Pat Bassett, President of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) (of which Post Oak is a member school), said recently, “If you are not a school of the future, you won’t be a school in the future.” That’s certainly a memorable sound byte, and a proposition given real support this week when Harvard and MIT announced plans to jointly offer “massively open online courses (MOOCs).” While “edX” courses do not look like your grandfather’s MIT, it could be described as “lecture 2.0,” a conventional class on a colossal, internet scale, with quizzes scored robotically. Last December 160,000 people signed up for an Artificial Intelligence course.

continued on page 2
Returning to Bassett’s recommendations, he asks four Essential Questions to guide our thinking about schools of the future:

1. What should we teach?
2. How should we teach?
3. How should we assess?
4. How do we embed the vision?

The conventional answer to “What should we teach?” begins with the three Rs: reading, writing, and arithmetic. While that seems so 19th century, those are, in fact, the three sections of the contemporary SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). There can be little argument that those are core skills that students must hone to a high degree.

However, Bassett echoes the 21st Century Skills movement when he says the three Rs are not enough. Schools, he says, must help students develop the 5 Cs: Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Character. Some critics scorn these as “soft skills,” but in reality they are among the first attributes business leaders name when you ask them what they need from well-educated, highly-skilled workers. And what characteristics are named when those leaders themselves are described, as in Peter Sims’ Wall Street Journal article “Montessori Mafia”?

How do schools help students learn to collaborate, to work together? Ask students and adults in conventional schools and you’ll likely hear “team sports” mentioned first; even our business language reflects it. If this skill is so essential to the world of adult work, shouldn’t classes be structured to promote collaboration? Yet when I ask a roomful of adults to reflect on their school experiences, and pose the question, “What do you call it when one student helps another?” the spontaneous, universal response is, “Cheating.”

Let me invite you to read today’s issue of The Weekly Post through a particular filter: look for evidence of collaboration in the various photos and in the reporting on the Model United Nations trip taken by Upper Elementary and Middle School students. Ask yourself whether Post Oak students are given opportunities to develop collaboration and the other 5 Cs. •

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Experiences from MMUN 2012

by Errol and Maya Pinto

“I will never forget this experience in my whole life!” declared into the speaker’s microphone at the conclusion of the second day of committee deliberations. The next morning she was to accompany her peers into the ECOSOC conference Hall at the United Nations Building. She was to witness the Draft Resolution she had worked on, so carefully worded, to be voted in on the topic she had debated with the representatives of other countries, all of whom came to the resolution from the point of view of their own perspectives.

Modeling the United Nations was another exciting event this year. We have now worked through three such experiences, each year learning from the last, each year creating memories different and unique from the previous ones. This was also the largest Model UN since its inception in 2006. During the awe-inspiring General Assembly on opening night, we were astonished to learn that we were 1800 strong—all of us from Montessori schools, all over the US as well as 10 other countries. We represented 154 nations in several committees, and we sought solutions to current topics which are being discussed at the United Nations.

A parent came to tell me how beautiful it was to see Palestinian children, deep in conversation with Jewish children, in the same environment, sans prejudice, presumptions or political strain with the dignity and friendship only situations like this can create.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank our Head of School, Mr. Long; our Business Office, Ms. Lunsford and Ms. Peterson; and our parents and chaperones who were invaluable in their support, enthusiasm, and faith. We are looking forward to another grand experience next year.

by Gerry Waters, Post Oak parent

I am currently completing a certificate in Intercultural Relations. One of the main principles is how people from all cultures build up unconscious filters through which they see the world and relate to others. All cultures instinctively believe that their viewpoints/ways of doing things are ‘right.’ This not only leads to huge global conflicts, but also immense difficulties in how we work and relate to each other cross-culturally.

I believe that I’ve almost learned as much about navigating through these differences by watching groups of 10 to 12 year olds as I have from reading reams of academic papers and case studies. These children sat attentively (often more than 150 to a room), listened, collaborated and focused their attention on finding practical solutions to world problems. The energy and lack of prejudice was incredible. As parents sitting in the back whispered and texted, their children sat in respectful silence to listen to speeches and proposals, built upon each other’s ideas, and came up with resolutions that they voted on in session on the final day. They were clear-eyed and un-cynical about fixing the world’s problems, and they thought big.

