“You can’t understand Google,” Vice President Marissa Mayer says, “unless you know that both Larry and Sergey were Montessori kids.” She’s referring to schools based on the educational philosophy of Maria Montessori, an Italian physician born in 1870 who believed that children should be allowed the freedom to pursue their interests. “In a Montessori school, you go paint because you have something to express or you just want to do it that afternoon, not because the teacher said so,” she says. “This is baked into how Larry and Sergey approach problems. They’re always asking, why should it be like that? It’s the way their brains were programmed early on.”

continued on page 2
A few ingredients in Larry Page’s stew of traits stand out unmistakably. He is brainy, he is confident, he is parsimonious with social interaction. But the dominant flavor in the dish is his boundless ambition, both to excel individually and to improve the conditions of the planet at large. He sees the historic technology boom as a chance to realize such ambitions and sees those who fail to do so as shamelessly squandering the opportunity. To Page, the only true failure is not attempting the audacious. “Even if you fail at your ambitious thing, it’s very hard to fail completely,” he says. “That’s the thing that people don’t get.”

Parents are rightly interested in our curriculum. They want to know what children learn in our classrooms. Notice the content of the list above. Not one of those characteristics refers to WHAT children know. It is all about personal traits that make the difference between being just another computer engineer and being a founder of Google, a visionary entrepreneur, and a shaper of our culture.

How can a school teach personal traits?

Google. Montessori.

Google’s founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin were Montessori kids who met in graduate school at Stanford.

Montessori kids make good. There’s a story we love.

But here’s the real story: Montessori kids make good because of their Montessori education.

How did their Montessori education uniquely prepare Larry Page and Sergey Brin for success with Google? Montessori education “baked into” them certain traits:

- a creative approach to problem solving;
- a mindset that won’t settle for the status quo;
- a willingness to think big, to dream audaciously;
- the courage to pursue their dreams;
- the courage to risk failure;
- self-confidence;
- boundless ambition to excel individually;
- a desire to impact the wider culture, in fact, a sense of responsibility to do so;
- a sense of responsibility for the earth;

Parents are rightly interested in our curriculum. They want to know WHAT children learn in our classrooms. Notice the content of the list above. Not one of those characteristics refers to WHAT THEY KNOW. It is all about personal traits that make the difference between being just another computer engineer and being a founder of Google, a visionary entrepreneur, and a shaper of our culture.

Go back to Marissa Mayer’s comment, “You can’t understand Google unless you understand that both Larry and Sergey were Montessori kids.” The way children are educated shapes who they become. It “bakes into them” certain traits. Look at the list of traits once again, a list identified by people who work with Brin and Page at Google, people who work with them on a daily basis, people who attribute their success to their Montessori education.

What do you want for your child?

Copyright John Long and The Post Oak School

Underlined phrases in this article are links to websites—you can access them in the online edition from our website (link on the left side of the homepage).

These Upper Elementary girls said, “We wanted to research abstract art and Jackson Pollock, so we’re doing a splatter painting.”
The Post Oak Dad’s Club Presents:

An Evening with Chris Cooney, the winemaker for Napa Valley’s highly acclaimed Uppercut, Provenance and Hewitt wineries

Wednesday, March 30, 2011
6:30pm with tasting to begin at 7:00pm
The Crabtree House

The event is free and wine will be available to purchase from a retail partner with a percentage of all proceeds going to the school.

Provenance Vineyard
Hewitt Vineyard

Light Hors d’œuvres
Everyone Welcome, But Space is Limited
RSVP to

Pair of John Humphries Shag earrings
$100 - $50
[Donated by Mignon Faget, Ltd.] Take home these beautiful John Humphries small shag earrings made of sterling silver from Mignon Faget, Ltd.
Non-refundable/non-exchangeable.

Looking for old pictures!

Cinco de Mayo

For part of our 20th anniversary celebration of Cinco de Mayo, we are looking for previous Cinco pictures for our slide show. We would like to include students from all classes. If you have any that you would like to share or know someone who has pictures, please submit them via the link on the left side of the homepage (if they are digital or have been scanned in), or for hard copies, please bring them to Norma Paulin here at Post Oak. Please label all photos, both digital and hard copies, with your name and the year. We will return hard copies as soon as possible.

