

ROA Director Update
Friday, January 8, 2016

Hello lovely ROA families,

Welcome back and a very Happy 2016. We are back and ready for our spring semester.

Before break, we published our spring workshop schedule. Please note that we made a couple of changes:

1. Dr. Steve's class on Wednesday. This class, now called: **The Biological World** is a continuation of the Molecular Science class from last semester (5-8 grade students—see description and prerequisite).
2. We also added one more writing class with Ms. Leina, which is the **“Research and Writing”** on Wednesday.

Sign-ups will start on Monday, January 11th at 8:00. Please see below for the new sign-up procedures. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us.

NEW....NEW....NEW....

You should have heard of this new and fun In January (starting on 1/12—see below) we are going to offer the **“Prep & Pizza Raffle Extravaganza”** for our students from grade 3-11th. We hope to help our students become more confident and create a better understanding and awareness of the structure of the state mandated measurements this spring. We are going to have a lot of fun, pizza for lunch and raffle prizes for our students. Many prizes have been donated by our vendors and include:

- Robot Inventor's Workshop Kits (Robotics)
- Tickets to teen shows at the L.A. Connection (Dallas James)
- Superhero drawing of your choice (Michael Voogd)
- Stormy Tales books (Alejandra)
- Drop-in class at Esther's Clay Studio (Esther)
- One 9 week session of Mad Science
- 1 hour photo session or a family portrait (Lee)
- Keychain or Name Tag (3D) (Sandbox)
- Free art lesson (Aaron)
- ½ hour of a guitar lesson at Ken's studio (Ken)
- In N Out and Jamba Juice gift certificates and more.....

The schedule for the various groups for this month is:

January 12th (3rd-5th) 10-12:30

January 14th (6th-8th) 10-12:30

January 15th (9th-11th Following CCS)

We are also offering parents of the younger students that **this is a drop-off opportunity**, where you are welcome to leave your youngster with us and take off to go have some fun, relax or get a cup of coffee off campus. We also understand that the PAC is organizing a “Tea for parents” during that time. Please watch out for more info from our PAC.

Please ask your teacher for more information.

River Oaks Academy Writing Marathon

Inviting all writers: Students 4th-12th grade, Parents & Staff
Wednesday January 13th 1:00-4:00
Bring thy writing notebook and writing pens!

What is a writing marathon? It is a space to find your writer's voice, practice the art of writing, affirm your identity as a writer and celebrate writing by sharing and listening. Please arrive promptly at 1:00 to hear directions. Our marathon will include several rounds of stream of consciousness writing in small groups with sharing after each round. Writers will have time to revise their favorite piece and read it to the entire group for an author's chair celebration at the end. Writing by hand is highly encouraged. If an electronic device is used writers are required to stay on a word document! This is a focused space for writers and the expectation is to respect our sacred silence for writing.

RSVP to leina.ball@roavc.com by January 12th

STEAM Expo at ROA on January 21, 6-7:30 pm

Here is the link to the STEAM Expo signup (see flyers in the office)

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eacad29a4fe3-steam>

STEAM EXPO Info:

CALLING ALL STUDENT MAKERS: We are looking for students who are interested in displaying their various STEAM (science, technology, Engineering, Art or Math) projects at our STEAM Expo and mini Makers' Fair January 21st. We are planning to fill our exhibit hall (room 6) with various student projects. Students will be able to present their projects and discuss their creative process with participants. This is an awesome opportunity to share your passion from textiles to technology with others. If you have something you'd like to display let your supervising teacher know so we can save you a space!

CALLING ALL FAMILIES: Don't forget to RSVP if your family will be joining us for all the fun at our STEAM Expo. You do NOT want to miss this! We will have student projects on display in our exhibit hall, allowing you to talk with the students about their creative process. Then you can join our teachers and vendors who have many exciting hands on activities planned, including video game design, coding, cupcake decorating, engineering challenges and more! We are ordering pizza and want to make sure we have enough for everyone. This is a great opportunity to bring friends and family to ROA to see what we are all about. RSVP on Sign up genius. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eacad29a4fe3-steam>

Spring 2016 Workshops and Classes:

The **spring workshop/class schedule starts on Monday, January 25** (same date our 2nd semester starts) and will last for 10 weeks. **Sign-ups for the Spring 2016 workshops/classes will start on January 11th, 2016** (more details on how to sign-up on sign-up genius will be in my January emails).

We appreciate your support with regards to the new sign-up procedures listed below.

Workshop/Class sign-up procedures for the Spring 2016 semester:

To give all of our students a chance to sign-up for workshops, we are asking you to please take the following procedures for sign-ups for the Spring 2016 workshop schedule to heart:

- 1) **On Day 1** of sign-ups, please sign up for **3 workshops per student only**
 - 2) If a workshop/class has a "*" next to it, and your student has attended that workshop previously, please do not sign up for that workshop during the first week at all, to give others a chance.
 - 3) **On Day 2** of sign-ups, you may sign up for **3 more classes per student**, with the exception of any workshop/class that has "*" and your student has attended that workshop/class before (see above)
 - 4) Any classes/workshops that are still open after the first week of sign-ups are open to anybody. However, we ask that you do not sign up for more workshop/ classes than you are actually willing and able to attend.
 - 5) If you are interested in a workshop/class that is full, please email Tezo, so he can put you on the waitlist
- **Also, please note that if your student has to miss a workshop, we are asking you to email Tezo (tezo.vasquez@roavc.com), so we can mark the student absent. Should your student have two unexcused workshop absences, we will open up the spot to another student on the waitlist.**

Thank you for your understanding.

