Spring Branch Academic Institute

April 29, 2019 Issue 30

SAVE THE DATES

5th Grade Parent Coffee w/Mr. Barnes, Principal – SFMS 8:30 am or 6:30 pm	05/06/19
SBAI & UIL w/ Paige Hersey, Executive Director of Athletics –SFMS multi-purpose room	05/06/19
SBAI Student (K-4) visit to Thornwood 8:30-9:30 am	05/07/19
SBAI Parent tour of Thornwood 4:00 pm - Library	05/09/19
STAAR Test 3-4 Mat & 6-7 Math	05/13/19
STAAR Test 3-4 Reading & 6-7 Reading	05/14/19
STAAR Test Science 5 & 8	05/15/19
Parent Night-Jenna McGraw-Crime Stoppers 5:00 pm - VOE	05/16/19
Retirement Celebration Mrs. King – VOE Playground 3:30-5:00 pm	05/16/19
5th Grade Event – @The Main Event in Katy	05/20/19
4th Grade Wax Museum – VOE Library	05/22/19
5th Grade Graduation – VOE Cafeteria 8:30-10:00 am	05/23/19

SBAI Elementary Emails

lynne.barry@springbranchisd.com	Director
james.lefeber@springbranchisd.com	Asst. Dir
lynnda.butorka@springbranchisd.com	Admin.
sally.craddock@springbranchisd.com	Teacher
kristi.dina@springbranchisd.com	Teacher
rebecca.king@springbranchisd.com	Teacher
stella.kim@springbranchisd.com	Teacher
ashlee.wilson@springbranchisd.com	Teacher
kayman.mciver@springbranchisd.com	Teacher
julie.sirianni@springbranchisd.com	Teacher

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE – SBAI Elementary follows the Valley Oaks Elementary campus calendar for early dismissals.

VOE Spring Book Fair	04/29 & 30/19
ALL SBAI Field Trip to NASA K-9	05/01/19
5th Grade Field Trip Health Museum	05/02/19

Parent Night – MS/HS 101
Parent Panel and Q&A 5:30-6:30 pm
SFMS Multi-purpose Room

A Note from the Director

This past weekend, I spent time with my 24 year old son. Mitchel has graduated and is working full time. I had to laugh when I asked him what was going on at work. He started to give me a play-by-play of his daily routine. This did not come out of his excitement for his job nor his enthusiasm for telling me about his life. Rather, this is a habit built from his days in school. You see, at the dinner table, we would share out about our day. Early on, both of my kiddos would typically answer "Fine" when asked how their day was or "Nothing" when asked what they learned. (Sound familiar??) Because of this, we changed how we asked our questions. We started asking, "What did you do in Math?" or "What happened in first period?" We then went through each subject/class period until we had a rundown of the day. We did not allow "I don't know" or "I don't remember" as an answer. As a parent, this gave me a better insight into what my children were learning, what was happening in the classroom, where I needed to pay more attention, and more. I was able to ask probing questions, leading to additional conversation, connections, and enrichment. My children will tell you that one of my favorite lines was, "Elaborate, please." This pattern of providing details about the day became

ingrained – to the point that Mitchel still does this for me now! (I wonder if he even realizes it!) As we finish this last month of the school year, I encourage you to ask your child to elaborate on his/her day. What was learned? How was it presented? What can you do with that information? What else do you want to know? By sharing with you, he/she will not only be thinking about his/her learning, but will also be developing communication skills vital to success. And you will be "in the know." What a win-win situation!

Lynne Barry
Director
Spring Branch Academic Institute (SBAI)
713-251-2277

ALL SBAI FIELD TRIP TO NASA

An all SBAI field trip to NASA is schedule for May 1st. Students will spend the day learning and exploring the interactive Mission Mars exhibit, the Independence Plaza, multiple flown spacecraft, Moon rocks and more! Permission slips have been distributed. Please return your child's permission slip by **Tuesday, April 23**. Students will return to the VOE campus by 2:00 pm. Please make sure that your child brings a disposable sack lunch that does **not** contain any peanut products.