Big thinking as a skill of Montessori children was echoed in a talk by Gregory MacDonald (AMI director of teacher training) that parents were able to attend during MMUN. Montessori trained children start with Big Ideas, and then
2012–13 POPA Event Chairs

We are delighted to present the 2012–13 Event Chairs for the POPA Dinner, Field Day, and Book Fair!

Also, welcome to our newest POPA Chair, Jessica Gregg! The new format is to select a POPA Chair each year for a two-year term, that will allow for continuity in the position. With so much going on at school next year, we are lucky to have three POPA Chairs as Whitney and Laura fulfill their second year while showing Jessica the ropes!

What about yearbook? We need you! Please contact the development office if you would like to help.

(Not pictured: Gala Chairs Jian Short and Erin Stus, and Cinco Coordinators.)

POPA Leadership: Laura Citardi, Jessica Gregg, and Whitney Walsh

POPA Dinner: Nikayla Thomas & Jenny Mohr

Field Day: Mary Vaeza-Lopez & Bernadette Verzosa

Book Fair: Hillery Hugg & Mary Stephens
Spanish Fair

The Spanish Fair took place on May 2 at Post Oak. For this event, students in Mrs. Nickerson’s, Mr. Pinto’s, and Mrs. Roark’s classes worked very hard to research, prepare and present information about some of the Spanish-speaking countries. Their parents, Elementary, and Middle School students, as well as faculty and staff, were invited to hear these presentations, all in Spanish.

In addition to all the effort they put into their wonderful presentations, students researched and prepared traditional foods from various countries and offered their guests tasty samples. This project gave the students the opportunity to apply many skills, share their work, have fun, and practice their Spanish language skills! ¡Felicitades!

by Patricia Onofre, Spanish Specialist
New Big Sister Alert

There’s a new addition in the Gowda family! Meet [Redacted] Gowda, sibling to [Redacted] Gowda. [Redacted] was born April 20 with a head full of hair and quite an appetite, weighing in at 8 pounds 10 ounces. Congratulations to parents Cynthia and Ashok Gowda!

Greening of Post Oak

Starting next fall, the directory section of the Parent Handbook will become a separate booklet and given to all families at orientation. As part of our green initiative, the handbook itself will be printed in small quantities for new families and remain available online (and to download) for the entire community.

We appreciate your support and value your feedback as we implement these changes in order to keep Post Oak green.

Make Plans Now to Attend Graduation

It’s time to make plans to attend the eighth-grade graduation on May 25 at 6:30 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear the students share in their own words about their time at Post Oak. Parents of younger children have remarked in the past what a powerful experience it was, giving them a “portrait of a graduate.” Come see the power of Post Oak education and celebrate with those students moving forward.

“What can we do with the kids today? Where should we go for swim lessons? Are there any good live children’s shows this month? Parentspost.com can help you answer these questions, and more.”

Take a look at this new website launched by Post Oak parent Bernadette Verzosa. It includes links to activities and information for Houston families.
OOPS!
Last week we shared news of Catherine Fonfren’s invitation to Phi Beta Kappa, noting that she was a senior, when in fact she is currently in her junior year at the University of Texas. (Did you know? Phi Beta Kappa’s motto is “Love of learning is the guide of life.”)

Additionally, her father, Leland, (currently a Trustee Emeritus on the Post Oak Board) shared that Catherine has been named an official recipient of the Louis Pearce Jr. Unrestricted Endowed Presidential Scholarship from the university. “The scholarship provides a $2,500 stipend for the recipients to use however they choose.

“The Unrestricted Endowed Presidential Scholarships are among the most prestigious awards the university has to offer. These scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and financial need. This year 2,200 students met initial qualifications, but only 288 students were nominated. This is out of the entire university undergraduate student body. Catherine is humbled by the honor.

“Needless to say Laurie and I are both so proud of Catherine and her accomplishments. Wow!”

Congratulations again, Catherine!

