

February 19, 2014

From the Desk of Dr. Fovargue



Dear ROE Families,

This is a friendly reminder that the front circle drive is a bus lane only. We have several parents that despite reminders continue to use the front circle drive as a drop off/carpool lane. This should not be happening.

Effective immediately, we are moving our officer to the front circle drive to assist us with this matter. This will no longer be an area where folks can park and walk into the school building. We simply cannot have our busses blocked, because this affects their entire route in the city. Additionally, we cannot have students darting around busses and cars.

Save the Dates

1. Feb. 20 - 4th Field Trip (Federal Courthouse)
2. Feb. 25 - 4th Field Trip (George Ranch) 1st Field Trip (Republic Waste)
3. Feb. 26 - Spring Picture Day
4. Feb. 28 - Go Texan Day
5. March 12 - K-1st Field Day
6. March 13 - 2nd -3rd Field Day
7. March 14 - 4th -5th Field Day
8. Apr. 1 - STAAR 4th Writing; 5th Math
9. Apr. 2 - STAAR 4th Writing; 5th Reading
10. Apr. 5 - Family Carnival

Please understand traffic and safety continues to be an ongoing discussion, and I know several folks will have suggestions and differing opinions. If you need drop off as a convenience, I encourage you to use the carpool lane where smiling faces are ready to welcome your child into school each morning!

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Keri Fovargue, Ph.D.
Head of School

Book Fair Update

11. Apr. 8-11 -
5th Science Camp
12. Apr. TBA - OM State
Competition
13. Apr. 22- STAAR 3rd,
4th Math
14. Apr. 23 - STAAR
3rd, 4th Reading; 5th
Science
15. Apr. 26 - Earth Day
Celebration in the
Nature Center
16. Late Spring- PTO
Parent Social
17. Apr. 28- May 2 -
Teacher
Appreciation Week
18. Apr. 29- May 2 - IB
PYP Art Exhibition,
Twain Elementary
19. May 5-13 - Stanford
Testing 1-5
20. May 14 - SDMC
21. May 29 - Last Day of
School / 5th Grade
Graduation





Nacho Average Book Fair was Excelente! The week was filled with students excited about books. Stories of students pitching in to buy books for their teachers was inspiring and watching them bring their own money was priceless! The climax of the book fair was the Friday Night Fiesta Village! This all resulted in a record breaking year for the Book Fair. Many thanks to our generous sponsor, Marc Sanders & Diagnostic Eye Clinic. And, huge thank yous to the following: Coach & Mrs. Bomersbach, Ms. Simon, Susannah Watt, Linda Poole, Jose & Margarita de Monterrossa, Nicole Caver, Cecilia Delgado, Misty Roeder, Linda Elmer, Heather Davis, Larry Theran, Toby Fullmer, Rosi LaNeve, Kathryn Hensy, Minsook Kim, and The Honorable R.K. Sandill, Judge of the 127th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas and the countless other volunteers and teachers that participated in the Fiesta Spirit! And, Sombreros off to the Crossing Guards! The book fair appreciates constructive feedback to improve next year's book fair. Please send to

book-fair@riveroakspto.org

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunity

Our wonderful teachers need help so we are turning to our wonderful families and asking for volunteers to help with their copying. If you are interested and want to help, please go to www.signupschedule.com/roepto and look for the "Copy Volunteer" sign ups. We have set up the month of February and will add remaining time slots through May in the coming days. What does it involve you ask? - Gathering the original materials and copy paper from the Library and once complete, no need to distribute it all, just return it to the Library. The current days/times scheduled are Wednesdays between 12:45pm-3:30pm, and either Thursday or Friday, 12:00pm-1:15pm.

Thanks in advance for your assistance!

Questions? Email Martha Skrabanek, mskraban@houstonisd.org, or Volunteer Coordinators, volunteers@riveroakspto.org

You may have noticed a new parking sign in front circle drive! A generous family in our community purchased this "fast pass" parking spot that was offered during the online auction. This spot, located immediately to the left of the other reserved parking spot, is reserved for the purchasing family during the following times, which are identified on the parking sign:

7:10 - 7:45 am every morning

2:45 - 3:20 pm M,T,Th, F

12:15 - 12:50 on Wednesday afternoons

We are so thankful for the generosity of our parents.

Please honor their contribution by leaving the spot

open for their use during those times.

Come to Explore UT

Explore UT is often called "an academic Disneyland." Why? It offers more than 400 learning activities for explorers of all ages. It's the perfect way to motivate students to go to college, provide enrichment for Gifted and Talented students, and show how learning can be fun.

