It’s been awhile since we gave an update on the high school front. There’s a lot being done and a lot to do; it’s a team effort!

CONSTRUCTION
Mike Mulligan eat your heart out! The high school construction has completed the second corner, “neat and square,” and the dirt has been flying! We are certainly into some Big Work! (In the interest of full disclosure, the contractor has been using a diesel excavator, not a steam shovel. Sorry Mary Anne!)

Outside, the complete removal of two structures has cleared the way for the corner parking lot as well as green space directly adjoining the main high school building. We have also removed a billboard from the corner lot, for which the neighborhood association said “thank you” to us at their recent quarterly meeting. If you have been following on Facebook...
High School Open House

Join us to learn more about what makes the Post Oak High School an excellent choice

Tuesday, March 27, 7–9 pm

at our Museum District partner

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston
5216 Montrose Boulevard

Keep up with all the latest news by liking us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/postoakhighschool

(and don’t forget www.facebook.com/thepostoakschool)
you've seen the pictures of how much has been happening. [Did you know the high school has its own Facebook page?] Like it to have updates automatically sent your way! www.facebook.com/postoakhighschool

“What does ‘FD’ stand for?” Two weeks ago, the Middle School students and faculty came for a visit and lunch in the Museum District. Students were witness to some demolition of the house on the corner and a guided tour of the site. While standing in the open space of the main building, students talked about the future layout, learning about everything from the science lab to fire alarm control panels. (‘FD’ stands for floor drain. Good to have in bathrooms and science labs!)

We are on schedule for a community event at the high school sometime in May. Watch your inbox for an official invitation.

NEW FACULTY MEMBER
Last week, we hired the second core faculty member for the high school. James Quillin will join us as the Humanities specialist, focusing on English Language Arts. Currently, James is the History Department Chair at Lake Forest Academy in Chicago, Illinois. He earned his Ph.D. in Classics with a minor in Political Science from Stanford University and has taught in the Classics departments at the University of Southern California and Northwestern University. James presently serves on the Board of Directors at Montessori School of Lake Forest, where his two sons attend. The family is excited to move back to his wife’s hometown of Houston. We got off to a great start immediately by sponsoring his attendance at the Adolescent Workshop at last weekend’s annual AMI Refresher Course in Fort Worth; he was one of seventeen Post Oak attendees at the conference. We are excited to welcome James and his family to Post Oak.

We are presently interviewing finalists for both the science and mathematics positions and anticipate announcements regarding those positions next month.

ENROLLMENT
While many students await admission decisions from Post Oak and other schools next month, four students took advantage of the early decision option for the Post Oak High School. At this time, those four students have committed to attend Post Oak for high school this fall and others are expected to continue the standard enrollment path with us next month. Just a few spaces remain to be filled to round out the inaugural class. If you know someone looking for a place for this fall for ninth grade, it’s not too late!

OPEN HOUSE 3/27 AT CAMH
To date, we’ve hosted two informational open houses at our Museum District partners. Between those two events, one at the Glassell Studio School and the other at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, we’ve shared the vision of the Post Oak High School with over 150 people. Of course we know there is something special happening in the classrooms at The Post Oak School — you know it, too. How does that extend into the high school? Come to an open house to hear all about it! If you haven’t been to an open house, join us on March 27 and bring a friend!

We’ve miles to go before opening day and there are certainly lots of boxes to check. The Post Oak team is moving full speed ahead with the work of staff, Trustees, and parent ambassadors. If you’re looking for a way to help, grab a shovel and let us know. The conversation is always running online at the high school Facebook page and blog! © James Moudry and The Post Oak School
Bearkats continue winning ways on home court

by Scott McGill, Post Oak parent

The Bearkats improved to 5–0 on the season with a 46–11 win over St. Stephen’s at home on February 8. The win was a testament to team play: both the starting five and the reserves played with purpose and resolve to turn a tight contest into an emphatic victory.

The energy of a loud partisan crowd aided the Bearkats on their way to the win. From the start, the students and parents in the stands seemed to recognize that the team would need their full-throated support to compete in what is clearly a budding rivalry. Cheerleaders also contributed to the electric atmosphere. Their spirited calls and acrobatic moves brought an added charge to the event and surely had a strong impact on the Bearkats’ effort.

