



## **FROM THE DESK OF DR. FOVARGUE**

**April 18, 2017**

Dear HISD Supporter,

As you may know, HISD is subject to Recapture and must send local property tax dollars to the state of Texas. On May 6, voters will be asked HOW the district should pay its Recapture obligation. Recapture is one of the most important issues facing HISD, and the results of this upcoming ballot measure will affect our schools financially for years to come.

Here's the language that will appear on the ballot May 6, as required by the state:

Authorizing the board of trustees of Houston Independent School District to purchase attendance credits from the state with local tax revenues.

You might be asking yourself, "Didn't we already vote on this?" The answer is yes, but since that vote in November, significant progress has been made. Action by the Texas Education Agency reduced HISD's Recapture obligation from about \$162 million to about \$77.5 million. Future payments have been reduced, as well. This helps HISD. The previous vote also started a conversation among legislators in Austin about improving the state's school finance system. However, no additional funding has been approved. In response,

HISD's Board of Education called a new election on May 6, giving voters another opportunity to decide how HISD will pay its Recapture obligation now that the payments have been reduced.

A vote FOR purchasing attendance credits means HISD will pay its Recapture obligation by writing a check to the state comprised of local property taxes. It also means the district will continue to make annual recapture payments for the foreseeable future, but if our total tax collections continue to grow, then increased tax collections will help offset these payments. Taxes could increase under this scenario, as well. If tax collections cease to grow, the offset will be less.

A vote AGAINST purchasing attendance credits will result in detachment of the most valuable non-residential, commercial properties from the district's tax roll. The properties will be reassigned to other school districts for taxing purposes. Under current law, these properties will be permanently detached, and the district will permanently lose those tax collections for daily operations and schools. Importantly, the district will also lose debt service tax collections used to pay back bonds, which is debt used to build schools, most likely requiring a tax increase on residents and remaining businesses to pay the debt obligation. If detachment of property occurs, the district will have less capacity to fund schools.

Neither option is ideal for our school district. Ultimately, the Texas Legislature needs to reform school finance. However, we hope you educate yourself on the option you think is best for your household and your community. You can visit [HoustonISD.org/Recapture](https://HoustonISD.org/Recapture) to find more information about this issue, including an informational video. Please share this information with your community, and please vote on May 6. Early voting is April 24-May 2.

Thank you for your continued support of the students of HISD.

## Save the Dates

### APRIL

#### 22- Carnival

29- Ms.  
Torres' BD

### MAY

3- PTO  
Meeting  
8-STARR -  
3rd grade  
math, 4th  
grade math  
9-STAAAR -  
3rd grade  
reading, 4th  
grade  
reading  
10-STAAAR -  
5th grade  
science  
10- Ms.  
Elmer's BD  
15- Ms.  
Nelson, Ms.  
Perez's BD  
18-

Community  
5th Grade  
Exhibition  
24- Kinder  
Promotion/5  
th Grade  
End of Year  
Parties

25- Last Day  
of School/5th  
Grade

ROE's annual Carnival is THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 22!

Carnival is one of our biggest community events, and we need  
YOUR help to ensure its success!

#### 1) Volunteer Sign Ups -

Each class has been designated a booth for the Carnival, which  
will be staffed with volunteers from that class. In order for booths  
to remain open, each booth must be fully staffed with volunteers.  
Please volunteer for a shift that works with your schedule. Sign  
up by clicking the following:

[http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044ea9ac2ca5fc1-  
roecarnival1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044ea9ac2ca5fc1-roecarnival1)

#### 2) Donate drinks for the Carnival Drink Drive -

Each year, the ROE PTO asks for drink donations for the ROE  
Carnival. Once again, Frost Bank is graciously donating bottled  
water.

If you would like to donate sodas or juice boxes, please bring  
drinks to carpool drop-off any day this week. You may also drop  
drinks off at the table just inside the school, in front of the  
cafeteria. (WE DO NOT NEED WATER.)

3) Bring a Baked Good for the Cake Walk - The Carnival Cake  
Walk is one of the most popular booths each year, but we need  
your help to ensure its success! We will be accepting baked  
goods in the carpool drop-off line or in the front of the  
school on Friday, April 21. For health code purposes, we cannot  
accept baked items prior to April 21.

Questions? Email [carnival@riveroakspto.org](mailto:carnival@riveroakspto.org)

### 5th Grade Tile Tree Project

Calling all 5th Graders & Parents for Tile Tree Project this  
Saturday from 10am - 1pm

5th Graders will meet in the courtyard outside the kindergarten  
hall to glue their tile tree leaves with Ms. Lieber this Saturday  
starting at 10am before the carnival begins. It will take about 20  
minutes for your student to glue their leaf on the tree. All 5th

Promotion  
8AM  
26- Teacher  
Workday  
28- Ms.  
Stow's BD

**Summer  
Employee  
Birthdays**

**Jun 10-** Dr.  
Fovargue  
**Jun 22-** Mr.  
Sanchez  
**Jun 28-** Ms.  
Calderon  
**Jul 1-** Mr.  
Meyer  
**Jul 15-** Ms.  
Turner  
**Jul 18-** Ms.  
Skrabanek  
**Jul 20-** Ms.  
McHale  
**Jul 30-** Ms.  
Goodman

graders please stop by as soon as you arrive at the Carnival to make your mark on ROE! Ms. Lieber could use parent volunteers to stay and help while their children are working. Thank you!

