



BRIARGROVE BUZZ

Issue 1, September 2011

www.bgroadrunners.org

Important Dates

- September 5 LABOR DAY!
School Closed
- September 7 7:45 am Room Parent
Information Meeting
- September
14/15 Open House/PTO General
Meeting
Grade K, 2, 4 on the 14th
Grade 1, 3, 5 on the 15th
- September 20 7:15 am
Summer Reading Party
- September 29 FALL HOLIDAY!
School Closed

Welcome Back to School!

Teacher Appreciation Committee hosts Mexican Fiesta!

Friday, August 19, was a busy day for the teachers as they made final preparations for the first day of school. Each year, the PTO's Teacher Appreciation Committee organizes a special lunch to welcome back teachers and staff. This year, they were celebrated with a Fiesta! We are pleased to thank Molina's, Memorial Bakery, Doneraki's, Levy Restaurants and our own Marisa Lara for their donations/discounts to make this event possible.

A drawing was held with gift cards from Bellagio, Starbuck's, Container Store and Lakeshore Learning. All were joyously received by a few lucky teachers! Thank you Starbucks and Bellagio for your generous gift card donations!

If you are interested in helping the Teacher Appreciation Committee for future events, contact Cathie Moore at cathie-moore@network-texas.com, Marisa Lara at marisalicon@hotmail.com or Courtney Mitchell at courtney_mitchell@att.net.



Briargrove Spirit?

Show your school spirit and help your school at the same time! Visit the school store at our website, www.bgroadrunners.org for all things BG!

Curriculum Enhancement

Volunteer run programs before school;
Fee-for-Service programs after school.

Now in its second year, Curriculum Enhancement has two components. First, the after school fee-for-service activities (registration forms went home in students' weekly folders the first week of school) and second, club activities which will start the week of Labor Day. Clubs typically meet in the morning from 7:15-7:45 am free of charge. We need your help in making the clubs available to our children. Come out weekly, a few times a month or whatever works in your schedule, and join our morning club fun! You don't need to be a mathematician to volunteer with homework help or be a runner to help with jogging club. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact christina@themaneros.com.

BELOW ARE THE VOLUNTEER RUN MORNING PROGRAMS:

| MONDAYS | TUESDAYS | WEDNESDAYS | THURSDAYS | FRIDAYS |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Watch for announcements coming later! | No programs in the morning at this time. | <p>Jogging Club (1st meeting September 7) Get your day off to a great start by joining our club! Come run/walk the track from 7:15-7:45 a.m. and see how far you can go! Adult must accompany kindergartners.</p> | <p>Homework Help 1st meeting September 8 Looking for a quiet place to finish your work or need a little extra help? From 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the library, volunteers are there to help you! Open to 1st – 5th graders.</p> | <p>Kids For Saving Earth Club Come be educated, inspired & empowered to protect our planet! Meet in the library from 7:15-7:45 a.m. Open to 1st – 5th graders. Adult must accompany kindergartners.</p> |

Curriculum Enhancement: After School Programs

| MONDAYS | TUESDAYS | WEDNESDAYS | THURSDAYS | FRIDAYS |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Art After School – City ArtWorks (713) 681-1331 www.cityartworks.org | USA Chess (888) 652-4377 or http://www.usachess.com | Mad Science (713) 663-7623 www.madscience.org | Early Language Learners – Spanish and Chinese (713) 722-0063 www.earlylanguagelearners.com | American Robotics Academy (281) 599-7626 or roboticsacademy@yahoo.com www.roboticsacademy.com |
| Bayou City Fencing (832) 338-9808 | First Impressions Etiquette Class- Kinder to 2nd kacey.riley@gmail.com 713.907.0830 | Hip-Hop Dance Casey's Creative Connections (713) 780-0085 or www.caseycreativeconnections.com | | Brown's Gymnastics (713) 723-3362 www.browns-gymnastics-houston.com |
| | Creative Drama Casey's Creative Connections (713) 780-0085 or www.caseycreativeconnections.com | | | |

2011 BG Carnival Boot Camp B*A*S*H

Mark your calendars and march on over to Boot Camp!