What:

Explore UT, annual campus-wide open house

Where

: The University of Texas at Austin

When:

Saturday, March 1, 2014, from 11 am to 5:30 pm.

Who's invited

: Everyone, especially k-12 students, their teachers and parents

Admission

: Free. (Lunch on your own)

Registration

: Only if you bring a bus (see below)

Website

: The Explore UT website,
www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut
, will be updated by mid-December.

More than 400 learning activities

HIGH SCHOOL: Attend sessions on college admission and paying for college. Tour residence halls, labs and libraries. Talk to University students about what college is really like. Watch a scene from Shakespeare, and learn about the latest advances in clean energy, nanotechnology, and biomedicine. Perfect for STEM students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Learn about careers in everything from aerospace engineering and computer science, to architecture and broadcasting.

Tour the Tower, examine microbes through a microscope, learn how medicines are mixed in the pharmacy lab, and assemble a model rocket. Inspiring for AVID, GearUp, CIS students and first-generation-to-college students.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Take part in a trial of Gold E. Locks, pedal a bicycle-driven generator to power a TV, eat ice cream made with liquid nitrogen, get your face painted, see real dinosaur skeletons, and have your picture made with BEVO.

Look for lots of NEW learning activities all over campus, plus annual favorites like these:

- watch robots in action,
- learn how to extract DNA from a banana,
- watch a pig's lungs fill with air,
- sample some of Russia's most traditional foods,
- deliver the TV news in a real TV studio,
- march with the Longhorn Band.

Never been to Explore UT?

Get an overview of Explore UT by reviewing last year's printed program. This 36-page program lists the entire schedule of 400 learning activities and contains a campus map. Many of the most popular activities are repeated from year to year. To receive last year's program, email your US Postal Service address to blangham@austin.utexas.edu.

This year's program won't be printed until a week or so before the event, but you will be able to download a PDF of the entire 2014 program about mid-February when it's posted on the Explore UT website.

Plan a field trip

Schools arrange their own transportation to Explore UT. If you bring students in a bus, register

it online beginning the first week of January to help the University plan enough space for bus parking. You can also buy tickets online for lunch in a University dining hall, but of course you can bring your own lunch and picnic on campus.

Families may bring students and have a fun family outing. There's NO REGISTRATION for cars or for individuals to participate in activities. Just park in a campus garage, and take part in the activities of your choice.

Want to spread the word?

Request PDF files of the Explore UT handout and poster that you can print out and distribute, forward to colleagues and parents, and post on your website.

Questions?

Contact Barbara Langham, 512-637-2186 blangham@austin.utexas.edu for more information.

Attention Parents-Friendly Reminders

Oh NO! Have you lost your car rider tag?

All cars picking up car riders should have a bright pink ROE Sign displayed in the window during carpool pick up. This allows us to identify your car quickly, and will decrease the amount of wait time. If you have misplaced your sign, please pick one up at the front office.

Forget Me Not...What do I do if my child forgets lunch or an item needed for school?

Additionally, instructional time is of utmost importance! Every minute counts! Therefore, we must limit the amount of classroom interruptions. The front office staff will not

interrupt classrooms when a student forgets an item at home. If you want to drop off any forgotten items, we can notify the teacher via email. Otherwise, the item will be placed in the teacher's box. If you want to drop off lunch for your child, you may do so. However, the student is responsible for picking up their lunch on the way to the lunchroom. After school items (ballet slippers, instruments) should be delivered to the ASP office after 10 AM.

One on One Basketball, Inc. will host a FUNtastic Spring Break Basketball Camp March 17th-March 20th. The camp will be held in the SVDP gymnasium located at 6800 Buffalo Speedway, Houston, TX 77025. Full day camp times are 9:00 - 3:00 for boys and girls in grades K-8. Half day camp times for 3-5-yr. olds are 9-12 or 12-3. Camps will be led by Coach Cliff a certified P.E. teacher with 20 years of coaching success and the One on One Basketball coaching staff. Register online at Houston.1on1basketball.com

Click camps at the bottom of the page. Full day camp is \$199. Half day camp is \$99. Early drop in and late pickup options are available for an additional fee. Contact the Houston Regional Director, Coach Cliff, for more information. 713-304-1661 cliff@1on1basketball.com

ROE Poets Wanted for National Poetry Contest
The National Schools Project invites our students to participate in a poetry contest to get school kids excited about writing. Students' work will be evaluated by age and grade level for overall quality in the following areas: Creativity, Age-Appropriate Language, Sensory/Figurative Images, Structure, Poetic Techniques, and Special Circumstances (*based on input provided by ROE representative*). Selected poems will be published in a book, copies of which will be provided to the school (and available for individual purchase). There is no limit to the number of submissions, and all submissions should be turned in to Ms. Skrabanek in the library by Monday, March 10.

