

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL***Dear Parents,*

Creating a College-Bound and Career-Ready Culture is the mission of The Rice School. Working together as parents and teachers, we can provide a world-class education for all our students. Communication is the key. When your child's teacher calls or emails you to discuss an issue, please be open and receptive. Check backpacks for homework, progress reports, graded papers, and updates from the teacher. Make sure your child completes projects and activities assigned to them. We have to work together as a team to ensure your child's success in school.

*Principal Hobbs***EXTENDED SCHOOL HOURS**

Effective **Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**STUDENT COUNCIL VALENTINES**

The Student Council and NJHS students held their Flower and Heart pens/pencils fundraiser from Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> to Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go toward Student Council and NJHS activities and service projects. Thank you for purchasing for a great cause!

**NJHS SERVICE**

We are celebrating Black History Month with the theme of Black Educators in African American History. **NJHS** also want to remind you that students are selling fun school supplies on Wednesdays from 7:15am – 8:15am at the PTO booth. There are new items from \$.25 to \$2.

**SCIENCE FAIR**

The Rice Middle School Science Fair was held February 7-9<sup>th</sup> with judging provided by our Faculty along with our community partners. All middle school students were encouraged to participate. The fair gave our students an opportunity to practice their presentations with engineers and/ or professionals. Exhibits were display in the hallway.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN**

We are excited about the next phase of the project in the building of a labyrinth... Email T. Hill Kennedy and/or the counselor for more information.

**SOUPER BOWL WINNERS**

The Houston Food Bank is experiencing record requests and is depending on our assistance. The Elementary Food Drive Contest ended February 2<sup>nd</sup> with grade 5 bringing in the most cans. The winning team earned a free dress Friday, February 9, 2018. It is our goal to donate 10 boxes, and we were able to fill 8 full boxes. A huge thank you to the entire Rice School family for supporting our efforts by sending in the non-perishable food items.

**ART SHOW**

Congratulations to the following 8th grade students. They were honored with various awards of excellence in the Junior High selection of HISD's entry to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo School Art Competition. They include: Kenide Coleman & Sergio Lozano as finalists. First place finishers include David Martinez and Chiemeka Uwalaka. Second place finishers include Kien Huynh, Karolina Villarreal and Rene Ramirez. What a great accomplishment!

**RICE STEM CAREER SERIES**

We are excited to begin a series of STEM Career speakers, beginning with our middle school students. This month the focus is on our 8th graders. On Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Amrita Iyer a Molecular Biologist from Baylor College of Medicine will talk about what made her want to be a scientist, what she hopes to accomplish along with an overview of what she is doing. Please let us know if you have question. For more information, please contact Toni Hill Kennedy or Stacy Spillane.

**BASKETBALL SEASON**

The Lady Falcon basketball teams finished their season and we are very proud of their dedication, teamwork and sportsmanship. The Boys 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Falcons had 2 outstanding seasons. Our Most Valuable Players were as followed: Traevon Newsome, 7<sup>th</sup>, Alexis Sanchez, 8<sup>th</sup>. Collin Ford and Kameron Outland showed the most improvement for our 2 teams. Great season boys! I look forward to a great team next season and wish all of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders luck at their respective high schools next year.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Library.** We hope you'll save the date.

**SPECIAL DATES...****FEBRUARY**

- 1 Friendship Essay Contest Begins
- 6 Soccer Game @ Meyerland 4:30 PM
- 8 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Kindergarten Parade
- 10 Career and Education Day @ George R Brown Convention 9:00 AM -3:00 PM
- 12 Science Club begins 3:15-5 pm
- 14 K & 1st Friendship Celebration in Class
- 19 Presidents Day SCHOOL DAY
- 21 Soccer Game @ Tanglewood 4:30 PM
- 23 Regular School Day 7:40-3:10PM
- 23 Go Texan Day!
- 25 Dr. Seuss Week for K & Gr 1 in Clusters
- 28 Soccer Game vs Pilgram @ Rice 4:30PM

**March**

- 2 End of Friendship Essay Contest
- 2 National Reading Day
- 2 End of Dr. Seuss Activities in K & 1
- 5 Soccer Game @ Lanier 4:30PM
- 12-16 Spring Break (No School)**
- 19 Students Return to School

**FRIENDSHIP**

February's focus is friendship and what friends can do to promote kindness and stop others from bullying. We are having an essay contest that begins on Feb.1st through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The library will offer selections that support positive action. We look forward to reading the creative responses of our students. We also have a team of Kindness helpers who are making Valentine greetings for special people throughout the school. This is a project of our third grade Kindness club. Fifth grade is making positive bookmarks. The grade 6 group is reading a book on Kindness to our First grade students and doing an activity with them. Art students will assist with posters throughout the building. We invite all our Rice School family to find ways to demonstrate kindness to others.

**NOTES FROM THE NURSE**

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.