JOHN’S COMMENTS FROM THE MOVING-UP CEREMONY

Before John’s comments, Elementary Director Jeff Schneider welcomed everyone with his guitar and led the singing of “Family Tree,” a Tom Chapin song that is a Post Oak School tradition.

“We’re a family and we’re a tree. Our roots go deep down in history.

From my great great granddaddy reachin’ up to me;

We’re a green and growing family tree.”

“I’m moving up,” said the five-year old. “Is the assembly this morning?” asked a third grader. We remember and anticipate beloved traditions.

The moving-up assembly is a tradition at Post Oak, something we do every year to mark the end

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of the school year, an event we remember and look forward to. We celebrate growth and change—your growth.

Middle School students: you are sitting next to the Infant Community students; do you remember being that age? Do you remember being that tall?

And our school is growing and changing, too. Mrs. Nickerson’s students: raise your hands. Your classroom is new this year. Last year your room was the library. And now the library has moved into the atrium.

Mr. Moudry, raise your hand. Mr. Moudry has come to Post Oak to help us open a high school in August 2012. Post Oak is growing and changing, just like you.

All of us are here together. Each of us is an individual person, and at the same time, each of us is here with our class, and each of us is here with everyone in the whole school, a community.

This year each of us has worked hard: finding our interests, finding our talents. All of us have worked together: students, teachers and parents; children and adults.

All of us together: helping each other, making friends, learning to make peace, learning to solve problems.

We celebrate together and sing together. Now Middle School will lead us in singing the next song together:

May we work for peace, peacefully.

May we work for truth, truthfully.

May we work for justice, justly.

May we work for hope with hope.

May we work for faith, faithfully.

May we work for courage, COURAGEOUSLY.

May we work for kindness, kindly.

May we work for love, with love.

We watched photos stream past of each child moving to a new level in the fall, and applauded each and every one of them. Then those children formed a circle around the gym, held candles and sang,

With one candle, just one candle.

Yes, one candle burning bright.

With one candle, just one candle.

We can fill the world with light.

And then it was over. Simple. Short. Concluding another year of growth and change with a beloved tradition that children remember and to which they look forward.
Scenes from the ceremony
Where are they headed?
Post Oak alumni high school & college acceptances

2011 grads—high schools accepted to:

- Awty International School
- Bellaire High School
- *Carnegie Vanguard High School (CVHS)
- Duchesne Academy
- Emery/Weiner School
- *Episcopal High School
- *High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA)
- Incarnate Word Academy
- *The Kinkaid School
- *St. Agnes Academy
- *St. John’s School
- St. Pius X
- St. Thomas High School
- *Xavier Educational Academy

2007 graduates accepted to the following colleges:

- American University
- Austin College
- Baylor University
- Boston University
- *Carnegie Mellon University
- College of Charleston
- *The Colorado College
- Colorado School of Mines
- Fordham University
- *Lone Star Community College
- Louisiana State University
- Loyola Marymount University
- *Northwestern University
- Rice University
- *St. Edwards University
- *St. John’s College
- San Diego State University
- Santa Clara University
- The School of The Art Institute of Chicago
- *Texas Christian University
- Trinity College
- Tulane University
- The University of Alabama
- *The University of Arizona
- University of Arkansas
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Michigan
- The University of Southern California
- *The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas at Austin, Plan II Honors
- University of Miami
- University of San Diego
- Washington University in St. Louis

* Denotes school attending

Congratulations to our Post Oak alumni!
You can’t help, you’re just a kid.

by Lana Rigsby, parent

To understand why Zoly Zamir visited Post Oak this week, it helps to know the story of his great-granddaughter, Danielle Levy who was once a Post Oak student in Mrs. Hacker’s class. When she was only 13 Danielle heard about trouble in far-away Darfur. She knew she wanted to help. She imagined organizing a big race, a citywide fun run, and using the money she raised to help the people of Darfur.

“Ambitious. Impossible. Improbable,” people said. “Danielle can’t organize such a big event, she’s just a child!” But she was determined. She organized the race, and ultimately more than 300 people ran in it. She collected more than $20,000 to help the people of Darfur. A lot of people wondered how a young girl could have managed it. One newspaper wrote a story calling Danielle a hero. That newspaper said something else, too... it noted that Danielle comes from a family of heroes:

* Her mother, who wouldn’t listen when people said her daughter was too young to help;
* Her grandmother, Mrs. Yardena Bobys, who works at the Holocaust Museum Houston teaching important lessons about peace;
* Her great-grandfather, Mr. Zamir, who risked his life to help others when he was also... only a kid.

