



The Falcon Flyer

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

December festivities along with Teaching & Learning will keep our students extremely busy this month. We invite you to join us for one of the winter programs sponsored by our students and teachers. We begin Winter Break when the dismissal bell rings Friday, **December 16, 2016**. Students return to school Wednesday, January 4, 2017. Happy Holidays!

Principal Hobbs

Library News

Happy Holidays from the Library Media Center. Many thanks to all who supported our annual book fair. This was a very successful fundraising event and the Library greatly appreciates your support.

Top Readers

The following 5th graders are Accelerated Reader (AR) Word Millionaires meaning that they read over one million words. Tashfin Rayan, Megan Aguas, Gabrielle Green, Sergio Torres, and Kevin Argueta. Madeline Harper has read over two million words. Congratulations readers!!!

Basketball Season

Your Falcons started off their 2016-2017 basketball year against the Pershing Pandas. Your 7th and 8th graders came up short for the first game, but are excited for the remainder of the season. Come and support our teams.

PTO News

PTO would like to thank all the volunteers who helped this fall semester. You can still purchase bricks online to place in the front walkway. We thank Mr. Sergio Moreno from Vasar-Marble and Tile for donating time to place the remembrance bricks at the front entrance. No PTO meeting for December.

Red Ribbon Winners

Kudos to the Red Ribbon Essay Contest winners including 2nd grader, Asia White in the Primary; Madeline Harper from the 3-5 division and 6th grader, Theresa Burrell who wrote the winning essay from middle school. Many thanks to the PTO for providing the prizes. We also want to thank the National Junior Honor Society and Mrs. Tappen for their help with the contest as well as for all the Red Ribbon activities.

Reading is Fun

First grade invites family and friends to come enjoy story time, hot chocolate, and sweet treats during our Sugar and Spice Reading Pajama Day, Dec 9th from 8:30-9:30AM.

Gifts of Food

The Houston Food Bank is experiencing record requests and is depending on our assistance. The Middle School Food Drive continues until December 16th. If the entire Middle School reaches our goal of filling 6 boxes of nonperishable foods, everyone earns a free dress day. If we do not meet our 6 box goal, then the grade level that brings the most nonperishable food items will earn free dress. Be part of our team.

Winter Concert

On Thursday, December 8, the Fine Arts Department will present our Winter Program featuring Choir, TheaterArts and After School Dance students from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. Please come see our Rice School students display their talents! Tickets are \$3.00 and will be on sale from December 1st through December 8th. The Band's Winter Concert in on the following Thursday December 15th at 5:00 pm for \$2. You don't want to miss these festive performances and the opportunity to witness the many talents of our students. We look forward to seeing you.

STEM Events

Thank you for a successful STEM-Up Fall Festival! Our school community came in great numbers to help with each grade's fundraising activities and to participate in the many STEM activities. Our students are involved in problem-based learning through a variety of STEM challenges that they engage in on a regular basis. The Young Scientist's Club members have imagined, designed, tested, created, and raced a variety of cars from recycled materials. The Middle School Habitat Club members have harvested citrus fruits and cleaned garden beds in preparation for future learning adventures. MS students are putting the final touches on their science fair projects. Stay tuned for more information about our science fair. Eight grade technology students have coded Math games on the computers and they are sharing with Elementary students. For more information about our school's STEM program, contact T. Hill-Kennedy at thillken@houstonisd.org.

Memorial Garden

Come see a beautiful blueprint on display in the main hallway provided by community sponsors, Sweitzer and Associates Landscape firm and HCC. Special thank you to Rick Haddock and Rachel Rock for their efforts.

Special Dates...

DECEMBER

- 1-9 Iowa/Logramos Testing Gr K & 5
- 5 Bball v Pin Oak @5:30-7PM Girls Home
- 8 Fine Arts Winter Concert @ 4:30-6:30
- 9 Gr. 1 Sugar and Spice @8:30-9:30 in the Cluster
- 9 **Last day for Magnet Applications**
- 10 HCA College Camp for MS students 9-3 @ Rice University memorial Center
- 12-16 **NO afterschool tutorials**
- 12-16 K Salutes world seasonal celebrations
- 12 Bball Game v Lawson @5:30 Boys Home
- 14 Gr. 2-Celebration 1:00-2PM with parents in the Cluster
- 15 Art Display in the main hall all day
- 15 Winter Band Concert 5-7 PM Auditorium
- 16 K Winter Celebration with Parents 12:30-1:30 PM in cluster
- 16 **Regular school day dismissal @ 3:00**
- Dec.19-Jan.4, 2017 Winter Break**

JANUARY

- 2 **NO SCHOOL**-Holiday
- 3 **NO SCHOOL**-Teacher Workday
- 4 **Students Return-First School day of 2017**
- 11 Bball v Welch 5:30 PM Girls @ Home
- 18 Bball v Meyerland 5:30 PM Boys @ Home

Giving Tree

Select one of the figures from the tree near the front door. Each has a request for something that might make the holiday a little brighter for a child or family. Recipients are selected based on either economic need or a life changing event that has affected the family. Please bring your gift by Tuesday, December 13th. We want to extend a special thank you to **Cobalt International Energy** Company for their generous support to our students over this holiday season. For more information, contact our counselor.

College Planning

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund invites all middle school students to attend College Camp. This half-day program has sessions to help middle and high school students with their parents prepare, plan, and pay for college. The event begins at 9AM at the Rice University Memorial Center. Register online at <http://hsf.net/en/events>.

Magnet Timeline

The Phase 1 December 9th Magnet application deadline is for new students, which includes siblings applying to attend the Rice School for the 2017 school year. Current Rice students do **not** have to re-apply. Thank you.