

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – NOVEMBER 12, 2014

Houston Independent School District
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 13	5:00-9:00 p.m.	Bush Spirit Day at Chick-fil-A
November 14	8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Bush Chorus at Nutcracker Market, NRG Center
November 18		Individual Picture Make-Up Day
November 19	12:20 p.m.	EARLY DISMISSAL
November 19		Bush Spirit Day At Marcos Pizza
November 20	8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	4 th Grade – George Ranch
November 24	8:30-9:30 a.m.	4 th Grade Knowledge Fest – Cafeteria
November 25	8:00-9:30 a.m.	3 rd Grade Knowledge Fest - Cafeteria
November 26-28		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS ATTENDANCE

It is each parent’s duty to monitor the students’ attendance and request a conference with school officials to discuss any attendance concerns. In HISD schools, a student must attend at least 93 percent of the days the course meets during the school year in order to receive credit for a course. Students with excessive absences will automatically be referred to the principal or Attendance Committee of the school to determine whether credit may be awarded.

State law provides that if a student is absent from school without excuse for any portion of the school day for three days in a four-week period or for ten 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 or Municipal Courts.

Attendance is checked each day at **9:00 a.m.** Students arriving after 9:00 a.m. will be counted absent. Students who become ill at school and are sent home will be counted absent if they arrive in the clinic before 9:00 a.m. Students who have medical appointments are not counted absent if they return to school with a statement from the medical practitioner.

Parents can help their students and our personnel by sending a note each and every time that a child returns to school after an absence. The note should have the following information:

- Date
- Child’s first and last name
- Date of the absence(s)
- Reason for the absence

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

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of November 10 is mixture.

REMINDERS

The next Early Dismissal Day is Wednesday, November 19. The school day will be from 7:35 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. There will be an altered ancillary schedule and lunch times will run one hour and ten minutes earlier on these days only. Students must be picked up at 12:20 p.m.

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.

BOBCAT NEWS

PARENT WRITING NIGHT

The fourth grade parent/student writing night was a huge success! Mrs. Jensen and Miss Diller had families taking notes and discussing complex sentences. It was wonderful to see so many fourth grade families, who took time out of their busy schedules, spend an evening learning ways to assist their child in the writing process.

Before the presentation, families enjoyed a pizza dinner, courtesy of the PTO. Thank you PTO for providing the Marco’s pizza dinner! Way to go, Mrs. Jensen and Miss Diller, for the fantastic learning experience!

VACATIONS

Please remember to plan your family vacations and trips during regular school holidays like Thanksgiving, winter break, and spring break. Family vacations cannot be considered excused absences by the State of Texas. As a result, they are recorded as unexcused absences. All students must have a 98% attendance rate. Every day at school is important. All students **must** attend school up to and including the last day on May 28, 2015.

FACULTY AND STAFF PARKING LOT

Please do not park in the faculty and staff parking lot at any time; it is reserved for Bush Elementary faculty and staff ONLY.

MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOICES AND OPTIONS

A middle school information night for parents of fourth and fifth Grade students will be held at Askew Elementary on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Are you interested in knowing more about middle school choices/options for your fourth or fifth grade students? Go and interview more than a dozen Magnet Coordinators, including those from Revere and West Briar face-to-face in the Askew cafeteria!

Any questions, call 281 368-2100 and ask for Scott or Veronica.

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 next session for this school year will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7.

PTO NEWS

November 13: Bush Spirit Day at Chick-fil-A (5:00pm - 9:00pm)

November 19: Bush Spirit Day at Marcos Pizza (all day)

SCHOOL NEWS NETWORK

(articles submitted by other area schools)

WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

DANCE WITH INERTIANS – DATE CHANGE!

NEW DATE for Dance with Inertians: November 22nd! Come join the fun and learn how to dance like the boys and girls of the nationally acclaimed Inertia Dance Company at Westside High School! The Dance clinic will be on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd** from 12pm-4pm with the show & performance at 5pm. Don't miss this FUN event! For more information and a registration form contact Kelly Cramer at n.cramer@sbcglobal.net or 713-898-9438.

Cafeteria Reminders for Parents

- Bush Elementary is an overcrowded campus this year; thus all seats at the lunch tables have been reserved for students.
- Parents have 2 options for seating:
 - Outside on the picnic tables
 - 2 tables reserved for parents at the far end of the cafeteria by the double doors.
- For the safety of all students and cafeteria staff, please do not stand behind your child at his/her lunch table.
- While enjoying lunch with your child, your child must remain with you at all times. He/she cannot go back and forth from one table to another for safety reasons.
- Birthday Treats – **Please pass out any cookies, cupcakes, and/or donuts to the students only in your child's homeroom class.** The treat may only be distributed and eaten in the last 5 minutes of the lunch period. Candy **may not** be handed out at any time.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Ms. Vesey's and Ms. Oloruntoba's special education classes will be conducting a Holiday Food Drive from November 12th until November 21st. They are asking all of our Bush families to donate non-perishable food items which will be given to the Grace Point Community Church Food Bank located on Dairy Ashford. They are in need of canned fruits and vegetables, powdered milk, and canned meats such as tuna, Spam and Vienna sausage. Please help us help our less fortunate neighbors during the holiday season.

FIRST GRADE ENTREPRENEURS

The Barbara Bush PTO and Ms. Rose would like to extend a huge thank you to Jatin Palnati and Vibha M. Reddy from Ms. Ennis' class. These two industrious first graders, with the help of their families, worked hard to set up a lemonade stand to collect money for our school. Our budding entrepreneurs raised \$25.00 and donated all of their profits to our Bush Elementary Underwriting campaign. Woo Hoo, to Jatin and Vibha for their great idea and their generous donation to our school!

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!**

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

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