

**Message from the Principal****Dear Parents,**

HISD will add extra minutes to the end of each school day for the remainder of the 2017-2018 year to make up for instruction time lost due to this month's winter ice storm, which closed schools for two days. Effective **Monday, January 29th**, school hours will be **7:40 am - 3:10 p.m.** Please make sure to have your child here everyday.

Principal K. Hobbs**Extended school day**

Effective **Monday, January 29th** school hours will be **7:40 am - 3:10 pm.** Students are expected to be picked up at dismissal. Students not picked up by that time will be taken to the After School Program (ASP) where a late pick up fee will be charged.

Box tops

Rice School keep collecting and sending Box Tops to your child's teacher for our school. Funds will be used toward technology incentives for students. The 5th Grade Box Tops Brigade will be collecting the Box Tops every Monday during breakfast starting January 22nd. Thank you.

NJHS Fundraiser

The NJHS will be selling fun school supplies on Wednesdays from 7:30 – 8:30 at the PTO booth. We have new items in stock from 25 cents to \$2. Stop by.

Art in Print

Congratulations to Rice School Art students including **8th graders** Kenedi Coleman, Esther Pulido, Kien Huynh, Wilson Goma; **7th graders** Kathleen Alvarenga, Leann Nguyen, Priscilla Lozano, Gabriel Reyes, & Titan Dominique along with **6th graders** Makayla August, Katherine Barran, Chiamaka Uwalaka, & Anthony Rosales. Their art was selected to be included in a full-color hardbound art book through *Blick Art materials and Celebrating Art.com*. This is not a contest where every entry is invited to be published. Being published represents a lot of talent, hard work, and dedication from students. Publishing the best art from this contest creates a record of what is important to today's students. To order a copy of the book, visit <http://www.celebratingart.com>

Food Drive

The **Student Council** is supporting the effort to collect non-perishable food items for the Houston Food Bank. We appreciate your continued assistance to achieve our goal of more than **4,000 pounds** of food by February 2nd. We want to thank the Middle School students who started the effort by bringing non-perishable food items in December. **The elementary food drive starts Tuesday January 10th and runs through Friday, February 2nd.** There is a special incentive for the grade level that collects the most non-perishable food items. Help show your child that we are Houston proud and that we care.

Nurse's Notes

Flu Season is here! Influenza is a serious illness. **If your child has a fever of 100 or more,** he/she needs to stay home (until there is no more fever without fever-reducing medicine)!! This will help your child get well sooner and reduce the chance of another child becoming exposed and ill. The absence will be excused with a note from you and/or the doctor. It's not too late to get that flu shot!! Thank you

Soccer Season

The soccer season is up to a great start. The falcons and lady falcons are looking forward to an exciting season. Make plans to catch all the action this year. Go falcons and lady falcons. For more information, contact Coach Obinyan at Jobinyan@houstonisd.org

Memorial Garden

We have exciting news about a new addition to the proposed Memorial Garden. This is a labyrinth. Labyrinths create a fertile environment for learning and healing while building harmony. The path allows a person to be quiet and focus internally. We are looking for people who would like to serve on the committee to make this a reality. If you are interested, please contact Toni Hill Kennedy, thillken@houstonisd.org. and/ or sspillan@houstonisd.org. Thank you.

Annual Spelling Bee

We would like to congratulate Tashfin Rayan, the Rice Spelling Bee winner from grade 6. He will represent our school in the HISD Spelling Bee in February. We hope you will wish him well.

Special Dates...**January**

- 8 Students Return to school
- 10 Elementary Food Drive Begins
- 10 Bball vs Welch Boys @ Rice 5:30 -7:00
- 12 Report Cards Go Home
- 15 **MLK Day Holiday-NO SCHOOL**
- 16 **School Closure due to inclement weather**
- 17 **School Closure due to inclement weather**
- 18 **Students return to school**
- 23 Elementary Spring Individual Pictures
- 24 Bball Boys vs Navarro @ Rice 5:30pm
- 26 **Regular School Day 7:40 am -3:00 pm**
- 29 **EXTENDED SCHOOL HOURS BEGIN 7:40AM -3:10PM**
- 30 Soccer Game vs Pershing @ Rice 4:30 pm
- 31 Bball Girls vs Ortiz @ Rice 5:30 -7:00 pm

February

- 5-9 Grades 1 & 2 (Second Administration High Frequency Words)
- 28 Soccer Game vs Pilgrim@ Rice 4:30pm

Stronger Together

Join us at Minute Maid Park on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. for our **FREE Stronger Together** event during National School Week! Run bases, meet Astros mascot Orbit, and hear from guest speaker Dr. Steve Perry. The event celebrates the diverse school choices which serve Houston kids in traditional public schools, public magnet schools, charter schools as well as in area private schools. Come join the fun.

PTO News

To assist your child in being ready to learn, our campus uniform store will be open on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 am. **The next PTO Meeting is on Thursday, March 22nd.** We hope you'll save the date.

PTO Appreciation

The 7th grade students created thank you cards for the PTO to express their appreciation for the holiday goodie bag distributed to each