

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents:

Spring is here and our students are actively engaged as they work to achieve their academic goals. The month of May finds our students taking the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests. The third week of May our students in Grades 3-8 will be tested in core subjects. We know our boys and girls will do well as our teachers have equipped them with all the right tools. The success of our students depends on the commitment of students, teachers, and parents working together. I thank you for having your child here every day for Teaching & Learning at The Rice School/La Escuela Rice.

Principal Hobbs

HEALTH NOTES

According to *Kidshealth.org*, students say their high stressors include testing, grades, school/homework, family and friends, gossip and teasing. The signs of stress could be mood swings, changes in sleep patterns and/or academic performance. Recommended strategies to help cope include taking time to play, listening to music, and talking to a friend or a parent. Parents can help by listening with interest to show that you are there with and for them. It is also a good idea not to crowd the daily schedule with too many activities. To prepare your child for testing, make sure he/she gets to bed early and eats breakfast with protein for long-lasting brain power.

APPRECIATION WEEK

NJHS will be celebrating Custodial and Cafeteria Workers Appreciation Week April 16th – 20th. Please join us by thanking our custodians and cafeteria workers for their hard work and dedication to our school.

TRACK NEWS

Congratulations 7th grade girls for winning FIRST place in HISD's Zone 4. 8th grade boys took home 2nd place and our 7th grade boys and 8th grade girls both won 3rd place. Excellent season athletes, the Coaches wish 8th graders the best of luck in high school.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Student Council is accepting applications from 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students with excellent grades and behavior. Interested students may get an application from their homeroom teacher. Applications must be returned to Ms. Matson or Mrs. Arrazolo by Friday, April 20, 2018. Students will be notified of acceptance by April 27th.

COLLEGE CAMP

Join us at Rice University Memorial Center 6100 Main Street, 77005 on Saturday, April 28th from 9AM-3PM. The half-day program consist of College Prep workshops to help students and parents prepare, plan and pay for college. Contact Sspillan@houstonisd.org for more information.

FRIENDSHIP WRITING CONTEST

We appreciate all the contributions to the Friendship Anti-bully Writing Contest. Thank you all for helping make the Rice School a healthy and welcoming place for student learning. We will be having a special viewing and discussion in Grade 5 of *Bully* and other u-tube videos on **Friday, April 13th/20th**. Contact the counselor and/or Mrs. Matson for more information.

SOCCER SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The soccer season ended with two thrilling games against T. H. Rogers. The Falcons won by a score of six goals to one and the Lady Falcons ended the season with a win by defeating T. H. Rogers by a score of one goal to nil. The Falcons finished fourth while the Lady Falcons finished fifth in their respective districts. Congratulations to both teams for an exciting season. Good luck to the eight graders as they take their soccer skills to high school next year. For more information contact Coach Obinyan at jobinyan@houstonisd.org

HABITAT CLUB

Middle School habitat club is learning and growing in our school yard habitat. See Mr. Callegari for more information

NAME THAT BOOK WINNERS

The K-2 *Name That Book* team competed on March 26, 2018. With 23 correct answers out of 25, our Rice School team WON First place in our district. Please give the following students a "high-five" Tyra Deckard Zoie Johnson, Dillan Cillestian, Joel Santoyo, Abigail Balladares, Asyria Dawkins, and Ruby Torres. Way to go! Special thanks to the team sponsors, T Melby and M. Merritt. Many thanks for all the hard work.

ROBOTICS NEWS

Congratulations to the Rice School Robotics team for competing at the SECME Regional 3 competition on Saturday, April 14th. Gabriella Castro, Mykayla Waines, David Martinez, Kameron Outland, Marc Pichon, Jalen Evans-Moore, Kameron Waines, Gabriel Reyes, and Daven Bofil did an excellent job competing against HS teams. 7th graders Austen Lawson, Amarion Porterie, and O'Neal Harrison won 1st place for Middle School and will be participating in the SECME National Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida. Please cheer them on as they prepare for this competition!