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FIELD DAY

Field Day is approaching us and below is a list of dates, reminders, and responsibilities for parents.

The ROE PE Department is Committed to providing an opportunity for a great Field Day experience for all Roadrunner students.

Parents are welcome to bring themselves plus Enthusiasm to their Child's Field Day to support, encourage, and even participate along with their child if they still have the stamina!! Parents must check in at the Front Office with a smile and get a Visitor Field Day Badge (Label) before coming out to Field Day.

Thank you so much and if you have any Inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Coach Bomersbach.

Wednesday, April 19  
12:15pm-2:00pm - Kindergarten and 1st Grade Field Day  
(Combined)

Thursday, April 20  
12:15pm-2:00pm - 2nd Grade and 3rd Grade Field Day  
(Combined)

Friday, April 21  
9:00am-11:00am - 4th Grade Field Day  
1:00pm-3:00pm - 5th Grade Field Day

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ROE Talent Show!

Initially offered as an auction item, there are still 8 spaces available for ROE's Got Talent! For a small fee of \$25 dollars, your child can perform for ROE's GOT TALENT ,

May 5, 5:30 - 6:30 PM, River Oaks Cafeteria. Openings will go to the first eight to call and reserve a space, 713-942-1460, Mrs. Williams or Mrs. Sheehan.

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TAKE THE JUMP ROPE FOR HEART CHALLENGE:  
During Jump Rope For Heart, we have a special ONLINE  
Jump Rope For Heart Challenge that we would love for ALL  
ROE students to do.

1. Register online at  
<http://jumphoops2017swa.kintera.org/riveroakselemhooustontx>
2. Take the "Zoo Crew the E-Card Challenge" to take the  
Jump Rope For Heart Health Challenge online and,
3. Send at least 10 E-Cards or emails to friends and  
family online to spread the message!

Students who COMPLETE all of the CHALLENGE STEPS  
above, will earn a special Badge of Honor Rory Badge to wear  
on their lanyard.

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River Oaks Elementary  
May is Neighborhood Registration Month  
for the 2017 - 2018  
School Year!

As a neighborhood family, we want you to  
consider becoming part of the ROE learning  
community. Please join us for the following  
events.

Saturday, April 22 Family Carnival - New  
Families Welcome! 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, April 24 Registration Materials  
Available for Pick Up

Tuesday, April 25 Neighborhood Round-Up and  
School Tour 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 2 Neighborhood Round-Up and School  
Tour 8:30 a.m.

Registration for Neighborhood zoned families is  
by appointment.

Please call Diane Sheehan, school Registrar, to  
make your appointment.

713-942-1460

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Houston Public Library invites ROE students to enter their Books  
Alive contest.

Theme: Let's Go Fly a Kite

Open to children in Grades K - 6

Enter to Win!

Children in grades K through 6 are invited to submit a homemade  
kite.

Join us for some high-flying fun as we gear up to celebrate this  
year's Books Alive! featured author, Grace Lin. In honor of  
Grace's books' celebrating the Chinese culture, we want to see  
your best homemade kite, inspired by the books she's written  
and/or illustrated.

Submission Guidelines:

- \* Participants must be children in grades K-6;
- \* Kite must be homemade. Store-bought kites will not be  
accepted;
- \* Original art only. Traced or copied artwork or images will not be  
accepted. Please do not use copyrighted images;
- \* One person per entry and one entry per person;
- \* Kites\* may be submitted to any HPL location in person or  
mailed to the following address:

Houston Public Library  
Youth Services Department  
500 McKinney  
Houston, TX 77002

Submission deadline is Monday, April 24, 2017. Winners will be  
notified by Monday, May 1, 2017.

\*Kites will not be judged on their ability to fly.

For more information visit the Houston Public Library website!

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## The IB/GT Connection



Did you know? River Oaks Elementary is an International Baccalaureate World School and GT Vanguard Magnet in HISD. All teachers, instructional coordinators, and administrators are GT Certified and trained in IB.

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2008 Kirby Drive, Houston, Texas 77019

**Office** (713) 942-1460 (7:15am-4:00pm) | **After School Program** (713) 524-8430;  
**School** [www.RiverOaksElementarySchool.org](http://www.RiverOaksElementarySchool.org) | **Head of School** [KFovargu@HoustonISD.org](mailto:KFovargu@HoustonISD.org);  
**PTO** [www.RiverOaksPTO.org](http://www.RiverOaksPTO.org) | **ROE News Editor** [ROENews@RiverOaksPTO.org](mailto:ROENews@RiverOaksPTO.org)  
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