Update from Abroad
“We just returned from our safari trip to Africa and spring break ends today. Things are going well and the kids have adjusted to the school and life in Karachi. I may not write to you, but there are many moments when I think about what a great impact Montessori education has had on our children and I am forever grateful for that.” –Munira Janmohamed

Post Oak Alums Aim High
Post Oak alumna, Rachel Levy (eighth grade class ‘11), took up pole vaulting this year with great success. At a recent three-school track meet, she broke the Kinkaid girls’ freshman record, clearing the bar on her third and final attempt. That vault landed her second place in the meet. The winner vaulted the same height as Rachel, but cleared the bar on her first attempt. What Episcopal High School sophomore beat Rachel’s effort? Post Oak alumna Karis Barker (eighth grade class ’10)!

Do you have an alumni story to share? Please contact kathrynmurphy@postoakschool.org or update your information at www.postoakschool.org/postoak/alumni.asp
Becoming a Love & Logic Parent©

Tuesdays, 6–8 pm  
May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 26  
(5 weeks)

Discount will be given to Post Oak parents!  
Cost: $90 per person + $10 workbook  
Drop-in fee: $25 per night  
(free for prior completion of entire series)

For more information call Post Oak Counselor Phylis Tomlinson at 713-668-6558  
or email her at phylis.tomlinson@gmail.com

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 every class? 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.

Summer Class for Redirecting Children’s Behavior  
The Gentle Art of Parenting

Wednesday evenings, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 6:15–9:15 pm

This four week, twelve hour course teaches parents how to help children grow in a way that enhances self-esteem, teaches responsibility, and promotes cooperation and self mastery. Upon completion, you will be able to:

- Discipline without yelling  
- Interact to build self-esteem  
- Reduce sibling rivalry  
- Develop a sense of responsibility  
- Redirect mistaken goals  
- Create an encouraging family

Course fee: $235 for one; $335 per couple  
Fee includes 25 minute one-on-one phone coaching  
One-on-one parent coaching: $110/hr.  
Sleep coaching: $135/hr.

Taught by Deborah Fry PhD, CPE  
For more information and to register, please call Deborah at 713-840-8663.
1. An Infant Community class gathers together for a story.
2. “You do the next one.” Working together with the red rods to distinguish lengths.
3. Discovery through reading together in a Primary class.
4. Two Lower Elementary students set up multiplication problems with the checker board.
5. Practicing a presentation with friends (can you find the third person in the photo?)
6. Using racks and tubes in Lower Elementary to solve a division problem.
Experiences from MMUN 2012.
continued from page 3

This was my first time in MMUN and I think that it was one of the most fun and productive educational trips that I have ever been on. I think what I liked the most was that every day we had a set agenda with a tour of the UN on this day and then the first committee session on the next day. It seemed that we were always accomplishing something.

The MMUN conferences made me feel like my voice and my thoughts are actually being heard somewhere. That what I am doing is actually building up to a resolution that will fix an international problem. We met a lot of people too. I think a big part of the MMUN program is being social. We actually had an entire evening to socialize and exchange phone numbers and all of that. It feels really good to have one friend in California and then one in New Mexico and one in Kentucky.

My abiding memory of the conference will be an image of a Chinese boy teaching a Pakistani girl and an American boy how to do Cat’s Cradle during a social evening. They were learning from each other, collaborating, and enjoying each other’s company without any reservations. They were bridging across cultures, generously and unconsciously. What a wonderful experience to be part of! Thank you, Maya and Errol Pinto, for giving us this gift.

On our first night in New York some of us actually went to eat at Times Square and then rode the Ferris Wheel in Toys “R” Us. We also visited the M&M Factory and the Hershey’s Factory. The eight of us didn’t get back to the hotel until after midnight!

I think I can speak for everyone that it was a truly unique experience. Thank you, Honorable Chair and Fellow Delegates.

I enjoyed participating in Montessori Model United Nations very much. It was a lot of work, and a lot of staying up late, but it was worth it. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in this program. Originally, I wanted to join because it sounded interesting, and it was interesting. I got to learn about the
United Nations, my country, and many other things. I got to meet new people, debate with people, exchange ideas, and work with a team to come up with a resolution that everybody liked. Next year, I am going to do this program again, no question.

