

RIVER OAKS ELEMENTARY

“Where Discovery is Elementary”

December 8, 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
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PTO website:	http://www.riveroakspto.org

CALENDAR ITEMS

Dec. 7-11	Food Drive (bring a canned good every day)
December 18	Boxtop contest ends
December 18	Winter break begins
January 5	School resumes

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHENKER

Only in Houston, Texas would we cancel our Winter Wonderland evening due to snow! Children of all ages enjoyed the surprising weather on Friday. Thanks to all parents for assisting in a smooth dismissal. We are hoping to reschedule Winter Wonderland and will keep you posted on the “snow date”.

Enrollment packages for ASP Spring Registration will go home this week. Please note that because of district accounting guidelines, you may no longer pay online through the PTO. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Please support our food drive this week by sending one canned food item each day with your child. Food collected through ROE will be distributed to needy families at other area schools. Have a great week!

SCIENCE LAB

Dear ROE Community, it is so exciting to see the changes in the Nature Center. Strategic planning and construction are currently being carried out, and the Auction Funds are being used as rapidly as possible! On the agenda so far are the following items: (per Longhorn Landscaping)

**The pond has been drained and will be made deeper.*

**All sides of the pond will be leveled.*

**A concrete and flagstone border matching the landings will be installed.*

**Our old fence line inside the Nature Center will be replaced with a natural border (shrubs).*

**The recycling area will be enhanced with a planned tool shed (our first!) a wood chipper, and work benches.*

**Two more picnic benches will be added to our commemorative picnic area (dedicated to our own Karen Ellison) enabling an entire class to enjoy and perform academic work outdoors when required.*

**Apple trees will replace the invasive bamboo species near the pond habitat.*

**Vegetable gardens areas are being rebuilt so that many more classes can participate.*

**Additional irrigation lines are planned.*

Finally, we have two wonderful Girl Scout Troops, #'s 25267, and 25268, led by Ms. Planck and Ms. Costa, who are pulling out all the stops so they can participate in a major greening project in our Nature Center, come what may! Girl Power is now officially a force of nature! ☺ Thank you!

Special thanks to Ms. Burns for taking on the role of coordinator and liaison to all parties in a rapidly expanding project!

Hooray for a successful auction and a huge thank you to all of our wonderful, involved, and active parents!!

On behalf of 670+ excited ROE kids (and our local wildlife population, Billy Bob, Lady Marmalade, Voldemort, et al).

- Paul Rainn, Science Specialist

ART NEWS

As everyone is aware, the 5th grade art display and sale was canceled last Friday evening due to the hazardous conditions of a winter storm...a disappointment in all regards, but let's hope that the event will be rescheduled for sometime in January or perhaps before Spring break. We do still have the photographs on display in the lobby of the 3rd-5th grade wing. Anyone desiring to purchase one of the photographs – if you would be so kind as to leave me a note in my box – I will make arrangements to wrap the photo for you to take home. Our students are so proud of their finished prints!

In other art news:

Today, four of our ROE artists will be honored at a reception from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at the opening of the new Art Gallery at Central District (HISD) on Durham – near 28th St. They are: Maddie Clay (5th Grade), Michelle Tang (4th grade), Kaia Luik (1st Grade), and Andrew Boyd (1st grade). All of the ROE artwork that was submitted will be on view through February 2010 in the gallery.

Congratulations to ROE IMPACTii Art IZ IN winners: Ivana Hysung (3rd grade) and Jacqueline Ma (5th grade). Ivana's paintings of birds won 1st place, “undersea” painting won 5th place. Jacqueline's drawing of a bird won 3rd place. These works have been photographed and can be seen on the IMPACT HISD webpage. They are frequently printed on brochures and cards, sent to principals at all the schools in HISD. These artworks will hang on the walls of ROE during the month of Jan. 2010.

But, hold on to your horses! Art work for Houston Livestock and Rodeo is due next week before holidays, so rustle up your drawings and get them in ASAP!! ROE will submit 5 student works for this competition. (grades 2-5).

Holiday Cheer to all! - Ms. Lieber

BOXTOPS CLASSROOM COLLECTION CONTEST IS WINDING DOWN!

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 Maierson, mmaierson@gmail.com. Good Luck!!!

JOIN THE ROE CHESS TEAM

ROE is forming a chess team to enter local tournaments starting in January. A few ROE kids entered tournaments in the fall only as individuals. It is a lot of fun and would be even more exciting to go as a team. The children would have the opportunity to win both individual and team trophies. They would also have the support and camaraderie of a team. If you are interested in entering your child in a chess tournament please contact Laurel Agris at: laurel.steve@gmail.com or 713-254-4220. If you are already attending chess tournaments for "School" please enter "River Oaks Elementary School." If it is written the same way on all of the entry forms, your child will automatically be on the ROE team. We are also going to try and put together a team shirt, so please notify me. Thanks - Laurel

FINE ARTS PROGRAM SHOWCASE

Hamilton Middle School Fine Arts Program Showcase is scheduled for 12/15/09 from 6-8pm. The location is 139 E 20th St. in the Heights. For more information call 713-802-4725.

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, ialcaniz@uh.edu and Sarah Bloome, PTO Volunteer Coordinators

EAT AT GUGLIANI'S RESTAURANT TONIGHT AND TOMORROW!

Please remember to eat at Gugliani's in Rice Village or Meyerland today or tomorrow, December 8th or 9th. 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.

THE NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center project is well underway thanks to Lisa Laird, owner of Longhorn Landscaping. Lisa and her team were already geared up and working at the Nature Center just one week after the Fall Frenzy. They started by draining the pond, which is proving to be **very** messy! They also hauled away the broken pieces of concrete, trimmed the willow tree and removed some of the excess trees, stumps, and debris. They are in the process of transplanting some of the plant material on the border of the pond so it can be reinstalled after construction. They have also added much needed decking on one end of the bridge.

Our friends at The Fish Gallery have very graciously agreed to give our Koi fish an all expense paid vacation at their place until the pond restoration is completed. You can even visit them. The Fish Gallery is very close to ROE at 4527 Lomitas Street. It is located one block east of Kirby just off of Southwest Frwy (the north side), next to Lupe Tortilla. So, you should definitely stop by and say "hello" to our Koi and enjoy seeing the variety of beautiful fish and aquariums at The Fish Gallery.

The plan is for the pond renovation to be completed over the Winter Break. Future updates will be posted in the Green Sheet in order to keep everyone informed about our progress. There will also be pictures posted periodically on the PTO website. The ROE community is enormously grateful to our very generous parents who have made this project possible!