Class Pictures

Wednesday, March 30
Beginning at 8:30 am

Please see that your child arrives to school on time. We will not be able to re-take pictures if someone is late.

Remaining Gala Auction Items

Pair of John Humphries Shag earrings
$100 - $50

Splash Day

$50

Let your child be one of the lucky 20 Primary children who get to enjoy an unforgettable Post Oak experience—Splash Day with Millie & Diana! There will be cool playtime and games in the sprinklers, and great age-appropriate activities. Pizza, popsicles, and fruit and veggie snacks will be on hand for all. Children should bring their personal belongings—swimsuit, towel, sandals, and sunscreen. Post Oak will provide the fun!

Event date: Saturday, June 18.
(10 spots remaining at $50 each)
Bake Sale
Tues., March 29
10 am–1:30 pm
To benefit the Houston SPCA

Several students from Laura Roark’s Upper Elementary class will host a bake sale to benefit the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (HSPCA).

Please send $3-5 dollars with your child to participate in this student-driven effort. Additional donations are welcome.

Cinco de Mayo!

Student’s name: ________________________________

Class (of oldest child): ___________________________

Phone number: _________________________________

Number of t-shirts: ______________________________

Total $ enclosed ($15/ea): ________________________

Deadline is Monday, April 1. T-shirts are available by pre-order only. Write checks to “The Post Oak School,” with “Cinco t-shirt” in memo line. Order online with a credit card through the link on the left side of the homepage.

Redirecting Children’s Behavior

The Gentle Art of Parenting

Pre-register for this 15-hr. course designed to guide parents to use discipline as a process of teaching children self-control and responsibility. This class is a positive, powerful, informative and fun training course that will give you a system to handle every situation in which adults and children interact, from infancy to adolescence. Visit www.deborah-fry.com for more information.

Dates: June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (five Wed. evenings)

Time & Place: 6:15–9:15 pm at Post Oak

Cost: $225 per person, $325 per couple

For registration, call 713-840-8663.

Deborah Fry, PhD is a certified instructor for the International Network for Children and Families. She gives talks and seminars for parents, teachers, and people involved with children and families, as well as teach three-year-olds at Westminster Weekday School.

Primary afternoon children will perform regional songs and dances from Latin America, in costume, at the Episcopal High School auditorium on Friday, April 29, 2011. Post Oak’s classroom assistants are very active in this traditional celebration, which commemorates the Mexican victory over French forces at the Battle of the Puebla in 1862.

T-shirt order deadline is Friday, April 1, 2011

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Cinco de Mayo performance DVD online at:

www.jphotographyonline.com/Clients/postoakschool

DVD

Pre-order a Cinco de Mayo performance DVD online at:

DVD $30

Blu-Ray $40

Orders will be shipped on Wednesday, May 18, 2011.
Is your life too plastic?

Plastic is disposable... just throw it away.

but, where is away?

there is no away.

Join us for the documentary feature for this year's Post Oak School 2011 Annual Spring Environmental Event. Wed., April 20, 7:00 pm in the gym.
1. Working together to improve the community by preparing to add roses to the Peace Circle garden.

2. Whipping up some cheese popovers in Full-Day Infant Community.

3. Using creativity to make an instant book while writing up research on foxes.

4. You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You, is the name of the story in Primary.

5. Giving a tour of the class garden.

6. Learning how to create a rope at Armand Bayou.

7. Planting the seed in Infant Community.
Important dates for the 2011-2012 school year

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. 15–19       First week for Elementary and Middle School  Mar. 12–16       Spring Break – only students with
Aug. 22–26       First week for Infant Community and Primary
Oct. 10          Columbus Day – school closed        April 6            Good Friday – school closed
Nov. 23–25       Thanksgiving Break – school closed  May 25             Last day of school
Jan. 16          Martin Luther King Jr. holiday – school closed
Feb. 20          Presidents Day holiday – school closed

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**Infant-Parent classes at the Motherhood Center**

The Infant and Parent classes offered at the Motherhood Center are facilitated by Post Oak Infant Community teachers Deidre Lodrig & Sarah Moudry.

