

# PAWPRINTS

## BARBARA BUSH ELEMENTARY BOBCATS – SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

Houston Independent School District  
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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 11	6:00-7:45 p.m.	Parents' Night Grades 1-5
September 19		Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow Day for all Students, Faculty, & Staff
September 24	12:20 p.m.	Early Dismissal
October 1		Individual Picture Day
October 3		<b>Holiday – No School</b>
October 9	8:45 a.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Museum of Natural Science
October 10		1 <sup>st</sup> Grade – Main Street Theater
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 30		3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade – Museum of Fine Arts
October 31	2:50 p.m.	Report Cards Go Home
November 6	6:00-7:30 p.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Night

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## HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Parents may bring cupcakes with a thin layer of frosting, cake, brownies, donuts, or cookies to be distributed during the last 5 minutes of your child's lunch time.

Please do not plan to have a birthday party in the cafeteria or in the classroom. Party hats, favors, decorations, balloons, etc. should be reserved for off-campus parties.

Invitations to off-campus birthday parties are NOT to be distributed at school.

Please do not have flowers, balloons, gift baskets, singing telegrams, etc. delivered to school for individual students. Such items will **not** be delivered to the classroom.

The entire handbook is available at:  
[www.bushelementary.org](http://www.bushelementary.org)

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## SPECTACULAR SCIENCE

The Spectacular Science Word for the week of September 8 is balance.

## BOBCAT NEWS

### PARENTS' NIGHT – GRADES 1-5

**Tomorrow night is the most important meeting of the year for Bush Parents.** 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.**

## CARPOOL COURTESY

Cars that line up for dismissal should line up on Westerloch up to the stop sign at Park Bayou. The line should then continue along Park Bayou going towards West Briar Middle School. Please be respectful towards the cars patiently waiting in line and do not "cut" in the line at the stop sign at Westerloch and Park Bayou.

Here are some tips to help keep the carpool lane moving.

- Help your child memorize his/her carpool number.
- Have the seats on the carpool side (passenger side) of your car free of clutter or obstructions so children can easily enter their cars.
- Have your carpool number displayed from your rear view mirror. If some other item is also hanging from the mirror, place the carpool number in front.
- Do not get out of your car in the carpool lane.

## ALLERGY ALERT

**We have a number of students on campus who have severe allergies to nuts. When you are bringing birthday treats for your child's birthday, please make sure these treats do not include any nut products.**

## 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](http://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 first session for this school year will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17.

## 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.

## EARLY PICK UPS

Please do not plan to pick up your child between 2:25 p.m. and 2:50 p.m. The doors will be locked at 2:25 p.m. every day to get ready for dismissal. To ensure a safe dismissal students will not be called after 2:25 p.m. Thank you for helping to make dismissal safe for all our students.

## 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 # 32.

## 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 further down the driveway to enter waiting cars.

## FIRE DRILL

The city of Houston requires that school conduct a monthly fire drill. All people in the building are required to leave the building whenever the fire alarm sounds. Parents and volunteers must exit the building as soon as they hear the alarm and follow the others in the hall to a proper evacuation site. Thank you for helping make Bush a safe and secure campus.

## FACULTY AND STAFF PARKING LOT

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

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## PTO NEWS

Thank you to all the **169** families who have joined the PTO, which is **25%** of our student body. If you have not already joined, please consider doing so as PTO funds provide financial support to enhance all Bush students' education. The PTO form was sent home last week with the PTO package in your child's red communication folder and it is posted on the school web site. We will have special prizes for the grades that reach the highest participation if we reach our goal of **70%** of the total student body. Every family that joins will receive a Bush directory. Please send the form as soon as possible. The Membership Drive has a new due date of **September 19**. Thank you for your support!!

## OUCH!

The Texas Vaccine Institute is going to be at Bush on Monday, September 22 from 4:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. to administer flu shots to anyone who wants to get a flu shot. The vaccination is targeted for adults and children six months and older. Children under eighteen must be accompanied by a parent. The vaccine is not recommended for people allergic to egg products, with a fever, or pregnant in the first trimester. The cost of the flu shot is \$20 and the cost of the nasal spray is \$30. Payment can be made by cash or check. The vaccine is given on a first-come, first-served basis.

## SCHOOL STORE

If you purchased a sweater to be embroidered with your child's name, it will be available for pick-up at Parents' Night tomorrow from 5:30 p.m to 7:00 p.m.

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## 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 [mlleblan1@houstonisd.org](mailto:mlleblan1@houstonisd.org). Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

## 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.