It’s summer and that means it’s time to catch up on all the latest news from Post Oak Alums. Some are headed off to college, others are beginning new careers, traveling, or simply pursuing their hobbies and passions.

To all former Post Oak students, whether you attended through Middle School or only in your early years, you are an alum and we’d love to hear from you! If you don’t see your friends, tell them to connect at www.postoakschool.org/postoak/alumni.asp or contact kathrynmurphy@postoakschool.org.

CLASS OF 1981

Stephen Marchione

Stephen earned his BA in music from Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. He began his career as a luthier 1990. His work is available to view online at www.marchione.com.

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CLASS OF 1999

Justin Boyar
I recently graduated from Thunderbird School of Global Management with a masters in global management in April. I was hired by Jones Lang LaSalle (NYSE: JLL) to work as a consultant in Panama City, Panama. In that role, I will take over for the JLL Vice President of Panama when she goes on maternity leave, and will manage all of JLL’s service lines and the needs of our clients in Panama.

We manage the commercial real estate needs of multinational clients in Panama, such as P&G, Halliburton, Merck, Microsoft, and Motorola. When I am not managing the needs of our clients, I will be pursuing business development opportunities for JLL in Latin America. This promises to be an extraordinarily exciting, challenging, and adventurous opportunity. I could not be more thrilled with the direction my life is taking, and for the opportunity to work for such a great company.

Again, as always, I am grateful to Post Oak for helping me build a creative foundation, and for encouraging me to push the boundaries of life, growing into the person I truly want to become.

CLASS OF 2000

Abbie Kamin
Abbie just finished her first year of law school at American University and is working for the Democratic National Committee in Washington D.C. this summer.

CLASS OF 2001

Sam Geer
Things are going good here! I’m still working at Apple to pay the bills, but I’ve finished the feature film screenplay I was working on with fellow alum William Wawro. Another Post Oak alum, Jonathan Ward, is producing the film (which I will direct). We’re going to be shooting in Georgia, and at the beginning of May we went out there to scout for locations. It was a great trip and we found many a beautiful place to film. We’re now in the process of raising the money to finance it, and we’re planning on shooting towards the end of August through mid-September. So, all in all, pretty exciting stuff!

CLASS OF 2002

I’ve included an image of Jonathan that I took while we were scouting a particularly beautiful overlook up in the mountains of northern Georgia.

Please give my regards to the rest of the Post Oak family!

Nick Hetherington
I am still working at ESPN. I have been there for close to two years now as a production assistant cutting highlights for Sportscenter. For the past nine months I have been working on the morning Sportscenter, recutting highlights from the previous night to make them fresh for the audience at 9 a.m. Aside from the crazy hours, I really do love the job, definitely miss Texas though. This fall I hope to move on to another studio show, like College Gameday, where there are some more opportunities to travel around the country.

Ben Jawdat
I’m working at the Texas Center for Superconductivity at U of H (TcSUH) over this summer as a research assistant, and in the fall I plan to start the third year of my physics PhD program, working as a research assistant and also taking classes in the physics department.

CLASS OF 2003

Sam Boyar
I have been working for a small, independent oil and gas company based...
in Austin called Border to Border Exploration. I am a wellsite geologist and work half of the time on our rigs in East Texas and half the time doing developmental and exploration geology work in our Austin office. Due to the current high price of oil, we are very active and are drilling a lot more than in previous years. Thus, this will be a very busy summer for me, constantly traveling back and forth from our rigs and our office. It is a very exciting time to be in oil and gas, so I am really enjoying the career path I chose.

**Brittany Fondren**

I graduated in May 2011 with honors from Southwestern University with a major in religion and a minor in English. I live in Houston and worked at Texas Inter-Faith for eight months before starting a new job at Cornerstone Recovery, Inc., a nonprofit organization that helps teens and their families recover from drug and alcohol addiction. In August, I’m going to Japan for a week to visit my sister, Catherine.

**Nick Wallace**

I spent the last semester in Panama, and afterward I backpacked from Panama City up to Mexico. I was taking business classes at the Florida State University campus in Panama City, getting credit towards my BBA in MIS (Management Information Systems). I’m currently working a summer internship at Marathon Oil, and I’m going back to school at the University of Houston in the fall to continue my BBA, hoping to graduate in the fall of 2013.

