

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – AUGUST 27, 2014

Houston Independent School District

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CHARACTER EDUCATION THEME: COMMITMENT

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 1		Holiday – No School
September 5		Every Summer Reading Forms Due
September 9	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Scout Night At Bush
September 11	6:00-7:45 p.m.	Parents' Night Grades 1-5
September 24	12:20 p.m.	Early Dismissal
October 1		Individual Picture Day
October 3		Holiday – No School
October 20-24		Book Fair Week
October 23	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Book Fair Night & Dinner
October 29	12:20 p.m.	EARLY DISMISSAL
October 31	2:50 p.m.	Report Cards Go Home
November 6	6:00-7:30 p.m.	4 th Grade Writing Night

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Welcome back! I hope you are all ready to work hard and have fun. Now is the time to establish good routines to carry you through the school year. Make sure you get a good night's sleep so you will be rested and arrive at school ready to go at 7:35 a.m. Eat a healthy breakfast every morning so your brain will have the fuel it needs to work and learn all day. A rested and healthy body will be needed as we all work together to make sure **Bobcats are ready to be "Students today, Leaders tomorrow"** in 2014-2015.

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 7:35 a.m. Students arriving after 7:45 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.bush elementary.org

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, IS A HOLIDAY.
SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED.

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of August 25 is scientist.

BOBCAT NEWS

PARENTS' NIGHT

The most important meeting of the year for Bush is Parents' Night for **grades 1-5 on September 11, 2014**. This meeting is VERY EARLY in the school year and is purposefully not called an Open House. It is different in format and purpose from a traditional school open house. Parents' Night is from 6:00-7:45 p.m. PK and K Parents' Night was held on Wednesday, August 20. The PTO meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose room starting at 6:00 p.m. This will give you an opportunity to be introduced to the entire Bush staff and learn how Bush Students will be **"Students today, Leaders tomorrow"** in 2014-15. 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.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS **2014-2015**

HISD has selected the following five early dismissal days that are to be used for professional development or parental involvement. All schools will participate in the early dismissal schedule listed below, and the school day will be reduced by two hours and thirty minutes.

On the following Early Dismissal Days, the school day will be from 7:35 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. Lunch times will run one hour and ten minutes earlier on these days only. Students must be picked up at 12:20 p.m.

- September 24, 2014
- October 29, 2014
- November 19, 2014
- January 28, 2015
- February 25, 2015

EVERY SUMMER HAS A STORY!

All Every Summer Has a Story paper(s) are due to the classroom teachers by Friday, September 5. 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?

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 800 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 7:20 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.

MORNING ARRIVAL

Starting **tomorrow**, students who will walk unaccompanied to their classes will wait inside the building for the bell to ring. For safety concerns due to the limited space in the hallways, parents who want to walk their children to class must wait outside the building with their children until we dismiss the students seated inside. Morning routines should be getting easier; therefore, beginning **tomorrow, August 28**, students who enter the building after 7:45 a.m. will need to go to the office for a tardy slip. Starting next Wednesday, **September 3**, all students will walk unaccompanied down the hall to their classrooms. The students need to develop independence. Pre-K and K parents may stand at the entrance to the PK/K hall to watch their child walk to their classroom.

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**.

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. Please follow the rules printed below and soon you will be enjoying curb-service pick-up for your child.

- Remain in your car at all times when using the carpool lane.
- Do not ask your child to cross in the middle of the block on Westerloch.
- Place the number in the front window on the passenger side or hang it from the mirror.
- 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.
- In order to not have traffic backed up onto Eldridge, cars may line up on Park Bayou and merge into the line on Westerloch.
- **Do not use cell phones in the carpool lane.**

All carpool groups are given an opportunity to sign up for a carpool number. 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 above to ensure smooth operation of the carpool system.**

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 at dismissal will wait at their assigned carpool number.

NO PARKING ZONE

The visitor lane driveway, along with the entrance and exit, is a **FIRE/NO PARKING ZONE**. Parents may line up for carpool in this area but must stay in their cars. Cars may not be parked and left unattended in this no-parking zone. Thank you for following these guidelines which are designed to make Bush Elementary a safer school. **Please do not park in the handicapped spaces unless a valid handicapped tag is displayed.**

SCHOOL NEWS NETWORK

(articles submitted by other area schools)

WEST BRIAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Join the West Briar Honey Bears for a day of fun and dance on Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Registration forms are available in the Bush Office. For more information contact mleblan1@houstonisd.org. Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

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

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