Seven. Is that the number of sides in a triangle?

No.

Is it the number of angles in a triangle?

No.

Seven is the number of different kinds of triangles.

Seven? Most of us adults, if we remember any of our basic geometry, remember equilateral, isosceles and scalene: the three kinds of triangle classified according to the sides. When we combine that with the triangles named according to the angles (acute, obtuse and right), we get seven.

But why seven? If we set up a little grid, we can see the system:

continued on page 3
Buon giorno!
The Post Oak Parents Association reminds you to mangia at Maggiano’s this Tuesday, September 14!

Don’t forget to join us at Maggiano’s Little Italy on this Tuesday for this year’s POPA Dinner, including cocktails and a seated dinner served family style upstairs in Maggiano’s homey parlor setting. This unique dining style not only promises heart-warming delicious food, but also provides opportunities for lively table conversations among the “old and new” members of the Post Oak family. For those new to Post Oak, we invite you to come and meet other parents in this relaxed atmosphere. Been a while since you last attended a POPA Dinner? We’d like to welcome you back.

If you have already responded, thank you. Otherwise, please respond by dropping off the reply card and payment at the front desk as soon as you can.

antipasto: stuffed mushrooms & bruschetta
primo: chopped apple & walnut salad with tomato caprese
secondo: bowtie pasta with asparagus paired with rigatoni chicken, mushrooms and marsala
terzo: oven-roasted pork, salmon with lemon herb, or eggplant Parmesan (vegetarian option)
dolce: apple crostata with ice cream & chocolate zucotto cake
Since an equilateral triangle always has three sixty degree angles, it cannot have an obtuse angle and it cannot have a right angle. That means there are seven and only seven kinds of triangle...when they are classified according to sides and angles.

We can add interest, making the detectives job just a little more challenging by giving a clue that adds two more characteristics:

“Find the large, blue acute scalene triangle.”

And of course Elementary students can qualify as triangle detectives. Or as that English detective Sherlock Holmes famously said to his partner, “Elementary, my dear Watson.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Side Description</th>
<th>No Equal Sides</th>
<th>Two Equal Sides</th>
<th>Three Equal Sides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One obtuse angle</td>
<td>Obtuse scalene triangle</td>
<td>Obtuse isosceles triangle</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One right angle</td>
<td>Right scalene triangle</td>
<td>Right isosceles triangle</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only acute angles</td>
<td>Acute scalene triangle</td>
<td>Acute isosceles triangle</td>
<td>Equilateral triangle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The new faces of The Post Oak School

Sandra De Leon joins Post Oak as an assistant in Upper Elementary with Debbie Nickerson. She is currently pursuing a B.A. at the University of Houston-Downtown toward becoming an EC-6 bilingual generalist. She is a member of the Urban Educators Literacy Society where she spends time reading to children, fundraising, and doing children’s literature research. She also attended the Art Institute of Houston while working on her associate’s degree in fine arts. Sandra enjoys volunteering and has worked with organizations such as the Houston Food Bank and the House of Tiny Treasures. Some of her academic interests include bilingual education, discipline management, and special education.

Sandra has a eight-year-old son with whom she enjoys doing artwork. In her spare time, she likes going to museums, being outdoors, cooking (and eating!), and exploring new places. She loves taking her two Miniature Schnauzers to the dog park.

James Moudry joins Post Oak as the Middle School and High School Director and has 16 years’ experience in education. Before coming to Post Oak, he served as the director of administrative affairs at the Montessori High School at University Circle in Cleveland, Ohio. James has worked in Montessori adolescent programs since 1999 as a teacher, program coordinator administrator, and coach. He has presented at the North American Montessori Teachers Association’s Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies and has spoken on program design and community-centered education nationally and internationally. He is dedicated to Montessori education, and he and his wife (also Montessori trained) have three children. James attributes his decision to work in Montessori education to his parents who sent him and his brother to Montessori school through middle school.

James has a master’s degree in Montessori education, holds the AMI Primary Diploma, and a B.A. in philosophy, mathematics, and psychology. James enjoys home renovations and snow. His three children attend The Post Oak School.

Laura Roark joins Post Oak as the lead teacher in Upper Elementary. Laura was born in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. She earned her B.S. degree in geology from the Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosí, Mexico. She then worked as a geologist with Mexico’s Comisión Federal de Electricidad. After moving to Texas, she was employed as a geologist for the Winn Oil Company in Eagle Pass.

