

RIVER OAKS ELEMENTARY

“Where Discovery is Elementary”

September 22, 2009

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/riveroakes
E-mail:	sgolden@houstonisd.org
PTO website:	http://www.riveroakspto.org

CALENDAR ITEMS

September 22	OotM Coach Awareness, 6:30-7:30
October 3	OotM Coach Workshop, 9-12
October 10	ROE Fun Run
October 10	Dyslexia Awareness Day, 8:30-2
November 6	Fall Frenzy

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHENKER

We had a “peaceful” start to our week as we observed World Peace Day on Monday. Students gathered to hear about our first school-wide project, Pennies for Peace. I hope that you will talk with your child and learn more about their efforts to support school children in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The academic year is in full swing. Our teachers have a full day of instruction planned each and every day. Having your children to school on time and ready to learn helps set the stage for a successful day. We appreciate your efforts!

The Traffic and Safety Committee met to discuss our dismissal process and traffic flow issues. HISD conducted a traffic survey last week. The survey, along with input from our constables and parents, points towards some adjustments in our dismissal procedures. Specific information about these changes will be sent home with your child next week. We would like to begin our new dismissal procedures on Monday, October 6th. I appreciate your continued support as we work through these issues and as always, I welcome your input. Have a great week!

ROE FUN RUN

The FUN RUN is coming soon! Sat. Oct 10th will be a blast! Coach Bomersbach is teaching the students the stretch routine that ROE dads Daniel Peterson and Marcellous McZeal will be leading that day (unfortunately Coach will be out of town!). The kids are also practicing their lap around the playground and building up their muscles to take on their classmates in the FUN RUN! Dancing to the DJ, jumping on the moon walks, and enjoying healthy food are just more of the fun to be expected.

- Volunteers are still needed!! Please email or call to donate 30 minutes of your time.
- Sponsors are due tomorrow. If you are interested, we still have a few spots!

- Thanks to those who are our sponsors! Dr. Lily Chen, DDS, Michaelyndon, and Kumon. Please show your thanks by using their services!
- Also, thanks goes out to an ROE family for underwriting the first grade teachers t-shirts! If you would like to do so, the other grades are available.

You can reach me at Natalie.cordova@earthlink.net or call 713.444.7120. Thanks! -Natalie Cordova

KINDERGARTEN REPRESENTATIVES

This year's Kindergarten Co-Reps. will be Natalie Cordova and Elisa Donovan. Natalie's child, Justice, is in Ms. Rome's class and she can be contacted via e-mail at Natalie.cordova@earthlink.net. Elisa has a son, Curtis, who is also in Ms. Rome's class. Her e-mail address is donovan@emdp.com. We thank them both for volunteering to serve on the PTO Board.

--Diane Cimino, PTO President

FALL FRENZY

Calling all 70's relics! We need to borrow your 1970's era decorations. We would love to use your disco balls and lava lamps to make the ROE Fall Frenzy fabulous! Please email Adrienne at: abmurry@comcast.net Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you all on November 6th!

ROE SPIRIT NEWS

- The back ordered zip binders were delivered to the students yesterday. If you did not receive your order please contact Janine Cashin @ janine_cashin@yahoo.com. If you would like to order a binder, plenty are available in red, blue, steel, pink, green and purple for \$20 each.
- Don't forget to order your 2009/10 spirit shirt to wear every Friday and show your school spirit - there are quite a few youth sizes still on hand.
- If you have not done so already, check out the awesome Spirit Store merchandise displayed at the entrance of the school!

