



The Falcon Flyer

March 6, 2015 - Volume 16, Issue 7

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents:

Our students have been engaged in rigorous Teaching and Learning. Students in Grades 3-8 have been preparing for the state's STAAR assessment. Starting March 30th 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 exam. During the fourth week of April, 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 16-20, 2015. Have fun and be safe! We will see everyone Monday, March 23rd, for more Teaching & Learning.

Principal Hobbs

Name That Book

Rice School *Name That Book (NTB)* has had an awesome year. The students on NTB teams read, discuss, and study over 30 books from a special list and then "name that book" when given a one sentence clue. The 2015 Name That Book team in grades 3-5 include Mathew Cruz, Diana Espinosa-Perez, Gabrielle Green, Madelyn Harper, David Martinez, Rene Ramirez, Leeland Smith and team captain Jalen Evans-Moore. This year our Middle School participants include Ivan Bastidos, Coleman Harper, Christopher Jones, Makalya Mitchell, Martin Pereyra, Gregorio Rios, Sebastian Romero and Olivia Skyler. Cheer on our Middle School team when they compete on March 11th.

Choir Cheer

The Middle School Choir hosted its fourth annual fundraiser, Bar-B-Q, Boots and Bingo and it was a huge success. Over 300 people attended the school-wide event and several participants won gifts from the games, silent auction and raffle. Some of the items included were a BBQ pit, boys bicycle, girls bicycle, autographed jersey from Earl Campbell and Dwight Howard and much more. It's exciting to have the entire Rice School family attend this event. A special thank you to the Rice School PTO, middle school choir parents for their donations, the choir dads that served food, and the best bingo caller in the land, Nurse Boedeker! We hope to see you next year.

Sports News

The track season has got off to a rolling start. Your boys and girls have represented our school admirably and even have trophies to prove it. Our next big event is the annual "Falcon Flyer Meet" at Butler Stadium; you will not want to miss these fantastic athletes represent your school. Please come and support them!

NJHS News

The NJHS held its annual induction ceremony on March 5th at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Please welcome the following students: Heidi Aparicio, Carissia Arrazolo, Fathma Baig, Ymani Banks, Herbert Chen, and Catherine Dela Rosa. Cynthia Gomez, Madalyn Hernandez, Jorna Khan, Esther Le, Sissi Lopez, Daniel Martinez, Christine Nguyen, Yessenia Serrano, Rhea Simpson, Timothy Smith, Kasandra Vazquez, Josue Alvarenga, Asia Batiste, Kelsey Bengue, Evan Palmer and Josue Velos.

All the NJHS members will participate in a visit to the nearby Elmcroft Home on March 10 from 3:30- 5:00. They will also assist in the School wide Spring Cleanup March 26th 3:30-5:00pm.

Singing to the Choir

Congratulations to the Middle School Tenor/Bass Choir and Treble Choir for winning the sweepstakes trophy at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest! Both choirs received all 1's from all 6 judges. This is the 5th consecutive year that The Rice School has won sweepstakes trophies. The students have worked hard all year for this culminating event and it was a very rewarding experience. Job well done!

Student Council

The Student Council will kick off the "Clean Cluster Campaign" on March 9th. Each cluster will be inspected weekly and will be rated on several things such as having the chairs in place around cluster tables and overall neatness. One "Clean Cluster Winner" will be chosen from the primary K-2, elementary, 3-5 and middle 6-8 grades. In addition, **lost and found** bins have been placed in each cluster. Parents with a **visitor's pass** may check for lost items before or after school. Thank you for helping us improve our learning environment.

Celebrate Future Engineers

Rice School Young Engineers Cynthia Gomez, Madalyn Hernandez, and Esther Le participated in the 56th Annual Science Engineering Fair of Houston. Their project, entitled, "Don't Crack Up the Product", offered a solution to the real-life problem of receiving broken merchandise in the mail. Outstanding engineering design process.

PTO News

Please check the website for more information at ricepto.org.

- Special Dates...**
- March**
- 2 Dr. Seuss National Reading Day
 - 3-4 Boys-Girls 7, 8 Gr. UIL Choir Concert @ Memorial Dr. Presbyterian Church
 - 5 Soccer Game Grady @ Rice 5:00PM
 - 5 NJHS Induction Ceremony @ 5:30-7PM
 - 7 Rice Track Meet at Butler 8:30-2PM
 - 10 Track Field events and Hurdles 3:15-5PM
 - 10 NJHS visitation @ Elmcroft 3:30 -5PM
 - 11 Name that Book 8-12 @ Williams M.S.
 - 12 Soccer Game Pilgrim @ Rice 5:00PM
 - 13 Anti-Bully Friendship Essay Contest ends
 - 16-22 **Spring Break -No School**
 - 23 **Students return to school**
 - 23 Soccer Game Lanier @ Rice 5:00 PM
 - 24-27 Gr. 7 & 8 Girls/Boys Track/Field Events @ Barnett Stadium 4:30 - 9PM
 - 30 STAAR Writing **Day 1**- Grades 4th, 7th
 - 31 STAAR Writing **Day 2** - Grades 4th, 7th STAAR **Reading** Gr. 5 and 8
- April**
- 3 **Holiday**
 - 6 Students return to school

Making History Live

We invite you to stop by the Grade 1st grade cluster and take a look at our box figures celebrating Black History month. Students were challenged to use a cereal box and be creative with illustrating the life of a famous African American... We have figures ranging from President Obama to Oprah Winfrey.

We are very proud of our students; hard work. If you can't stop by, take a look at the pictures of the display posted on our Rice School website.

Teachers of the Year

We want to celebrate all our teachers with special mention to those selected by their peers to represent the Rice School as Teachers of the Year. Third grade teachers are outstanding with Victoria Andrews who was selected for both HAABSE and Elementary Teacher of the Year, Adriana Gomez was elected Bilingual Teacher of the Year and Meghan Murphy won as Elementary ESL Teacher of the Year. Tanya Thompson was elected as the Rice Middle School ESL Teacher of the Year and Charles Harrison was voted Middle School Teacher of the Year. We appreciate their dedication and join in sending our support for their efforts.

Friendship Essay Finalists

This is the final week of the Friendship Essay Contest. Many thanks to our PTO for providing prizes to encourage our budding writers to turn in essays by Friday.