March 31, 2014

From the Desk of Dr. Fovargue

Dear ROE Families,

This is a reminder that STAAR testing will begin tomorrow for all 4th and 5th graders. The schedule is as follows:

**Tuesday, April 1, 2014**
4th Grade Writing Day 1
5th Grade Math

**Wednesday, April 2, 2014**
4th Grade Writing Day 2
5th Grade Reading

There will be no visitors on campus Tuesday and Wednesday. Parents, you will be unable to escort students down the 4th and 5th grade hallway on Tuesday and Wednesday, and we will not have visitors during lunch. Please limit deliveries as much as possible. This way, we can ensure a secure testing environment. Thank you in advance for your flexibility.

Sincerely,

Keri Fovargue, Ph.D.

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Save the Dates

1. **Apr. 1** - STAAR 4th Writing; 5th Math
2. **Apr. 2** - STAAR 4th Writing; 5th Reading
3. **Apr. 5** - Family Carnival
4. **Apr. 8-11** - 5th Science Camp
5. **Apr. TBA** - OM State Competition
6. **Apr. 22** - STAAR 3rd, 4th Math
7. **Apr. 23** - STAAR 3rd, 4th Reading; 5th Science
8. **Apr. 26** - Earth Day Celebration in the Nature Center
9. **Late Spring** - PTO Parent Social
10. **Apr. 28-May 2** - Teacher Appreciation Week

Reminder: we are in need of sodas and juice boxes to be "sold" at the carnival this weekend. We do NOT need water, as Frost Bank has generously agreed to donate those. Bring your drinks to school any time this week!

We also need baked goods to serve as prizes for the Cake Walk. Package the goods in see-through containers, in serving sizes of 4-6. Bring any homemade or store-bought baked goods on FRIDAY...
11. **Apr. 29 - May 2** - IB PYP Art Exhibition, Twain Elementary
12. **May 5-13** - Stanford Testing 1-5
13. **May 14** - SDMC
14. **May 15** - 5th Musical Performance
15. **May 19 and 20** - 2nd grade Living Museum
16. **May 22** - 5th Exhibition
17. **May 23** - Spring Parent Social
18. **May 27** - 5th Field Trip
19. **May 28** - 5th Field Day
20. **May 29** - Last Day of School / 5th Grade Graduation/5th Walk the Halls

(not before!)

And don't forget to volunteer! Sign up now at signupschedule.com/roepto

See you at the Carnival on Saturday! 11am - 3pm

Please join us at the Spring PTO General Meeting! Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 - 7:30pm in the Cafeteria
Guest Speakers Diana Bidulescu and Shelbi Blackmon with HISD will speak about internet safety, proactive online habits and digital citizenship.

From: Ms. Lieber

**ROE is GROWING GREAT ARTISTS!!**

Congratulations to: Nicole Moore-Jones, Ambar Caldwell, Somkar Dey, and Helen Young who all received recognition for their "Power of Positive" themed mandala drawings in the Society for Performing Arts/Wells Fargo Art Competition. All four 5th graders will be honored at an award ceremony and reception on Saturday, April 5, at Jones Hall. Their artworks will be displayed at the Glassell Jr. School of Art (MFAH) from April 7-28, 2014.

Lawyers Needed!

Dear Parents, as you may already know, ROE's recent Young Inventors Showcase (YIS), held March 5th, produced 3 Division Winners (Conner Fovargue, Olivia-Kate Stephens, and Charlotte Sterner from 5th through 3rd Grade, respectively) along with 21 other teams who qualified to compete at the Citywide Showcase, to be held May 24th at the University of Houston's C.T Bauer College of Business. Greg Micek, attorney, Houston businessman and founder of the Houston Inventor's Association and it's offshoot the Young Inventors Showcase, has been greatly impressed over the years with ROE's kids and their creative
ideas, and asked to speak to our PTO about a new business proposal for ROE’s Young Inventors. He was invited to present to our PTO his "Idea to Market" proposal and ROE’s position as the first Pilot School for this business model. Our PTO agreed to look into this very interesting opportunity for our kids and is currently forming an ROE YIS exploratory committee of parent volunteers, with special emphasis on attorneys. The committee’s goal would be to look into how our kids inventions could be quickly and efficiently commercialized in an 'Idea to Market” model, per Mr. Micek’s proposal, and decide on becoming the first Pilot School for this new YIS business model. (ROE already has two inventions patented and ready for prototype manufacture from former students, but it has taken several years to get there, as the current system tends to be a multi-year process) Mr. Micek has funding and organizational resources lined up should the committee make a decision to proceed as a Pilot School. Luckily for us, our first parent attorney has already stepped up! Special thanks to Mr. Travis Crabtree for this! Our committee currently is now composed of our HOS Dr. Keri Fovargue, Science Specialist Paul Rainn, and our first attorney, Mr. Crabtree. If you would like to be on the steering/exploratory committee please contact pharry@houstonisd.org An additional 4-6 volunteers would be ideal. Thanks in advance, and looking forward to many great things from our ROE students! 
Mr. Rainn Science Specialist

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Another Win for ROE!