I didn’t sign up for MMUN last year, and I regret that. This year, by the end of the first lesson, I knew I would like this program. I was a little unsure that I wanted extra homework, but I realized it wasn’t a big deal. Every Thursday, I would look forward to MMUN. With a lot of the work, I procrastinated because I thought it would be hard, but when I started working on it, it wasn’t that hard. The hardest thing by far was the position paper, on which I stayed up until 11:30 working. For the rest of the work, once I started working, it was a breeze. I enjoyed hearing lectures from Mrs. Pinto and learning many new things, and the MMUN classes became one of my favorite events each week.

The weekend before we went to New York, I could relax knowing after the weekend, I would only have one day of school before I took that trip I had waited for so long. When I finally got there, I was so excited, and the first two days were over before I knew it. Then came the day where our committee sessions started. I couldn’t wait until I got to my committee, but I was also nervous that we might have a mean president. But when I met him, he was actually quite nice. We spent the next two days hearing and giving speeches and caucusing, and we even got a third topic to discuss. When the day came for voting on our draft resolutions, I was so happy that we reached consensus with every draft resolution. I was sad to leave New York, but now that I know what MMUN is like, next year is going to be even more fun!

BY

My experience in participating in Montessori Model United Nations was very fun and a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. I mean how many people can say, “I went to the United Nations in New York!” If you ask me, not very many. Last year I really wanted to do MMUN but had already signed up for art class which just so happened to be on Thursday, the days for MMUN. I was really upset because everyone was talking about how fun and great it was to be in New York and give a speech. I wished I had been there, and so that’s why I’m here this year. I’ve had so much fun this year.

Every day of researching just made me more and more excited. I just couldn’t wait to be in New York having fun making our resolution, caucusing, going to committee meetings, giving my speech, and most importantly to change the world to make it a better place for all of us, one step at a time. The cool thing that happened the last day of MMUN was that my resolution passed!!!!!! I was so happy once I found out that my resolution had passed. It was so cool. I was so happy, because now children all over the world can live the life they want. This past year I’ve made a lot of new friends from all over the world, and even got to know the people in my school better.

I gave my speech in committee meeting and I was so hesitant when they called the Republic of Namibia, I finally got up to the microphone and I said the first word and I thought it was so easy so I just kept going until I ended my speech and everyone clapped. I felt so relieved that it wasn’t so bad. It was actually really fun! Like everyone said they did last year. I had a great time in New York, learning about all of these places from everywhere around the world, and all the new friends I made. I hope I get to come back next year, and meet new people, and give my speech, go to committee meetings, and last to change people’s lives.

BY

I feel like I will never forget my amazing experience. It truly was fantastic. I had never done anything like it before. I had never been so involved. It actually felt like I could change the world and how it worked. If I could vote for a resolution that we came up with in our meetings, it could actually start to solve the problem.

I had a lot of fun even though I was nervous about saying my speech.
Experiences from MMUN 2012.  
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Sometimes the pressure to do well is overwhelming. My speech was a little long as they cut down the speaking time by the time it got to my turn, but I got most of it out. I proposed four caucuses and I’m glad I did.

I really liked the social night in the hotel. I’m glad you signed my book! I also got signatures from a lot of nice Chinese and Arabic people. One girl was from Palestine, but she lives in New Jersey. She was really nice.

I hope that one day the UN will help countries around the world solve all their problems. I think the UN should tell the United States and the United Kingdom to become nuclear weapon free states. Maybe nuclear weapon free states like Namibia and Lao can back the UN up. Maybe we can stamp out nuclear weapons around the world.

Mrs. Pinto, thank you so much for all your hard work.

BY [Student Name]

I did a lot of fun stuff on our MMUN New York trip. There was a lot of business stuff to do but it was all really fun!