K-4th Grade visit to Thornwood Elementary

All Kinder – 4th graders will have the opportunity to visit our new home – Thornwood Elementary on **May 7th** from 8:30-9:30 am. Students will be taken to Thornwood via SBISD buses and return to VOE at approximately 10:00 am. This will not only give students a chance to see their new classrooms, but also meet the 3rd-5th grade members of the Thornwood Student Advisory Council. This will be a great time to visit and meet our new friends and neighbors. A special treat will be provided for both the Thornwood and SBAI students.
A field trip form should have already been received.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming special events! We hope to see you there!

May 2nd:

Middle School/High School 101

Parents and students are welcome to join us for a Q&A panel all about what to expect at Spring Forest and Stratford. Our expert panel will consist of both parents and students. Get the inside scoop!!! This session will start at 5:30 in SFMS's multipurpose room.

May 6th:

SBAI and UIL

Join us as Paige Hershey, SBISD's Executive Director of Athletics, explains SBAI's interaction with Spring Forest and Stratford and answers all your questions about UIL eligibility. Athletics, band, theatre, debate, and more will be addressed. This meeting with occur at 5:30 in SFMS's multipurpose room and will finish in time for Mr. Barnes' parent meeting at 6:30.

May 9th:

Parent Tour of Thornwood

Come take a look at our new space! We will meet in Thornwood's library at 4:00. In addition to the tour, you will also meet some of TWE's staff and hear about after school care options!

May 16th:

Jenna McGaw of Crimestoppers

For parents of all aged students and students grades 6 and up, Ms. McGaw will go through maintaining safety in a digital age. Ms. McGaw's presentation is highly recommended by other SBAI parents! 5:30 p.m. in VOE's library.

REMINDER:
5th Grade Parents!

From SFMS Principal Mr. Barnes

We will have a "Coffee with the Principal" on **May 6th** at **8:30a.m**. I will introduce items that will be different or new to the campus for next school year such as Chromebooks for every student and what that looks like, dress code updates, and a few other surprises. I will also take questions from you who may just want to engage in a dialogue about the state of Spring Forest.

But because I believe in providing equal access to all parents, we will also have an **evening session** where we can repeat the same topics. That meeting will begin at **6:30p.m**. Many parents have jobs that require them to be at work in the morning and an evening session works best with their schedule, so we want to be cognizant of the needs of all families. As a bonus, I will introduce the new 6th grade assistant principal for the 19-20 school year at this meeting.

There will also be an incoming 6th grade parent meeting on **Monday, May 20th at 6:30p.m**. This meeting will be tailored to the incoming 6th graders but those parents are still encouraged to attend on May 6th as that will be a format to ask more questions and learn about the direction of the school as a whole instead of only focusing on 6th grade questions. More information will follow.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

⋆Please Note Subjects rotate weekly

MATH:

Sirianni:

STAAR Question

Question: If my student is in 3rd grade curriculum, but is only a second grader, will they take the 3rd grade STAAR this year?

Answer: Great question. No. Age-wise, students that are in grades K-2 do not take a STAAR test in Texas, regardless of their academic coursework. If you are unsure if your student will be taking the Math STAAR on May 13th, please email Julie.sirianni@springbranchisd.com.

K-1

We have stepped into the graphing life! How are a bar graph and a pictograph similar? How are they different? What is the purpose in a 'key' on a graph?

2nd/3rd grade

Time, time, time. We could always use more time! The students just "published" their books this week and will be sharing their stories with the younger students in SBAI. Age-wise, students that are in grades K-2 do not take a STAAR test, regardless of their academic coursework. If you are curious if

6th/7th

We are closing down our linear equations unit and will be working on our Financial Literacy Unit (as well as a STAAR review) from now until the end of the school year.

*Our Spring Final Exam for 6th/7th Math will be on Friday, May 10th, and the Math STAAR test will be on Monday, May 13th.