Saturday October 15 from 11am – 3pm

The Briargrove Carnival is one of the school's biggest fundraisers, and it's not just for Briargrove students! Please invite friends, family and neighbors to share in the fun! There will be an awesome quad jump, obstacle course, rock wall, wrecking ball, trackless train, carousel, petting zoo, the Dad's Club Haunted House, a cake walk and yummy bake sale, confetti eggs and much more! WE WANT YOU to you join us for a fun day!

Here are some ways you can help this year:

-Bumper Stickers- Complimentary bumper stickers are coming your way soon to put on your car & promote our event throughout the area.

-Carnival T-shirts- Order your t-shirt and wear them! T-shirt sales will begin soon.

-Sponsorship- Fill out your sponsorship (underwriting) forms that will be sent home in Wednesday folders.

-Volunteer- Volunteers are needed both the day of and before the event!!! Please sign up with your room parent to work a booth, or notify one of the Carnival Chairs to work on a committee. Look for sign up sheets in your classrooms at Open House.

Carnival Chairs:

Kristine Braddock
kristine@bkbraddock.com, Alison Brookby
abrookby@yahoo.com, Courtenay Nichols
courtenaynichols@gmail.com

Buzzworthy News for this month...

DONATE USED GREETING CARDS & NOTES:

Do you have old birthday, anniversary, get well, and other greeting cards you have received lying around your home? A greeting card recycling and art project is underway at Briargrove that will make good use of the cards. A donation box will be set up near the school office. Project details to follow.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

If you haven't purchased your school supplies they are \$45.00 and can be ordered online or you can send a check in to the front office. The form can be found on the school website. Please contact Andrea or Kathleen with questions. Andreabrooks17@att.net or kathleen.haley@sbcglobal.net

SUMMER READING PARTY:

The Summer Reading Breakfast Luau will be held on Tuesday, **September 20th at 7:15 a.m.** in the Briargrove Library. Summer reading logs can be found on the HISD website at <http://www.hisdlibraryservices.org> or obtained from the Briargrove front desk. Thanks, Lisa Rossmiller and Charlene Tsang-Kao, Summer Reading Chairs

FRONT OFFICE

VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteers are needed to answer phones and assist the front office staff. Shifts are approximately two hours, and each volunteer is needed one or two times a month. This is a great way to get to know teachers and staff and help out! Please contact Mariana Cypher at marianacypher@yahoo.com

OPEN HOUSE:

Come learn about what's going on at Briargrove this year and meet your children's teachers.

Wednesday September 14 for Grades K, 2, 4 and Thursday September 15 for Grades 1, 3, 5. Both from 6:30pm – 8:00pm.

FALL HOLIDAY:

No School Monday September 5!

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We are need of volunteers! If you are interested, please come to Library Volunteer training on **Thursday September 1 at 9:00am.** We ask that you commit two hours of time every other week. Please contact Silvia Ascione at silvia.houston@gmail.com



Campus Beautification Work Day was a Success!

On Saturday, August 20, volunteers came out for a BG Campus Beautification Work Day. We hung new basketball nets, treated ant beds, moved picnic tables to their intended places, pulled weeds, collected garbage, spread fresh gravel on the kinder playground and much more! The House and Grounds committee provided coffee, oranges, and donuts to student volunteers from Grady Middle School and BG parents and friends.

Thank you John Lilly and the Dad's Club for the new irrigation system for the playing field and park. The Dads club also provided funds to make repairs to our track, which had suffered severe damage due to the drought.

For more information on volunteering with the House and Grounds committee, contact Ellecia Knolle at eknolle@yahoo.com.

Coming Soon: Edible School Yard on the Briargrove Campus!!!

Buzzworthy news continued...

