

RIVER OAKS ELEMENTARY

“Where Discovery is Elementary”

November 10, 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/riveroakses>
E-mail: sshenker@houstonisd.org
PTO website: <http://www.riveroakspto.org>

CALENDAR ITEMS

November 13	2 nd Grade Performance at 1:30
Nov. 16-20	Magnet Awareness Week
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 18	Boxtop Contest Ends

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHENKER

Thank you so much for your generous support of our school through the Fall Frenzy. The auction was very successful. I appreciate the leadership of Sally Lechin and her team in organizing this wonderful event. Our nature center will receive much needed updates thanks to your donations.

Wednesday is Veteran's Day. We are celebrating the day at ROE in several special ways. Students have made posters which will be displayed in our halls. Several classes are writing letters to send overseas. Finally, several veterans will make brief presentations to our classes. Thanks to Terri Zimmerman for her support in planning this year's celebration. Have a great week!

ROE NATURE CENTER

Dear ROE Community: I've just heard today from our PTO President that the Auction has raised \$26000! I had a feeling that the Auction was really on its way when I saw over \$8500 being raised from the Parking Lot and Principal for a Day events alone! Our students will really benefit from the overhaul and renovation of our Wildlife Habitat (AKA Nature Center). Of course our 'permanent residents', (our possum 'Billy Bob', our cat 'Lady Marmalade', our teenage turtles, 'Sharkbait', 'Hides-in-the-Mud' and 'Swims-With-the-Fishes, our garden snake 'Voldemort', our new bunny rabbit 'Bunnacula,' and our classroom loving cooper's hawk 'Bob') will just **love** the new renovations! Our kids are already asking about the lots of questions and can't wait to see the new Nature Center!

Kudos to Ms. Burns for coordinating our wish lists with the bidders, Ms. Sides and Ms. Pillsbury for taking pictures of every class using the Nature Center, and Mr. Foster for the cool video production. Finally, I'd like to extend a special thank you to all our wonderful parents who've stepped forward so generously with their time, talents, and finances on behalf of our kids and their insatiable quest for knowledge of the world they will inherit.

It's a pleasure to serve such a wonderful learning community! Sincerely, Paul Rainn, Science Specialist.

GREEN AND WHITE PAGES

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! The fourth and fifth graders in the journalism elective class have been hard at work. The first edition of the Green and White pages, our new student newspaper, will soon be available online. Highlights from this issue include interviews with our new teachers, fun ideas for the playground, a book review, puzzles, and much more. Look for it this week on the ROE homepage! - Katie Morgan

FALL FRENZY-A FALL BACK TO THE 70'S

The Fall Frenzy Auction Party was a roaring success! Thank you to all who attended, volunteered, donated and bid. Thank you to all the generous teachers and parents who generously offered to host valuable Great Gatherings and Teacher Socials. There is still time to attend these fun activities for students and parents which help ROE financially; hurry up and sign up!

This year, we surpassed the goal of raising \$25,000 for the ROE nature center and raised a total of over \$100,000. The funds raised support our PTO general operating budget giving us the ability to fund educational tools and programs, enhancements to our physical property and enrichment opportunities for our children and teachers.

The event came together thanks to the hours of dedication and support of all our valuable volunteers. Each played a critical role, but I would like to personally thank several key volunteers who lead our Auction Leadership team that brought this event to fruition:

- Frances Moore-Jones, Carrie Pillsbury – Donations
- Debra Kenna - Fulfillment/Financials
- Adrienne Murry - Venue/Decorations
- Liz Palmer and Ann Guerra - Publicity/Ticket Sales
- Sandra Ahlhorn – Catalog
- Emily Madison - Sponsorships/Underwriting
- Paige Hagle - Check-In
- Mary Ann Mueller, Amy Rasmussen - Checkout/Post Auction

Thanks for supporting ROE's largest annual fundraiser! It has been a lot of fun to work with all of you for the school we love. Sally Lechin, Auction Chair

ROE DIRECTORY

Are you wishing you had purchased an extra copy of the School Directory? It's not too late, extra copies are available for \$8 each. Email Maria Onufrow at mariaonufrow@gmail.com if you would like one.

