THINK of a school where children love to go. Where they develop close relationships with their teachers. Where they are safe, their needs are met, and where they are challenged. We see every morning the children bound out of their cars and walk (run!) to their classrooms.

Great. Now recreate that image, but exchange those little three-year-olds for 16-year-olds.

Can it be? Aren’t teenagers rebellious, emotional, and critical?

Where is this place where they are also happy, connected with their teachers, and challenging themselves?

The vision of this place came two years ago from the families of The Post Oak School. It has been critically reviewed by the Board of Trustees. It has been pursued by the administrative staff. And this week, we announced the address for The Post Oak High School: 1102 Autrey Street in the Houston Museum District.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The Post Oak High School is not just a building of classrooms, it is a launchpad for students to follow their interests beyond the walls of the school and connect with experts in a variety of disciplines. The location in the heart of the Museum District gives The Post Oak School an immediate home for the high school and positions the school for future growth opportunities in the Museum District. This location is on a bus line, a short walk to the metrorail, and allows all our Museum District partners to be accessed on foot, or by school shuttle. It can also serve as a staging ground for younger Post Oak students who travel to the Museum District for outings from the school’s Bellaire campus.

Students from Post Oak and from other schools will find The Post Oak High School as a school that is ready for them. While many institutions labor to create places for teachers to do great work, The Post Oak School is interested in creating inspirational and engaging spaces for students to do their great work — classrooms in which students, not teachers, are the centers of activity. Immediately upon opening next fall, students will see their classrooms extended into the Museum District. Their subjects will push them out of the building and into the labs, studios, and galleries of our partners.

The school is immersed in what it means to be an active citizen and to make a contribution to society. Students will take active roles in our new neighborhood. They will find themselves by putting boots on the ground and asking, “what am I really interested in?” and “what can I do?” To support these student outcomes, the school is built around graduated freedoms that are matched to individual students and allow freedom within limits as with the other levels of Post Oak. Of course, in such an environment, trust is central to safe, challenging, and character building experiences.

Our building was constructed in the 1970s as a single story brick and glass-walled structure. The east and west walls are entirely windows, allowing for daylight to flood the learning spaces throughout the day, creating an airy interior. The open floor plan that we envision gives students and faculty vast flexibility to design and redesign the spaces. A small number of closed rooms provide options for when a separated space is preferred. Open areas will be divided with furnishings and partitions resulting in dynamic and tailored spaces, perfect for small or large group meetings as needed.

A science lab provides a space for on-site work that extends to work in labs at our partners, such as the Houston Museum of Natural Science just a 15-minute walk away. Our Museum District partnerships give us access not only to world-class physical resources, but also to world-class scientists, artists, and business people.

A “tinkerers” space in the school is the place for hands-on physical investigations, explorations, and innovations. It is a “garage” of sorts where ideas and art can come to life. It is where science becomes engineering and concept becomes design.

In addition to the months of work to secure the location of the high school, there has been growth in our number of partnerships, notably a recent warm

continued on next page
reception from the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, as well as a strengthening of existing partnerships, specifically the ability to make use of some of the new lab space at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

The school has also initiated two governance paths. The first is expanding our accreditation with the Independent School Association of the Southwest (ISAS). The second is the preliminary information submission to the International Baccalaureate Organization commencing our pursuit of authorization as an IB World School.

Over the past several months, we have received dozens of applications from teachers. In the coming weeks, we will narrow that field and continue to work diligently to ensure that the teachers hired for this expansion meet the high-level needs of our students. We anticipate starting with a core staff of four teachers and a small number of part-time specialists. In a few years, as the school grows, this group will also grow to allow us to continue to meet student needs and interests. Of course, this also applies to sports and athletics, where we look forward to expanding sports options and opportunities for all the students.

For next fall, we’re looking for about 20 students to join this division of Post Oak. We are already receiving applications for admission. Students at this school are active agents in its creation. These first students will have significant roles to play in creating the school, its traditions, and policies. Do you know someone who is ready for this opportunity? We’re ready for them.
Parents, visitors, faculty, and staff attended the first High School Huddle to learn the location and see plans for The Post Oak High School. The next Huddle will be October 25 and everyone is invited.
New Faces in Infant Community

Welcome to students new to the Infant Community this year. Check back for new Primary faces in the coming weeks.

Photos by Erin Stus and Elaine Schweizer
Field Day Update: Unveiling Mystery Boxes

Post Oak’s Field Day is fun and unique because it brings families together in community. It is not a fundraiser, but rather an opportunity to pack a picnic and enjoy a day of fun-filled events at our school.

The way we fund this event is by the raffling of Mystery Boxes. By now, Room Parents have undoubtedly sought your ideas and contributions based on your class theme. Volunteers are already collecting box contents. In keeping with this year’s Field Day theme, “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,” all Mystery Boxes will be wrapped with at least 50% recycled or reused materials and all boxes used for packaging will be re-purposed.

On October 11, these creatively decorated masterpieces will be on display at the entrance of the school for you to begin to stake your claim. Raffle tickets will be conveniently sold at morning and afternoon carpool this year. Please help support this annual event by buying your raffle tickets early and often! Tickets are 2 for $5 or 10 for $20. Start looking for friendly Raffle Ticket Volunteers during the week of October 11. They are also available for sale in the development office.