**William Wawro**

After graduating from Syracuse University last year I moved out to Los Angeles without an apartment or job. While crashing on a friend’s couch, I went to as many job interviews as possible. I was fortunate enough to get a job as an assistant editor at City Room Creative, a post production company that makes movie trailers.

It’s been a perfect fit. I’ve moved into a proper apartment (no more couch surfing) and am working with fellow Post Oak alumni, Sam Geer and Jona Ward, on a feature script. I am becoming more and more acclimated with Los Angeles, but I still miss Houston, and I look forward when I get to come home for a weekend or two to see family and friends and the familiar humidity.

**CLASS OF 2004**

**Jennie Kamin**

I just graduated Cum Laude from Tulane University with a degree in political science and a focus in American policy and practice. This semester, I worked part-time as an assignment desk editor for New Orleans’ local NBC-affiliate station. Right at the beginning of my college career, Louisiana created tax incentives for filming and the state has since surpassed Los Angeles in terms of production popularity. As my academic background also includes theater and communications, I have been fortunate enough to work on a number of film, news, and television projects in the city both on and behind the camera. As for recent projects, I wrapped on a film a few weeks ago for the SyFy network set to air on Halloween and I will be working on an independent film in New Orleans at the end of June.

**Samantha Lubel**

Samantha graduated Magna Cum Laude from Syracuse University in May. She majored in child and family studies and minored in psychology and gerontology. She will be working for a law firm this year while she studies for the LSAT and applies to law school.

**Matthew McDonald**

Starting around middle school and possibly even earlier I started getting into music, specifically playing drums. When I started at Episcopal High School, I joined band and my musical activities blossomed from there. After graduating EHS, I chose to attend Boston University as a percussion
performance major and just graduated from there. I will be attending the New England Conservatory in the fall for my masters in music and hope that the two-year program will provide me ample opportunity to audition and scope out the job field (because my undergrad did not). I have worked with Generations Theatre Company (a Houston-based theater group headed by the Episcopal theater director, George Brock), playing every musical they have put on since their inception in 2008. Another Post Oak graduate, Stephanie Styles, has also worked with them every summer and continues to do so. Last summer we performed the U.S. regional premier of the Tony Award winning Spring Awakening. This year is a show called Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, which is a rock musical highlighting the life of former president Andrew Jackson. Generations hasn’t updated their actual website in over a year but their Facebook page has information about both of the shows they’re putting on this summer, Bloody and Thornton Wilder’s iconic American play Our Town. (www.facebook.com/gentheatre)

Christina Moser
I just graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a BFA in design and am on the job search! If anyone in the Post Oak community knows of any graphic design opportunities in Austin let me know! A couple of weeks ago I completed work on a personal website to showcase my work: christinamoser.com

I finished up my internship with The Butler Bros. The Butler Bros are an idea production company, located on the east side of Austin. A graphic design studio started by Adam and Marty Butler, the company’s core focus is promoting products, people, and ideas that are worth sharing. Some of their clients include Livestrong, The Legacy Foundation, Sweet Leaf Tea, and more. Currently I am on vacation with my family in beautiful Maui, Hawaii and will be here for the next week.

CLASS OF 2005
Catherine Fondren
After working in Dr. Malcolm Brenner and Dr. Cliona Rooney’s Cell and Gene Therapy Lab at Texas Children’s Hospital, Catherine is now studying in Japan for a four-month semester at J. F. Oberlin University. She is entering her senior year at the University of Texas at Austin in the Plan II program and was recently invited to join Phi Beta Kappa.

CLASS OF 2006
Stephanie Styles
I just finished my sophomore year at the University of Michigan where I am getting a BFA in musical theatre. Next year will be my third year rooming with another Post Oak alum, Becky Bereswill. I will be performing in Houston this summer with Generations Theatre Company in Our Town as Emily Webb and Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson as Rachel Jackson. You can buy tickets at buy.ticketstothecity.com.

CLASS OF 2007
Gray (Graeme) Crawford
Gray is in Houston for the summer after completing a very successful freshman year at St. John’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He’s working at a law firm this summer and is looking forward to returning in late August to St. John’s for his sophomore year.

Neva Gohel
Neva is a rising sophomore at Colorado College. She is planning on studying in Paris this summer and will also be taking an art class through Parsons School of Design. She will travel to Spain with her family this summer.

CLASS OF 2008
Alexi Beavers
Alexi is attending Southern Methodist University in the fall. She received a Hilltop Scholarship and a Provost Scholarship.