Learn about: Montessori principles; preparing the home with the child in mind; how to encourage independence; language development; movement; weaning; toileting; active learning & concentration

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<th>Class A: Birth-Crawling</th>
<th>Class B: Crawling-Walking</th>
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<td>Mondays &amp; Thursdays for 10 weeks (1:30–3:00 pm)</td>
<td>Tuesdays for 10 weeks (1:30–3:00 pm)</td>
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<td>Mar. 21–May 19, 2011; $500/child or $900/sibling price</td>
<td>Mar. 22–May 17, 2011; $250/child or $450/sibling price</td>
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**Note:** $10 non-refundable registration fee added at checkout.


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**Toddler Parenting classes at Post Oak**

“How to Parent a Toddler” an adults-only class for prospective parents taught by Infant Community teacher Deidre Lodrig

**Dates:** Mondays, March 21–May 9 (8 weeks)

**Time:** 2:00–3:00 pm @ Post Oak, Deidre’s class

**Fee:** $160

**Topics will include:** working with your child in a Montessori way; discipline; grace and courtesy; peaceful households/dining with toddlers; play dates; choosing developmentally appropriate toys; supporting independence for your child; parent/child activities

To register, visit [www.postoakschool.org](http://www.postoakschool.org) and go to: “For Parents” —> “Parent Education” and click on the link for “Toddler Parenting Classes”
**CALENDAR**

For more, visit [www.postoakschool.org](http://www.postoakschool.org)

**MARCH 27–APRIL 2**

- **Wed 3/30** Class Picture Day
  - begins at 8:30 am
- **Thu 3/31** Bearkats Volleyball game
  - 4:15 pm
- **Thu 3/31** Dad’s Club Wine Event
  - 7:00 pm
- **Fri 3/31-4/1** Nanny Class begins
  - (reg. req’d; 4-week course)
- **Fri 3/31-4/1** Third Graders to Camp Allen
- **Fri 04/01** Cinco de Mayo t-shirt order deadline today

**APRIL 3 – 9**

- **Mon-Fri 4/4-4/8** Middle School to Blackwood Land Institute
- **Tue 4/5** Upper El & Middle School parent dinner & tour at Blackwood Land Inst.
  - 6:00–8:00 pm
- **Wed 4/6** POPO Coffee & Work Day
  - 8:45 am–1:00 pm
- **Fri 4/8** Conference Day; classes not in session—only students with expanded-year contracts attend
  - Middle School is in session

**NOTICE BOARD**

**Welcome Baby Dilger**

Dilger was born on March 10, 2011, at 7:43 am. He weighed 6 lbs. 7 oz., and was 19.5 inches long. Parents Andrea & Robert Dilger are overjoyed. Andrea is a physical fitness specialist at Post Oak and will join us again in August.

**Becoming a Love & Logic Parent©**

This parenting course series is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately for enjoying parenting and giving children opportunities to grow into wisdom. Open to all parents and grandparents in the greater community.

To join the Love & Logic® Insider’s Club and receive emails on Love & Logic® topics, please visit [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com).

**Spring Parenting Classes**

- **Wednesday evenings, 6:30–8:00 pm**, March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, and May 4
- **Cost**: $150 pp for the series, plus $10 workbook.
  - ($100 for spouse; discounts given if previously attended classes)
  - Drop-ins welcome, $30 per class
- **Thursday mornings 9:10–10:30 am**, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, and May 5
  - No charge for Post Oak parents
  - **Cost**: $20 per person for the series (includes workbook).

**Bearkats Volleyball**

Game schedule with St. Stephens:

- **Wed. March 30**
  - Post Oak Gym—4:15 pm
  - *After volleyball season ends we will continue with flag football.*

See a game! Support our team!

**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) 4600 Bissonnet, Bellaire, Texas 77401  •  Telephone: 713-661-6688  •  Fax: 713-661-4959  •  [www.postoakschool.org](http://www.postoakschool.org)