On Wednesday, we went on our day trip. That was a lot of fun! On our day trip we went to Brooklyn Heights, walked across the Brooklyn Bridge, and went to the Tweed Courthouse. Then we took the subway to Grand Central Station and from there we walked to the United Nations for a tour. We had a tour of the General Assembly (GA). We learned a lot about the UN and how it works. It was really surprising because when we told our tour guide that we were going to be down there in the GA, she said “You guys are really lucky because not even the employees are allowed to go down there.” We had the opening ceremony at the GA and we just learned about what we would be doing.

On Thursday and Friday we had committee meetings all day. One of my favorite things about committee was passing notes to other countries, but I also liked caucusing, meeting new people, giving my speech, making our resolutions, and voting. It was a lot more fun and more complicated than I thought it would be. My topic was Natural disasters focusing on the situation in Japan. When I first started giving my speech I was really nervous but the more I got into it the easier and more fun it got.

On Saturday we had the Closing Ceremony. At the Closing Ceremony we went to the UN. Our committee voted on the resolutions we had come up with. If it was a majority the resolution passed and became a draft final resolution. When it became a resolution it would go through the GA and get sent to the real delegates of that country. But then again if it was minority the resolution would not pass.

I had a great experience in New York. I made a lot of new friends. I learned a lot of cool new stuff on this trip. And I really want to do MMUN again next year.
Refugees. We had about twelve people on the speakers list then we caucused and caucused and caucused. During that time someone took the Norwegian krone from the Norway country display. An hour before the afternoon session was over we finished the first topic. The conclusion was one draft resolution because all of the other resolutions merged with each other until there was one resolution left. So we started the second topic, which was the situation in Sierra Leone, early.

That night we had the Talent Show, which was at the hotel. We started off by doing the flag procession which was with the flags. Many people came up and did something. The people from China did tai-chi and sang, and the people from Mexico danced. The next day Friday we went back to our committee rooms. My committee finished the second topic by the time the first session was over. The conclusion was the same one draft resolution. In the afternoon since we were done with both topics the dais passed out papers that gave information about what would be our third topic, which was about the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan. Again, we got the same conclusion one draft resolution. The next day Saturday we took buses to the UN. The GA was being used by the US mission, so the MMUN had to vote in the ECOSOC rooms. First DISEC voted on their resolutions, then another committee, then the UNPBC’s turn to vote came. Each one of the our draft resolutions passed with a perfect vote, which meant that they all reached consensus. After another committee voted we left the UN. Like I said before I think that MMUN is a really good experience!

This was my third year doing MMUN. MMUN was really fun as it is every year. My favorite part of MMUN was caucusing, because you get to meet new people and make new friends. My country continued on next page

This is an example of a Draft Resolution submitted by which was negotiated, read, and voted upon at the culmination of the MMUN Conference 2012:

1.3 Lao
Concerned about the dangers of nuclear weapons, our committee created the resolution to combat the creation and spread of nuclear weapons. This resolution seeks to create a new disarmament treaty as well as a new committee-UNDNDW or the United Nations Disarmament of Nuclear Weapons for protection, communication and security between countries regarding nuclear weapon disarmament. It seeks also to educate people about the dangers of nuclear weapons and to monitor sales of uranium and other radioactive material. With this effort we hope to achieve a nuclear weapon free world.

Resolution
1. Urges that there should be a committee called U.N.D.N.W which would stand for United Nation Disarmament of Nuclear Weapons. The reason is because this topic is very important and if nuclear war were to begin that would be a very big problem. U.N.D.N.W would give security to any country that is threatened by another country with nuclear weapons. U.N.D.N.W would also help make treaties with member states about nuclear nonproliferation
2. Recommends monitoring all sales of uranium and other things that are used to build a nuclear bomb.
3. Urges all member states to sign the nuclear test ban treaty if not done so already.
4. Recommends recycling all parts of nuclear weapons when a nuclear weapon is disarmed.
5. Recommends adding more nuclear free zones in crises and rogue regions, so that we can have a nuclear free world.
6. Urges to discourage nuclear weapons.
7. Recommends that countries that are suspected to be making nuclear weapons should be inspected and should have inspectors at all times.
8. Recommends that we should educate people on how bad nuclear weapons are for the world and how much damage they can cause.
9. Recommends having a meeting with all member states that have nuclear weapons. And convince them to stop producing nuclear weapons.
10. Recommends that there should be a nuclear weapon freeze.
11. Enforce a nuclear bomb free world.
12. Recommends monitoring nuclear power plants which would be closely monitored by the U.N.
13. Recommends limiting the sale of uranium only to countries that have been voted on the U.N to only use the uranium for good purposes.
14. Encourage, and enforce all nuclear treaties including test ban treaties. Recommended by signatories and sponsors:

**Sponsors**
Lao, Andorra, Nigeria, Namibia, Mauritius, Norway, Mozambique, France, Somalia, Belgium, Egypt

**Signatories**
Burkina Faso, Zambia, Kenya, Qatar, Cyprus, Austria, Iran, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Cuba, Malaysia, Russia, India, Mexico, Egypt, Italy, Guatemala, Romania, Spain, Venezuela, Cape Verde, Slovakia, Colombia, Somalia, Belgium, Switzerland, Argentina, Belarus, Thailand
Experiences from MMUN 2012.

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was Namibia, and my committee was UNESCO (United Nations Education, Social, and Cultural Organization.)

My partner was... Besides our work in committee, we went to M&M World, Times Square, Toys "R" Us, The Hershey Store, and we walked the Brooklyn Bridge. It was all really fun.

I had a lot of fun with all my friends. I met some new ones from the states and from China. I wish that we would have another MMUN next year because it was a great experience and really fun.

BY

Last week I went to the UN. It was a trip to make our speeches and resolutions. It is an experience I will never forget. For me it was educational. I was very excited about the trip and it met my expectations.

The first thing we did was to go on a walking tour to the Brooklyn Bridge. The second thing we did is go to the UN building and listen to speeches at the opening ceremony. Next we stayed in our hotel but had a meeting in which we made our speeches and draft resolutions to the second problem. The third thing we did was to come back to the same meeting place and make our speeches and draft resolutions for the second issue. Then we were at our last day in New York. We went to the UN and voted on our draft resolutions. Both of mine got through.

Then it was time to leave. It was a fun trip and an amazing experience. I was definitely sad to leave. It had been a fun week and an experience I want to repeat. I hope to be part of MMUN next year and can't wait to learn more.

BY

MMUN was very fun. From the flight there to the flight back I was excited. I had very good experiences. This was my first year going, so I didn't know what to expect. I loved it. When we took the day trip of the UN, I saw how amazing everything looked. In my committee room I worked on two resolutions. They both passed. It was cool. I was in DISEC. My topic was nuclear weapons. And my resolution for nuclear weapons passed. My partner's resolutions (I said that both of them were mine earlier) passed. I will go next year!

BY

I had a wonderful time in New York. It was a great experience to have. My favorite thing I did was create a resolution and give my speech.

It was amazing that I got such a great opportunity to make a difference. All of us have come a long way from the first MMUN class. I know that I improved a lot in my writing skills because of the position paper, speech and resolution writing. Doing all of this work was worth it because I am so much better at finding solutions to problems. Getting to sit and see where real delegates work at the UN was empowering.

Meeting new people from all over the world and getting to make resolutions was incredible! I was so happy to find out that I got both of my resolutions passed. I hope to get the chance to do it again.

BY

This is my third year as a delegate in the MMUN program. This year I represented the country of Lao and I was in the committee of SOCHUM. This stands for Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian. Although it was my third year I still had lots of fun and it was definitely not the exact same experience.

We did not do all the work at New York. Most of the work was done in Houston as preparation. First we have a background history of the UN. After becoming

continued on next page
experts on the UN, we are assigned a country. This is very exciting! To get to know our country we have to do a 20-page report on your country and it's not as hard as it sounds, plus you learn so much and have fun. Then there is some small work. Then you are assigned committees, topics and partners but then comes the hardest part … the position paper!

