Walking through his Iowa corn field Ray Kinsella hears a voice say, “If you build it, he will come.” Soon Ray plows under his corn and builds a baseball field, a Field of Dreams. Ray was a visionary lone wolf and a spontaneous risk-taker.

Slightly misquoted, “If you build it, they will come,” has been used ever since as a rallying cry by intuitive entrepreneurs, and it describes one style of planning. However, a school’s board of trustees cannot act with such abandon, and in considering whether to launch a high school, Post Oak’s board has been more measured.

Parents expressed strong interest in a high school during the October strategic planning retreat (See “Post Oak 2.0” in the October 29 Weekly Post.) Since then the board has taken a
The sky is NOT the limit!

Bring the family (Elementary-aged children and up) to this **free event (open to the public)** and hear **astronaut** and **Mt. Everest conqueror, Scott Parazynski M.D.** speak at The Post Oak School’s Annual Spring Lecture!

(Childcare is available for Primary children. Reserve your space at the front office. $5 per child)

**What:** Spring Lecture  
**Date:** March 30, 2010  
**Time:** 6:00 pm reception  
6:30 pm lecture  
**Where:** Post Oak gym

This date reflects a change from the school calendar.
series of steps to assess the viability of a Post Oak High School.

It dispatched a committee to visit Montessori High School at University Circle in Cleveland, where they observed the high school in action and met with its leadership team. The committee returned to Houston and delivered an enthusiastic report to the board, recommending that Post Oak base its high school on the Cleveland model. The committee then drafted a vision statement which the board adopted in principal, and which is now being further refined.

Acting on its fiduciary responsibility, the board is developing a pro forma business plan for the high school, to assess its fiscal viability. Post Oak is on solid ground financially and has the resources to contemplate this project, but the board is aware that an effort of this scope entails risk, and wants to understand the dimensions of the school’s exposure.

Adopting the Cleveland model would result in a separate, Museum District campus for the high school. After putting out a call nationally, a committee of the board contacted a number of headmasters who have experience with split campuses. This group sought out the pros and cons of such an arrangement, and were encouraged by the message they heard.

Parents have asked me, “What can we do?”

The board’s next step is to determine your depth of interest in the high school project. School consultant John Littleford is returning to Houston in April and will spend two days at Post Oak, April 21 and 22. It is opera week. There will be intense activity here on campus. And we will want to meet with small groups of parents to hear your views about a Post Oak High School. If you wish to be included, please respond to me (johnlong@postoakschool.org).

I know this letter needs a concluding paragraph. That conclusion will be written by our actions over the next 60 days. Look for the publication of the finished “Vision Statement” for the Post Oak High School in the weeks to come. That will tell the story of what will make this high school both unique and extraordinary. And we’ll keep you informed of progress as we move forward.

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**Volunteer with graphic design skills needed**

The 2011 Gala Invitation Committee is looking for parent volunteers with graphic design skills to work on the committee. If you are interested, please contact Christina Cantu at christinacantu@postoakschool.org.

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**Opera song lyrics - online!**

Parents: you can find the lyrics for the opera Pearl online in the Parent Community. You can get to the parent community by clicking on “Community Login” on the bottom right of the homepage. Your username is your first and last name together, i.e. “johnsmith.” If you cannot remember your password, leave that field blank, and click submit—your password will be emailed to the address we have on file for you.

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**Important dates—school year 2010-11**

Watch The Weekly Post and our website for more information about next year’s academic calendar. Here are a few dates we have already determined:

- Aug. 16–20: First week for Elementary and Middle School
- Aug. 23–27: First week for Infant Community and Primary
- Nov. 24–26: Thanksgiving Break – school closed
- Dec. 20–Jan. 3: Winter Break – school closed
- Jan. 17: Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday – school closed
- Feb. 21: Presidents Day holiday - school closed
- Mar. 14–18: Spring Break – only students with expanded-year contracts attend
- April 22: Good Friday – school closed
- May 27: Last day of school

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Parents and nannies, sign up for the “Nanny Class”

At the request of parents who have taken the 15-hour Redirecting Children’s Behavior course (prerequisite), we are offering a series of four classes designed for nannies.

