

October 7, 2014

## From the Desk of Dr. Fovargue

### A Season of Safety: Autumn Tips to Keep Children Safe

As the air turns slightly cooler this month and the leaves begin to drop from the trees, many children will start to get excited about Halloween. Many will be focused on costumes, candy and trick-or-treating, while their parents are more worried about keeping them safe while they go door-to-door.

But safety is important all month - not just on Oct. 31. Here at school, part of our focus is ensuring our students are establishing life-long healthy habits. Below, you'll find a few seasonal safety tips that help promote these healthy habits. I encourage you to talk to your children about these tips. If we all work together, we can ensure everyone has a safe and fantastic fall!



### Save the Dates

1. **Oct 11-** Fun Run
2. **Oct 27-31-** Red Ribbon Week
3. **Oct 28-** Class Pics
4. **Nov 11-** Veteran's Day Ceremony
5. **Nov 14-16-** Barnes & Nobles Book Fair
6. **Dec. 10-** SDMC (3:30 p.m.)
7. **Dec. 19-** Class Parties
- 8.

### Traffic Safety Tips

- Cross only at street corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, then right, and then left again before crossing. Keep looking as you cross the street.
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up. Walk, don't run, across the street.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing the traffic, as far to the left side of the road as possible. Walk direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

### Bicycle Safety Tips

- **Use your head, wear a helmet.** It is the single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes.

- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic not against it. Stay as far to the right as possible. Use appropriate hand signals and respect traffic signals, stopping at all stop signs and stoplights.
- Make eye contact with drivers. Make sure drivers are paying attention and are going to stop before you cross the street in front of them.
- When riding at dusk, dawn, or in the evening, be bright and use lights. Make sure your bike has reflectors. Wear clothing and accessories that have retro-reflective materials to improve your visibility to motorists.
- Supervise children until you are sure they are responsible enough to ride on their own.

### **Halloween Safety Tips**

#### **Trick or Treat with an adult**

- Children under the age of 12 should not be out alone at night without adult supervision. If they are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit, and trick-or-treat in groups.

#### **Keep costumes creative and safe**

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Carry glow sticks or flashlights to better see and be seen by drivers.
- Make sure your costume is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

### **Halloween Night Driving Tips**

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for children at intersections and on medians and curbs.

- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside the car in order to concentrate on the road and the surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic, and turn on headlights earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Be especially alert for children during the most popular trick-or-treat hours - 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

See many more tips at [Safe Kids Worldwide](#).

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## YEARBOOK NEWS

The cost of yearbooks is now \$30. To order, go to [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com) -> Yearbooks -> Find Your School or Group -> Enter River Oaks Elementary (Houston, TX). Alternatively, you can place a check in the yearbook locker in the Kindergarten hallway. Make the check out to ROE PTO and include your child's name and teacher on the check with "yearbook" in the memo line. Please email us so we will know to look for your check. Reduced price and free yearbooks are available for qualifying families. Email us at [yearbook@riveroakspto.org](mailto:yearbook@riveroakspto.org) with any questions or to request a free or reduced price yearbook.

Help us include every ROE child in a candid photo this year by submitting pictures you take during class, field trips and other ROE events. You may either submit photos to [yearbook@riveroakspto.org](mailto:yearbook@riveroakspto.org) or directly at the Josten's website. Please identify those appearing in the photo. To submit directly to the Jostens website, go to: [www.images.jostens.com](http://www.images.jostens.com), enter Login: 401853555





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"Beyond helping develop their minds, we are helping instill a profound sense of self in our kids - a 'self' that's been pushed, pulled, nurtured and challenged so that our graduates leave Stella Link with a confidence they'll carry for a lifetime."

Stuart J. Dow, Head of School

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**Call today to schedule a visit or a shadow day.**

(832) 204-5900 · [admissions@emeryweiner.org](mailto:admissions@emeryweiner.org)

The Emery/Weiner School 9825 Stella Link Rd. Houston, TX 77025 (832) 204-5900



**It's Time for the ROE Fun Run!!**

**And we need your help!**

**THIS Saturday, October 11 at 8:30 am  
On the ROE Playground**

Join us for the grade-specific races and adult races as well as two bounce houses, potato sack races, an obstacle course, face painting, fantastic breakfast items and fun music provided by a rockin' DJ. A great time is guaranteed!

If haven't registered yet, you may register the day of the race between 8-8:30, but you will not be guaranteed a t-shirt.

As with all events, we need volunteers!! Please sign up to volunteer

at:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0A44A4A82DA20-roefun/6798760](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0A44A4A82DA20-roefun/6798760). We also need volunteers to bring coolers

for waters. If you can volunteer a cooler (we will provide water and ice), please email Chiarra Stratton at [fun-run@riveroakspto.org](mailto:fun-run@riveroakspto.org)

Our Generous Sponsors:



### **Red Ribbon Week**

Once again, ROE Student Leadership Team will lead the charge to encourage a Drug Free future for all students. Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign to raise awareness of the issue of drug use in our country. The campaign began in 1985 in response to the murder of a DEA agent. Today Red Ribbon

Week offers students the opportunity to raise awareness about the risks associated with using alcohol and drugs and the role peer pressure can play. The Student Leadership Team is planning a week worth of creative and fun activities Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> that will allow students to stand up and pledge to be drug free today and always. More information about activities planned will be coming home soon!

**Red Ribbon**



**Week**

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## Veteran's Day



**As a way to honor and celebrate the men and women who bravely serve to protect and defend our country's freedoms each day, and to remember those who once served, River Oaks Elementary will hold a special Veteran's Day celebration on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for that celebration, we would like to begin gathering the names of family and friends of our ROE students who have fought in the past, or are serving today. These names will be read aloud during the roll call of the Veteran's Day service. Please send the name, rank and any special honors of those you would like recognized to Liz Goodman ([agoodman@houstonisd.org](mailto:agoodman@houstonisd.org)) no later than Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup>.**

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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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