Pre-Algebra

We have completed our last AoPS chapter and will be working on our Financial Literacy Unit, as well as a STAAR review, from now until the end of the school year.

*Our Spring Final Exam for Pre-Algebra will be on Friday, May 10th, and the Math STAAR test will be on Monday, May 13th.

Nelson for Kim:

4th

We are finishing up our units over customary and metric units and heading into how we can collect, organize, display, and interpret data. *We will also be reviewing for STAAR that will be on May 13th.

3rd

We are finishing up our units over how to collect, organize, display, and interpret data and we will head into Financial Literacy Unit. *We will also be reviewing for STAAR that will be on May 13th.

5th

We are finishing up our Geometric City Project and will head into how to convert fractions to decimals and percent's from now till the end of the school year.

Algebra 1

We have completed the final unit in our Algebra 1 books. They are starting and discovering Geometry as well as preparing for their EOC. *Algebra 1 EOC will be on May 9th and their Algebra 1 Final will be on May 10th.

Algebra 2

Finishing unit on Trig, Identities, and Equations and will then head into AoPS through the end of the year. *Algebra 2 final will be on May 10th.

SCIENCE:

McIver/King:

Primary Science:

We are working on our Pet Project and students are beginning to build their animal in its habitat. They are so creative and the parade will be Monday, May 6.

Intermediate Science:

Students did an incredible job on the science fair projects. Our judges were very impressed and we are too! We will finish up the year focusing on landforms.

HAPPY RETIREMENT,
MRS. KING!

Join us as we celebrate
SBAI's Legendary Science Teacher,
Becca King

Thursday, May 16
3:30 - 5:00

Valley Oaks Spark Park Playground
Under the Gazebo
8390 Westview Dr.

Come and go as you can.

Mary Hoffman would like you to support We're going to Odyssey of the Mind World Finals by making a donation and spreading the word.

After earning first place in both our Regional and State Odyssey of the Mind competitions, we are making our way to Michigan State University in May to compete at the World Finals!

We are a new team with this being the first or second year in Odyssey for most of our members.

View fundraiser

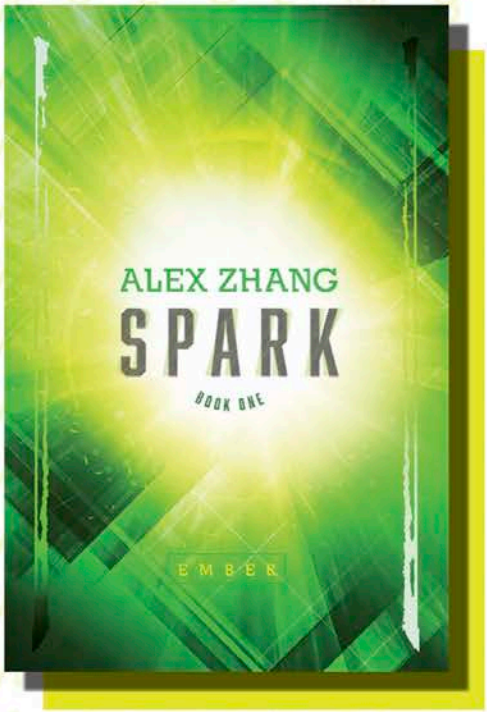
What is GoFundMe?

GoFundMe is the world's largest free social fundraising platform and has helped millions raise over $5 billion for the people and causes they care about.

Author, Alex Zhang releases the 1st book in the EMBER SERIES

SPARK

Come by, meet the author, and get your very own copy autographed by the author at one of his book signings in June.



To Pre-Order visit LongTalePublishing.com

JUNE BOOK TOUR

Saturday, 6/1
Private Book Release
Chinese Civic Center
5905 Sovereign Dr.
Houston, TX 77036
10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Saturday, 6/8
River Oaks Bookstore
3270 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77098
(at River Oaks Blvd.)
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Saturday, 6/15
Blue Willow Bookshop
14532 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
11:00 am - 12:00 noon