Deborah Fry, Redirecting Children’s Behavior instructor, will lead this class. The class will be taught in English; however, the workbook is available in Spanish if requested.

Upon completion of the class, the nanny will be able to practice a consistent set of guidelines which harmonize with the Montessori approach; use positive language to redirect children’s behavior; encourage your child’s self-care skills and sense of responsibility; reduce sibling rivalry, and interact to build self esteem.

Thursdays, April 1, 8, 15, and 22
9:00–10:30 am

Pre-registration required;
the cost is $150 per person.

Class limited to 12 participants with a minimum of 10 to be held.

Call Deborah Fry at 713-840-8663 to register.
**WATER NYMPHS**

“Water nymphs we are, as playful as can be, Happy as we swim in the water, in the sea.”

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**EDDYS**

“We are the eddys, we gurgle so small
In winter are cold, in summer are warm
Strongest in springtime, slowest in fall
Ever and always we come before the storm!”

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**CREW FROM LONG’S CLASS**

“We heft and heave, we paint and weave, for we love to create
The sights you’ll see, you’ll sigh with glee, there’s not too long to wait!”
Let me introduce myself. My name is Amelinda Melanson (daughter of Christianne, sister to Caroline and Bethany Sharp) and I graduated from Post Oak in 2001. I went to Bellaire High School and graduated 2005, then went to Texas A&M University and graduated in 2009. I majored in mechanical engineering, and while in school I worked at Texas Steel Conversion (owned by Brian Binau - Kate’s father), Halliburton, and Frito Lay as summer internships. I also studied environmental engineering in Spain during Summer 2007. In school I was involved in The Big Event (http://bigevent.tamu.edu/) where I really enjoyed helping coordinate such a large community service day. I was an officer in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (A&M student chapter) where we helped bring speakers of many industries to speak to the students about the many opportunities available to them. I enjoy traveling, and spent all my summer job savings on trips during school and after graduation (Ireland, Egypt, Germany, Spain, Italy, England, Greece, & Croatia). I’m very glad I spent the time and money traveling when I did because now I have no vacation time to go anywhere! I now spend my free time reading and hanging out with friends.

At work I am a mechanical engineer for the packaging team. I help work on projects to change the packaging we have and work with vendors to develop new equipment. I spend many weeks in Minnesota where it stays below freezing for several months in a row!

Anyway, I have no idea what you would want to know all this silly information for but my mom said you guys ask for
updates, so there you go!

I hope everything is going well and that the school is still as awesome as I remember it. If I wasn’t tied to my job in Plano, I wish I could send my future kids to Post Oak. It was such a wonderful experience.

Thanks,
Amelinda

P.S. If I had to pick one thing, the once-a-week community service that the middle school does was the most impactful part of my POS experience.

Amelinda on a four-wheeler driving along the cliff coast of the island of Santorini, Greece.

Class pictures

**Wednesday, April 14**

Please do not schedule any appointments for your children on this day. We are not able to reschedule or make-up class pictures and would like everyone to be included.

Bearkats · Volleyball

Come cheer on the Bearkats volleyball team!

The last volleyball game against St. Stephen’s will be March 31. Intramurals will continue for fourth, fifth, and sixth grades on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until April 29, which will be the last day for intramurals. **Spring Signing Day** for Bearkats is April 28. This will help us determine the approximate number of athletes we will have for the 2010-2011 sports seasons. Please look for more information in the coming months via emails and our newsletter.
Students raise $1,025 with art sale to benefit Haiti

by 3rd grade students

When we heard about the earthquake in Haiti, we immediately wanted to do something to help the children there. We decided to have an art sale to raise money for Haiti to help them recover from their earthquake. Each person in our class painted one painting. The paintings were sold in the atrium and we raised more money than we thought we would. We raised $1,025. We are so honored that we had a chance to help Haiti during their tough time.
Our trip to Austin was very fun. We went to a lot of exciting and educational places. We went to the Capitol, Bob Bullock Museum, Zilker Botanical Garden, Pioneer Farms, a bat boat, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. My favorite place was the Zilker Botanical Garden. It was very pretty and peaceful with all the flowers and trees. The last night there we went bowling. It was so cool, it was all neon and music was playing. It was great! Although I didn’t make one strike, I had a lot of fun. The Austin trip was a great experience.

