Business is interested in innovation,” says Sir Ken Robinson, who spoke in Houston Tuesday night. Innovation requires creativity, and creativity requires divergent thinking: the ability to see many different solutions to any problem. On a test of divergent thinking, such as “how many uses can you imagine for a paper clip?” 98% of five year olds score at genius level. By the age of 15, that percentage is vastly diminished. “What happened?” asked Robinson. “They’ve spent 10 years in school being told there’s only one answer.”
Wagner says, “There is no competitive advantage today to knowing more than the person sitting next to you.”

So what do students need to learn in school? How do you train an innovator? According to Wagner, “We are born curious. We are born with imagination. The first challenge is to ensure that these very human qualities are not schooled out of us, as Sir Ken Robinson says. Beyond that, in my research, I identified five essential education and parenting practices that develop young people’s capacities to innovate:

1. Learning to work collaboratively (innovation is a team sport!).
2. Learning to understand problems from a multi-disciplinary perspective.
3. Learning to take risks and learn from mistakes.
4. Focusing on creating versus consuming.
5. Reinforcing the intrinsic motivations of play, passion, and purpose versus the extrinsic carrots and sticks.”

Conventional schools do not do this, even the finest ones. They continue to serve a late 19th-century purpose even though we are well into the 21st century. Schools must innovate if they are going to train innovators.

What is Sir Ken Robinson’s greatest concern about schooling today? “Students never discover what they’re really good at or what they love to do...We need to help our children discover what’s going to get them out of bed in the morning—what they can’t imagine not doing.”

Too many students spend seven hours a day in classes they describe as “boring.” Why do they do it? Out of a sense of duty. Because they’re told if they do so, they can go to college and get a job. What do you call it when you describe the work you are doing as “important (ie, it will get me to college), but not interesting?” Drudgery.

I think students deserve more. Preparation for college? Absolutely. Preparation for a future career? Yes. I think that can be done while discovering and pursuing what you love to do. © John Long and The Post Oak School

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2012–13 Important Calendar Dates

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. 20–24**: First week for Elementary, Middle School and High School
- **Aug. 27–31**: First week for Infant Community and Primary
- **Sept. 3**: Labor Day (school closed)
- **Oct. 8**: Columbus Day (school closed)
- **Nov. 21–23**: Thanksgiving Break (school closed)
- **Dec. 24–Jan. 7**: Winter Break (school closed)
- **Jan. 21**: Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday (school closed)
- **Feb. 18**: Presidents Day holiday (school closed)
- **Mar. 11–15**: Spring Break – only students with expanded-year contracts attend
- **Mar. 29**: Good Friday (school closed)
- **May 27**: Memorial Day (school closed)
- **May 31**: Last day of school
by Christina Moser, Post Oak Alumna

In 1994, I began at Post Oak as a primary student in Ms. Wallen’s class. My memories are a bit faded (I was only four), but I do remember the guidance, trust, and friendships that were just beginning to flourish in my early years. I would continue on at Post Oak until my 8th grade graduation in 2004, where I found myself in a bittersweet graduation ceremony with swollen red eyes as I said goodbye to a place that was practically home. That August I would attend the High School for Performing and Visual Arts with a focus in visual arts, a talent of mine that was always encouraged while at Post Oak. In 2008 I excitedly began college at The University of Texas, where I am finishing up my last semester as a design major and am preparing for graduation and whatever life brings next.

When I look back on my academic career, it is clear that Post Oak has played a significant role that always manages to stay relevant with the happenings of my life. For instance, a few months ago I was on the search for an internship. At the end of an interview, while my confidence was high and after the stress had dissipated, my interviewer (now boss) earnestly asked, “Why do you think the way you do?” I didn’t understand. Were my answers in my interview unusual from the norm? I sat, puzzled, attempting to digest, analyze, and condense the way I personally function and think into a simple answer. Obviously that didn’t happen. While leaving, the question lurked in my thoughts. To help solve the bewildering question, I called two people who know me pretty well: my parents. While on the phone, one of the first things my mother suggested that played a major role influencing my thoughts and how I view the world came from my Montessori education (and of course some good parenting and my natural disposition). We talked about it for a while, and I thought it over some more, only to agree. Those initial years are so integral to development and how an individual will later view the world. Growing up Montessori, we are taught through experience, personal investigation, and a desire to acquire knowledge.

When talking to friends about our respective childhood educations, I often notice that my story is different. I begin by talking about my middle school experience while at Post Oak. The awkward years most people attempt to forget, I remember fondly. I remember getting to school early every Monday one semester to feed the homeless with my classmates and understand the joys of giving back to the community. I remember giving my first presentation, voice trembling, hands sweating, and terrified of standing alone while the class listened. I remember learning about organic farming, Native American traditions, and learning how rain can be...
Open House

Join us to learn more about what makes Post Oak High School an excellent choice.
Bring a friend!

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)

The POST OAK HIGH SCHOOL
caught and filtered into drinking water
during our stays at Blackwood Land
Institute. Brief snippets of memories that,
when talked about within a group of Post
Oak alums, can transfigure into hours of
conversation. I feel fortunate that I can
look back on my academic life and would
 gladly relive my years while at Post Oak.
Now, a few months from graduation, a
new horizon is before me. I’ll admit that I
am nervous, but simultaneously excited. I
am eager for new challenges and a world
I have yet to explore. The passion for
learning and understanding instilled in me
from my Montessori roots will continue. I
know I have not completely answered the
question, “Why do you think the way you
do?” I still have some inner understanding
to work through; however, I do know,
thanks to my years at Post Oak, that I am
confident in myself because I have a strong
foundation to support the growth of my
future.

