



The Falcon Flyer

December 8, 2015 - Volume 17, Issue 4

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 18, 2015**. Students return to school Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Happy Holidays!

Principal Hobbs

Library

Happy Holidays to all from the Library Media Center. Many thanks to all students, parents /family members, and teachers who supported our annual book fair. This was our most successful year ever and the Library greatly appreciates your support.

Top Readers

Meet our top Accelerated Reading (AR). Reader Maddie Harper in 4th grade is our first **Million Word Reader** with the following students (and their word count) in the top 10 Rice AR readers: Aisha Tauseef: 756, 880; Nikolaus Woodfin: 733, 853; Arnoldo Salazar: 684, 128; Ikenna Nliam: 514, 961; Jerica Norton: 493, 752; Diego Villatoro: 493, 241; Brenda Castro: 456, 365; Casei Clark: 450,857; and Alexander Curtis: 444,320. Kudos readers.

The Diviners Goes Divinely

Move over Broadway, The Rice School Theatre program is making waves. Returning to the University Interscholastic League (UIL) in the One-Act Play Competition, Rice did well in its performance. This year's show was *The Diviners*. The cast members included Brandon Mickey, Mar'Quise Garrett, Heavyn Roberts, Lorenzo Villafanna, Julianne Rojas, Jorna Khan, and Ymani Banks supported by Elijah Wilson, Heather Gillespie, Darius Roberson and Lexy Uwaezuoke. Zaccheus Palmer and Deborah Saravia were the techs for the production. UIL awards included: Alternate Advancing Play Honorable Mention for several of the cast members and Deborah Saravia was recognized for Best Tech. Mr. Washington is proud of these thespians.

PTO News

PTO would like to thank all the volunteers who helped this fall semester. Special recognition to Mr. Sergio Moreno from Vasar-Marble and Tile for donating time and placing the remembrance bricks at the front entrance. No PTO meeting for December.

Gifts of Food

The Houston Food Bank is experiencing record requests and is depending on our support. The Middle School Food Drive continues until December 18th. 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 on dance day. Be part of our team effort. Thank you for your support of the Houston Food Bank.

Winter Concert

On Thursday, December 10, our Fine Arts Department will present their Winter Concert from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Come out to see our Rice School students display their talents in the areas of Band, Choir, Theater and Dance. Tickets are \$3.00 and will be on sell from December 4th through December 10th. You don't want to miss this evening of festive performance!

Grade 5 Spelling Bee

Fifth grade would like to thank all the 5th grade students for participating in the 2015- 2016 Spelling Bee. The following students were the top spellers, and went on to compete in the Cluster Bee: Nathan Hoang, Ethan Arrazolo, Arnoldo Salazar, Priscilla Lozano, Diego Villatoro, Gabriel Muñiz, Greg Mercader, Bryce Davis, Tyree Wilson, Kyla Reed, Casei Clark, Nikolaus Woodfin, Gabriel Reyes, Charles Broussard, and Amy Martinez. The following students are this years' 5th grade Spelling Bee winners: Runner- Up: Arnoldo Salazar; 3rd place: Ethan Arrazolo; 2nd place: Gabriel Muñiz; 1st place Nikolaus Woodfin.

Reading is Fun

First grade is hosting our annual Sugar and Spice Reading Pajama Day, December 11th from 8:30 to 9:30AM. We would like to invite parents and family members to come and enjoy story time, hot chocolate, and sweet treats!!! Bring your favorite book to read with your first grader or come browse your child's class library for a book to share.

Box Top Collection

Grade 5 Box Tops Brigade is collecting Box Tops for Education every Monday. At the end of each month starting in December, the grade level cluster with the most Box Tops collected will earn a Jeans Friday. Please collect box tops and give them to your homeroom teacher.

Special Dates...

DECEMBER

- 1 Gr. 7 Duke SAT Tutorials Begin 3:30-5PM
- 2 Girls Bball vs Dowling @Rice 5:30-7PM
- 3-11 IOWA Logramos Testing 8:30-11:00AM Gr. K and 5
- 4 Gr.7 Duke SAT Tutorials 3:30-5PM
- 7 Soccer Kick Off Meeting 3:30PM-4:30 PM
- 8 Gr.7 Duke SAT Tutorials 3:30-5PM
- 9 Girls Bball vs Pershing @ 5:30-7PM
- 10 Fine Arts Winter Concert @ 5:30-7 PM
- 11 Reading Pajama Day Gr. 1 @8:30-9:30 in Cluster
- 11 Gr.7 Duke SAT Tutorials 3:30-5PM
- 12 Saturday **Duke SAT** Tutorials 8:30-12:30
- 12 Voting (Run off-Elections)
- 15 Gr. 7 Duke SAT Tutorials 8:30AM-12:30 PM
- 16-19 **NO afterschool tutorials**
- 17 Gr. 2 Winter Celebration 12:30 pm- 1:30 pm
- 18 Kinder Winter Celebration 12:30-1:30PM
- 18 Gr.7 Duke SAT Tutorials 3:30 PM 5:00 PM
- 18 **Regular school day dismissal @ 3:00PM**
- 18 **Last day for Magnet Applications**
- Dec.23-Jan.4, 2015 Winter Break**
- JANUARY**
- 4 **NO SCHOOL**-Teacher Workday
- 5 **Students Return -First School day of 2016**
- 5 Gr.7 Duke SAT Tutorials 3:30-5PM
- 6 Boys Bball vs Johnston 5:30 PM-7:00 PM
- 8 Gr.7 Duke SAT Tutorials 3:30 PM 5:00 PM
- 9 SAT Tutorial 8:30-12:30 Parents Invited

Giving Tree

We hope you will 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 at The Rice School. Recipients are selected based on either economic need or a life changing event that has affected the family. Please bring your gift by Monday, December 16th. 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 Stacy Spillane.

Rainbow Challenge

Mr. Obinyan led a Math team to the 3-5 Education Rainbow Challenge. The districtwide mathematics competition was held at Wheatley HS. With about 50 teams competing, our third grade team, consisting of Courtney Kimble and Caleb Kimble, won first place. Courtney Kimble also won the top prize for most overall points in third grade. Our fifth grade team won second place. Alexander Curtis, Richard Garcia, Trinity Fredricks, Nathan Hoang, Justice Prince and Charles Broussard represented the 5th grade. Our fourth grade team, consisting of Joshua Amofa, William Cabrera, Zy Joseph, Isabella Rangel, Giselle Escobar and Wyatt Tappen, competed admirably and enjoyed the learning experience. Congratulations to all the students and also to Ms. Matson and Mr. Lewis for accompanying the students. Check the website for pictures.