A year later Laura moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where she and her husband decided to start their family. Laura spent six years after her first child was born enjoying motherhood and then became the Spanish teacher at the Barbara Gordon Montessori School (BGMS) where her children attended. She moved with her children to St. Alcuin Montessori School where she assisted in a Lower Elementary classroom. Later, she became one of the Spanish teachers while she earned her Primary Montessori Diploma from the Texas Montessori Education Center in New Braunfels, Texas. She returned to St. Alcuin as a Primary guide and remained in that position for the next three years.

In June 2000, Laura received her Elementary Montessori Diploma from Fondazione Centro Internazionale Studi Montessori in Bergamo, Italy, and returned to BGMS as a Lower Elementary guide where she taught for seven years. In 2007, Laura became the head of school at BGMS. She served in that position for three years. In the summer of 2009, Laura received the certificate from The North American Montessori Teacher’s Association (NAMNTA) for the completion of “A Montessori Orientation to Adolescents Studies.” Laura also participated in the Montessori Institute of North Texas training center in Dallas as an Elementary course assistant with Dr. Jean Miller.
Matt served for 11 years in the United States Navy, and is well-versed in repair, maintenance, and retrofit of HVAC systems, as well as marine propulsion and auxiliary and emergency power generation. He is a State of Texas registered a/c technician and has the EPA Universal CFC certification.

In his downtime, Matt enjoys spending time with his wife and daughters and likes fishing, boating, camping, and hunting.

Simran Sood, a Post Oak parent for the past nine years, begins her Association Montessori Internationale Elementary training this year and will return to us an Elementary teaching intern. As a parent, she has a special interest in becoming a Montessori educator. After working for 15 years in information technology for a leading oil and natural gas company in Houston, she seeks a fulfilling and rewarding career as an Elementary Montessori teacher. Her strong interest in the Montessori pedagogy, a desire to guide young lives and respect for the inherent dignity of the child should assist in making her an integral part of the Post Oak Community. Simran has a bachelor’s degree in English Literature from Lady Shri Ram College at University of Delhi, a master’s degree in English Literature from University of Delhi, and is currently pursuing her master’s degree in Elementary Montessori education from Loyola University in Maryland. She is an avid reader, enjoys yoga, trekking and jewelry making.

For more information on Post Oak faculty, visit our website under About Post Oak—> Our Community—> Faculty OR Staff

Call for library volunteers

Volunteers are needed to work in the Post Oak library. If you have some time during the week, please consider volunteering in the library. Any amount of time is helpful. Contact Librarian B.R. Simon at brsimon@postoakschool.org.
Mason Harrell just began his junior year at Southern Methodist University. He is a talented tennis player majoring in business and advertising. But it’s not a stretch for him to remember back to his days in Mirani Smith’s Primary class.

“I could talk about Mirani for hours,” Mason reflected during an interview this summer. “It’s all good. I got a great start in her class. I didn’t always like it because she was firm, but she is an amazing teacher. She knows exactly what she has to do... And now she’s a great friend.”

Mason reminisced about the butterfly garden where Mirani would work with the children. That butterfly garden is still in use at Post Oak today, and the children now think it’s just as fun as Mason and others did. “I played some basketball with her, too,” said Mason. “On the playground—she would come out and play with us every now and then. It was when the Rockets were winning their championships and it was just fun for everyone.”

Mason started at Post Oak in Infant Community and attended through grade five. “I had a lot of fun with friends in every grade,” says Mason. “We always had fun together. Even though we were in class and focused on our work, we were around each other and were able to socialize. We had to get our work done, obviously, but I enjoyed being with them and being free to move around. It was nice.”

When asked if he noticed a difference in his Montessori education compared to friends outside of school, he said there was one thing that is easy to notice: manners. He said he always felt confident in how to behave. “I was always confident when I went over to somebody’s house and asked for something, I knew exactly what to say, and I was always polite. I just had really good training I guess. I think it’s something that a lot of kids don’t get. I think there’s a difference because [at Post Oak] they teach you that from the very beginning.”

Parents occasionally worry that when their children leave Montessori school, they won’t be ready for school in a traditional setting. Mason said that was not the case for him when he went to Bellaire High School. “I was confident going in,” he said. “I wasn’t worried about grades or anything like that. They teach good time management here [at Post Oak]... Time management is something that I definitely learned from Montessori, especially as I got older.”

