



ROE
River Oaks Elementary
World School

ROE News

November 16, 2010

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

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CALENDAR ITEMS

November 16, 22, and 29	Vanguard Tours, 9am
November 17	2 nd Grade “Walk to the Well”, 9:30
November 20	Nature Center Work Party, 10-1
November 30	Middle School Madness Night

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHENKER

I would like to thank our parents for an amazing auction on Friday night. Your generosity in the midst of uncertain economic times is very inspiring. We could not have the rich programming that is at the heart of our school if not for your involvement. I am thrilled that we will be able to move forward with our new science lab. Wonders will never cease!

Our PTO is also extending its generosity to our Spanish program. Funding includes a laptop cart, headphones, microphones, instructional materials, and teacher training to support the implementation of Rosetta Stone. The use of this web-based program will allow students to begin to move from second-language exploration to second-language acquisition. Students will be able to access the program in the Spanish classroom, the general education classroom, and at home. Maravilloso!

THANK YOU SALLY

On behalf of the entire school, I'd like to thank Sally Lechin for leading the Fall Frenzy team. The evening was absolutely delightful and raised over \$100,000 for our school. WOW! -Frances Moore-Jones, PTO President

FALL FRENZY- SUCCESS!

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Fall Frenzy Party & Auction, including the bidders, donors, volunteers and attendees. Parents, staff and relatives had a lively social evening at the Houston Club last Friday, November 12th. The Round the World theme lent itself to highlighting the diverse cultures of our school in a festive environment.

The event raised a total of over \$100,000; the funds support our PTO general operating budget. This enables the funding of educational tools and programs, enhancements to our physical property and enrichment opportunities for our children and teachers.

Special thanks to David Rose, our “Raise the Paddle” Chair, and Janann Pittman who focused this year on improving the ROE Science Lab. Thank you to all the generous teachers, staff and parents who generously offered to host valuable Great Gatherings and Teacher Socials. We express our gratitude to Lea Cantos for her belly dancing and Showing Japan for their stage performance.

The event came together thanks to the hours of dedication and support of all our valuable volunteers. I will personally thank every last one; each played a key role to the accomplishment of this great event. This is the Auction Leadership team that brought this event to fruition:

- Beth Rivera, Christine Rodriguez – Donations
- Michael Rodriguez – Fulfillment/Financials
- Adrienne Murry, Christine Tabrizi –Decorations
- Natasha Moats – Venue
- Liz Palmer and Shenequa Animashaun –Ticket Sales/Publicity
- Vika Filippov, Ann Hester Morley– Game/Raffle
- Paige Parker, Shelly Vara, Robert Woelfel – Teacher/Great Gatherings
- Sandra Ahlhorn, Nguyet Vo – Catalog/Design
- Paige Hagle – Check-In
- Mary Ann Mueller, Amy Rasmussen, Cassandra Mc Zeal – Checkout/Post Auction

Thanks for supporting ROE's largest annual fundraiser! It has been a lot of fun to work with each of you for the school we love.

We can't say enough to thank everyone for the tremendous effort on behalf of our school. The PTO, the school and most importantly, the children, thank each of you for your time and energy!

- Sally Lechin, Auction Chair

NATURE CENTER FUN REMINDER!

Dear Parents: Just a reminder from your Nature Center Committee to come this Saturday, 11/20/10, from 10-1PM for our ROE Work Party! We have bat house building, cultivator tilling, picnic table weather guarding, pond checks, etc. All tools/equipment already provided,

along with drinks/snacks and good company! Kids welcome, we'll have lots of little projects for those that want to pitch in. :)

In addition, ROE parent Marc Sanders is working with our PTO grade level reps to investigate the possibilities for grade level involvement on special projects for our NC. 2nd grade will be the first grade level involved on the 20th Work Party, in addition to our NC Committee members and volunteers. Stay tuned for more information on future work parties!

We are also thrilled that our NC is beginning to be used for photographic shoots, Tea Parties, etc, as well as work parties and as our outdoor lab. Hooray for our new Nature Center! Looking forward to the 20th! - Paul Rainn

VANGUARD MAGNET TOURS CONTINUE

Last week, close to 240 visitors came through ROE to find out what we have to offer as a Vanguard Magnet school. Reviews were extremely positive and the applications have been rolling into the office. There will continue to be tours Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through November and the first part of December. Deadline is January 7, 2011!

