



ROE
River Oaks Elementary
IB World School

ROE News

November 30, 2010

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

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CALENDAR ITEMS

November 30	Middle School Madness Night
December 1	Kid's Hope party, 1-2:30
December 1-10	Kindergarten Stanford
December 4	Odyssey of the Mind Exploratorium
December 8	PTO Board Meeting, 6pm
December 9	K-2 Dance
December 10	3-5 Dance
January 12	PTO Board Meeting, 6pm

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHENKER

The IB PYP curriculum provides rich learning opportunities for our students to develop transdisciplinary skills (social, research, thinking, communication, and self-management skills) that they may apply to any learning endeavor. An example of such a skill is dialectical thought. Dialectical thought involves:

- Thinking about two or more different points of view at the same time
- Understanding both points of view
- Being able to construct an argument for either point of view based on knowledge of the other
- Realizing that others can also take one's own point of view

Imagine a world where our children are in positions to create, negotiate, and implement policies that affect a broad spectrum of people. The simple learning of rote facts will never prepare our students for such a world. I encourage you to begin to think of ROE as a place of preparation for the future...a future in a complex, multicultural world that we can not fully imagine. Content knowledge and transdisciplinary skills are both critical to the success of all of our students. Have a great week!

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 and right now we have only about 10 community volunteers!!

Our mentor meeting will take place on Thursday, December 16th, at 2:00 pm in the ROE cafeteria. Mentors will then 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

IT'S TIME TO BE A BOOK BUDDY ONCE AGAIN!

Thanks to all of you who donated last May, ROE was able to deliver over 600 books to Thomas Sinclair Elementary before the summer holiday. Ms. Morgan received a big box of thank you notes from the students at Sinclair so look for those posted on a bulletin board at school.

Let's continue to make a difference by providing kids with books of their own to take home before the Winter Holiday as well. The Book Buddy boxes will be in your classrooms the week of December 6th through 10th. Donate a pre-K to 5th grade level, gently used or new book (or books). Look for a flyer next Tuesday with a label to personalize your donated book(s).

Questions? Contact: sandra@speedyprinting.net

LOST AND FOUND

Please stop by (or have your child check) the lost and found in the cafeteria for any missing coats, sweaters, lunchboxes, notebooks etc. Any items not claimed by December 17th will be donated.

UNICEF DONATION

ROE classes recently collected \$585.04 to donate to UNICEF. Daniel King (4th/Corzine) also collected \$140.51 for a total donation of \$725.55. Good work to all involved!

READING CHAMPIONS

The March of Dimes *Reading Champions* program has come to an end. Collection envelopes are due to your child's teacher by the end of this week. Each participant will take home a personalized *Reading Champions* certificate, and those who raised a minimum of \$3.00 and read four or more books will receive a medallion. Awards will be distributed at the beginning of January. Thank you to everyone who participated. This program helps children develop an independent reading routine early in the year and practice goal setting, all while raising money for a good cause! – Katie Morgan, Literacy Coach

KIDS HOPE CELEBRATION

Kid's Hope will be hosting a holiday party this Wednesday from 1pm– 2:30pm for students & mentors who are partnered in the program. Parents of the mentored students are welcome to attend. It will take place in the multi-purpose room.

IT'S TIME TO PLAY BALL, GIRLS!

West University Softball Association (WUSA) is announcing the opening of its Spring registration season now through Dec. 31. It's open to all girls ages 5 and older. Register online at wusa.org. Softball is a great way to get your daughter involved in a team sport! Plus, it's fun and you meet many families from our neighborhood and those surrounding West U! Register now at wusa.org. See you on the fields!

GREAT GATHERING SLOTS AVAILABLE

There is still a chance to sign up for teacher socials and great gatherings. 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.)

GOING ...GOING ...GONE!

We have two as yet unclaimed auction items that we are now offering up for re-bidding for a limited time:

- Gift certificate for Kumon Testing and Application Fee (a \$200 value)
- Gift certificate for orthodontic services from Dr. Don Speck (a \$1000 value).

Don't delay! Submit your bids to roe-pto-resolution@roeptto.org

Highest bid received by midnight Friday, December 3 rd wins the item(s)!

SOS!! YEARBOOK PHOTO EMERGENCY!!

The yearbook staff will finalize 24 pages of the yearbook this weekend and turn them in to the publisher on Monday - so please look through your computer today for ROE-related photos and send them to us..

Priority Photo Wish List:

- 1 - Fall Frenzy
- 2 - Any and all photographs of teachers
- 3 – All Kindergarten classroom candid photos
- 4 - Ms. Bennett's classroom
- 5 - Ms. Waugh's classroom
- 6 - 2nd grade general candid
- 7 - 3rd grade general candid
- 8 - Staff candid
- 9 - Any photos of Spring 2010 events, especially the carnival
- 10 - After School program candid
- 11 - Specialist classroom candid
- 12 - Elective candid
- 13- 5th grade candid (besides children in Ms. McLaughlin's class)

Parents of children in Ms. McLaughlin's class have done a wonderful job of submitting photographs. Congratulations, your kids are all over the yearbook!!

Every other classroom needs to be photographed, and we need your help to get this done quickly, if the photos do not exist already. If you would like to visit your child's classroom to take photos, please do so this week and again during the holiday parties. Please coordinate with the room parent so that each classroom has an assigned photographer who will capture the special environment your child's teacher has created this year.

Please see this week's flyer in the green folders for submittal instructions, or consult the yearbook page on the PTO website: <http://www.riveroakspto.org/yearbook/>.

Many thanks for your help during this busy time of year.

REMINDER – KINDER STANFORD

All students in kindergarten will take the Stanford tests beginning December 1st. The students will take portions of the test battery and/or make-up tests each day through December 10th. Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest each night and arrives on time for school each day. Research shows that eating a healthy breakfast that includes protein will improve performance. Thanks for your continuing support of our academic program at River Oaks!