Following a pattern found in other games, the Bearkats played St. Stephen’s evenly for the first ten minutes of the game before finding the range and opening a big lead. A 12–0 run before halftime gave the Bearkats a comfortable cushion heading into the break. The lead grew in the second half, thanks to some shutdown defense and flowing offense. Particularly impressive was the play of the second unit. Leading the way was who showed tremendous court vision with his half-court and no-look passes that led to easy baskets.

For the starters, played an especially strong game, going on a personal 6–0 run that sealed the win for the Bearkats. But more than showcasing individual excellence, the win displayed the balance and depth of the squad. A team with so many strong players and such an obvious commitment to teamwork promises to achieve even more as the season progresses. •

Last game

Come out for the final basketball game of the school year, Feb. 28 vs. St. Stephen’s in the Post Oak gym at 4:15 pm.
Away games bring new challenges

by Coach Tucker

The Bearkats basketball team took to the road for two games, taking on School of the Woods and then Memorial Lutheran. School of the Woods outscored us 34–23, as did Memorial Lutheran 35–23. Woods brought a very impressive team to the floor in the first game, made up of three eighth graders and the rest freshmen in high school. They were much bigger than we were, but the Bearkats played tough on both ends of the floor. In the next game against Memorial, the opponents jumped out to a 20–4 lead after the quarter, with the Bearkats outscoring them 19–14 the rest of the game. Although we lost both of these games, it was a great experience for us as we improve our overall program and move forward in the future.

The Bearkats returned home this week for a game against St. Stephen’s. The other team had a couple of players missing and the Bearkats raced out to a 14–0 lead within a few minutes of the game’s start. All players for the Bearkats participated in this contest that was won by a score of 43–24. The Bearkats last basketball game will be next Tuesday, February 28 against St. Stephen’s. Come out and cheer on your home team! ♥

Intramural Action!

In case you missed it, here are some shots from the Intramural game against St. Nicholas on Feb. 16. Our team won the match 24–15. Way to go, future Bearkats!
Alumni Note

The POST OAK SCHOOL

Blood Drive
next month

The Post Oak School is hosting a mobile blood drive with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center honoring Middle School student [redacted] on Wednesday, March 28 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm in our front parking lot.

If you would like to donate blood, please schedule an appointment through the front office or online at www.giveblood.org by registering as a Digital Donor and entering our sponsor code (UU59). It is not required that you have an appointment time to give blood; however, if you have time constraints please consider scheduling in advance. Be sure to eat a hearty meal at least one hour before donating, drink at least one 16 oz. bottle of water, and bring a picture I.D.

We also need parent volunteers to staff our donor tent during the blood drive. If you’d like to volunteer, have questions about donor eligibility, or would like to schedule your appointment, contact Mary Vaeza-Lopez [email removed] or Kathryn Murphy (kathrynmurphy@postoakschool.org). Please come by the school on March 28 to give blood and show your support for the blood drive.

Jacob & Joshua Edwards

Parent Shawn Edwards sent us the following updates:

Jacob, who attended Post Oak through fifth grade, is in Georgetown High School and loving it. He is taking all A.P. classes and plays football and basketball, with much success. Joshua, who attended Post Oak through second grade, is in one of the local middle schools and doing great as well – he’s on student council and plays tennis. He’s also a library aide and wants to be a librarian when he grows up. He’s still a reader and a talker, very funny and well loved. Montessori prepared both of them very well, they are self sufficient and independent.

Joshua still misses Montessori desperately and started a book about it. He would love to attend the Post Oak High School. He transitioned to public school in Georgetown as a seventh grader as there was not a Montessori middle school within 30 miles. In the first two weeks of public school he said, “I don’t think I’m going to like this. The teachers are mad and I don’t feel like an individual.” Well, some of those feelings still exist, but he’s connected with some inspiring teachers, the librarian, and decided to try and make a difference through student council. He has a very healthy social life and plays tennis and has found a way to make public school enjoyable and meaningful – this I attribute to Montessori.

25 Years: a Dedication

Their current and former students, parents, and staff gathered to celebrate Barbara Hacker’s and Norma Paulin’s 25 years of service to The Post Oak School. The tree planting ceremony was organized through the thoughtful efforts of parent Jamie Broach. Students read poems and after a few words from Head of School John Long, dug in to help plant the beautiful Redbud in the playground.

We are grateful to Barbara and Norma for their commitment throughout the years and the difference they have made in the lives of so many.
THANK YOU!

THE 2012 POST OAK FUND

Through your gifts, corporate, and foundation support, we have reached our goal of $250,000!

Thank you to all who donated to the fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and is a vital contribution to the Post Oak community!