The position paper is an essay which explains your position on your topic. Basically you explain how your country is involved with your topic. It is actually not too difficult if you understand how to do it and focus when you write it. After the position paper all that is really left is writing your speech to present in New York, to your fellow delegates from other Montessori Schools all over America and around the globe. Writing your speech is not hard but presenting it is nerve-racking. After this we must learn the protocol of the meeting and we learn how to write a draft resolution. The draft resolution is the solution you come up with, with other countries supporting you. Then you vote on your draft resolution and if at least 2/3's of the committee agrees with it, your draft resolution becomes a resolution which actually goes to the head of the real UN, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

When you go to New York everything goes by in a flash. You get there and go to an opening ceremony which is lots of fun, then the next day committee starts. You give your speech, make many new friends, and write resolutions. The next day it is your partner’s turn and you may help them out. That evening there is always a very exciting and funny talent show, which many people perform in, but it is optional. Then the next day you get to go to the one and only UN building, international territory. So even though it is in New York, no government owns it. When you are in the UN building all you think about is will my resolution pass? For some it will for others it will not, but the experience is what really keeps you happy.

This year at the UN I had lots of learning experiences, had lots of fun, and most of all came back knowing I had helped the world in my own way.

BY

I started the MMUN program because I thought it would be a challenge and it was. It was a great experience and I had fun doing it. I learned about the real United Nations and some real problems around the world.

As a delegate I represented the People’s Democratic Republic of Lao. The resolution I worked on was the Humanitarian Crisis of the Gaza Strip. I worked on the resolution with a few other delegates with similar topics. At first I was really nervous to give my speech but then after my first two sentences I got over it. The hardest part for me would probably be the position paper. I am planning on doing MMUN again next year. It was nice working with Montessori students from around the world and I look forward to seeing them again. I recommend the MMUN program to you, if you are up for the challenge.

When I first arrived at New York City, the first thing I wanted to do was sleep for a day. But my mom made me eat, we had Italian food with some other people. The next day we had a tour of Brooklyn and the Brooklyn Bridge. My favorite part of the tour was our tour guide saying, “Stay on the left side of the walkway because the cyclists will mow you down and yell at you.” After that we took the Subway to the UN, and after we entered the gate I think we all realized that we were no longer on US soil. Some people even jumped from inside the gate to the outside (the US) saying, “I’m in the US (jump inside the gate) I’m on international land.”

That night we went to the UN General Assembly for the Opening Ceremonies. There was a retired football captain turned ambassador who said his speech via Skype. Then the US Middle Eastern Ambassador gave a speech. They then announced the MMUN tee-shirt winners, and said some more stuff then they dismissed us.

The first day of work sessions we did not do my topic, but what I did do was make (my partner) be on the Speakers List by raising the placard for him and then forcing him to take it. That day was pretty boring for me because I literally sat there for seven hours total, four in the morning and three in the afternoon. The second day was more interesting because 1) it was my topic and 2) I got to give my speech. We went through the whole speakers list before any caucusing was done, so everyone gave their speech before we spoke to anyone. The resolution that I helped create passed with a majority vote. That day we left, but it was fun and I will have memories of it for a very long time. ♦
CALENDAR
For more, visit www.postoakschool.org

MAY 13–19

Sun
5/13
Happy Mother’s Day!

Tues
5/15
High School Spring Preview
4:00–6:00 pm

Thu
5/17
New Elementary Parent Gathering
Lower EL: 6:30–7:15 pm
Upper EL: 7:15–8:00 pm

Fri
5/18
Spirit Day: Wear a Post Oak shirt!
Spring ASEP ends

MAY 20–26

Middle School breakfast
7:40 am

Tues
5/22
New Infant Community Parent Gathering
7:00 pm

Wed–Thu
5/23–5/24
Middle School to The Retreat at Artesian Lakes

Fri
5/25
Last day of school
Early dismissal

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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NOTICE BOARD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
for
Summer Movie Night
June 15

Summer’s not far away and neither are your Post Oak friends. Stay connected at this family-friendly evening on the back lawn brought to you by our own Dads’ Club.
Bring a picnic blanket, popcorn will be provided. More info to come!

The Great Post Oak Book Exchange
What: The Great Post Oak Book Exchange – Turn in old books for new, gently used ones.
When: Donate gently used books May 1–15 in specially marked boxes in the library.
The Book Exchange will take place on Friday, May 18. (Note new date!)
Where: The Post Oak Library