



THE FALCON FLYER

DECEMBER 8, 2017 - VOLUME 19, 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. Students will begin Winter Break when the dismissal bell rings Thursday **December 21, 2017**. Students return to school Monday, January 8, 2018. 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 READER

Our fifth graders have a reading goal of becoming Accelerated Reader (AR) Word Millionaires meaning that they have read over one million words. Courtney Kimble and Valerie Lozano are the first million word readers this school year. Congratulations!!!

BASKETBALL SEASON

Your Falcons started off their 2017-2018 Basketball season 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.

STEM EVENTS

Thank you for a successful STEM-Up Fall Festival! Our school community came together to help with each grade's fundraising activities and to participate in the many STEM activities. This month our students are involved in problem-based learning through a variety of engaging STEM challenges. Young Scientist's Club members have designed and built a maze from recycled materials. They also created and played their own video games. Middle School students are working on their science fair projects. Stay tuned for more information about our science fair. Our school will participate in the One Hour of Code event on Dec. 4th and continue coding for the next 2 weeks as part of the district initiative. Rice school is *moving from an hour of code to years of computer science!* For more information about our school's STEM program, please contact Ms. T. Hill-Kennedy at thillken@houstonisd.org.

HPD SUPPORT

We want to extend a special thank you to Houston Police Officers Association for their generous support to our students over this holiday season. For more information, contact our counselor.

READING IS FUN

First grade invites family and friends to come enjoy story time, hot chocolate, and sweet treats during our Reading Pajama Day, Thursday, Dec 21st from 8:30-9:30AM. Our students are excited to have the opportunity to read to an adult, so we hope you will make a special effort to attend. The Kindergarten celebration begins at 12:30 pm. Best wishes on a happy holiday season.

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 20th. 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 a free dress day. We hope you will be part of our team.

WINTER CONCERT

Thursday, December 14th, the combined Fine Arts Department and ASP Dance will present "Winter 2017", our annual holiday program featuring daytime performances from our Art, Choir and Theatre students. Our Bands and ASP Dancers will perform in the evening beginning at 5:00 pm. 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. In the spirit of the season, all performances are **free**.

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 12th.

They will be placed under the tree in the main hallway, until the Wrap Party. If you are interested in participating in this annual event please contact S. Spillane. Many thanks.

COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS FAIR

Tell your family and prepare to attend at the South Orem YMCA on Saturday, December 9 from 1-5 pm. The fair is geared towards young adults with information on Admissions and Financial Aid along with, opportunities to connect with mentors, professionals and employers in the community. For details, contact Jessica Stroh, at 713-726-1606.

SPECIAL DATES...

DECEMBER

- 4 Basketball v Lanier @5:30-7PM Boys Home
- 8 **Last day** to submit Magnet Applications – Phase1
- 11 Basketball Game v Pin Oak @5:30 Boys Home
- 14 Holiday Program Theatre/Arts/Choir @ 8:45 & 9:45AM
- 14 Fine Arts Band/Dance Winter Concert @ 5-6PM
- 18-21 NO afterschool tutorials**
- 18-21 K Salutes world seasonal celebrations
- 18 Basketball v Lawson @5:30-7PM Girls Home
- 20 PTO Meeting @ 5PM -Library
- 21 Gr 1 Reading in Pajama Day with Parents in the Cluster from 8:30-9:30AM
- 21 KN Winter Celebration with Parents 12:30-1:30 PM in Classrooms.
- 21 MS 6th-8th GR Winter Dance 1:30-3PM
- 21 **Regular school day dismissal @ 3:00PM**

22-Jan.7, 2018 NO SCHOOL - Holiday Winter Break

JANUARY

- 1-7 NO SCHOOL** - Holiday Winter Break
- 8 Students Return-First School day of 2018**
- 10 Basketball v Welch @ 5:30 Boys Home

MAGNET TIMELINE

The Phase 1 December 8th Magnet application deadline is for new students, which includes siblings applying to attend the Rice School for the 2018-19 school year. Current Rice students do not have to re-apply to attend The Rice School next school year. Thank you.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Come see a beautiful blueprint on display in the main hallway provided by one of our wonderful community sponsors. We are now working to fund the project. Please let us know if you have ideas and/or are willing to help with securing funding. Email T. Hill Kennedy and/or the counselor for more information.

PTO NEWS

PTO would like to thank all the volunteers who helped this fall semester. There **will be** a PTO meeting for December. We will meet on **Wednesday, Dec. 20th at 5:00PM** in the Library. We will have speakers so we hope you will join us.