

RIVER OAKS ELEMENTARY

“Where Discovery is Elementary”

January 12, 2010

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

School Phone:	(713) 942-1460
After School Program:	(713) 524-8430
Office Hours:	7:15 am – 4:15 pm
Web Site:	http://es.houstonisd.org/riveroakses
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PTO website:	http://www.riveroakspato.org

CALENDAR ITEMS

January 11-15	Stanford testing for Kindergarten
January 11-17	Styrofoam drive
January 15	Spring Volunteer Expo
January 18	MLK Holiday No school

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHENKER

Kindergarten students have begun Stanford testing this week and will conclude on Friday. **Grades 1-5 begin Stanford testing next Tuesday, January 19th.** Testing will conclude Thursday, January 28th. Students will begin testing each day at 8:15 am. A testing calendar will be sent home later in the week with more information.

You may have noticed that our new roof is nearing completion! We also have recently installed new security gates. Security cameras are scheduled for installation in the coming months. Thanks to our PTO, our nature center is receiving an extreme makeover! I am very excited about all these great improvements to our beautiful, historic facility. Have a great week!

STYROMANIA 2010!

We're holding a Styrofoam drive for one more week: Monday January 11 through Sunday January 17, 2010.

We've had a very good response during our first 2 drop-off days. So good, in fact, that we've decided to extend our drop-off period through Sunday, January 17, 2010.

Feel free to drop off bags and boxes of clean Styrofoam anytime between now and 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 17, 2010. If we're not home, leave them by the front door, please.

We're located at: 4402 Holt Street Bellaire, Texas 77401. We're inside the Loop, just north of Beechnut, just east of Newcastle.

Please also bring any LARGE boxes you have lying around, too, like TV, refrigerator or washer/dryer boxes, etc. to help us tote the Styrofoam around.

The place I found is going to take both the packing peanuts and the packaging blocks. Gather your neighbors' Styrofoam, too, to make your trip even more productive. We've already got a nice collection started. Tell your friends! Thanks again!

-Mike Engelhart

BOXTOP CLASSROOM COLLECTIONS WINNERS!

Congratulations to the winning class of this year's Box Top Classroom Collection contest:

Ms. Nichols' 2nd Grade class, collecting an impressive 867 Box Tops and winning a pizza party for their class! Coming in 2nd place, and collecting 666 Box Tops is Ms. Van Haselen's 1st Grade class! And, in 3rd place, collecting 615 Box Tops is Ms. Ritter's 4th Grade class. Thank you to all of our classes and families for participating – with your help we have collected a total of 8,178 Box Tops for our school which will translate into more than \$800 we can use for school supplies. Keep up the good work!

Linda Elmer and Meredith Maieron, 1st Grade Reps

VOLUNTEER OF THE DAY

Interested in being ROE's Volunteer of the Day? Assisting the front office with their administrative duties is a great way of being involved in your child's school. There are still many days (few Wednesdays though) available to sign up.

If interested, email me the date or dates you can volunteer (only one volunteer a day).

Thanks! Isabella Alcañiz, jalcaniz@uh.edu, and Sarah Bloome, PTO Volunteer Coordinators

2009-2010 YEARBOOK

It's time to reserve your 2009-2010 ROE Yearbook! We've made several changes to this year's edition, including a soft back cover, pages on each grade level, coverage of electives for 4th and 5th graders, and additional candid photos on each homeroom page – all for \$15 less than last year! You'll see pictures from the Fun Run, Fall Frenzy, Winter Wonderland and holiday parties, plus have “the year in review” at your fingertips. Limited supply, so order now! Questions? Carriepills@aol.com

NATURE CENTER UPDATE

We are making great strides with the Nature Center renovation! Lisa Laird and her hard working team from Longhorn Landscaping worked over the Winter Break to pour the concrete and lay the beautiful flagstone for the edging /landing around the pond. Last week they planned on filling the pond and returning the fish and other wildlife. However, they wisely decided to hold off because of the freezing temperatures. Additionally, there has been some much-needed clearing out of dead and non-indigenous plants, debris, and hazardous hanging branches.

We are excited to have added Joe Blandon as a new member of our Nature Center rejuvenation team. Joe is the Conservation Director at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. He has many certifications including the National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat Construction and Urban Harvest Organic Vegetable Production Specialist. He also has many satisfied customers including a dozen elementary schools in the Houston area. I'm sure that Joe will provide us with valuable input as we continue to move forward with making our Nature Center an incredibly fun and educational environment for our children.

Our next major area to be addressed is the vegetable garden. We plan on having separate gardens for each grade level to plant, maintain, and harvest. Our kids are just thrilled and can't wait to get started. They will learn so much!

The ROE community continues to be enormously grateful to the generous parents without whose contributions this project would not have been possible!

-Regina Burns

EAT AT GUGLIANI'S TUES AND WED!

Please remember to eat at Gugliani's in Rice Village today or tomorrow, January 12th or 13th. Or both! If ROE families go on the second Tuesday OR Wednesday of any month, Gugliani's will donate 10% of the diner's bill back to our school. The school give-back program also applies to take-out orders. But we have to remember to mention River Oaks Elementary to our server--see you there!

-Meredith Maierson and Linda Elmer

SCIENCE LAB

Dear ROE Community: We will not be doing a Science Fair this year. Instead we'll be entering the Young Inventors Showcase (YIS) that's being sponsored by the Children's Museum of Houston. This will be the city's 22nd entry but ROE's first! As the program is more challenging for both students and teachers and ties in quite neatly with 4th IB Planner, "If I Had A Hammer and an Idea", Mrs. Shenker has agreed to let me test run the program with the 4th grade and if all goes well we could look at expanding the program into other divisions. But any student from ROE in K-5th is eligible to participate! This can be done as a class, small group or 2-3, or as an individual, depending on the grade level. Basically, students who choose to participate get to research what they would like to 'invent', prototype it, keep a notebook and drawings/photographs, and submit all items for judging. The winner gets to work with a Patent Attorney to copyright his idea and help with marketing issues. So...even though I'll be working with 4th grade this year you are not left out!

Here are the resources and all information for the project that you can refer interested kids to:

Application, guidelines and flyers:

-www.cmhouston.org/younginventorsshowcase

-YIS Coordinator: mgalli@cmhouston.org

-ROE Coordinator: pharry@houstonisd.org

-Websites: www.invent.org/index.asp

-USPTO (for adults) www.uspto.gov

Here are some key timelines:

3/10/2010—ROE YIS Showcase

3/30/2010—Central Regions Showcase at Thompson's Elem. School

5/22/2010—Children's Museum of Houston Showcase. Grand Prize winner selected.

Looking forward to seeing all the ROE inventions!

Thanks!! Paul Rainn, Science Specialist

SPRING VOLUNTEER EXPO

Please Join Principal Shenker and the PTO for the Spring Volunteer Expo. Looking for a way to get involved? Want to help ROE shine? Hear from Principal Shenker how you can make ROE the best it can be! Find out about upcoming school events and sign up as Volunteer of the Day.

Come join us on Friday, January 15 at 7:45 am in the Cafeteria to learn about the many volunteer opportunities and needs of the school. Spring Carnival, Yearbook, Field Day and Book Fair will be here soon. Find out how you can help! Coffee is on us. Hope to see you there!

- Isabella Alcañiz and Sara Bloome ROE-PTO Volunteer Coordinators