And Mason needed time management particularly when it came to incorporating sports into life. He started playing basketball at Post Oak with Mark Tucker (and with Mirani on occasion) and later started playing tennis at the same time. Eventually, he had to choose between them, and tennis won out. In addition to tennis, Mason tutored young Post Oak children in reading and writing during his senior year at Bellaire. Mason continues to play tennis at SMU.

continued on page 7
Making us greener while helping others

Alumna works repurposing computers

Post Oak Alumna Sara (Mitchell) Bushell (eighth-grade graduating class of ’97) works with the non-profit organization Comp-U-Dopt accepting old computers (and accessories) for refurbishing. The organization then gives them to children who don’t have a computer at home. All data on the donated computers is erased and “Edubuntu,” an educational version of Linux, is installed. Each computer (and accessories) is tested and cleaned before being “adopted” by a child. Any donation that does not meet the minimum requirements (1 GHz or faster processor, 20 GB hard drive, 512 MB of RAM, CD drive, Ethernet capability) is broken down for parts and then recycled by our partner, TechnoCycle, a registered recycler with the EPA.

In addition to her work at Comp-U-Dopt, Sarah worked at Post Oak during summer 2010 teaching a course called “IT Girls.” She is currently teaching a developmental math course at Lone Star College and she has also worked for Google and Adobe Systems, Inc. in San Jose, Calif. Sarah has a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and later received a master’s degree in computer science with a specialty in human-computer interaction from Stanford University. For high school, Sarah attended Episcopal High School, where she worked in the summertime at the help desk, providing hardware and software technical support to students and teachers.

Comp-U-Dopt usually holds an “Adoption Session” at a school or community center every other Saturday. Children who have filled out an application and written an essay about why they would like a computer are invited to attend. They attend a training session on how to use the educational software and operating system and write a thank you note before taking their new computers home. This fall, Comp-U-Dopt will be giving out its 1,000th computer.

Post Oak parents frequently ask us where to recycle a computer. We encourage you to contact Comp-U-Dopt and check out donation information and information about other programs they offer on their website: www.compudopt.org.

Wanted: Future Cub Scouts!

Boys who will be in grades 1–5 can join Cub Scouts. Find out more at a parent orientation, Thursday, September 16 at 6:15-6:45 pm at St. Mark’s Hauser Hall. The monthly pack meeting will follow from 7:00-8:00 pm. Join Cub Scouts now to participate in fun activities sponsored by Pack 34 & the Golden Arrow District (serving St. Mark’s Episcopal School, Mark Twain Elementary, and The Post Oak School).

Contact, Clubmaster Mike Sisolak, at 281-723-2562, or email michael.sisolak@aig.com.

In comparing his educational experience in traditional school vs. Montessori school, Mason spoke about independent thinking. Mason said because Montessori students are able to explore freely, he feels that they probably learn more academically than in traditional schools. “I think it would be easier to learn [in Montessori] because you’re not as boxed in as you are in traditional schools,” he said. “You’re not just reading from a book and listening to the teacher all the time. You’re thinking about more. In high school [at Bellaire], we just read from books and it was much more boring. And if it’s boring, then you don’t want to learn it. If you have more freedom and a wider range of what you’re learning from, you’ll want to learn more. I think public school parents should be talking about that.”

Dear Post Oak Community,

The countdown is on. As of today Friday September 10, 2010, there are 22 weeks until the big event! The Post Oak Biennial Gala, “Dancing across Cultures” will be Friday, February 4, 2011, at the Houstonian Hotel. Gala years are full of fun and excitement, although all of the activities, volunteer opportunities, and support requests can be a bit daunting. The Gala happens only once every two years and all proceeds go toward making Post Oak the inspiring environment we all know and love.

- Be on the lookout for your underwriting letter in the mail next week. Individual families can sponsor a table as well as multiple families and companies. Several different underwriting levels will be available.

- Later this month we will be kicking off an air miles and credit card point campaign as well as asking for donations of family vacation homes, sporting event tickets and other hot items. Contact Paula Mey or Suzan Samuels to donate an item and stay tuned for more information via The Weekly Post.

- Mark your calendars for November 10. The wine committee will be hosting a wonderful wine tasting event at the Tasting Room. Proceeds from ticket sales will be used to purchase wine for the auction. Come mix and mingle with other parents while you support Post Oak. Tickets go on sale the week beginning Oct 11th.

- Another opportunity to support the Gala and Post Oak is advertising. Renée Locklar and her team are selling ads to be included in the Gala Program. Pick up a packet at the front office and pass it along to your favorite service providers or contact Renée at mglrmz@att.net.

