



ROE
River Oaks Elementary
IB World School

ROE News

December 13, 2011

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

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CALENDAR ITEMS

December 14	Kids Hope USA Holiday Party
December 16	Holiday Celebrations-Wear your pajamas!
December 19- January 2	Winter Holiday-School Closed

FROM THE DESK OF DR. FOVARGUE

Happy Holidays from ROE! Please join your child's class this Friday for our holiday celebrations. Each room has exciting activities planned. Our students celebrate seven traditions, and we enjoy learning about the different religions and cultures. Did you know? Diwali is a Hindu tradition in which families line balconies, windows and rooftops with dipa lamps to guide the goddess Lakshmi to Earth, hoping their efforts will be rewarded with good fortune. Our Jewish friends celebrate Hanukkah, a miracle experienced after reclaiming the Temple in Jerusalem many years ago. During the month of Ramadan, Muslim families gather from sunrise to sunset to fast, remembering and honoring people in need. Las Posadas is a Mexican celebration in honor of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Christmas is celebrated by Christians throughout the world to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Kwanza is an African-American tradition celebrating seven principles including Unity and Faith. Lastly, some of our families do not participate in cultural celebrations; however, they focus on family values. Whatever your tradition, we look forward to seeing you in your **PAJAMAS** this Friday!

--Dr. Keri Fovargue, Head of School

2010-2011 TEA REPORT CARD

The State of Texas 2010-11 School Report Card for River Oaks Elementary is now available on our website. This is a report required by the Texas Legislature and prepared by the Texas Education Agency. It is to be made available to the parent or guardian of every child enrolled in the public schools. The report provides information concerning student performance as well as information concerning

expenditures, average class size, and student/teacher ratios.

The information contained in the School Report Card is required by state law and is briefly described in the enclosed "2010-11 School Report Card Definitions." The report for our school may or may not have all the information described, because the information presented depends on whether the school is an elementary, middle, or high school.

State law requires that the information be provided for the state, the district, the school, and a group of schools similar to our school. Where possible, the information must be reported by race/ethnicity and socio-economic status of the students and must include at least two years of results.

The School Report Cards can be found on the internet at: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/src/2011/campus.srch.html>

A more complete report about River Oaks Elementary, the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report, is available by contacting my office or can be accessed online at:

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/aeis/2011/index.html>

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this report card. Thank you for your continued support of River Oaks Elementary.

--Dr. Keri Fovargue, Head of School

KIDS HOPE USA

CALLING ALL KIDS HOPE STUDENTS, MENTORS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS

Don't miss the upcoming Holiday Party honoring you!

There'll be food, crafts, magic, and more!

Wednesday, December 14th

1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m

River Oaks Elementary Science Room

Questions? Email: [Jane Rucker jrucker@sjd.org](mailto:Jane.Rucker@sjd.org)

WINTER WONDERLAND PARTIES THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Liz Palmer for coordinating the Winter Wonderland Parties on December 8 & 9! We had record attendance, and fun was had by all! Thanks also to the numerous parent volunteers that helped set-up, decorate, and serve refreshments, chaperone and clean-up. Thank you also to Dr. Fo. and Ms.Gutierrez for their personal assistance in making sure the events ran smoothly!

Also, thank you to Jeri Gates and Karena Wilson for their work in coordinating the OM Spontaneous Workshop and Exploratorium on December 3!

Thanks also to the many volunteers who stepped up to assist during the event! The kids benefitted from a well-run workshop and a chance to practice creative thinking.

On behalf of ROE Odyssey of the Mind, many, many thanks!

Elisa Donovan

BOOK BUDDIES THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who donated books for Book Buddies. We are pleased to announce that Alcott Elementary students will receive over 1300 books.

These books will make a big difference at Alcott. Thanks to all the sorting helpers (Guerra, Pittman, Szafranski/Vo & Richards families) and to Ann Guerra and Katie Morgan for their help with the program.

--Sandra Ahlhorn

YEARBOOK DEADLINES

Please make sure that you order a yearbook and contribute photos before it's too late. Note two important upcoming deadlines:

December 20: Last day to submit photos for class pages and fall semester events. We need shots of students in their homeroom class and/or specialist / elective classes. Please remember to send us photos of holiday class parties as your last ROE task before starting winter break!

Please upload photos online:

<https://images.jostens.com/>

login id: 400113581

password: riveroaks

January 20: Last day to order a yearbook and/or submit a spirit ad.

Yearbook Ordering: In a change of policy from last year, the yearbook team will NOT order extra books to be sold in May. Order online at a cost of \$30: www.Jostens.com or www.roepto.org/yearbook, or drop off a check in the yearbook locker, or email us if you want to reserve a free or reduced-price yearbook (for families who qualify for free or reduced price lunches). Not sure if you've already ordered a yearbook? Contact the yearbook team, and we will check for you: yearbook@riveroakspto.org

Spirit Ads: Text-only dedications are priced at \$10 for every 25 words. Please leave a check (made out to ROE PTO) and your dedication in the yearbook locker in the kindergarten hallway.

MENTORS NEEDED FOR EXHIBITION 2012

We are still in need of mentors to help with 5th grade Exhibition. Mentors help students with gathering resources, note-taking, planning for and implementing action projects, etc. We invite and encourage all parents to mentor, even if your child is not a current 5th grader. However, parents of current 5th graders are not allowed to mentor in their own child's homeroom. Also, if you know of any community members who would like to volunteer in this capacity, please pass this information on to them as well. We have four 5th grade classes and will need 40-50 mentors!!!

Mentors will meet with a small group of students for at least one hour a week beginning mid-January and ending the last week of February. If you are interested in being a mentor for the exhibition, please email me as soon as possible! You need no expert abilities to be a mentor; just a willingness to support students in their work. There will be a mentor meeting the first week of January in order to prepare you for the work you will do with our students. Please consider volunteering...I know it will be a wonderful experience for both you and the students you mentor!!

-Becca Pfeifer, IB Coordinator, rpfeifer@houstonisd.org