SALLY FOSTER

The Sally Foster, Entertainment Book, and Cookie Dough orders were due yesterday. If you forgot to turn yours in, please do so ASAP as the orders need to be finalized this week. After that, it will be a late order in October. Also, if you are not going to purchase the Entertainment book, return it to school. You may turn in the orders and books in the Sally Foster locker at the end of the kindergarten hallway. You do not add tax to any order and the ROE account number is 285670. Thanks for your support! - Laura Fertak

ROE ODYSSEY NEWS

The Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) engine is revved up and ready to go at ROE for 2009-2010. If you missed the Parent Awareness meeting, feel free to contact Michele Dahlquist at mdahlqui@houstonisd.org or Sarah Slemmons at sslemmons@yahoo.com. You may also enjoy looking at the official OotM international website at www.odysseyofthemind.org. If you already know your child wants to join OotM, just e-mail the following information to Michele: Name, Grade, Teacher, Availability for Meetings, Child's interests: Art/Theatre/Technical. Also add if you are willing to coach or co-coach. This year, Michele will help you join or build a team with registered students interested in joining a team.

Calling all Parents to Coach!!! Odyssey of the Mind can't operate without coaches. Every year there are more children interested in joining a team, and not enough parents that coach. Sadly, some children don't get the chance to join. The only way to guarantee your child is on a team is to coach! See below for ways to find out more!

Coach Awareness: An Introduction to OotM: Tuesday, September 22, 6:30-7:30.

New This Year: Coach Workshop! Saturday, October 3rd at ROE - 9:00-12:00.

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS DAY

HISD will be hosting a parent dyslexia awareness day at the Hattie May White building on Saturday, October 10th from 8:30 am until 2 pm. Keynote speakers include Brenda Taylor, state dyslexia consultant, and Jim Carter, president of Houston IDA. Breakout sessions will cover the dyslexia referral process, dyslexia intervention process, and preparing for college. For more information please email Katie Morgan kmorgan3@houstonisd.org.

MINI UN - PENNIES FOR PEACE

As the first school-wide action project for the 2009-10 school year, the ROE Mini UN has decided to enact the Pennies for Peace program. It is a service-learning program designed to help students broaden their cultural horizons and learn about their capacities as philanthropists. The program educates students about the world beyond their experience and shows them that they can make a positive impact on a global scale – one penny at a time." (www.penniesforpeace.org)

Pennies for Peace was founded by Dr. Greg Mortenson who, after becoming ill on his journey to the summit of K2, stumbled into the village of Korphe in Pakistan and realized the children there did not have a place to learn and could not afford the \$1 a day salary for a teacher. He then began raising money in order to help these children in the war-torn regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and through his efforts has built close to 100 schools to date.

We are asking that students, who are willing and able, donate pennies (or other coins!) to this project in order to support schools that focus on community-based education, especially for girls. Here is a sampling of just what a penny can do:

- 1 penny = one pencil
- 15 pennies = one notebook
- \$2 or \$3 = one teacher's salary for one day
- \$20 = one student's school supplies for one year
- \$600 = one teacher's annual salary
- \$5,000 = support for existing school for one year
- \$50,000 = one school building and support for up to five years

Students at ROE are open-minded, caring individuals who use their passion for helping others to take action in many different ways. The ROE Mini UN is hoping that this authentic and purposeful action project will make a huge impact on the lives of others and will help everyone keep in mind how they can make the world a better place ~ one penny at a time.

FROM NURSE PETNER

3 more confirmed cases of the flu last week.

Also, "found" eyeglasses get turned in to my mail box in the office. If you have lost eyeglasses, go to the office to ask for help in checking to see if I have them.

-Jan Petner, RN

Fall Frenzy

Support the Fall Frenzy – Host a Great Gathering

It is easy to host a Great Gathering ...

- Start with an idea
- Join forces with other ROE parents, family, friends, & businesses
- Choose a date and time
- Watch the bidding on auction night as your contribution to the school adds up.

Great Gatherings in the past have included:

Kids - sleepovers, bowling parties, ice cream socials, beach parties, parent/child baseball, softball or soccer games, movie nights, holiday cookie decorating parties, tea parties

Parents - luncheons, dinner parties, Mom's Night Out, wine and dessert parties, golf outings, jewelry making workshops,

progressive dinners, cooking classes, Dad's Game night

A Great Gatherings Donation form will come home in the green folders or find one on the ROE PTO website:www.riveroakspto.org