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY:

Parents please ensure your child knows how they are getting home each day. This is for their own safety. If your child is a car rider it is **vital** that they **know** their **carpool number**. It makes the system work much more efficiently and quickly if their number only needs to be called once.

Please help them memorize their number. If they use a bus service make sure they know the name of the bus because there are several. Also if you have any unused plastic sleeves or numbers, please return them to the office. Any other questions contact Jennifer Leach jleach@jowersleach.com or Terri Tyler terri@tyler-family.com.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS:

We will have five district wide Early Dismissal days at 12:30 p.m. this year:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| October 12 | Parent Conferences |
| November 9 | Professional Development |
| January 11 | Professional Development |
| February 29 | Professional Development |
| April 18 | Professional Development |

Please note that on early dismissal days our lunch times are 30 minutes earlier.

BOX TOPS:

Don't trash those BOX TOPS!!!! Did you know that EVERY box top collected earns Briargrove \$.10? Our goal is 50,000 box tops, which is \$5,000! Will you join in the effort to help meet or beat this goal? There will be contests, awards, and prizes!! Prizes for students/classrooms may include free dress days, a pizza party, a s'mores party, a cookie decorating party, "TOP Box Top Earner" t-shirts, and more! PARENTS, you

could win a gift certificate good for dinner for two! Start saving your Box Tops NOW and be on the look out for contest details and Box Top collection sheets in your child's folder soon! In the mean time, please visit www.boxtops.org and sign up! Registering takes less than 2 minutes! Ask your friends, co-workers, and family members to sign up and help you collect box tops, too!! ANY questions or comments regarding Box Tops this year can be directed to Shannon Vrba at shannon.vrba2@gmail.com and/or Tarah Carmona at tarahjc@sbcglobal.net

LUNCHES DELIVERED TO SCHOOL:

In order to minimize classroom interruptions, lunches that are left inadvertently at home or are delivered late should be placed on the shelves by the main office with the student's name on them. Please advise your children to check the shelves for lunches that are delivered to school.

KIDS FOR SAVING EARTH CLUB:

On September 9, The Kids for Saving Earth (KSE) Club will hold its first meeting of the year in the school library at 7:15 am. Come be educated, inspired, and empowered to protect the environment. On September 16, join KSE as we welcome guest speaker, Ms. Adena Jones of Republic Services, our HISD liaison for recycling education and implementation. On September 23, join KSE as we welcome the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition Wildlife Center, and meet their Virginia Opossum, "Frodo." TWRC will discuss human's impact on animals, and inspire our students in ways to coexist with our wild neighbors. KSE is open to Kindergarten (accompanied by



GRANDPARENTS & GRAND FRIENDS BINGO NIGHT

Join us Monday, September
26th from 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.
for BINGO.

Bring your lucky charm and your \$10 dollars and a prize will go to the first one who hollers! This goes out to all Briargrove Grandparents and Grand Friends to join us for a "Fun" filled evening at Briargrove in the school cafeteria.

Admission at the door is:
\$10 for Adults
\$5 for Children

Dinner, Drinks & Bingo
Cards are provided with your
admission.

Pizza will be served for
dinner.

Space is limited. E-mail your
RSVP to:

briargrovepto@gmail.com

If you have any questions
please contact:

Sallie Guerino @

sallieguerino@att.net

Cynthia Anhalt @

canhalt@a1delivery.com

Catherine Cagle

catherinecagle@yahoo.com

Buzzworthy news continued...

parent or older sibling) through Fifth Grade. Parent volunteers are welcome! For information, contact Becky Luman
rebecca.luman@gmail.com

WALK/BIKE/SCOOT TO SCHOOL DAY:

The Briargrove Jogging and the Kids for Saving Earth Clubs are teaming up on **Friday September 30**, to hold the first monthly Walk/Bike/Scoot to School Day. ** Grab a bike, tie up your walking shoes, or even hop on a (non-motorized!) scooter and head to school Friday morning...leave the car at home (don't forget your helmet!). **Watch for signs along Briar Ridge & other neighborhood streets to educate you on how you are helping yourself and the environment by using your own energy to make your way to school. **If you do not live within walking distance, park at a friend's house in the neighborhood and walk together, or park at Rice Epicurean and walk from there. **Make sure you enter the school through the park on the Briar Ridge side of the school. Remember, "FEET NOT FUEL!"

