



River Oaks Elementary School

2008 Kirby Drive, Houston, Texas 77019

Phone: 713-942-1460 Fax: 713-942-1463

Keri Fovargue, Ph.D.
Head of School

July 19, 2011

Dear ROE Families:

It is my distinct privilege to join you for the 2011-2012 school year. Throughout my career, I have served as an English teacher, campus leader, and most recently an International Baccalaureate (IB) Director. My experience and training with the Primary Years, Middle Years, and Diploma Programs provide me with the knowledge, leadership and expertise to serve as your new Head of School. I am excited for this opportunity, and I can not wait to greet each student, teacher, parent, and community member coming through our doors on the first day of school!

Without a doubt, this is an exciting time at ROE. Our students showed growth last year on the Stanford, TAKS Math and TAKS Science exams. Additionally, ROE has an outstanding PTO, and we encourage every family to participate. Our new teachers were assigned and in place prior to the end of school, along with a few faculty changes. **Young Hi Roberts** (Stokes) (2nd) and **Katie Morgan** (Literacy Coach) will teach the two new Kinder classes. **Amber Thomas** moved from 3rd to teach 1st. **Kristi McCurley** moved from 5th to teach 3rd. **Paige Parker** moved from 3rd to teach 4th. **Elizabeth Eastman** will continue to lead our library, research, and technology areas as our Media Specialist. Our new teachers are:

1st: **Kevin Anderson** (Daily Elementary), **Anna Taylor** (The Rice School)
2nd: **Stephanie Calderon** (Bruce Elementary)
3rd: **Francesca Gibbins** (The Rice School), **Whitney Hill** (Cook Elementary)
Literacy Coach: **Stacey Blake** (Lanier MS)
Structured Learning Class: **Kelly Henderson** (Wilson Elementary)

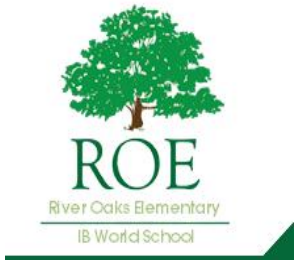
This year, every Texas student will transition from TAKS to the more rigorous State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). In order to fulfill the requirements of House Bill 3, our students will begin the first round of implementation in the spring of 2012. Along with our continued reading fluency and accelerated math initiatives, aligning the STAAR standards to our IB Program of Inquiry and Unit Planners will be a major focus of our work.

Additionally, ROE will take part in the IB's Self-Study and Site Visit in order to maintain our IB World School status. Every family at ROE will have an opportunity to actively participate in the IB evaluation process to make sure we are committed to achieving the required standards and practices set forth by the IB Organization. Specifically, we will evaluate our school's philosophy, the organization and curriculum practices in our school, and make sure we are meeting the needs of *every* child.

Lastly, our annual waiver requesting early dismissal on Wednesdays was approved at no additional cost to ROE! Therefore, school hours will continue as 7:45 a.m. start of school with dismissal at 3:15 p.m. except for Wednesday (early dismissal at 12:45 p.m.).

Again, I am honored to serve our ROE community. Please know my door is always open, and you may reach me at 713.942.1460. I look forward to seeing you in August as we start a new year together.

Sincerely,
KSF
Dr. Keri Fovargue



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July 19, 2011

Dear ROE Families:

I hope you and your families are having a wonderful summer break. We have an exciting time ahead for ROE as we come back from our summer break and get ready for a new school year!

We are very thankful to Mr. Andre Spencer, HISD School Improvement Officer, for leading the Principal Search Committee, along with committee members Paul Heyburn, Liz Palmer, Susan Shenker, Liz Goodman, and Donna Brown-Bennett in the search for a new Principal. It was great that so many of you were able to attend the introductory meeting in June when Mr. Spencer introduced Dr. Keri Fovargue to the ROE community. If you were unable to attend, rest assured that there will be more opportunities for you to meet Dr. Fovargue in the weeks and months ahead. We look forward to working with Dr. Fovargue in her role as the new Head of School. She is amazing and will continue to build on ROE's strong educational foundation, especially its IB program and curriculum for all ROE students.

A special thank you for the amazing PTO support received throughout this past year from our community and parent donations! These funds continue to support essential needs of our school including Kinder and First Grade reading books, an amazing new science lab, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, staff development, field trips, officer support and bully prevention program, as well as our outstanding and important student enrichment programs including math, science, Spanish, Odyssey of the Mind, technology, art, and music.