HISD ONLINE RESOURCES

Dear ROE Students and Parents –

Every year Houston ISD provides resources for students to be used at school and at home. These resources provide access to magazines, journals, books, reference material, videos, activities, maps, images, and even audio files. Here are the home access logins and passwords to access most of these online resources from home. A bright green flier will also be coming home this Tuesday with your child that describes the range of resources we can access.

- The 2009-2010 username is: **houstonisd** (same as last year)
- The new 2009-2010 password is: **texans**

These passwords work for the following Online Resources:

- **Britannica** and **World Book** encyclopedias, **ABC-CLIO**, **EBSCO**, **NetTrekker**, **WilsonWeb**, **Proquest**, **Thompson Gale**, and **Teaching Books**.

All of these resources are accessible without using a login on an HISD campus. From home or away from school you must use the user name and password listed above to access the information.

BrainPop has been provided again this year for all of our students by the Special Education Department. This resource currently requires a login at school and at home. Students may only access BrainPop until 5:00 PM. Teachers may use BrainPop 24/7. This year we have access to 3 BrainPop modules: BrainPop (grades 3-12), BrainPop Jr. (K-3), and BrainPop Español. The BrainPop website is: <http://www.brainpop.com/>. From here you can link to BrainPop Jr. or BrainPop Español (follow the link at the bottom of the BrainPop page to get to the Spanish version). BrainPop Español provides a large number but not all of the English content of the 3-12 site in Spanish.

ELL support: Both Britannica and World Book Encyclopedias offer Spanish language encyclopedias. EbscoHost has Consumer Health information in Spanish – Salud in Espanol Many of the resources have translation features built in the product that support many languages.

For Students

- User name: **houstonisd1**
- Password: **texans**

Access the rich online resources available to our school community at: http://www.hisdlibraryservices.org/online_resources.htm, or find them on 'Useful Links' on the ROE webpage. These subscriptions provide a structured environment for safe Internet research and are excellent reference sources for a range of learning purposes. - Ms. Eastman, Library/Media Specialist, eeastman@houstonisd.org

INVITATIONS TO PRIVATE EVENTS

In order to honor the feelings of all our students, please distribute invitations to private events (e.g. birthday parties) outside of school. We appreciate your support of this policy.

BOXTOPS CLASSROOM COLLECTION CONTEST CONTINUES!

Continue clipping BoxTops off your favorite products until Thursday, December 18, 2009 when the contest ends. Collect your BoxTops at home, put them together in bunches of 10 in ziploc bags. Then, deliver the collected Boxtops to your classrooms and put them in your teacher's BoxTop collection bag. Or, you can also place collected (and labeled with your class name) BoxTops in ziplocs in the collection bins located in the Kindergarten hallway. The classroom collecting the most BoxTops wins a pizza party when we return to school in January! Questions? Email Linda Elmer, lindakelmer@gmail.com or Meredith Maieron, mmaieron@gmail.com. Good Luck!!!

TALKIN' TURKEY

ROE will open its doors to the community at large November 16 – 20 for Magnet Awareness Week. This is an exciting time to show off all of the fabulous opportunities that await every child here at ROE. If you are interested in being a hospitality host or hostess during this week, from 12:15 – 1:45, contact Andy Williams or Shelly Vara at 713-942-1460.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL FOR THE FALL FRENZY

As I attended the ROE Auction Friday night I just had a warm fuzzy in my heart for ROE! It was great to see so many staff and teachers out to mix and mingle with ROE families as we all came together for our school. The Nature Center presentation was wonderful as it put it so much into perspective as to why I am proud to have my child at ROE. To all that put so many hours of hard work into making the night come together, I say thank-you. To all of those that donated items for us to bid on, I say thank-you! To all of you that came and shared your time, I say thank-you! To all of you that donated money to our great school, I say thank-you! ROE truly is the Place to Be! - *an ROE parent*

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Rene Leiber
4 Joel Bomersbach
4 Ruby Sun
7 Joyce Robertson
9 Maria Carillo
15 Sally Jacobs
24 Andy Williams