Years ago we streamlined our fundraising efforts, doing away with gift wrap sales and multiple smaller year-long fundraisers in favor of the Annual Fund. This fundraising effort supports critical school priorities such as technology enhancements, professional development, increased financial aid, and support to the endowment. These priorities help make The Post Oak School what it is today. Thank you for helping us reach our goal.
A gift of healthy food shopping and preparation for my family

by Jeanine Bergt, Post Oak parent

Several months ago, Aimee Taylor gave a talk for a FISH meeting (thank you Paula Mey for organizing it) where I heard a message of hope for our family. My “voluminous” words about our need for healthy foods were falling on deaf ears, big time (I think you could call it harping!). Aimee agreed to meet us at Whole Foods for an in depth shopping trip. I was going to stay in the background and let her talk to my two “poor” eaters (of healthy foods, snacks they have down pat). Well, it was a real eye opener for me, too. A generous helping of “humble pie” was on my plate. We learned so much, not only what foods to buy, but why. Whole Foods is now a totally new store for our family – we see so much for the first time, in spite of our twice-weekly trips of the past. It is truly possible to “teach old dogs new tricks.”

Our granddaughter is just the right age to get excited about her own personal journey into healthy eating and knowing the what and why of healthy food choices. Aimee made it easier to relax as a parent after her smorgasbord of healthy foods. We are off and running with delicious new ideas. On the way home, David and I talked non-stop about all that they heard. We all really enjoyed the shopping trip.

A few days later, Aimee came to our home and she and David cooked. A variety of new tastes and smells waft from our kitchen – no longer does this room of the house belong to me alone. I sat on a bar stool and watched my husband enjoy cooking – he now feels more knowledgeable, confident, and energized. Thank you, Aimee!

If you have need of a tune up in your kitchen and want to eat healthy meals that your family will enjoy both eating and preparing, may I suggest you contact Aimee at www.greenpeasandblueberries.com. Get ready for wonderful fun! ☺️

POPA Coffee/Work Day
Mar. 7, 2012 8:45 am–1 pm

Upper Elementary and Middle School History Fair
March 8, 2012 7–8 pm
SCENES from The Post Oak School

1. Stacking blocks in an IC classroom.
2. Enjoying a book about animals.
3. Building fine motor skills with sewing.
4. Ring toss!
5. Practicing handwriting in a Primary pod.
6. Choosing numbers for multiplication.
7. Spinning in PF.
8. Drawing peacocks in art.
9. Doing the crab walk in PF.
10–11. Middle School students film and edit educational videos about online citizenship for Elementary students.
CALENDAR

For more, visit www.postoakschool.org

FEBRUARY 26–MARCH 3

Tue
2/28
Bearkats basketball vs. St. Stephen's (gym)
4:15 pm

Wed
2/29
Leap Day
No Weekly Post this week

Thu
3/1
Primary admission day
IC & EL in session
Expanded year contract day
for PRI & MS
MS conference day

Fri
3/2
PRI & EL admission day
IC in session
Expanded year contract day
for PRI, EL & MS
MS conference day

MARCH 4–10

Wed
3/7
POPA Coffee/Work Day
8:45 am–1:00 pm

Thu
3/8
Upper Elementary & MS History Fair
7:00–8:00 pm

Fri
3/9
Financial aid applications due

NOTICE BOARD

Nanny Available

Wonderful bilingual nanny/housekeeper available full time. Currently works for the O’Gorman family in the evenings, but is available before 4:00 pm and on weekends. Jeanette is kind, conscientious, and reliable. Please call Susan Hardwick-Smith for more information and reference: ([redacted]) or ([redacted]).

Seeking Full-Time Nanny

We are seeking a full time nanny for our growing family. Requirements include: ability to drive, speaks English, experience caring for multiple children, good cooking skills, high energy, and loving attitude toward children. Hours are 7:30 am–6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Ideally, the nanny would have an appreciation for the Montessori principles we practice. Please call or email with any recommendations:

Renee ([redacted])

Lost & Found Overflowing!

The treasure chest in our front lobby has reached maximum capacity! Are you missing sweaters, coats, or lunch boxes? Come have a look and reclaim your lost items by March 9. Everything left over will be donated to charity. If you are missing a car key or makeup bag from opera night, talk to the receptionist to claim your item.

*If clothing or lunch boxes have a name written on it, the item is placed in your child’s cubicle/locker. It’s a good idea to mark special items so they always find their way home!

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