Dear ROE Community, in early November Dr. Fovargue identified a grant opportunity from the Whole Kids Foundation and supported our school's application for it. The potential grant aligned well with ROE’s energy, environmental, and related academic goals, as well as its status as a registered Bronze Level Eco-School USA, HISD Green Challenge Campus, and NWF Grant Winner. ROE has now won this $2000 grant, one of a handful of schools to do so this year! The grant will benefit ROE’s expanding garden program. Our Earth Day event, now in its fourth year, will benefit too, as well as our ability to expand the gardening area to include beds for each grade level as well as a Girl/Boy scout troop bed and an experimental gardening area too! This will mark the first time that all grade
levels have access to a dedicated outdoor planting area, and supports our ability to host larger and better equipped eco-events such as Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Trees for Houston drives. Hooray for ROE!
Looking forward to more great and green things for ROE.
Mr. Rainn
Science Specialist

Informational coffee breaks for parents of students considering Lanier Middle School. Current Lanier families will be hosting several informal gatherings so that parents considering Lanier for their incoming sixth graders can ask questions and share their experiences. Attend whichever date, time and location is convenient for you. No RSVP is required.

Tuesday, April 1st 6:30pm
Hosts: Kathy Kahanek and Chrysi Polydoros
1702 North Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77098
Email: kkahanek@sbcglobal.net

Friday, April 2nd 9:00am
Hosts: Michal Lutfak, Sheryl Moore and Jennifer Draper
4802 Holt St.
Bellaire, Texas 77041
Email: mitchh19@yahoo.com

Thursday, April 3rd 9:00am
Hosts: Caroline Sterner & Charla Carroll
1136 Cortlandt
Houston, Texas 77008 (Heights)
Attention Parents of Fifth Graders going to camp: Most parents did not complete the requested health insurance information in case of emergency. Please copy your health insurance information and send in for me to attach to the other camp information. Also if your child will be needing medication at camp please send that in its prescription bottle as soon as possible, only the number that will be needed for the amount of days they are at camp.

Thank you,
Jan Petner, RN

EXHIBITION 2014
WE NEED YOU!!!!

The fifth graders are excited about jumping into the work of Exhibition when they return from spring break. Exhibition is the final project of the Primary Years Program and one that students have been looking forward to as long as they have been at ROE! In order to ensure they have a fabulous experience, we are seeking adult mentors who will work with a small group of 2-3 students through the research and project building phase. If you have one hour a week that you would be willing to donate to this important work, I would
LOVE to hear from you! You do not have to be a 5th grade parent - in fact we highly encourage all parents to participate to gain a better understanding of this final component to the IBPYP experience. Mentor meeting times are flexible, so don't be deterred if you can't commit to the same hour each week!

The first mentor meeting will take place the first week in April and you will see the group through to presentation day on May 22nd. If you are interested in being a mentor for Exhibition, please email me as soon as possible! You need no expert abilities to be a mentor, although we will try to match you with a topic you are interested in. All you need is a willingness to support students in their work! I will hold a mentor meeting after spring break, prior to your first meeting with your group, to help mentors further understand their role. Thank you in advance for all of the support you will give our 5th graders! If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Liz Goodman
IBPYP Coordinator
agoodman@houstonisd.org

Dear School Board Member, HISD Principals, PTO Presidents, Community Members, and Parents,

Please mark your calendars and spread the word for the two "REPLACE THE RACE" events hosted by the Lanier PTO!
See the attached flyer.

What:
To foment a communal culture of change, in which parents, educators, students and policymakers create an educational culture that values purpose and meaning, over test scores and rankings, and a school system that prioritizes our children's health and well-being.

Date:
Monday, March 31st
**Time:**
1st event begins at 8:15 am - Lanier Library
2nd event begins at 6:30 pm - Lanier Auditorium

**Place:**
Lanier Middle School
2600 Woodhead
Houston, Texas 77098
gcpolyjr@aol.com

**Event Facilitators:**
Chrysi Polydoros - HISD Parent, member of the HISD School Health Advisory Board (SHAC)
Dale Davidson - HISD Parent, Co-Chairperson of the HISD SHAC, President of Houston's Parents for Public Schools

**Who is invited:**
Students, Parents, Educators, Policymakers, Community Members
*Each participant will receive an event packet when they check in.

**Tickets:**
FREE tickets w/ Online Registration [http://www.racetonowhere.com/state-screenings/TX](http://www.racetonowhere.com/state-screenings/TX)
OR
$5 tickets at the door

**The presentation will include:**
+ Exclusive clips from the soon be released documentary featuring education change makers rolling up their sleeves to bring humanity and sanity into our schools
+ A short clip from the documentary "Race to Nowhere"
Case studies of schools that have been inspired to create change
Discussion questions and exercises to inspire conversation and action

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Chrysi Polydoros, Lanier PTO HISD Liaison
gcpolyjr@aol.com  713-443-6111

"Light It Up Blue"

The Month of April is Autism Awareness Month.

It is estimated that 1 child out of every 88 children is autistic. HISD has a current student population of approximately 1,375 or 1%. A child with autism experiences educational as well as social challenges. New directions in educational research, theory and practice are utilized to create the most appropriate, child centered programs throughout our school district.

Please join us in showing support for our children and families on, Tuesday, April 2. Please Wear BLUE for World Autism Awareness Day.

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.