ROE DRIVERS

- Please do not enter the car rider line from Bellmeade.
- Please approach and line up in the right lane heading east on San Felipe.
- Be mindful and refrain from blocking driveways and intersections.
- Only staff are allowed to turn left into the driveway from San Felipe.

We appreciate your efforts to be good neighbors and citizens. It makes a difference!

GUEST SPEAKER WEDNESDAY A.M.

This Wednesday morning, please come hear guest speaker, Mr. Ken Wood at 8:30 am in the cafeteria. He has taken his well-drilling experience and re-tooled it, helping people to dig over 450 water wells in Ghana and Tanzania. Come be inspired and see him inspire the children of ROE! The link below shows him speaking on the Today Show.

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/39739114#39739114>

WATER DAY LIVE

The second grade is pleased to announce that this year the Water Day will be streamed live. Please visit www.ustream.com and search for River Oaks Water Day 2010. Streaming will begin around 9AM. More information will be posted on the school website.

MENTORS STILL NEEDED FOR EXHIBITION 2011

We are still in need of mentors to help with 5th grade Exhibition. Mentors help students with gathering resources, note-taking, planning for and implementing action projects, etc. We invite and encourage all parents to mentor, even if your child is not a current 5th grader. However, parents of current 5th graders are not allowed to mentor in their own child's homeroom. Also, if you know of any community members who would like to volunteer in this capacity, please pass this information on to them as well. With five 5th grade classrooms, we will need 50+ mentors!!

Mentors will meet with a small group of students for at least one hour a week beginning mid-January and ending the last week of February. If you are interested in being a mentor for the exhibition, please email me as soon as possible! You need no expert abilities to be a mentor, just a willingness to support students in their work. Please consider volunteering...I know it will be wonderful experience for both you and the students you mentor!! -Becca Pfeifer, IB Coordinator,

rpfeifer@houstonisd.org

ROE ANGELS

Nine girls from ROE made jewelry charms for the Fall Frenzy which raised over \$810.00 for our school. All of the charms took more than 30 hours over 6 weeks to make and package. In school, the girls are known as the ROE Angels and in public they are part of a charity organization called Bella Butterfly. They have also raised money for the Pink Ribbons Project and The Texas Children Hospital. These girls are 3rd graders Chloe Nguyen, Andrea Lechin, Abigail Bard, Grace Hoang, Emilie Hynes, Owens Taylor and Nika Filippov and 4th graders Lola Dinh and Meagan Hoang.

KEEP COLLECTING BOXTOPS!

Please keep collecting BoxTops. Each one is worth .10 for ROE and it really adds up! Don't forget that the class that collects the most will win a pizza party! You can turn your BoxTops into your teacher or drop them in the basket on top of the PTO lockers at the end of the kindergarten hallway. Thank you!

2ND GRADE WATER AWARENESS DAY

On Wednesday November 17th, the second grade classes will hold their 5th annual Water Awareness Day. The second grade students are working on a unit about water, and this day is set aside to think and talk about the important role water plays in our lives. It is also a day to reflect on how a lack of useable water can be devastating as well. In this spirit, the second graders and their family and friends will be participating in a "Walk to the Well". The students will literally walk several miles to retrieve water from a well for drinking. The students will get to experience what it is like for

many people in underdeveloped countries that have to walk miles and miles to collect water for daily use. EVERYONE is invited to come and walk with them. The students will gain true perspective by walking a mile, or two, or four in the shoes of others. The walk will begin at 9:30am on the River Oaks track. We hope that everyone will be able to join the second graders in this experience and that we will all be mindful of how lucky we are to have the resources we need right at our fingertips!

PLEASE - MORE YEARBOOK PHOTOS!!

Many thanks to those who have uploaded photos to the Jostens website. We still need many more candid photos from classrooms to meet our first deadline at the end of this month - especially photos of students with their teacher. Please upload any photos you have ASAP - instructions on the yearbook page on the PTO website: <http://www.riveroakspto.org/yearbook/>.

Also please continue taking photos and sharing them with us until February, when we turn in our final pages to the publisher. We will also accept photos via email: yearbook@riveroakspto.org. Or you can drop off a CD or prints in the yearbook locker in the kindergarten hallway. Thank you so much for your help.