Our new technology team, which is being overseen by Kef Wilson (VP-Public Relations), is in the process of moving our PTO website to a new server over the summer and then will be working on improvements to our website. Thank you for your patience as our website is under construction at this time.

Please note the following:

1. **Summer Grade Rep Playdates**: Thank you to Meredith Maierson (VP-Internal Relations) and the Grade Representatives in planning the individual grade rep playdates over the summer. Please see the enclosed flyer for dates and contact emails for each grade rep.
2. **School Directory**: Please help us create a complete directory this year for our ROE family by submitting your directory contact information to our Directory team. Spirit ads and business ads are a wonderful special touch to our directory. Please contact Katy Perez and Maria Onufrow at directory@riveroakspto.org for assistance. Please also visit our PTO website www.riveroakspto.org for more information regarding business ads (deadline: August 15th) and spirit ads (Deadline: Sept 7th).
3. **PTO Volunteers**: If you are interested in volunteering and participating in any capacity on PTO, please contact our PTO Volunteer Coordinators Amie Canfield and Madhuri Chilakapati at volunteer@riveroakspto.org. The PTO Board and its Chairs are continuing to build teams and all ROE families are invited to participate. As required by HISD, please go to the HISD website (www.houstonisd.org) and complete the VIPS volunteer process application in order to serve as a parent volunteer at ROE.

4. **School Supplies:** If you have not yet ordered your school supplies for next year, please contact PTO School Supply Chair-Ann Tanabe at school-supplies@riveroakspto.org. Pre-orders were due in June; however, Ann will be happy to assist families as needed.
5. **ROE Connection (After School Program):** Please visit the ROE School Site regarding the after-school program which is coordinated by River Oaks Elementary Administration at www.riveroakselementaryschool.org/roe-connections.
6. **ROE Spirit Store:** Students celebrate their ROE school spirit every Friday by wearing an ROE school t-shirt. Please check out the ROE Spirit store on line at www.riveroakspto.org or at the Meet and Greet on Thursday, August 18th 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the ROE cafeteria to pick up great apparel and items.
7. **Development Update:** In the coming month, we will post updated underwriting opportunities for our ROE events along with additional opportunities on our website as we continue to meet our fundraising needs for our school. We will be looking to expand the corporate "Matching Gift Program" wherein companies match funds given by their employees to non-profit organizations. In addition to matching monetary gifts, companies often will match hours of volunteer work donated by the parent with a financial gift. We greatly appreciate the support we have received from parents working with ExxonMobil in the past through their ExxonMobil Foundation Volunteer Involvement Program and look forward to expanding this program for ROE and other partnerships in our Houston community. Our annual Fall Frenzy Social/Auction Event will be held on November 5th at The Junior League of Houston, Inc. More details to follow on this fun evening. Please contact the Development team (development@riveroakspto.org) with suggestions and names of prospective donors, especially for our events from underwriting to in-kind donations. We will continue to collaborate as we centralize and work on development outreach and fundraising in our ROE parent and neighborhood community.
8. **New Fall Fundraiser:** ROE students will be selling personalized products such as luggage tags, gift labels, memo pads, note cards and lunch bags from our new vendor, The Gift Queen. There are wonderful monogrammed items such as lunch kits, travel bags and wallets, as well as personalized stationery, gift labels and luggage tags available. All items can be purchased online through the ROE Store, the most convenient way for the PTO to process your order. Order packets will be distributed to students during the week of September 12th and sales will end on September 30th. Orders will be delivered to student's classrooms before Thanksgiving break. Please contact our Fall Fundraiser chairs - Colleen Morris and Wendy Selvaggi at fallfundraiser@riveroakspto.org with any questions.
9. **2011-2012 Calendar Events:** Please see the attached save the date flyer for the 2011-2012 calendar of events and mark your calendars for another fun year!
10. **Birthday Book Club:** Coming back again this year is our fabulous Birthday Book Club under the leadership of our PTO Birthday Book Club Chairs Jennifer Randall and Angela Yarborough. More details will follow as we work with Ms. Eastman on the book wish list for the library. As birthdays or special celebrations approach this year, please consider making a donation to the library through the Birthday Book Club. The donated book will contain a nameplate for name recognition inside the book.