BUY YOUR WATER BOTTLE & HEAL WITH STEEL!

Did you know that the EPA estimates that less than a third of plastic water bottles are recycled? You will never need to use a plastic water bottle again after you purchase one of the Post Oak double-walled stainless steel bottles. For $10 this sports bottle will replace countless plastic bottles from being created or from seeing a landfill. Get one today for your kids, parents, friends, friends’ kids, grandparents – the possibilities are endless! Use the form below or log-on to order your Post Oak water bottle today! — Jamie Lee & Vivian Lee, Field Day Chairs

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**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.

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**Mystery Box Themes**

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<tr>
<th>Deidre Lodrig</th>
<th>Love the Earth</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Tamara Basham</td>
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<td>Barbara Hacker</td>
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<td>Kathy Long</td>
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<td>Debbie Nickerson</td>
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<td>Maya Pinto</td>
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<td>Laura Roark</td>
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<td>Hifa Sobhani</td>
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Kids’ Meals Delivery Day

Last Friday, when we were out of school, some families from Post Oak got together for a day of community service.

We volunteered with Kids’ Meals. We went to many different houses and delivered many (over 800) lunches to children in need. When I saw the look on their faces when we delivered their food it made my day. They seemed as happy as I’ve ever been in my whole life. This is my third time volunteering with Kids’ Meals and it is a lot of work but I recommend it to all kids at Post Oak.

The mission of Kids’ Meals is to deliver food to children living in poverty all over Houston. Kids’ Meals delivers to over 1,000 pre-school aged children who are living in poverty and need food. Kids’ Meals delivers nutritious meals to the homes of these hungry children, Monday through Friday, all year.

Check out www.kidsmealshouston.org for more information or to volunteer contact Bonnie Hill at 713-695-5437 or bonnie@kidsmealshtouston.com.
Becoming a Love & Logic Parent©

FALL CLASSES 2011
DAY

Thursdays, 9:10–10:30 am, 7 classes
Sept. 22, Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 10, 17, and Dec. 1

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, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, and Nov. 9, 16

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.
Bearkats are awesome!

by Mark Tucker,
Athletics Director & Bearkats Coach

The soccer season opened for the Bearkats last week with a trip to St. Nicholas for the first game of the year. Things hardly ever turn out the way you think they will and this competition stayed true to form. All decked out in their new uniforms, 13 players were excited to finally get to play a game. As I said things hardly ever go as planned and I was happy to see the way our players responded. St. Nicholas was younger and smaller than our team and the coaches decided to change things up a bit—we would share some of our players with their team. The word compete comes from the Latin word “competere” which means “to strive together”. This is what our players did, and they did it very well through teamwork and while playing for the other team—still including them in the game smoothly. I was very proud of our players as this is not an easy thing to do in today’s world of competition. Our players scored all of the goals with some very athletic play and clean, crisp passing. Did we win? Yes, in more ways than one.

Your Bearkat soccer players are:

8th graders:

7th graders:

6th graders:

Photos by ,  Middle School student and  Primary student

Fall Schedule

Soccer games

September 28  St. Catherine’s at 4:30
October 11  St. Nicholas Charter School in Meyerland
October 12  St. Stephen’s at Feld Park at 4:15
October 26  St. Stephen’s at Feld Park at 4:15
November 2  St. Stephen’s at Feld Park at 4:15

Basketball practice will start the next week.
1. Preparing a meal in Infant Community.
2. Sound games with objects—listening to initial sounds.
3. Reaching new heights with the prisms of the brown stair.
4. Writing numbers on the chalkboard.
5. Attracted to the teens board in preparation for the formal lesson.
6. Exploring color in art class.
7. Creating a time line for social studies.
8. Examining the Mesozoic age.
9. Middle School students in focused study.
10. Rehearsing for a class play.
11. Walking a narrowing beam in PF to develop spatial awareness and balance.
CALENDAR
For more, visit www.postoakschool.org

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
Classes not in session: only students with expanded year contracts attend

OCTOBER 2–OCTOBER 8

Mon–Fri 10/3–10/7
MS trip to Blackwood

Tue 10/4
MS Parent Dinner & Tour at Blackwood
6:00 pm

Wed 10/5
POPA Coffee/Work Day
8:45 am–1:00 pm

Wed–Fri 10/5–10/7
Upper Elementary trip

Thu 10/6
Montessori Family & Friends Gathering
9:00–11:00 am

Fri 10/7
Yom Kippur begins at sundown

Check out our online calendar—or download a copy of the printed calendar at www.postoakschool.org

NOTICE BOARD

Embrace on a
Montessori Journey

Online registration open, limited space available

November 4, 6:00–9:00 pm & November 5, 8:00 am–2:00 pm

Each year the faculty of Post Oak invite prospective and current parents to participate in Montessori Journey.

During this (adults-only) two-day workshop, you will experience the five different classroom environments from Infant Community through Middle School, first as an observer and then as a participant receiving lessons and working with classroom materials.

This workshop is a hands-on approach to understanding how and what your child is learning. Enrollment is limited to 40 persons and the charge is $30 per person. Register online through the link on the left side of our homepage.

LANDS’ END
Get your Post Oak Spirit Wear for less!

Thursday, September 22 to Tuesday, September 27. Online only.

Promo Code: SCHOOL 25 and PIN: 27021

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