



# The Falcon Flyer

## Message from the Principal

*Dear Parents:*

Our students are engaged in rigorous Teaching and Learning. Students in Grades 3-8 have been preparing for the state's STAAR assessment. Starting March 28<sup>th</sup> STAAR testing will take place. Students in Grades 4 and 7 will take the STAAR Writing test while students in Grades 5 and 8 will take the STAAR Reading **and Math exams**. In May, students in Grades 3-8 will be taking various STAAR assessments. I am confident the results will reflect student growth and achievement. For now, it is time to enjoy Spring Break, **March 13-17, 2017**. Have fun and be safe! We will see everyone Monday, **March 20th** for more Teaching & Learning.

*Principal Hobbs*

## Art Finalists

Yovanny Marquez, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student will have his artwork displayed at The Dialogue Institute Southwest's Seventh Annual Art of Friendship Art Contest (2016) award ceremony on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. Amy (My) Nguyen's, 8<sup>th</sup> grader artwork was honored with the Texas Regional Silver Key award in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition and will be eligible for further monetary awards at the middle school art exhibit March 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:30-6:30 at Texas Art Supply on Montrose.

**Mateo Bastidas and My Nguyen**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are part of 30 Finalists in the Bayou City Art Festival 2017 Middle School Art Competition. They need your votes, so we ask you to go to the following website to help them win. <https://marketing-bayoucityartfestival.com.wishpond.com/vote-contest-2035998/>

## It Takes a Village

*It Takes a Village* hosted its second Rodeo Round-Up and it was a success. Several students won gifts from the games, silent auction and raffle. We want to extend a special thank you to the Rice School PTO including our extraordinary organizer Roz Williams, middle school band parents for their donations, the servers and the best bingo caller in Houston, Nurse Boedeker!

## Friendship Essay Finalists

The Friendship Essay Contest will continue until March 31<sup>st</sup>. Many thanks to our PTO for providing prizes to encourage our budding writers to turn in essays by Friday, March 31<sup>th</sup>. We also appreciate the assistance of the Student Council and NJHS students in helping us with the process and with demonstrating by their action this a school that values daily kindness to others. Share your kind acts. Make a difference.

## Souper Bowl Campaign

THANK YOU for your support of the 2017 Food Drive. Together we raised 2,453 lbs. of food! Our efforts make a difference in the lives of families, children and seniors throughout southeast Texas. By the way, check out the overall Rice School Food Drive totals: This means that our 2017 total is even more than last year, so the Rice School total to date is 6,885 lbs. of food donated to the food bank.

## NJHS News

The NJHS led a special campaign to collect shoes for people in Haiti. During the month-long event, almost **400 shoes** were collected and will be sent as part of the contributions from the Prairie View campus of Texas A&M to provide shoes for those still affected by the storm.

## Student Council Activities

Students are currently collecting clean, gently used Rice School uniform attire for redistribution to students who need them. Send items or email Ms. Hill-Kennedy Thank you for your support of our annual Flower Pen and Pencil Sale. Clean Cluster contest continues.

## Career Fair

Many thanks for all those attending our Career Fair, highlighting the career strands in the new HISD graduation plan. We had two returning students as presenters who highlight the power of a good education. It was exciting to see how our students responded to hearing that just a few years before these adults had attended Rice K-8. Professionals from STEM fields, Technical Careers, Arts and Humanities, Public Service and Multidisciplinary fields were in the main hallway beginning at 10:00 am. We want to thank our presenters and the committee for hosting this event.

## Sports News

The Track team has been off to a great start competing at both the Westbury & Westside track meets. The following athletes have won medals: Christopher Brinkley, Lauren Hunter, Kelsea Guidry, Kennide Guidry, Sydney Sam, Alani Forouzan, Mya Murrell, Tatyanna Lindsey, Davonte Childs, Kennedy Ward, Kelby Williams, Eliud Castillo and India Caldwell. Cheer them on.

## Special Dates...

### March

- 2 Dr. Seuss National Reading Day
- 2 Soccer Game Tanglewood @ Rice 5PM
- 5 Go Texan Day!
- 7 Soccer Game vs Pilgrim @ Home 5PM
- 13-20 Spring Break –No School**
- 20 Students return to school**
- 22 PTO Meeting in cafeteria @ 8:00 AM
- 24 Soccer Game vs Lanier @Home 5PM
- 24 Report Cards go home
- 28 STAAR Writing - Grades 4th, 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**STAAR Math Gr. 5 and 8**
- 29 STAAR **Reading** Gr. 5 and 8
- 31 Anti-Bully Friendship Essay Contest ends

## STEM News

Rice School Science Fair participants researched a problem, created a display, and shared their work with peers, teachers, and community members. Some are preparing to participate in the 2018 Science and Engineering Fair of Houston. Congratulations to **Mark Pichon-1<sup>st</sup> Place**, **Priscilla Lozano-2nd place** and **Elysha Orozco-3rd place**, as well as to all the participants.

## Tribute to Dr. Seuss

To celebrate Dr. Seuss the Kindergarten and Grade 1 clusters made it a week event. Each day classes wore some special tribute and read a book.

## Habitat Happenings

The middle school Habitat Club is up and growing! We recently received tomato and pepper plants from our Urban Harvest partners and we have planted so many other things as well. We meet Wednesdays and Thursdays after school. See Mr. Callegari

## Rice School Robotics

Our Team competed in the VEX South Texas Championship Saturday, February 25, 2017. Rice School placed 18<sup>th</sup> place out of 28 and did well for a middle school team. Our robot included 11 motors, 12 external gears, 3 batteries, and over 52 wires. Next year we will do even better.

## PTO News

The Rice School Uniform Store is back on Campus. The charter Uniforms online is no longer available so we are looking for volunteer to assist in the store. The PTO Board Election Nominations will be taken at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting held in the cafeteria at 8 AM. Come and join us!

Visit our website at [www.RicePTO.org](http://www.RicePTO.org)