Learning how to make the world a better place is, we believe, something that is passed down, hand to hand, through generations of families and in schools. It is passed down through the stories of people who have lived experiences that we haven’t, stories that teach us in concrete terms what they learned. Mr. Zamir has lived through experiences we all hope never to have. He survived a time of war, a time of terrible fighting and injustice, a time so long ago that there aren’t many people on earth still alive to talk about it. And yet the stories he tells are about courage and caring. They are stories about using your wits to help others and not listening when people say, “there’s nothing you can do, you’re only a kid.”

“I love your bright eyes and your shining faces. And I envy you a little”, the 89-year old Romanian Holocaust survivor told the children as he began his talk. He told of being eight years old when he first saw electricity and indoor plumbing. “I envy you for another reason, too. I know that in your school you work together, and respect the differences between you. Not everyone has that privilege.” As the children listened intently, he spoke of the day that he was asked to donate his school jacket to a classmate, then told to leave and never to come back. He was 14 years old. “It was because of who I was,” he said. “The government had decided that Jewish children did not have the right to be educated.”

In another story Mr. Zamir told of finding work in a fancy hotel only to discover that the Nazis had set up headquarters in the hotel. But he was blonde, fair-skinned and spoke German fluently. The Nazis took him to be German and gave him access to their suite. For four years Mr. Zamir was able to smuggle official stationery out of the hotel to forgers, who used it to write letters authorizing Jewish families to leave the country. Years later, he learned that those letters had saved many lives.

Mr. Zamir’s stories came one after another, in a great succession of dates, places, events. At times I wondered if there weren’t details (passport forgery! orders and counter-orders!) that went over the children’s heads. But they listened attentively to what amounted to a living history lesson from one of a dwindling number of people still alive to tell it.

Mr. Zamir has spoken to countless children during his 14 years as a Survivor Speaker for the Holocaust Museum Houston (4,000 students in one year alone!). He considers his stories a gift to the people who will make our world better and more tolerant than the world he grew up in. Responding to news of his visit, Post Oak parent Sophia Banu wrote, “I am so glad that... and his friends can hear Mr. Zamir speak today... When I first came to Post Oak as a prospective parent and attended classes and did the journey, I was convinced this was the school I wanted my children to attend.

Thank you all for reinforcing my belief in your school and the Montessori education.”

Now it is our turn to thank Mr. Zamir. It was an honor and a privilege to have had him, and his stories, at The Post Oak School.

See and hear Mr. Zamir's story at Steven Spielberg's "One Voice at a Time" project: http://dornsife.usc.edu/vhi/onevoiceatatime/
1. Preparing a meal in Infant Community.
2. Working with the division board.
3. Placing a painting on a rack to dry.
4. Working the long chain of five.
5. Middle School students get ready for a round of Jeopardy!
6. & 7. ASEP yoga demonstration
8. – 11. Several classrooms go on an outing to Horsegate Ranch
Nineteen

I wish you had been able to see *Nineteen* or that you get a chance to. It was thoughtful, funny, daring, sad and pithy. It ran smoothly from scene to scene without a pause and held the parents spellbound for the entire 80 minutes. The students picked out important and recognizable individuals (somehow suited to the student who was portraying the character) and events of the last century in a way that brought us all back. The kids had long analytical and complex monologues and dialogues that somehow they memorized and delivered.

It was a tremendous credit to Mr. Noah and accolade to their Middle School education—not only did they demonstrate their ability to analyze a topic in depth, but it struck me that each child didn’t question the fact that he/she must rise to the occasion and deliver beyond his/her comfort level when asked by the group.

Mind-boggled and most grateful.
—Clio Rooney, parent
A Farewell to Friends

There were hugs and tears as we gathered this Tuesday to wish a fond farewell to Post Oak employees Luiza Grandchamp (10 years), Shannon Neufeld (3 years), Josh Noah (2 years), and Francesca Shoemaker (7 years). We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.
Books find new homes

This was the sixth year of The Great Post Oak Book Exchange! The Lower and Upper Elementary students brought their gently used books to school and for each one received a "book buck" which they used to purchase new books from a wide selection exchanged by their peers, as well as library discards. Any leftover books were offered to Elementary students who had not contributed any books; the remainders go to a needy library or shelter. Most Elementary students are happy to donate their used books and to see what they can purchase with their "book bucks". A good time was had by all participating students and it provided a wonderful opportunity to recycle! —B.R. Simon

Reminder... pledges due

All Gala and Post Oak Fund pledges are due by May 31. Pledge reminders have been mailed. Please contact Christina Cantu in the development office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Summer reading

Many thanks to my lovely volunteers, especially Sara Binau and Vicky Parks who persevered to the end.

We are so excited to have Jennifer Chavis and Jessica Gregg chairing Book Fair 2011! This is their second year to chair this event; everyone had a wonderful time last year so we are really looking forward to next fall’s book fair at Barnes & Noble.

I imagine you and your children are ready to slow down and enjoy some good books over the summer. If you go to www.txla.org and look at "Reading Lists" under the quick links on the left you will have some good suggestions for various ages.

Happy reading; wishing you all the joys of summer—in the city or on the road to amazing destinations! —B.R. Simon, Librarian
Girl Scouts came to Post Oak this year with the creation of three Lower Elementary troops: third grade led by Rennae Henry, second grade led by Lana Rigsby, and first grade led by Gerry Waters. The principles and practices of Girl Scouts are almost identical to those of Montessori, and we have spent the year focusing on the tenets of the Girl Scout law in our activities: honesty and fairness, consideration and respect for others, personal responsibility and strength, and focusing on environmental concern and making the world a better place.

The activities have been entirely parent-run, with the blessing and support of the school. We’ve balanced at-school meetings with field trips to the SPCA, a fire station, the Nature Discovery Center and special events at parents’ homes. The older troop has had many weekend excursions to the numerous Girl Scout camps dotted around the outskirts of Houston, and all three troops had a wonderful camp out at the Houston zoo. We learned about fiscal responsibility and marketing through the selling of Girl Scout cookies, and we made and donated over 60 blankets for CPS kids. The girls have learned a lot, got to really know each other and bond across the classroom divides, and had a lot of fun.

The tradition will continue next year for all three troops, and we hope to continue broadening the range of experiences as these troops grow. In the meantime, it would be wonderful to be able to set up a new troop for the incoming first graders. Any first grade parents interested in getting a troop started, please contact me or Rennae. We went through a steep learning curve last summer and would be happy to help in any way we can.

To the parents of current Post Oak Girl Scouts: thank you for your support—we can’t run the troops without you, and each and every contribution has been invaluable. Please think about what you can do to help in the upcoming year: it takes a village to raise a child, and a collective of moms to run Girl Scouts! 

By Gerry Waters, parent
## CALENDAR

For more, visit www.postoakschool.org

### MAY 29–JUNE 4

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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5/30</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<td>School closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue-Thu</td>
<td>5/31-6/2</td>
<td>Teacher in-service days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>6/3</td>
<td>Admin staff retreat (office closed)</td>
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### JUNE 5–JUNE 11

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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>6/6</td>
<td>Summer school begins</td>
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## NOTICE BOARD

### Becoming a Love & Logic Parent®

**SUMMER CLASSES 2011**
Tuesday evening, 6:30–8:00 pm, June 21, 28, July 5, 12, August 2, 9
Cost: $120/ couple for 6 classes, $60/ person or $20 each session and $10/ workbook
Small group setting, limited space available.

**CONTINUED CONVERSATIONS**—support, reinforce, learn, Q&A
Tuesday, 10:30–11:30 am, June 21, 28, July 5, 12, August 2, 9
Cost: $15 drop-in or $80/ 6 weeks plus $10 workbook
For participants in previous classes, and those interested in making skills come naturally.

Location: 4010 Bluebonnet #109, Houston, TX 77025
For more information or to register please call: 713-668-6558 or contact phylistomlinson@gmail.com
www.phylistomlinson.com

### Wanted

**for Primary Home Environment classroom:**

gently used children’s cultural attire

One of the children’s favorite activities in the PHE classroom is dressing up in costumes from around the world. Several pieces of clothing in our current collection have become tattered and torn after years of much loved use. If you have any gently used items that your children have outgrown or are no longer using, especially traditional garb from faraway places (kimonos, African prints, sarapes, etc), we would love to have them for our costume corner. Please contact Dinah Chetrit (dinahchetrit@postoakschool.org) to arrange for pick-up of these costumes.

Thank you so much for your contributions!

### Math & English tutoring available

For grades 5–8 by Luciano Posada, a Post Oak Alumnus from the class of 2008, currently entering my senior year at The Kinkaid School.
Tutoring available year round on weekends at a rate of $25.00 for 1 hour or $40.00 for 2 hours.
Please contact me at: (281) 658-3458 or by email at luciano_posada@yahoo.com
Feel free to obtain references from Mr. John Long, Mr. Errol Pinto, Mrs. Maya Pinto, Ms. Shekkola Gray, and Mrs. Lupe Lopez.

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**Look for the summer edition of The Weekly Post in mid-July.**

## 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 Communications Coordinator Elaine Schweizer (elaineschweizer@postoakschool.org)

All photos in The Weekly Post are by Elaine Schweizer unless otherwise noted.

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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**Post Oak will be 50 in 2013–2014!**

If you know anyone who was a part of Post Oak (students, parents, faculty, friends, alumni) in its 50-year history, we want to hear from them and invite them to our anniversary celebrations. Follow the link on our website to add names to the invitation lists.