Kyle Burke
Kyle graduated from St. Thomas High School. He is attending Houston Community College this summer. Kyle plans to attend Austin Community College this fall and transfer to the University of Texas in January 2013.
Jeffrey Davis
Jeffrey graduated from Episcopal High School. He is a rising freshman in the honors program at the University of Texas Cockrell School of Engineering. Jeffrey also received a merit scholarship from the UT School of Engineering.

Hannah Fred
Hannah graduated from Kinkaid and will be a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin.

Tom Harvey
Tom graduated from St. John’s School in May. He received the Department Chair award in humanities and history, the top award in that department across all upper school classes. He also received the Headmaster’s Award, recognizing service to the St. John’s community.

Tom enjoyed a trip to Europe this summer with friends and will be a freshman at Notre Dame this fall, where his brother and fellow Post Oak alum, Michael, will be a junior.

Christian Martinez
Christian graduated from School of the Woods and will be a freshman at the University of New Orleans.

Luciano Posada
Lou graduated from Kinkaid and will be a freshman at the University of Houston this fall. He plans to study biomedical engineering.

Nikhil Schneider
Nikhil is working full-time for a construction company this summer. He will be attending The University of Houston Honors College this fall.

CLASS OF 2009
Josh Brenner
Josh has an internship this summer in a lab at MD Anderson studying various pulmonary functions. He also spent time in London visiting family. Josh will be a senior this fall at St. John’s School.

CLASS OF 2010
Amelia Eskridge
Amelia will be a junior at the John Cooper School in The Woodlands. She served as co-president of her sophomore class and was voted sophomore class “outstanding student” by The Woodlands Rotary Club. This summer she is attending the National Student Leadership Conference, a two-week program in Washington, DC and New York where she is participating in programs on international diplomacy.

CLASS OF 2011
Benjamin Brenner
Benjamin will be a sophomore this fall at Carnegie Vanguard High School. He will spend two weeks in Greece this summer with his family.

Christian Gray
Christian, a rising sophomore at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, is volunteering at the summer food program at His Way Baptist Church. She is also taking a driver’s education course early this summer.

Rachael Levy
Rachael, entering her sophomore year at Kinkaid this fall, won the award for the outstanding student in advanced geometry for both freshman and sophomore classes on Honors Day.

Thomas Rasor
In Episcopal High School’s Honors Chapel, Thomas received an “Outstanding Excellence Award” and, in the JV Athletic Awards Presentation, he received a medal for “Most Improved Player” from the coaches and players on his basketball team. He plans to play volleyball, basketball, and baseball this coming school year.

Megan Routbort
Megan received the “Outstanding Freshman in English” award and a bronze level recognition for community service (50 to 74 hours). She also won first place in The Boniuk Center’s Embracing Tolerance Essay Contest (ninth–tenth grade division) with her essay titled “Across the Aisle.” Megan will be a sophomore at St. John’s School.

Jahnavi Schneider & Devina Schneider
Jahnavi and Devina are taking New Testament at Episcopal High School where they will be sophomores in the fall. They are taking a driver’s education course and will be getting their learner’s permits soon so watch out! Jahnavi and Devina are also volunteering at the TWRC Wildlife Center in the Baby Bird Program. They are pretty much a unit this summer – they even babysit and lifeguard together.
CLASS OF 2012

Devin Gohel
Devin is taking enrichment classes at Episcopal High School before beginning his freshman year there this fall. He is traveling to Spain for a week this summer with his family (including sister and fellow alum, Neva). He is also planning on attending Putney Student Travel Program to Costa Rica for a month where he will learn Spanish and help build a school in a small community close to Liberia.

OTHER ALUMNI

Channing Allshouse
Entering her seventh grade year this fall, Channing has demonstrated high academic standards during her first year at Kinkaid School. She was awarded the Leigh Weld Sixth Grade Award, an accolade in honor of long time middle school faculty member Leigh Weld, to the sixth grade student who demonstrates outstanding citizenship and commitment to making the school’s community a better place for all students.

Payal Chana
Payal attended Post Oak through the second grade and graduated from Bellaire High School in 1999. She studied Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University and received her masters in business from Rice University. Payal’s son, , will start in the Infant Community this fall.

Mark Christopher
Mark attended Post Oak through third grade and graduated from St. John’s School in 1994. He studied at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and received his graduate degree from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. Mark is a consultant with The Arkin Group and lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife.

