



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 hosted by our students and teachers. We begin Winter Break when the dismissal bell rings Friday, December 19, 2014. Students return to school Tuesday, January 6, 2015. 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 ongoing support.

20th Year Celebration

We hope that you will stop by, look up and enjoy the new flags that hang proudly from the flag poles. For the first time in our 20 year history each cluster presented their colors, which were put up at the Fall Festival. Anne Papakonstanou, Math Professor from Rice University provided the dedication, highlighting the connection between our two schools. We were also happy to welcome the representative Rick Haddock from our new sponsor Houston Community College. His class is contributing drawings for our new Memorial Garden which we plan to dedicate this spring. We hope you are checking the website, buying a brink and finding new information on the big event on February 13th. We look forward to your participation.

Notes from the Nurse...

If your child is on any medication during school hours, state law requires that we have a form on file signed by the doctor and the parent. See the school nurse for forms. If your child is or has been a diagnosed with asthma, please bring an inhaler or nebulizer medication to the clinic. Be healthy, eat right and exercise is the way to start the new the year.

PTO News

The PTO would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped this fall. Your support and dedication is priceless. We encourage everyone to visit and join our website at ricepto.org. No PTO meeting for December. Happy Holidays!

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 19th. If the entire Middle School reaches our goal of filling 6 white boxes 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.

Join the Band

The Band Winter Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$2.00 per person and will be on sale Monday, Dec. 15th and Tues. Dec. 16th in PTO store from 7:50AM-9:00AM. Tickets will also be available at the door by auditorium the night of the event. You are invited to enjoy a wonderful concert presented by our talented band students at The Rice School. For more information contact Mr. Jorvan Butler. Happy Holidays!

Grade 5 Spelling Bee

Fifth grade would like to recognize the following students for participating in the 5th grade spelling bee: A'sha Branch, Leland Smith, Ifraah Shegow, Jalen Evans Moore, David Cao, Maximus Cabrera, Gavin Stewart, Mynor Moran, David Flores and Caleb Ayers. The following students are this year's 5th grade spelling bee winners. Runner-up: Mynor Moran, 3rd place: Jalen Evans Moore, 2nd place: A'sha Branch and 1st place David Cao.

We would also like to recognize our top AR readers for the semester which include David Cao, who read 1,969,264 words; Gavin Stewart, who read 988,794 words and Zoe Gilmore, who read 964,796 words. WOW!

Luby's ACT Winners

Houston ISD, in collaboration with Luby's Corporation, is proud to announce the Achieving Character Together), Award for the first and second grading periods goes to Emma Saenz and Ivan Mercader in grade 8. They are recognized for exhibiting personal attributes such as punctuality, honesty, respect, and self-discipline along with exhibiting a willingness to help others. Winners receive an Apple nano in a drawstring backpack and \$25 gift card. Way to go!

Special Dates...

DECEMBER

- 2 Gr. 4 Honors Choir Field Trip
- 3 Bball vs Dowling @ 5:30-7PM Boys Home
- 3 7th Gr. Duke SAT Tutorials Begin 3:30-5PM
- 5 7th Gr. Duke SAT Tutorials 3:30-5PM
- 8-12 Kinder IOWA Logramos Testing 8:30-10:30AM
- 9 Combined Choir's Winter Concert @ 7-9PM Auditorium
- 10 Bball vs Pershing @ 5:30-7PM Boys Home
- 10 6th Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30PM
- 11 7th Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30PM
- 13 7th Gr. Duke SAT Tutorials 8:30AM-12:30 PM
- 15-19 *NO afterschool tutorials*
- 15 8th Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30PM
- 16 Band Winter Concert @6:30-8:00PM Auditorium
- 17 Winter Celebration Prog. Gr. 2nd @12:30-1:30 in Cluster
- 18 Reading Pajama Party Gr. 1st @8:30-9:30 in Cluster
- 18 Winter Celebration 6th Gr. @10-1:30 in Cluster
- 19 Kinder Winter Celebration Classrooms 12:30-1:30PM
Regular school day dismissal @ 3:00PM
- 19 **Last day for Magnet Applications**
- Dec.22-Jan.5, 2015 **Winter Break**



JANUARY

- 5 **NO SCHOOL**-Teacher Workday
- 6 **Students Return -First School day of 2015**
- 7 Bball vs Johnston Girls Home 5:30-7:00 PM
- 7 7th Gr Duke SAT tutorials 3:30-5:00
- 9 Gr. 4 Awards Ceremony 12:00 noon in Cluster
- 9 7th Gr. Duke SAT Tutorial 3:30-5:00
- 10 Saturday Duke SAT Tutorial 8:30-12:30 Parents at Noon
- 14 Bball vs Johnston Boys Home 5:30-7:00 PM

Giving Tree

You will see a Giving Tree as you enter the school. The stars each have a request for something that might make the holiday a little brighter for a child or family at the Rice School. We are proud of the way the school comes together to provide cheer for special families and we appreciate your support of the Giving Tree. Recipients are selected based on either economic need or a life changing event that has affected the family. You can help by bringing the item you select from the star on the tree to the school by Monday December 16th. For more information, contact counselor Stacy Spillane.

We want to extend a special thank you to Cobalt International Energy Company for their generous support over this holiday season.

Box Top Collection

We are sending our box tops to Box Tops for Education. Cut off the box tops and give them to your homeroom teacher. Our 5th grade Brigade will collect them. The grade with the most labels collected wins a prize.

Basketball News

Come out and support our Falcons as they take on our district rivals Both teams are playing, exciting games so don't miss out on the action! The girls will face Johnston at home January 7th.