

PAWPRINTS

BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – OCTOBER 1, 2014

Houston Independent School District
www.houstonisd.org/bushelem

To sign up to receive news from HISD via e-mail, visit www.houstonisd.org/subscribe
HISD Inclement Weather Hotline 713-267-1704
K-12 Radio Listen Now!! houstonisd.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 3		Holiday – No School
October 9	8:45 a.m.	4 th Grade - Museum of Natural Science
October 10		1 st Grade – Main Street Theater
October 20-24		Book Fair Week
October 21	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Book Fair Night & Dinner
October 22		3 rd Grade – Museum of Fine Arts
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

HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

It is imperative that all information on each child's enrollment card be complete and kept current. **If phone numbers (home, work, emergency or doctor) change, please notify the school office immediately.**

Be sure that you have a plan for picking your child up during the day should he/she get sick at school. Students should **not** be picked up from school early except in emergency situations or for appointments that **cannot** be scheduled at other times. Be sure that changes in "pick-up procedures" are clearly communicated and discussed **before** the child leaves home. Notify the teacher in writing when such changes occur.

Students will **not** be called out of class to talk on the phone. In emergency cases, messages will be relayed to students. This will not be done for messages that are of a routine nature. **Plan ahead!** Your child's instructional time is important.

The entire handbook is available at:
www.bush elementary.org

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of September 29 is hypothesis.

REMINDER

School will be closed on Friday for the fall holiday!

BOBCAT NEWS

CLASS SIZE WAIVERS

The state of Texas has a class size limit of 22 students to one teacher in kindergarten through fourth grade. This semester, Bush Elementary requested class size waivers for the following classes that are over the 22:1 ratio - Junco, Fox, Castaneda, Nguyen, Taylor, Tran, Ennis, McCormick, Akers, Hime, Baldwin, Brown, Strange, Romo, Carlin, Bard, Dillman, Hill, McMaster, Dow, Rosales, Taylor, and Diller.

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.

LUNCH VISITORS

Parents are always welcome to come and eat lunch with their child(ren). Due to our increased enrollment at Bush, seats at the cafeteria tables must be reserved for the students. Please feel free to sit and eat with your child at the table set aside by the windows at the far side of the cafeteria or outside at one of the picnic tables. Thank you for your understanding!

HELMET & CHAINS

If your child rides a bicycle to school, it is important to play it safe! Children are required to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle. Join the "helmet patrol" and see that all children are following bicycle safety rules.

We have a bike rack for parking. **All bikes and scooters should be chained and locked to prevent theft.** Be sure that your child has a bike lock he/she can operate.

MORNING MESSAGES

Before school starts is a busy time at Bush Elementary as the teachers are finalizing their preparations for an exciting day of learning. If information needs to be shared with the teacher before school, send an e-mail or place a note in your child's red communication folder.

MEAL APPLICATIONS

Students who are part of the free or reduced-price meals program must have a current 2014-15 application on file or be Direct Certified for 2014-15. If you have not already completed the application, it is very important that you do so by October 7, 2014. Lunch applications are available in the school office or you can apply on line at www.mealapps.houstonisd.org.

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, October 15.

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 WEAR

Students may wear solid navy, red or white polo-type shirts (with or without the **official** Bush logo) or turtlenecks in the same three solid colors. **Official** Bush t-shirts may be worn on any school day. White Oxford cloth shirts with long or short sleeves are also acceptable. Shorts, pants, dresses, skirts, or skorts must be solid khaki or navy blue. Shorts, dresses, skirts and skorts must be below fingertips. The guidelines will continue to include **PLAIN** blue jeans. Jeans may **not** have embroidery, colored stitching, decals, logos, glitter, or any other type of decoration. Girls may wear "Bush plaid" items purchased from Academy Uniforms, located at 14520 Memorial Drive.

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.

LOST AND NEVER FOUND!

Are you missing a lunchbox? There are many lunchboxes in the lost and found. Please remember to put your child's first and last name somewhere on your child's lunchbox.

SAFETY FIRST

Please make sure your child wears athletic shoes on the day he/she has P.E. Boots and dress shoes are unsafe and can cause injuries.

SAFETY ABOVE ALL ELSE!

For safety concerns, no one will be allowed into the building after 3:15 p.m. for any reason (this includes picking up homework, lunch kits, jackets, etc.)

PTO NEWS

UNDERWRITING CAMPAIGN NEWS!

A big THANK YOU to all the families who donated to the Underwriting Campaign.

WE HAVE NOT REACHED OUR GOAL!

Look out for the Bobcat this week during morning arrival. He will be helping out!

HONK IF YOU DONATED!

Congratulations to: Vyomini Ray from Mrs. Ennis' class who won 2 passes to Monkey Joe's.

Keep donating - more prizes coming up THIS FRIDAY!

We take credit cards donations too! To find out more, please contact us at:

donatetobush@gmail.com

ATTENTION

BUSH FAMILY BUSINESS OWNERS

The Barbara Bush Student Directory is well underway. We are attempting to reach out to all Bush families who are business owners. Keep in mind the directory reaches 400 Bush families and is a great advertising tool that has the added benefit of helping your child's school. A full page ad is \$125(BW), \$300(color) and a half page ad is \$75(BW), \$150(color). The deadline to submit your ad is October 3rd. If you are interested, please contact Shibani Gupta or Sonya Mehta at bushdirectory@gmail.com.

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

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, or political affiliation in its educational or employment programs and activities.