Make sure to order your yearbook before January 1, when the price will increase to \$30. Advance sale price is now \$25, payable via the yearbook page: <http://www.riveroakspto.org/yearbook/>. If you order online, you will also have the option to personalize the yearbook and buy accessories.

We will also accept payment by check. Drop off a check in the office or the yearbook locker in the kindergarten hallway. Make the check out to "River Oaks Elementary PTO" and write your child's name and "yearbook" in the memo line - \$25 per book before January 1. Alternatively, you can mail your check to: Carolyn Foug, 1602 Hawthorne St, Houston TX 77006. We will acknowledge your order via email or a note in the green folder - so please let us know if you don't hear back from us.

ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES

HISD Online Resources are safe, reliable, and authoritative sources designed to meet learning needs of students and staff. There are no advertisements and these subscription resources provide access to information not available elsewhere on the open web. Resources are aligned with learning standards, and provide citation information, translation features, and reading levels as well as:

- almanacs, atlases, dictionaries, & thesauruses, biographies, digital books, educational activities/games, educational videos, magazines and journals, maps and diagrams, newspapers, photos, charts, and illustrations, primary source documents, recommended websites
- To access online resources at home:

Go to: <http://riveroakselementaryschool.org>

Select '**Library**' link [underneath School Info. menu at top].

Click on '**Databases**' on left side of ROE Library homepage

Login with--

- Username: **houstonisd**
- Password: **rockets**

Look for a brochure that will be coming home with your child this week that details specific key features of each of these valuable online learning resources!

- E. Eastman, ROE Librarian

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE FOR THE SCIENCE LAB!

It's not too late to "Raise the Paddle" to benefit the science lab renovations! If you left the Fall Frenzy early or didn't have a chance to attend, please write a check to ROE PTO and write "RTP: Science Lab" on the reference line. You can drop your check off with the front office staff anytime this week.

GREAT GATHERING SLOTS AVAILABLE

There is still a chance to sign up for teacher

socials and great gatherings. Check the list below for the listings of opportunities. Email fall-frenzy-resolutions@riveroakspto.org to sign up for one and leave your check at the front office (with the description of the event you wish to attend, your child's name/classroom and contact information).

Item ID	Title	Price (\$)
111	1 st Grade Bowling & Pizza Party	25
112	1 st Grader Playground & Pizza Party	25
113	Take Me Out to The Ballpark	30
114	Pampered Pedi Party – 1 st Grade Girls	30
115	1 st Grade – Despicable Me Movie Night	25
116	Mini Yoga Class for Girls – 1 st Grade	25
117	Make-Your-Own Pizza Party – 1 st Grade	25
118	1 st & 2 nd Grade Girls Tea Party	25
119	1 st Grade Garden Party & Fashion Show	30
120	Pampered Pedi Party – 2 nd Grade Girls	30
121	Lucky Strike Bowling Party for 2 nd Grade	25

122	2 nd Grade Garden Party & Fashion Show	30
130	Soccer Star Secrets – 3 rd Grade	25
131	Pool Party – 3 rd Grade	25
133	3 rd Grade Garden Party/Fashion Show	30
134	American Girl Doll Adventure	30
135	Climb Mt Houston!	35
137	3 rd Grade Valentine Cookie Decorating	25
138	Splash Bash Mock Sleepover Pool Party	30
140	Star Wars Party – 4 th Grade Boys	35
141	Movie Night for 4 th Graders	30
142	4 th Grade Boys Awesome Sleepover	60
143	Soccer Fun Fest	25
145	4 th Grade Girls Creative CANDY Construct	25
150	5 th Grade Pool Party	30
151	Karate Kid Movie Night	25
160	One Great Night in Napa	100
161	Saturday Morning Music Concert & Lunch 25	25
164	Fondue Dinner for All ROE Parents	30
167	Jazz Night – Live Music & Dinner	40
169	Mom's March Madness Party (All ROE Moms)	25
170	Holiday Photos	40
172	Kinder Mom's Night Out Party	25
175	Circuit Strength Training	35
176	Zumba Fitness	20
177	Self-Defense Class	50
181	Fiesta with The ROE Front Office Team	20
183	K & 1 st Grade Breakfast with Ms Parker	25
184	2 nd & 3 rd Grade Breakfast with Ms Parker	25
185	4 th & 5 th Grade Breakfast with Ms Parker	25
198	3 rd & 4 th Grade	25