How to sign up with Sign-Up Genius

Sign-up genius will open on Monday, January 11th at 8:00 am.

Step 1:

Please log-in to:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/>

(You will need to create an account to see a list of all the workshops—unless you already have one, at that point, use your previously created one).

Step 2:

At the top of the page you will find a link to "**Find A Sign Up**"

On the right of that page under "**Search by the Sign Up Creator's Email**" enter:

claudia.weintraub@roavc.com

(there will be a "captcha" code that you will need to enter)

Step 3:

You will be taken to a page with the list of all workshops. The workshops are listed alphabetically. You can change the view between "Icon View" and "List View" if you'd like.

Click on the title of the workshop for which you want to sign-up, which will take you to the sign up sheet (this will open a new tab in your browser.)

At the top of that page will be the workshop description and the dates that the workshop will be running.

Scroll down to the first available slot & click "Sign Up." You will then have to click "Submit & Sign Up" at the bottom of the page.

(Please note that the Student Grade Level is a required field.)

On the same page where you are entering the grade level, there is a toggle to display an alternate name for signing up. Please change this to the name of your student that will be attending this workshop.

College and Career Seminar Class Information:

Attention: College Career Seminar students

CCS will **resume on January 15th, 2016**. Note that the resume date is earlier than the other scheduled workshops. Because this class was a late start class, all students who are taking this course will continue through March in order to complete the 18 week requirement for a semester course.

Any questions? Please contact your teacher.
Maria, Nick and Kathy

IMPORTANT NEWS: Due to popular demand, we are going to **offer a 2nd College and Career Seminar Class** for those students who did not have the opportunity to join the one currently in progress. We have a dynamic duo of instructors run this class (Efrain and Alejandra) and believe that this will be an amazing opportunity for our high school students and 8th grade students as well. Both CCS classes will be held on Fridays at the same time and will share speakers and other exciting events. **High school credit will be given to the high school students and to our 8th grade students who are interested in taking this class.** For more information please talk to your teacher. This class will start on Friday, January 29th.

INFORMATION FROM YOUR COUNSELOR:

Attention, River Oaks seniors and parents! We have been invited to attend the **Newbury Park High School Financial Aid Night** on **January 19, 2016**, at 6:45 pm, in the NPHS Performing Arts Center, 456 Reino Road in Newbury Park. A university financial aid officer will be there to present information on the financial aid process, and to offer guidance in completing the FAFSA (the Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Both parents and students are invited to attend this event. If you have questions, please contact Richard Intlekofer, River Oaks Counselor, at richard.intlekofer@roavc.com.

Attention, sophomores and juniors! The **PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test)** is coming to River Oaks! For the first time, our students will have the opportunity to take the PSAT on our own campus. This special administration of the PSAT 10 is designed primarily for tenth graders, but we also encourage our eleventh graders to participate. This exam is a great way to practice for the SAT, which is changing this spring.

The date of the PSAT 10 is **Thursday, February 25, 2016**, here at River Oaks. We will be sending out further information about this valuable pre-college activity in the next few weeks; in the meantime, you can

visit www.collegeboard.org to learn more about the many benefits the PSAT 10 can offer you! You may also contact Richard Intlekofer, River Oaks Counselor, at richard.intlekofer@roavc.com

Problem of the Month:

Calling all students! Join us in solving the "Problem of the Month"—NEW PROBLEM OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY!!!

We hope to engage students at all levels of math, to solve the problem of the month. Put your solutions in the mailbox by Tezo's desk and at the end of the month we'll post the winners!

Together, let's grow in our understanding of the value of problem solving. Let's develop and strengthen our ability to find patterns, solve problems in a variety of ways, and persevere through challenging, engaging tasks. Remember that mistakes are valuable, questions are important, math is about creativity and making sense, connecting and communicating, going deeper, not faster!

Check out the beautifully designed and hand made "Problem of the Month" board outside of Claudia's office.

Many thanks to Anna Steele who made this vision a reality. And thanks to Emma Pedersen for the beautiful artistic display of our problem.

Important Dates:

General Board meeting:	January 13, 2016 @ 6:00 (new start time)
Prep & Pizza Raffle Extravaganza	First Round starts on January 12 th (3 rd -5 th) 10-12:30 January 14 th (6 th -8 th) 10-12:30 January 15 th (9 th -11 th Following CCS)
Writing Marathon	January 13, 2016; 1-4 pm
CCS Class (Kathy, Nick, Maria) resumes	January 15, 2016; <u>New time:</u> 10:15-11:15
STEAM Expo	January 21, 2016; 6-7:30 pm

Happy New Year and welcome back☺
Your River Oaks homeschool team,
Leslie, Nick, Maria, Michal, Kathy, Amylynn, Leina, Teri, Sherri, Nadia, Marni
Tezo and Beverly
and
Claudia