Isa Hetherington
Isa graduated from Episcopal High School and will be a freshman at the University of Texas.

Tina Hetherington
Tina graduated from Episcopal High School and will be a junior at the University of Texas.

Joanna Pauli Kluemper
I started at Post Oak when I was 18 months old and left after finishing third grade. I loved Post Oak, it was like a second home to me! In a nutshell, I graduated from Texas Christian University with an entrepreneurial management degree and minors in Spanish and health and fitness. I moved to Kansas unexpectedly after graduating and have lived here ever since. I met my wonderful husband at work and we were married in October of last year. My parents talk about Post Oak at least once a month. It was such a blessing to have had such wonderful teachers and faculty that were so involved and so caring.

Alexa Lubel
Alexa just completed her freshman year at University of Kansas, earning a place on the Dean’s List. She is majoring in journalism.

Alison Wong
Alison attended Post Oak through the sixth grade and graduated from St. John’s School in 1992. She attended Southwestern University where she studied psychology and sociology and received her Juris Doctor from the University of Texas Law School. Alison is a trial consultant and her son, , attends Post Oak in the Infant Community.

Jessica Wagner McCauley
Jessica, a former student and teacher at Post Oak, recently got married at The Houstonian and is currently teaching first grade at The Fay School.

All photos submitted by respective alumni.

Kathryn Murphy is Post Oak’s Alumni Relations and Development Coordinator. Email her with news, updated contact information, or for volunteer opportunities. (kathrynmurphy@postoakschool.org)
Congratulations, Eighth Grade Class of 2012!

Graduation videos
To purchase a copy of the graduation video, please contact videographer Paul Eakins directly at paul@mmvideo.biz.
New Roles & New Faces in Faculty

by John Long, Head of School

We will welcome the following faculty to Post Oak in the fall:

HIGH SCHOOL

Jeremy Grisbee earned his BS from Evangel University, where he studied math education, and Spanish. He also holds an AA degree in music from Southwestern A/G University. Since graduating, Jeremy has taught high school math and Spanish in Springfield, MO. Lately, he has been working on completing a full-length album of his music, and working as a music facilitator at his church.

Jan Ott comes to Post Oak after teaching middle and high school for two years at Chinquapin Preparatory School in Highlands, Texas. She earned her BS in biology at St. Lawrence University and then her PhD in neurophysiology from the University of Southern California. A postdoctoral fellowship completed her education and she began teaching at The Evergreen State College, where she stayed for 23 years. She describes Evergreen as “a Montessori college,” and she is excited to be part of an innovative high school like Post Oak.

James Quillin earned his BA in classics with a minor in geology from San Francisco State University and his PhD in classics with a minor in political science from Stanford University. He taught in the classics departments of the University of Southern California and Northwestern University before coming to Lake Forest Academy (IL) in 2003, where he taught Latin, world history, and government and was a promoter of civic education and experiential learning. In 2009, he was appointed chair of the history department at LFA. James has been an enthusiastic proponent of Montessori education ever since his two sons first experienced its benefits at Forest Bluff Montessori and Montessori School of Lake Forest. James served on the Board of Directors at MSLF for three years. His sons will attend The Post Oak School starting in September of 2012. James and his family are delighted to live in Houston where they enjoy the proximity of grandparents and outstanding food!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Because of increasing enrollment in the Middle School, we have added one faculty position next year. Sunila Madiman brings an impressively diverse teaching background over a 25-year period. She has taught chemistry and biology in high school and middle school as well as math, English, and social studies. Most recently she taught elementary grades in an AMI Montessori school in San Francisco. In addition to her Montessori teaching, Mrs. Madiman is an experienced International Baccalaureate (IB) middle years program (MYP) instructor.

Mrs. Madiman completed AMI elementary training and has an MEd in guidance and counseling, a BEd in science and math, and a BS in chemistry with a minor in microbiology. Clearly she loves education: she is off to Cleveland this summer to complete the AMI Orientation to Adolescent Studies.