SPECIAL DATES**APRIL**

- Beginning of Autism Month
- 02 School Day-Student's Return
- 2-6 STAAR Alternate 2
- 10 STAAR Writing Gr 4 & 7
- 10 STAAR Math Gr. 5 & 8
- 11 STAAR Reading Gr. 5 & 8
- 26 Science Camp Tutorials -8th Grade 3:15-6PM
- 28 College Camp @ Rice University 9-3PM

MAY

- 02 Student Council Induction Ceremony 5:30pm
- 7-11 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 08 STAAR ALGEBRA 1 EOC GRADE 8
- 14 STAAR Math- Grade 3,4,6,7
- 14 STAAR Math Retest Grade 5,8
- 15 STAAR Reading Retest 3,4,6,7
- 15 STAAR Reading Retest 5,8 Grade
- 16 STAAR Science 5,8 Grade
- 17 STAAR Social Studies Grade 8

APRIL AUTISM MONTH

One year ago Julia, became the newest Muppet to join the crew on *Sesame Street*, with a bright red mop of hair, a sunny yellow face and big green eyes. Along with an infectious laugh, a love of singing and an inventive game of Boing-Boing tag, Julia has Autism. Reviewers report that the long-running show's portrayal of the condition that affects one in 68 kids is sensitive and hints at the years of research in this 4-year-old friend for Elmo. A subtle thing is the way the other characters don't ask Julia a lot of open-ended questions, but rather offer or choices or say things to get a reaction. Another is that Julia sometimes repeats a question before answering. They feel that this helps Julia be a member of the group. We want to know what you think about Julia. On Friday, **April 20th**, there will be a ballot box in the library to add your vote with comments about the TV program. Thank you for your support of the annual Autism month.

STEM MENTIONED NATIONALLY

The Rice School earned 2 Honorable Mentions out of 8 entries submitted to the online national STEM Toshiba *Exploravision* competition. Students in Mrs. Anguiano's 4th grade and Ms. Santana's 5th grade classes participated. The projects receiving Honorable Mention included the *Breathable Barrier* submitted by Briana Amezcua, Sarai Cabrera, Brisa Gomez, and Ronny Guzman and *The Cleaning Turtle*, submitted by Julissa Espinoza, Oscar Flores, Margarita Lizalde, and Jassiel Santana. All 8 teams received a certificate and a prize. In addition to the certificate, the Honorable Mention winners also received a special prize. It was a good experience for all the participants. Great job.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2018

DATE	EVENT	TIME
5/14	STAAR - GRADES 3-4 & 6-7 MATH GRADES 5 & 8 MATH RETEST	ALL DAY
5/15	STAAR - GRADES 3-4 & 6-7 READING GRADE 5 & 8 READING RETEST	ALL DAY
5/16	STAAR - GRADES 5 & 8 SCIENCE	ALL DAY
5/17	STAAR - GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES	ALL DAY
5/18	STAAR - MAKE-UPS	ALL DAY
5/21	KINDERGARTEN FIELD DAY	8:25 AM – 10:45 AM
5/21	FIRST GRADE FIELD DAY	12:00 NOON – 3:00 PM
5/22	SECOND GRADE FIELD DAY	8:25 AM – 10:45 AM
5/22	FINE ARTS FESTIVAL – ART CHOIR DANCE THEATRE	8:45 AM - 10:00 AM
5/22	FINE ARTS FESTIVAL - ART BAND	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
5/23	THIRD GRADE FIELD DAY	8:25 AM – 10:45 AM
5/24	FOURTH GRADE FIELD DAY	8:25 AM – 10:45 AM
5/24	FIFTH GRADE FIELD DAY	12:00 NOON – 3:00 PM
5/30	KINDERGARTEN PROMOTION CEREMONY	8:30 AM
5/31	5TH GRADE PROMOTION CEREMONY	9:00 AM
6/1	EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION CEREMONY	9:00 AM
6/1	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - REGULAR DISMISSAL TIME	3:10 PM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CLASS/CLUSTER END-OF-THE-YEAR CELEBRATIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.**