More Singing for One Student

The musical *Annie* is playing at the Hobby Center from March 20 to April 1.
Elementary student [redacted] will be playing Tessie, one of the orphans, in all
17 performances. Tickets are available online at [tuts.com](http://tuts.com), as well as study guides to learn
more about the time period.

[redacted]’s mother Jennifer wrote: The Post Oak School is such a supportive
environment for kids who have a passion they are pursuing. We are very glad to be at the
school for so many reasons and we are grateful for the support that [redacted] is getting
during this intensive rehearsal and show schedule this month.

As they say in the theater: break a leg.

Results of the Bus Naming Vote

Recently, Upper Elementary students decided to name our two activity vehicles. Some of
the Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary classes came up with names. From there,
the Middle School was approached with 12 names. We narrowed it down to six: Postie,
Oakie, Adventurer, Explorer, Maria, and Fire. The Middle School then conducted a vote
in which each student from Upper Elementary and Lower Elementary was given a ballot
and able to pick two names they would like the activity vehicles to be named. Once all
the votes were in, we counted the votes for each name. We are now excited to inform
the Post Oak community that our vehicle names have been chosen. The
activity vehicle names for the Post Oak School will be Adventurer
and Explorer! We thank
everyone for their input and
are excited to see the new
names displayed on the
vehicles soon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postie</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakie</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explorer</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventurer</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Post Oak wishes good luck to Upper Elementary student [redacted] as he competes in the next round of the
HoustonPBS Spelling bee on Saturday, March 31.
History Fair

The week before Spring Break, students in Upper Elementary and Middle School put the finishing touches on presentations for History Fair. Pictured are some of the exhibits along with their presenters, as well as visitors from Primary and Lower Elementary.

Check out the online parent community for more photos in the gallery.
Nanny Class

Deborah Fry, Redirecting Children’s Behavior instructor, will lead a series of four classes designed for nannies. The class will be taught in English, however, the workbook is available in Spanish if requested.

The class will meet on four Thursdays:
March 31, April 5, 19, and 26*
from 9:15–10:45 am

Upon completion of the class the nanny will be able to:
• Practice a consistent set of guidelines which harmonize with the approach your child experiences at school everyday
• Use positive language to redirect children’s behavior
• Encourage your child’s self-care skills and sense of responsibility
• Reduce sibling rivalry
• Interact to build self-esteem

The cost of the class is $150 per person. The class will be limited to 12 participants with a minimum of 8 for the class to be held.

To register call Deborah Fry at 713-840-8663
*The class does not meet on April 12.

Toddler Parenting Classes
for prospective parents

Experienced AMI Montessori teacher and mom, Deidre Lodrig, helps parents learn techniques for effective toilet-training, positive discipline, language development, socialization, and more!

Monday, April 2–May 21

Afternoon classes at The Post Oak School
2:00–3:00 pm

Evening classes at The Motherhood Center
(3701 W. Alabama 77027)
6:00–7:00 pm

Cost is $200 for the entire session (8 weeks)

To register go to www.postoakschool.org > For Parents > Parent Education and select Montessori Toddler Parenting Classes or visit www.motherhoodcenter.com.

For more info email deidrelodrig@postoakschool.org or call 713-661-6688 ext. 140
BLOOD DRIVE Benefiting

In support of one of our own classmates and friend, [redacted] The Post Oak School and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center are teaming up to host a mobile blood drive on the Post Oak campus on **Wednesday, March 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** continues to courageously battle neuroblastoma, a form of cancer that affects young children.

**If you would like to donate**, please schedule an appointment through the front office or online at [www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org) by registering as a Digital Donor and entering **our sponsor code (UU59)**. Be sure to eat a hearty meal at least one hour beforehand, drink at least one 16 oz. bottle of water and bring a picture I.D.

**We are also in need of parent volunteers to staff the donor tent.** If you’d like to volunteer, donate blood, have questions regarding donor eligibility or would like to schedule your appointment time, please contact Mary Vaeza-Lopez [redacted] or Kathryn Murphy [kathrynmurphy@postoakschool.org](mailto:kathrynmurphy@postoakschool.org).

**Keep fighting, We’re all in your corner!**

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CLASS PICTURES

Wed., March 28

starting at 8:30 am

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

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Infant Community Parent Education Event

Thurs., March 29, 7 pm

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FLAG FOOTBALL

**TUESDAY, APRIL 3**

4-5 PM

**AND DON’T FORGET IT’S SPIRIT DAY!**
1. Delighted by puzzle pieces.
2. Counting with the spindle box.
4. Developing balance in Primary PF.
5. Rehearsing a song for a camping trip.
Dirt! The Movie
a Spring Environmental Event at The Post Oak School

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Special screening* starts at 6:30 pm followed by a panel discussion with guests:

Monica Pope
Post Oak parent, award winning chef & restaurant owner

Kristina Carrillo-Bucaram
founder of Rawfully Organic co-op

Let’s talk food & gardening!

It’s Carbon-Neutral Day at Post Oak!
Walk, bike, or share a ride and bring your refillable water containers.
Let’s make it a no-waste day!

*A section will be skipped to make this event suitable for all ages.
Childcare available for Post Oak Primary and Elementary students.
Shop and Share

Don't forget! to link your Randall's Remarkable card and Target Visa Credit Card or Target Credit Card to The Post Oak School.

For more information, visit our website For Parents > Giving & Getting Involved > Store Rebate Programs.

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)

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