FIELD TRIP T-SHIRTS:

Parents, the school supply t-shirts are for Field trips. This will help keep our BG students safe, as they will all be wearing the same shirt. In the past it has been difficult to keep track of children at a museum when they are wearing street clothes. These t-shirts will stay in the classroom, have your child's name on it and will be used only for Field trips. The children will be able to take them home after the last field trip of the year. If you wish to purchase a School t-shirt that can be worn on Fridays you may do so through the school store. Please note shirt size when ordering t-shirts. We are sorry for

any confusion. If you have any questions you can contact the school supply chairs
Kathleen.haley@sbcglobal.net or
andreibrooks17@att.net

BG DINING FOR DOLLARS:

Mark your calendars for the first monthly BG Dining for Dollars fundraising event! It's easy - On **Thursday, September 22nd** eat lunch and/or dinner at Berryhill Baja Grill at 1717 Post Oak Boulevard, present the BG Flyer when you order and Berryhill will donate 20% of our group's entire day's sales back to school! The more people that participate, the more money we make for BG, so tell your friends and family! The Flyer will be available for download on the BG website and will also be sent home with your child. Watch for a new restaurant every month - Happy Eating!

Letter from Principal Russell

Dear Briargrove Family,

Welcome back to an exciting new year! The summer went by very quickly, but we are running full speed ahead into the fall semester. This year our theme is:

**The BG Dream Team
A Winning Season!**

When parents, teachers, staff, and students all work together there is no limit to what we can accomplish!

This year we have a new behavior program here at BG. It is called the PRIDE program. This stands for:

Persistence
Respect
Internal control Dependability
Excellence

The purpose of the program is for all adults and students to have a common language and set of expectations for behavior. The focus is positive and teachers and staff will be looking for those Briargrove students who are showing their PRIDE to get BG Bucks. Ask your child about the program. It is already making a big difference in all of our public spaces.

Last year we started the Breakfast in the Classroom program. I know that many of you were as concerned as I was about the amount of food that was wasted due to the requirement that all children take the entire offering. This year we have a different approach. Students get a choice between two options, like cereal or a muffin, and only have to take two items instead of the entire breakfast. This has really cut down on the amount of food in the trash and the children get a choice between two good options.

Our annual open house will be held on two nights, with K, 2, and 4 on September 14th and 1, 3, and 5 on September 15th. There will be a PTO meeting beginning at 6:30 before parents and students go to visit the classrooms. This year I will be addressing the following topics:

Attendance
Tardies
New Staffing
Enrollment Issues
Park Use
Parking

Please make plans to join us for this event. It is a wonderful time for your child to show off their classroom and their work. The teachers have information to share with you as well. Please remember that this is not the time for a parent-teacher conference. The teachers will be glad to set up an appointment for a later date if necessary.

We are off to a great start for a wonderful year!
Go BG Dream Team!!

Sincerely,
Debi Russell

September at Briargrove Elementary

BG Staff Birthdays:
Molly McConn 9/21, Shiren Farahani 9/24

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL | 6 | 7 7:45 AM Room Parent Information Meeting | 8 12:00 pm PTO Board Meeting | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 6:30 pm Open House/PTO General Meeting (Grades K, 2, 4) | 15 6:30 pm Open House/PTO General Meeting (Grades 1, 3, 5) | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 7:15 am Summer Reading Party | 21 | 22 Dining for Dollars at Berryhill Baja Grill. Eat out and raise money for school! | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 Grandparents Event/Bingo Night | 27 | 28 | 29 FALL HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL | 30 Walk/Ride/Scout to school sponsored by Kids for Saving Earth | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |