Ten years ago, I had just finished greeting the Primary-aged children in my classroom, when I noticed Kathy Long standing outside my classroom door motioning to me. As she slowly related the devastating facts about the surreal, terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, I remember thinking, “This is not possible!” I remember feeling anxious about what might happen next. I remember feeling an overwhelming sense of protectiveness toward the young children in my classroom.

I know you remember the exact moment that you heard the news, where you were, the disbelief, the fear, the horror. In the following days, weeks, and months, the people of our nation rose up with united patriotism, anger, and sadness.

The day after the attack, Post Oak School Upper Elementary and Middle School students met with
their teachers and Head of School John Long in front of the school. They encircled the flag pole, and spoke about the loss of life and the destruction that occurred the day before. With our flag waving freely up above, each student was given a brick and invited to paint it in a way that expressed their feelings about what had happened, and to express their hopes for the future. The bricks would then be used to construct a memorial. "Bricks symbolize construction," Mr. Long told them. "Dr. Montessori challenged us," he said, "to use our skill and power to triumph over the forces of destruction that people sometimes unleash." Within a week, Post Oak's 9/11 Memorial, "The triumph of construction over destruction," had been built by students. The memorial has stood in front of the school for nearly ten years. The bricks are loose; they are not mortared. This reminds us that all human constructions, buildings as well as organizations, must be constantly tended.

Today, the emotions of that fateful day have subsided. The Pentagon has been rebuilt, and the World Trade Center site will soon be home to the tallest building in the United States. The Office of Homeland Security works around the clock to keep our nation safe. Time has passed, and change has taken place.

Last week, I asked the Upper Elementary students in my class what they knew about September 11, 2001, and how they felt about what happened. "I was only one month old," was the first response I heard. Many students commented that they too, were babies at that time, while several others remarked that they had not yet been born. Thankfully, the older children at Post Oak School today, are only learning about the terrorist attack on the United States, instead of living through it. As our discussion developed, the students shared with each other what they had read in books, seen on documentaries, or heard from different sources. One student spoke for us all when she said, "Why is this world full of such things? I hope that doesn’t happen to me. Our world is full of villains, but we must not live in fear, for there are still good people in the world."

Our class has a plan for the tenth anniversary of 9/11.

We are:
- Repairing and rebuilding the brick memorial
- Cooking a meal for the Bellaire fire and police departments
- Writing thank you letters to veterans
- Making donations to victims of natural disasters
- Giving care packages to nursing home residents
- Caring about the homeless

How did you remember September 11? There are many things you and your family can still do. You can find a list of service activities on several websites. Here are just a few: 911dayofservice.org, pointsofflight.org, and handsonnetwork.org. Our united efforts of service will strengthen The Post Oak School community, as this year, we remember 9/11 and pay tribute to its heroes.
By [Student Name]  Upper Elementary student

"I grew up like most of you," began Canaan Factor. "I lived in Bellaire, and I went to a private school." Once he had grown up, he got a job in the financial business. Every morning, Canaan would have breakfast in the World Trade Center, and then take the ferry across the Hudson River. He would get off the ferry close to his office.

On September 11, 2001, Canaan and his boss were having a discussion in their office, when they saw smoke coming from one of the twin towers. They didn't see the first plane crash into the opposite side of the building, but they did see some smoke coming from that direction. "We didn't think much of it at the time. We thought maybe a news helicopter bumped into it." Then they saw the second plane crash full throttle into the remaining tower. He and his boss fell silent as they saw smoke pouring from the side of the tower they could see.

Canaan ran toward the building to go help in any way possible. There was a lot of smoke, so it was hard to see. The only thing stopping him from getting close to the collapsed tower was the heat being given off by the jet fuel burning in the tower. He then saw firemen and policemen coming to the scene, and pretty much anyone you can get with the number 911. He asked what he could do, and he was given a box of color coded pins. He wondered what they were for. He was told to pin them to the civilians who came for help, using different colors based on how severely they were injured. Black being the most injured and white being the least injured. Very few civilians came to where he was, so Canaan helped firefighters and policemen, and washed the soot out of the eyes of the people who did come.

In the fearful chaos, many of the people were running, because they were afraid that some kind of pipe was going to explode. Canaan remarked, "Knowing that the pipe could blow up at any time was a little frightening." It didn't blow up. Thankfully.

Canaan ended his presentation with a question and answer period that lasted about twenty minutes. Here are a few of the questions that some of the students asked: Did any of your family get hurt by the attack? How long was it before you heard about what happened at the Pentagon? Was anyone you knew in the tower at the time of the attack? When someone in the audience asked him if he ever felt afraid or confused with everything that was going on, he replied "No, I was just motivated to help." He told us, "When something really bad happens, you either run away from it, or run toward it." On that fateful day in America's history, Canaan Factor was a 9/11 hero.
Friday, September 9, 2011

Dear Bellaire Firemen,

We are giving you this luncheon in honor of the firefighters that were heroes in 9/11. We are passing on the good deeds of the firefighters in 9/11, though we know that we can not repay what they have done for us. We appreciate what you are doing for us today. This is a small contribution to you for being there for us and always coming to the rescue.

Sincerely,

The students of Mrs. Nickerson and Ms. De Leon's class

Our sincere thanks to those who contributed after the printing deadline. Underwriting covers the cost of faculty/staff to attend this event. Special thanks to Asenet García, Jenna Pel, and the Elementary After-care students for their work on the centerpieces.
Want to find out where your Post Oak High School will be? Attend the High School Huddle, September 22, 10:30 am in the common room.
It was a great start to the school year at the annual POPA Dinner. The Junior League tea room overflowed with the smiling faces of Post Oak parents, trustees, faculty, and staff.
Dinner brought welcoming speeches and entertaining stories, including engaging Montessori experiences shared by Primary Teacher Erin Smith and High School Director James Moudry. Thanks to our fabulous event chairs, Shonali Agrawal and Stacey Martin for creating such a delightful evening.
1. Preparing to count by tens with the hundred chain.
2. Creating designs with blocks of color.
3. Associating similar dimensions with the Pink Tower and Brown Stair.
4. Reading together in Primary.
5. Understanding quantity and symbols of numbers 11 to 19 with the Teens Board.
6. Setting up for addition with the Stamp Game.
7. Working with nouns and articles.
8. Jumping obstacles in Primary PF.
10. Middle School math.
Becoming a Love & Logic Parent©

FALL CLASSES 2011
DAY
Thursdays, 9:10–10:30 am, 7 classes
Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 13, 20, 27, and Nov. 10, 17
Cost: $20 per person, includes workbook
(classes are underwritten by The Post Oak School)

EVENING
Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00 pm, 7 classes
Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, and Nov. 9
Cost: $200 per couple, 7 classes, $125 per person
plus $10 per workbook
(free for prior completion of entire series)

For more information call Post Oak Counselor
Phylis Tomlinson at 713-661-6688 ext.176.

We have fun and learn a lot of very effective, tried
and true techniques for changing children’s behavior.
These classes offer practical and simple techniques
for interacting with children, reinforcing concepts
learned in Redirecting Children’s Behavior and other
parenting programs. The classes are a great way
for parents new to Post Oak to really get to know
other parents on a very personal level. We do keep
confidences, of course!

Not registered? Come anyway, we can always make
room for one more.

Do I have to be a Post Oak parent? No, we open
our hearts and arms to all who want to learn effective
parenting strategies which prepare our children for
living in the real world.

What if I can’t attend all 7 weeks? Come to
any of the classes, each week new techniques are
presented and learning one or all, will bring more
pleasure to your time with your child(ren).

Can I take the classes more than one time? Yes,
many people find having a “refresher” helps them feel
more confident.

Redirecting Children’s Behavior course

Are you interested in teaching your child social and emotional
intelligence?
Are you tired of yelling at your children?
Have you said “NO!” more than three times today?
Do you ever feel like you’re losing the battles?
Then this is the class for you!

THE GENTLE ART OF PARENTING

This six week, 15-hour course is designed to guide parents to
use discipline as a process of teaching children self-control and
responsibility. Redirecting Children's Behavior is not a set of “tips for
moms and dads” or a “parent support group”. It is a positive, powerful,
informative, and fun training course which will give you a complete
system for handling every situation in which adults interact with
children, from infancy to adolescence. You will see it working and
bringing positive changes to your parenting and your family from the
first class onward. www.deborah-fry.com

DATES: Sept 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 (6 Tues. evenings)
TIME: 6:30 to 9:00 pm
PLACE: The Post Oak School
4600 Bissonnet, 77401
COST: $225 per person, $325 per couple
(Includes book, workbook and 15 hours of class time)

The course will be taught by Deborah Fry, Ph.D. She is a certified
instructor for the International Network for Children and Families.
Deborah gives talks and seminars for parents, teachers and people
involved with children and families, as well as teaches three year olds
at Westminster Weekday School. With her enthusiastic speaking style
and her sense of humor, Deborah helps make the art of parenting and
working with children enjoyable. For class registration call Deborah at
713-840-8663.
POST OAK FIELD DAY 2011
IS ALL ABOUT THE 3RS:
REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

Come early, stay late and pack a picnic lunch to enjoy the many events back by popular demand, including inflatables, indoor infant play area, balloon twisters, the dunk tank, Earth Ball, and music by local steel drum artists.