Please feel free to email me at president@riveroakspto.org if you would like to learn more about PTO or have any questions. We look forward to another outstanding year together at ROE and hope to see you at the Meet and Greet on Thursday, August 18th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

Holly C. Shilstone

Holly Shilstone
PTO President



ROE
River Oaks Elementary
IB World School

NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION

Tuesday, August 16th 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ROE Cafeteria

Please plan to attend this important ROE Orientation led by our ROE Administration Team.



ROE
River Oaks Elementary
IB World School

Back to School Meet and Greet

Thursday, August 18th

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Class assignments will be posted in your grade hallway.

Refreshments will be on the covered blacktop.

ROE Spirit School store will be in the Cafeteria.

See you there!



Morning Arrival



FIRST BELL – 7:35 A.M. GO TO CLASSROOMS

SECOND BELL – 7:45 A.M. CLASS STARTS / TARDY

- The carpool line enters only heading East on San Felipe.
- Carpoolers are encouraged to arrive prior to 7:30 a.m.
- Parents may park on the area streets to escort children into the building. Please be aware of City of Houston No Parking signage.

As a courteous to our families and safety precaution, please AVOID...

- entering the carpool line from Bellmeade or from the West on San Felipe.
- blocking driveways/traffic, using residential driveways, or making U-turns.
- stopping in the street to let children out of your vehicle.
- using the front circle drive (Buses only) to drop off children.



Dismissal



3:15 p.m. - Dismissal – M, T, Th, F

12:45 p.m. - Dismissal - W

- ROE carpool signs **MUST** be displayed in vehicle windows.
- The carpool line enters only heading East on San Felipe.
- Parents may park on the area streets and walk to designated area for student pickup. Please be aware of City of Houston No Parking signage.
- Meet your child at the designated exit location.

As a courtesy to our families and safety precaution, please AVOID...

- entering the carpool line from Bellmeade or from the West on San Felipe.
- blocking driveways/traffic, using residential driveways, or making U-turns.
- stopping in the street and calling children to the vehicle.
- using the front circle drive (Buses only) to pick up children.
- Bus riders** will meet and load at the front of school.



ROE SUMMER PLAYDATES

Please join the Grade Reps for summer playdates before school starts. Please contact your grade reps to make sure they have your email address on their distribution list.

- July 16th (Saturday) 3rd grade playdate 9-11 a.m. ROE Playground
- July 23rd (Saturday)- 1st grade playdate 9:00 a.m. ROE Playground
- August 13th Kinder playdate 9:00 a.m. Pumpkin Park
- August 16th 2nd grade playdate 5:30-7:30 p.m. ROE playground
- August 19th 5th grade playdate 4-6 p.m. Palace Lanes Bowling Alley
- August 21st 4th grade playdate 2-4 p.m. Palace Lanes Bowling Alley

Grade Rep Contact information:

Liz Daniel and Stephanie Slobin

Firstgrade@riveroakspto.org

Nikki Andrews and Georgi Silverman

secondgrade@riveroakspto.org

Laura Fertak and Colleen Morris

thirdgrade@riveroakspto.org

Stefanie Moll and Christine Tabrizi

fourthgrade@riveroakspto.org,

Linda Elmer and Mary Chang

fifthgrade@riveroakspto.org

(For Kinder, please contact Meredith Maierson, Vice President for Internal Relations at

internalrelations@riveroakspto.org. As per Bylaws, Kinder grade reps will be announced after September PTO Board meeting.)



SAVE THE DATE- PTO EVENTS

August 16th New Family Orientation 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. ROE Cafeteria – led by ROE Administration

August 18th Meet and Greet 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. ROE Parents and Children attend.

August 22nd First Day of School –7:45 a.m. First Day Parent Coffee in Cafeteria

Sept 12th-Sept 30th Fall Fundraiser

Sept 28th School Pictures

Sept 30th ROE Movie Night

Oct 15th ROE Fun Run

Nov 5th Fall Frenzy Auction/Social

Nov 9th School Picture-Retake and Group pictures

Nov 19-20th Off Site Book Fair (Barnes and Noble-W. Gray)

Dec 16th Holiday Class Parties

Feb 13th-Feb 15th ROE Book Fair On-Site

Feb 15th Optional Spring School Portrait Pictures

Mar 31st ROE Family Carnival

Apr 14th OM State Competition

Apr 21st ROE Nature Center Celebration (Earth Day)

May 22nd-May 27th – Odyssey of the Minds World Finals

*Dates contingent as HISD testing dates are pending at this time.