

RIVER OAKS ELEMENTARY

“Where Discovery is Elementary”

December 15, 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.riveroakspato.org>

CALENDAR ITEMS

December 18	Boxtop contest ends
December 18	Winter break begins 12:45 dismissal
January 4	School resumes

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHENKER

Our food drive was a huge success! Over 2500 food items were donated by ROE families. Your generous efforts will benefit the families of Hartsfield Elementary through the Houston Food Bank Mobile Pantry. Thanks to Kathy and Mark Lipman for coordinating this event.

Please do not ask the custodial staff to open locked doors to our school. They have been instructed not to accommodate these requests. Please come to the front entrance. We appreciate your support in maintaining a safe campus. Have a great week!

SCIENCE LAB

Dear ROE Community: I cannot believe that in a few short days it will be the end of the first half of the academic year! Snow in Houston in the fall (!), the H1N1 pandemic, our nature center being rebuilt, a wonderful new principal, our school earning exemplary status once again, and many other events seem to have gone by in the blink of an eye! A few more events need to be added before the holiday break starts.

This year ROE will be participating in the Central Region's Young Inventors Showcase. Schools had a choice of deciding whether to enter the Science Fair or the Inventors Showcase, and being the trendsetting school that we are ROE will participate in the first ever Inventors Convention to be held in our district! Interested students in eligible grade levels will be provided information packets shortly after our return for the Winter Holidays. They will then have until March 10th to prepare for ROE's exhibit and get ready for the district's Showcase on March 30th. Winners of the district's event will then go on to the final competition at the Children's Museum, held on May 22nd. I'm looking forward to coordinating this new and challenging academic event for our students! More information can be found at www.cmhouston.org/younginventorsshowcase.

- Paul Rainn, Science Specialist

MS. NELSON IS ON THE MEND!

We are really happy to report that Ms. Nelson is progressing really well with her recovery. In a recent email, she shared that her doctors are in the process of re-

evaluations to determine what the next course of action will be. She is currently in physical therapy for rehabilitation and will be released soon. The doctors have said that her bones are in good shape and there was no underlying reason for the break other than just a freak accident. Ms. Nelson is so anxious to get back to teaching that she is giving all sorts of logic puzzles and brain exercises to her nurses!

She greatly appreciates the cards, notes, phone calls, and visits from our ROE family. If you would like to send her your thoughts and well-wishes, you can reach her at lnelson32159@gmail.com.

BOXTOPS CLASSROOM COLLECTION CONTEST IS WINDING DOWN!

Continue clipping BoxTops off your favorite products until **Friday, 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!!!

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAY DELIGHT!

Friday will bring our annual Holiday Delight festivities for our students and staff at ROE. Everyone is invited to come to school in their pajamas for a relaxing, fun-filled day. The teachers and Room Moms have many exciting activities planned for our students so a good time will be had by all. It's fun to stop by that day to see everyone in their lounge wear. We've even had parents come to school in their PJs! Remember, dismissal will be at 12:45, and all buses will leave at that time – not 3:15. The After School Program will be holding their classes as usual. Happy holidays!

FOOD BANK

Congratulations River Oaks Elementary! You collected 2457 pounds of food -- that's over a TON!!!!

How many people did we feed with our donation?

Based on the Department of Agriculture, an average person consumes 4.5 pounds of food per day. Using that rate of consumption, ROE's donation would feed one person for about 1 1/2 years (546 days); or a family of four for 4 1/2 months (136.5 days).

Look at what we can do when each of us gives a little -- **"We Made A Difference"**. Thank you for participating.