Make sure you don’t miss some of the new events this year including a docent from the Audubon Society who will demonstrate the inner workings of compost with bugs and small animals. Children of all ages will enjoy a hands-on mosaic art station with 100% reused and recycled materials. Our community will come together at our block making station, Blocks for a Better Future, where we will take scraps of wood and repurpose them into new children’s building blocks to be donated to a children’s shelter.

One of the best ways for you to make an impact on the environment on October 15 is to reduce your plastic waste. No need for plastic water bottles anymore! Purchase your double-walled stainless steel Post Oak water bottle to bring to the event and use for years to come. Bottles can be purchased for only $10 online or with the form below.

FIELD DAY WATER BOTTLES FOR SALE

Order deadline is Monday, September 26

Support this year’s theme Reduce, Reuse, Recycle by ordering a new double-walled stainless steel water bottle with the Post Oak logo and fill it with your favorite beverage to enjoy on Field Day, October 15.

COST: $10 each (16 oz)

Student’s name: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Class (of oldest child): ________________________________

Number ordered: ______________

Total enclosed: $ __________

Please make checks payable to “The Post Oak School” and write on the memo line “Field Day bottle”

Please return this form, with your check, to the front desk by Monday, September 26.

How to Parent a Toddler

Mondays 2–3 pm
Sept. 12–Nov. 7 (8 weeks)
at The Post Oak School

Cost: $200 per 8 week session

Infant Community Teacher Deidre Lodrig leads a series of classes that share how to best parent a toddler in every situation.

Register at www.postoakschool.org
For Parents ▶ Parent Education:
Montessori Toddler Parenting Classes.

Classes at the Motherhood Center

Infant/Parent Class A
(8 weeks to Crawling)

Tuesdays and Thursdays; 1:30–3 pm
Fall: September 13–November 3
Winter: January 31–March 8
Spring: March 20–May 24

Cost: $400 per 8 week session
Instructor: Sarah Moudry

Infant/Parent Class B
(Crawling to Walking)

Wednesdays; 1:30–3 pm
Fall: September 14–November 2
Winter: January 4–February 22
Spring: April 4–May 23

Cost: $200 per 8 week session
Instructor: Deidre Lodrig

Classes are held at the Motherhood Center, 3701 W. Alabama, Suite 230, Houston, TX 77027, unless otherwise indicated.
**CALANDER**

For more, visit www.postoakschool.org

**SEPTEMBER 18-24**

**Tue 9/20**
Redirecting Children’s Behavior (1 of 6)
6:30–9 pm

**Wed 9/21**
Becoming a Love & Logic Parent (1 of 7)
6:30–8:00 pm

**Thu 9/22**
Becoming a Love & Logic Parent (1 of 7)
9:10–10:30 am

**High School Huddle**
10:30–11:30 am

**Fri 9/23**
Bearkats Spirit Day
Wear your green!
EL & MS gathering
2:30–3:00 pm
Fall Equinox

**SEPTEMBER 25-OCTOBER 1**

**Mon 9/26**
Deadline for Field Day water bottle orders

**Wed 9/28**
Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown

**Thu 9/29**
No Weekly Post this week

**Fri 9/30**
Conference Day: reserved for students new to class
Classes not in session: only students with expanded year contracts attend

---

**NOTICE BOARD**

The Post Oak Annual Fund receives 100% employee support!

All private schools use annual fund drives to supplement tuition income and cover a variety of school needs. Post Oak’s Annual Fund campaign will begin October 1, but already the campaign leadership has been hard at work. This year’s Employee Captain, Julie Parraguirre, encouraged employee participation in advance of the campaign, and easily found 100% support from Post Oak employees. “Asking for support from Post Oak parents can only be done if we ourselves are willing to contribute,” said Development Director, Christina Cantu. Thanks to all employees for their generous gifts to the Post Oak Annual Fund.

---

**The Weekly Post**

**schedule for fall 2011**

September 23
October 7, 14, 27
November 11, 18
December 2, 16

---

**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). 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 Elaine Schweizer 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