I had so much fun in Austin! We did many things. On the first day we went to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and we went to the Capitol, Bob Bullock Museum, Pioneer Farms and Zilker Gardens. We also went to the IMAX theater and saw Arabia. We saw a 4-D movie of Texas heroes and Texas weather. On the last night we swam in the hotel pool and went bowling. At the bowling place we had pizza, lemonade and chicken tenders. It was awesome!!

I thought that the wild Texas Weather 4-D show at the Bob Bullock State History Museum was really cool. All the special effects: mist in the air, thunder, lightning, chairs shaking, hurricanes, and floods were my favorite. Another favorite activity was the Zilker Botanical Gardens because it had awesome waterfalls, bridges, and fish in ponds. It was too beautiful.

I loved the trip to Austin; it was lots of fun! I loved visiting Pioneer Farms! I loved it because it had a lot of stuff to do with animals.

Austin was really fun! My favorite place was the Pioneer Farms because it was fun learning how the pioneers lived!
1. Arranging flowers.
2. Building words with the moveable alphabet.
3. A group effort towards the luncheon.
4. Going the extra mile for a report display.
5. Working with an addition chart.
6. Unlocking the puzzle.
7. The thousand chain is the easiest because you count in tens—we can do it the fastest!
8. Gathered around for a drawing.
Host family needed

A host family is needed in April for a visiting Montessori administrator from London, England. Jane Lueckens is the head of the Elementary school at the Maria Montessori Institute in London. She works with Lynne Lawrence, executive director of Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and head of the school. Please contact Lower School Director Mirani Smith if you are able to provide accommodations for Jane.

Middle School walking practice?

The reason the Post Oak Middle School has been walking during physical fitness class is for preparation for Washington D.C. We will not be renting a car, and will instead use the subway. As it seems pointless to take the subway to places that are less than a mile or so away, we need to practice walking in a way so that we stay in a group and move at an efficient pace. It is also important to practice walking so that we can record our data and use the data to plan our trip. For an example, walking 1.6 miles took us 28 minutes at a pace of 3.2 miles per hour. From this data, we can say we should leave around 20 minutes before the time we want to get to our destination if our destination is a mile away.

Lost & Found box to be emptied soon

Parents: please come and have a look for your children’s things in our Lost & Found box in the front lobby. The box will be emptied on April 1 (no fooling!) and its contents will be donated to charity.
Barbara Hacker’s green tips of the week

Consider sending postcards instead of greeting cards with envelopes, for a huge paper savings.

Use a broom instead of a vacuum or dust buster whenever you can. You can even sweep flat-weave and low-pile carpets and rugs for quick cleanup. For a deeper clean, take them outside and beat them silly.

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**How Green Was My Weekly Post?**

We print The Weekly Post each Friday. If you’d like to save paper and ink, consider reading the news online. Contact Shannon Neufeld (shannonneufeld@postoakschool.org) to arrange an electronic subscription.

**Reminder: no Cell Phones**

Parents and caregivers, please remember not to use your mobile devices to talk, text, or anything else while driving on our campus, especially during arrival and dismissal. You may only use them while your car is in park.

**Carpooling is cool!**

Have you thought of carpooling? It saves on gas, lightens the traffic in our driveway, and saves time. Consider calling a Post Oak neighbor to share the driving duty.

**About the Weekly Post**

The Weekly Post appears on most Fridays of the regular school year. You can receive a printed copy from your oldest child, or a PDF version online.

Submit letters, articles, or photos in electronic form by 5 pm on the Tuesday before publication to Communications Coordinator Shannon Neufeld (shannonneufeld@postoakschool.org).

**The Post Oak School**

The Post Oak School, founded in 1963 and accredited by both the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)

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