Please keep an eye on The Weekly Post for gala updates, previews of fabulous auction items and sneak peeks at the amazing class projects. Lastly, for those of you that have already volunteered, thank you. Knowing you are a part of the team makes this monumental task seem scalable. If you would like to join the Gala team, please call or email me at or

Looking forward to a great event,

Annette Gregory
Becoming a learning-oriented person

John,

My daughter _______ just started in Emily’s Primary class last week and is loving it. I love seeing her enthusiasm about doing her work and spending the morning with her new friends.

Also, I just read your blog entry “Proving vs. Improving,” and I find the research on learning versus performance orientation to be fascinating.

I first became interested in this topic as a prospective parent when I read about it in “Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius.” That section so resonated with me, as I was a high-achieving student in the conventional public school system. While I always loved learning, I do remember being hesitant to take risks with my school work sometimes for fear of sacrificing a grade or appearing not smart enough. Retraining myself to be a mostly learning-oriented person has probably been one of the biggest and most worthwhile challenges of my adulthood.

Seeing the research supporting learning orientation was one of many things that convinced me of the value of a Montessori education for my children. I feel if my husband and I can raise them to love learning and believe that through effort they can learn whatever they want, that we will have helped prepare them in life much more than all the A’s and awards in the world would.

Please continue to write about any new developments in this area and keep up the good work changing the world.

Best regards,
Amy Lindsey

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Field Day t-shirts for sale!

Order deadline is Thursday, September 16

Get into the festivities on Saturday, October 16, by wearing the official 2010 Field Day t-shirt! Order your t-shirts early to get one of these awesome hand tie-dyed custom designs done by our very own Post Oak students! Orders are due by Thursday, September 16, so be sure to hand yours in early. Shirts are $15 each—get one for each member of the family!

COST: $15 each

Student’s name: ________________________________________

Phone: __________________________

Class (of oldest child): __________________________

Number of shirts ordered: _______ Total enclosed: $______

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“Proving vs. Improving,” from John Long’s blog, “Education by Design”
http://educationbydesign.blogspot.com/

“Students learn and behave differently if they—and their teachers—focus on improving their knowledge and competence rather than proving it.”

Students who focus too heavily on performance ironically perform less well academically, think less critically, and have a harder time overcoming failure.

Read it online:
SCENES from The Post Oak School

1. Helping a friend with the Pink Tower.
2. Jah–eh–ttt... jet!
3. Pin map collaboration.
4. Focused on art.
5. Where does this triangle fit?
7. Spanish lesson in Upper Elementary.
8. Discussing algebraic properties.
9. Adding four-digit numbers with the stamp game in Lower Elementary.
10. Showing a friend the red rods.
11. Contemplating and researching the layers of the earth.
13. The art of good hand washing.
CALENDAR

For more, visit www.postoakschool.org

NOTICE BOARD

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent©

Post Oak Counselor Phylis Tomlinson presents “Becoming a Love and Logic Parent©” curriculum for Elementary age and beyond. The class will be given Thursdays from 9:00–10:30 am in the Post Oak multipurpose room (formerly called the reading room) on the following dates:

Sept. 16, 23, 30, & Oct. 14* continuing Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4 & 11

*Only the October 14 class will meet in the Tile Room—this is a change of date from October 7.

Topics include:
- The Two Rules of Love and Logic©
- Delayed or “Anticipatory” Consequences
- Using Empathy and Love and Logic One-Liners to Neutralize Arguing
- How to get more information about Love and Logic

This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately.

These classes require pre-registration by calling Phylis at 713-661-6688 ext. 176.

Only cost: $10.00.

Barbara Hacker’s green tip of the week

Some fruits and vegetables have more pesticides than others. Consider purchasing the organic version of these dirty dozen: peaches • apples • bell peppers • celery • nectarine • strawberries • cherries • kale • lettuce • imported grapes • carrots • pears. These are the clean 15: onion • avocado • sweet corn • pineapple • mango • asparagus • sweet peas • kiwi • cabbage • eggplant • papaya • watermelon • broccoli • tomato • sweet potato

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 5:00 pm on the Tuesday before publication to Communication Coordinator Shannon Neufeld (shannonneufeld@postoakschool.org). If publication is on a Thursday due to school closure on Friday, then the deadline is 5:00 pm on the preceding Monday.

All photos in The Weekly Post are by Shannon Neufeld unless otherwise noted.

The Post Oak School was 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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