To learn more, or to get an entry form, please contact Ms. Skrabanek (mskraban@houstonisd.org) or go to <http://www.youngpoets.org>.

ART NEWS and REMINDERS

4th and 5th grade students: Two completed mandalas (drawings affixed to backboards) are due to Ms. Lieber on Feb. 28, 2014 for the Society for Performing Arts/Wells Fargo Student Art Contest. We have been working on these drawings during art classes over the past few weeks. After choosing your entry mandala, you will write a short statement (three or four sentences) having to do with your ideas along the theme: "The Power of Positive". One mandala per student will be entered in the Society for Performing Arts contest. For information on contest rules and prizes: www.spahouston.org.

2nd and 3rd grade students: All entries for "Treasures of the Texas Coast" drawing contest, sponsored by the Texas General Land Office, are due to Ms. Lieber on Friday, Feb. 28, 2014. Each student is working on one drawing depicting this theme. A release form is attached to the back of the student drawing that must be signed by a parent/legal guardian and the student. All work must be done on 8 ½" x 11" paper and must have the form attached with all information legible. For more information on contest rules and prizes: www.texasadoptabeach.org.

4th, 5th and 1st grade students: are welcome to participate in the "Treasures of the Texas Coast" (mentioned above); however, we are not able to work on the drawings during art classes. Please stop by the Art room if you would like the release form that is required for participation. For guidelines and prizes: www.texasadoptabeach.org.

1st grade students have been working on some mighty fine recycled paper accessories in Art class. Please check these out on Feb. 19th in the "Trashion Show"!!

Kinder students have been inquiring artistically about our crazy Houston weather!

VISIT THE ESPAÑOL WEBSITE:

For Español en la casa / Spanish at home, visit the ROE Español link:

Go to the River Oaks website at www.houstonisd.org/RiverOaksES; to Grade Level Teams; Specialists; M.L.Vasquez or M.Benner; click on Check out our Español website. You'll see Los Colores/Colors, some links with Español activities and games, and you'll also find a note to parents for grades 2-4. Please visit the Kindergarten and First grade sites. This allows students to review vocabulary that they studied in earlier years. It's vocabulary that they shouldn't forget. Please remember, this website is a work in progress. Muchas gracias, Sra. Vásquez.

Employees and students are encouraged to show support for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo by dressing in western outfits on "Go Texan Day," Friday, Feb. 28, 2014, in recognition of the Show's significant contributions to public education and to kick off this year's rodeo.



The Show, which is celebrating its 83rd anniversary, has been a valuable educational partner. In 2013, the Show awarded scholarships worth \$1,782,000 to 99 HISD graduates.

5th Grade Parents: Save the Date!
We would ask that all 5th grade parents mark your calendars NOW for an important parent meeting that will take place on Thursday February 20th at 6pm. We will be discussing 5th Grade Camp as well as your role in the 5th grade Exhibition. You won't want to miss this important meeting!

Wanted!! Guest Speakers

"El Club de Español" meets every Wednesday from 8:00 a.m to 8:45 am (Our eager and inquisitive

group of 35 fourth and fifth graders) is inviting parents, grandparents, family and friends to join us as our Guest Speaker and share your experiences or Spanish adventures. If you were born, have lived, worked or traveled to a Spanish-speaking country, we would love to hear from you! Come share with us: culture, ancestry, experiences, pictures, traditions or whatever you think is neat and exciting about a Spanish-speaking country. Please contact Señora Benner at mbenner@houstonisd.org or Señora Vasquez at mvasque3@houstonisd.org.

Pin Oak Middle School Cheer Squad

Proudly Presents

Junior Cheer Clinic 2014

Maximum Capacity: 200

First Come, first serve

Saturday, February 22, 2014

9:00 AM to NOON

Show-off Performance begins at 11:45AM

Girls and Boys: Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Cheer, Dance, Fun, and Games

\$25.00 (T-shirt and snack included)

Registration/payment due by February 21, 2014

For more information, please contact Cindy Cook

713-295-6500 ext. 327

ccook1@houstonisd.org

9:00-9:30 - Registration

9:30-10:00 - Warm up and stretch

10:00-10:30 - Learn Cheer

10:30-10:45 - Snack Break

(Snacks and drinks will be provided)

10:45-11:45 - Learn Cheer Dance

11:45-NOON - Show Off for Parents

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.

Follow us on 



2008 Kirby Drive, Houston, Texas 77019

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