requires school districts to file truancy complaints with an appropriate court within seven school days of a student's tenth (10th) unexcused absence when all of the ten (10) unexcused absences occurred within a six-month period during the same school year.

The entire handbook is available at:
www.houstonisd.org/bushelem

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of April 13 is habitat.

BOBCAT NEWS **2015 STAAR Testing Dates**

April 20, 2015 STAAR Grade 5 Math
April 21, 2015 STAAR Grades 3 & 4 Math
April 22, 2015 STAAR Grades 3 & 4 Reading
 STAAR Grade 5 Science

HISD requires each campus to have procedures in place to ensure the least amount of disruptions on testing days. Therefore, parents will **NOT** be able to volunteer in the lunchroom, classroom, or workroom on the testing days listed above. Parents and visitors will be able to access the office, but all other areas need to remain secure due to testing purposes. Bush Elementary is fortunate to have so many incredible parents and volunteers, but on testing dates we must limit the number of people on campus. Thank you for understanding!

Parents of third, fourth and fifth grade students, please do not schedule any doctor or dentist appointments on test days or plan to pick your child up early on these days. **Also, parents should NOT drop lunch off for their child on testing days as the office will be unable to communicate with teachers.**

HISD CELL PHONE POLICY

The use of cell phones or any other unapproved electronic devices by students or test administrators in a testing environment is not permitted. Procedures regarding cell phones during testing include:

- Student cell phones and other unapproved electronic devices shall be collected by the test administrator prior to testing and returned to the owners after testing has been completed for the day.
- Campuses must post signs reminding students about the telecommunications rules prior to any district or state test administration.
- Prior to the start of the first major test administration in the spring, test administrators must read the "HISD Electronic Device Advisory Statement" shown below to all test participants.
- After the statement is read to students, all students will be required to sign the statement form.

HISD ELECTRONIC DEVICE ADVISORY STATEMENT

"As per the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Houston ISD, the use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices during testing is not permitted. I understand that I must power off my electronic device(s) and turn it in to the Test Administrator to hold until ALL students have completed the test. Being in possession of any electronic device(s) will be reason to have my test picked up and NOT SCORED. I understand that I will then have to turn in my phone, and that disciplinary action will be taken by campus administration."

JEANNE'S GARDEN

Stop by and visit our newly installed Jeanne's Garden in our courtyard. This quiet spot to sit and reflect was constructed in loving memory of Jeanne Lelley through generous contributions from her friends and family. Jeanne will be remembered fondly for initiating and organizing our wonderful Eagle's Trace Math Mentors Program for first graders. For years, Jeanne enthusiastically worked with the first grade teachers every two weeks coordinating and enriching our math program through a myriad of hands-on activities for the students. Many volunteers from Eagle's Trace Retirement Community continue to visit our school every two weeks bringing their love of math and working with children while honoring Jeanne's generous legacy here at Bush Elementary.

RAINY DAY PLAN

Make a plan for rainy or "bad" days. Be sure you have a rainy day plan for your child. Make sure that your child knows what he or she is to do if it is raining at dismissal time. **Please do not call the school office with instructions and messages. This should be handled in advance.** As the weather in Houston is very unpredictable, it is highly recommended that parents purchase an inexpensive fold-up rain poncho and place it in their child's backpack. This poncho can be "saved for a rainy day." We can load more students into cars if they can walk farther down the driveway to enter waiting cars. **Remember every day at school is important - please do not keep your child home just because it's a rainy day!**

HOUSTON ROCKETS READ NATION CHALLENGE 2015

How many minutes do you read each day? Each month? Students will keep track of their reading minutes during the month of April and turn in their total number of minutes to Ms. Miller by May 1. The total number of minutes that Bush students read will be submitted to the Rockets Read Challenge. The *READ NATION CHALLENGE* is a program and competition that will reward individual students and schools for reading the most number of minutes during the duration of the contest. Students and schools will also have the opportunity to win prizes such as t-shirts, books, and reading tablets. Which grade level will read the most minutes? The competition begins! Read every day!

NO PARKING

The bus lane is a "NO PARKING" and "NO DROP OFF" zone for passenger cars.

RESERVED PARKING

Please do not park in the two parking spaces, located next to the flag in the visitors' parking lot. They are reserved for the PTO president and the underwriting campaign raffle winner.

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 last session for this school year will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20.

PTO NEWS COLOR RUN

Please join us for our first school Color Fun Run/Walk, on Saturday, April 25, sponsored by the Barbara Bush PTO! This will be a fun, healthy fundraising event to show our school spirit. Participants will literally be wearing their school colors! Everyone is encouraged to participate, no matter his or her fitness level. Each grade level will have its own race around our brand new track. Our morning will end with a 1-mile (approximately) Family Color Fun Run/Walk on school premises. The Official t-shirt will become part of Bush dress code for the remainder of this school year. The deadline for ordering these t-shirts is **TODAY**. For more information, please check the flyer that came home in your child's red communication folder last week.

NATURE CENTER NEWS

The PTO is looking for someone to take over the care of the Nature Center and coordinate our efforts to improve the school grounds. Sarah Castro, who has served on the PTO and worked in the capacity of Nature Center and Grounds Coordinator, is stepping down after two years. We need someone to fill her position on PTO Board. Please contact Jessica McKay if you are interested.
thejessmckay@gmail.com

BUSH SPIRIT DAYS

April 14: Chick-Fil-A – 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (2nd Tuesday of every month)

April 15: Marco's Pizza (3rd Wednesday of every month)

April 24: Idea Lab Kids – 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (last Friday of every month)

SCHOOL STORE SALE

2 T-SHIRTS FOR \$15.00

Limited Sizes, Colors, and Designs

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BUSH BOBCATS - STUDENTS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW - 2014-15

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