

RIVER OAKS ELEMENTARY

“Where Discovery is Elementary”

January 26, 2010

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

Jan. 28	Stanford Testing ends
Jan. 29	Coat Drive ends
Jan. 29	Last day to order ROE yearbook
Feb. 3	Deadline for next IMPACT Art competition
Feb. 4	Deadline for Dental Health Poster contest

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SHENKER

Stanford testing is nearing completion. We appreciate your efforts in making this a successful testing experience for all of our students.

Please remember to send your donated coats to school. The coat drive ends on Friday.

Have a great week!

FIRST AND ONLY TIME TO ORDER YEARBOOKS!

You will not want to miss out on this year's yearbook. Only \$25 for the year in review! Order online from the ptoro.org website (click on the "Purchase Your Yearbook" link) or submit a check for \$25 to ROE PTO with the form going home in today's Green Folder. **JANUARY 29th DEADLINE to order.**

THE 2ND GRADERS INVITE YOU TO OUR WATER AWARENESS DAY

On Wednesday February 3rd the second grade classes will hold their FOURTH annual Water Awareness Day. The second grade students are working on a unit about water, and this day is set aside to think and talk about the important role water plays in our lives. It is also a day to reflect on how a lack of useable water can be devastating as well. In this spirit, the second graders and their family and friends will be participating in a "Walk to the Well". The students will literally walk several miles to retrieve water from a well for drinking. The students will get to experience what it is like for many people in underdeveloped countries that have to walk miles and miles to collect water for daily use. EVERYONE is invited to come and walk with them. The students will gain a different perspective by walking a mile, or two, in the shoes of others. The walk will begin at 9:30am on the River Oaks track. We hope that everyone will be able to join the second graders in this experience and that we will all be mindful of how lucky we are to have the resources we need right at our fingertips!

ROE ARTISTS PRESENT: HEARTS AND HOMES FOR HAITI

Students and Parents: We can act to help the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti by doing a simple art project!! Please see Ms. Lieber in the Art Room to get materials to create a little house out of tag board and place a small piece of magnet on the back. Of course, as artists, we should sign our work! When someone offers to donate to this cause, please give them the house (your artwork) and have them place the donation (\$1.00 or more) in the slotted heart. Please return the heart with the \$\$ in it to Ms. Lieber in the Art Rm. or to her box in the office. She will turn the money over to the PTO and they will decide which organization the money will be sent to (ex: Red Cross, C.A.R.E., etc.).

Just a little time, creativity, and effort from you will bring a lot of life back to these suffering people. Your heart will hang high on the wall outside the Art Room. Thanks.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATES THE GT CHILD

Two events are being held in February to spotlight the gifted and talented child. First, February 6 showcases student work from all over the HISD central region at the *Houston Independent School District Central Region Gifted and Talented EXPO*. Everyone is invited so look for the flyer in the Tuesday folder. Secondly, February 13, the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented will host a day long program for families at the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center. Registration is required and can be done at www.txgifted.org.

SCIENCE LAB - LOST PARENT!

Dear ROE Community: On Friday December 18th, 2009 a wonderful parent and her two kids ran into me and we talked about gardens in the classrooms. The parent informed me that if enough teachers signed on she was willing to write a grant for ROE to get classroom garden kits so that herbs can be grown right in the classroom with minimal fuss but lots of learning! As of 1/25/10 almost 1/3 or our teachers have expressed an interest in classroom gardens. Unfortunately, being the day before the holiday and all, we never exchanged contact information! If you are the parent I talked to---or you know the parent I'm talking about please contact me at psharry@houstonisd.org. It would mean a lot! Our teachers and students are dying to try out their 'Green Thumbs'!!!!

Sincerely, Paul Rainn, Science Specialist

THE NATURE CENTER

I attended the 3rd Annual Environmental Education Summit last weekend hosted by the Houston Children and Nature Coalition and it was very exciting. You would be so impressed with the "Green Movement" that is emerging here in Houston. There are a number of resources out there for parents and educators who have an interest in getting kids into an outdoor educational setting. I have tapped into a few of those resources to insure that our nature center is the best that it can be.

Last week Lisa and her hard working team from Longhorn Landscaping removed an interior fence that surrounded the Nature Center. No one anticipated what a huge difference this would make in the overall appearance of the space. We gained a great deal of additional square footage and the Nature Center appears much more open and less cluttered. The old fence was covered in thorny vines and unwanted overgrowth that took a crew five days to remove. But, after seeing the dramatic improvement, we all agree that the time and effort were well worth it!

This week Lisa and her team will remove the last of the unwanted plants, old posts/structures/fencing and debris. They will also pour a small area of concrete for the newly located work area/shed. We will take some time to review an in depth report provided by Joe Blantin, our Schoolyard Habitat Specialist, and prepare for the next phase. Joe and Lisa will help to guide us as we move forward to insure that our Nature Center meets all of our learning objectives including the use of "sustainable environmental practices". That just means that we will design in a way that works with nature to decrease waste, conserve water, reduce maintenance, and increase energy efficiency.

Literature is coming out every day in support of the positive effects of hands-on learning in a schoolyard habitat. We are so grateful to our generous donors for providing our children with this incredibly valuable learning environment!

-Regina Burns

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 Sarah Bloome, PTO Volunteer Coordinators

DENTAL HEALTH MONTH POSTER CONTEST

In recognition of National Children's Dental Health Month, the Houston Independent School District is invited to host a Poster Contest sponsored by the Greater Houston Dental Society and the Greater Houston Dental Alliance. We ask you to promote your school's participation, (Grades 1-6), by encouraging students to design a poster to enter.

The theme for the 2010 National Children's Dental Health Month is, "***For a Sparkly Smile, Remember to Brush & Floss Every Day***", and encourages students to recognize and appreciate the lifelong value of good dental health.

Contest Rules:

1. There will be two categories for entries. Category 1 will include 1st – 3rd grades and Category 2 will include 4th – 6th grades.
2. Posters may be in the form of a slogan, picture, or both and should depict the theme as illustrated in the student's own creative style. (No traced, copied, or commercial cut-outs will be accepted.)
3. Each poster must be 12"x18" in size. White or gray art paper may be used as long as it is mounted on colored poster board of the specified size.
4. The back of each entry should list:
 - Student's Name
 - Grade
 - School
 - Teacher
5. Preliminary judging at the school will determine the first, second, and third place winners in each category.

DEADLINE TO TURN IN TO MS. PETNER IS FEB 4, 2010.