Mrs. Madiman will take the lead with the Middle School science curriculum and will work closely with Ms. Gray, Ms. McNamara, and Mr. Tucker in looking for cross-disciplinary connections between subjects. Kelly McNamara will direct the development of the occupations projects, and will collaborate with Mrs. Madiman in making the sciences explicit in that real-world work. Mrs. McNamara will also team with Mrs. Gray in mathematics, which will allow us to create a larger number of math groups.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Maya Pinto, who has been teaching a Lower Elementary class at Post Oak since 2006, is taking the leap into the Upper Elementary this year, joining Debbie Nickerson and Errol Pinto in that department. Mrs. Pinto attended a
Montessori school in India as a child. She has a BA (Honors) in English literature from the University of Delhi, India, and also holds both the AMI primary and elementary teaching diplomas. She has been a Montessori teacher since 1983 and taught primary and elementary levels in Hong Kong and Vancouver before coming to Post Oak in 2005. She is equally fluent in English, Czech, and Hindi.

Mrs. Pinto will be assisted by Irma Alarcon, who returns to Post Oak after a three-year absence.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Pinto is passing the Lower Elementary torch to Beth Smith who came to Post Oak last year and worked with Kathy Long. Miss Smith has a BA in sociology/social work from Clemson University. She received TEFL training and certification in Barcelona, Spain. She earned an AMI elementary diploma from the Washington Montessori Institute and an MEd from Loyola University in Maryland.

Prior to discovering her love of teaching, Beth worked as a psychiatric social worker. Beth’s teaching experience includes two years in the French public school system and one year in a Montessori lower elementary classroom in the Atlanta suburbs.

Anita Taj will be returning to Post Oak and joining Kathy Long as an assistant/intern. Miss Taj completed her AMI elementary training in May and is also completing her MEd at Loyola University (MD).

Corine Noronha will be joining Hifa Sobhani as her assistant. Mrs. Noronha has seven years’ experience in Montessori classrooms at the toddler and primary levels as both a lead teacher and an assistant. She earned a BA from Chowgule College (India) and an AMS primary teaching credential from the Houston Montessori Center. Her son and daughter will be elementary students at Post Oak this fall.

Lupe Lopez, who most recently worked as Mrs. Sobhani’s assistant, continues to recover from heart surgery. We all hope that her recovery will allow her to return to Post Oak in the fall. It is our plan for Mrs. Lopez to work as a full-time substitute teacher and to provide support to Patricia Onofre in the Spanish department.

PRIMARY

There will be two new Primary teachers in the fall. First is Tamara Townsend, a...

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Classes at the Motherhood Center

INFANT-PARENT CLASSES

A small group of parents and infants come together as a community either once or twice a week in a special Montessori prepared environment facilitated by Post Oak Infant Community teacher Sarah Moudry. The children explore an engaging environment designed specifically for their developmental needs, while parents practice supported, mindful observation and interaction.

Class A (six weeks–crawling)

Tues./Thurs., Sept. 11–Nov. 1
(twice a week for 8 weeks), 1:30–3:00 p.m.
$420 per child ($10 registration fee added at checkout)

Class B (crawling–walking)

Wednesdays, Sept. 12–Oct. 31
(once a week for 8 weeks), 1:30–3:00 p.m.
$230 per child ($10 registration fee added at checkout)

TOILETING

Potty Training from the Start

Tuesday, July 24, 6–8 p.m.
Price: $150 per person
Class fee includes “The Toileting Awareness Manual” (a $12.95 value)

Potty Training for Toddlers

Wednesday, July 25, 6–8 p.m.
Price: $150 per person
Class fee includes “The Toileting Awareness Manual” (a $12.95 value)

The Motherhood Center 3701 W. Alabama Ste. 230
Houston, Texas 77027
Telephone: 713-963-8880

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long-time Houstonian with 30 years’ experience as an AMI-trained Montessori primary teacher. Mrs. Townsend has a BA from Austin College and AMI primary training from the Texas Montessori Institute.

Alongside teaching, Mrs. Townsend formerly volerunteered as a docent at the Houston Zoo, and danced at Texas Heritage Society events. She loves gardening, hiking, and traveling to faraway beaches. She and her husband have a seven-year-old son, who will enter Lower Elementary here at Post Oak in the fall. She said, “Since becoming a mother, ‘teachable moments’ have become treasures with my own child. As a parent, I believe Montessori’s philosophy is for not only the classroom, but also a way of living. Invite, explore, experience, and enjoy!”

Elizabeth Matthews will become Mrs. Townsend’s assistant. Miss Matthews worked as an assistant this spring in Primary Home Environment here at Post Oak. She has a BA from the University of Texas at San Antonio and is a certified teacher for early childhood to grade six. Over the past seven years, before, during and after her university studies, she worked as a classroom assistant and substitute teacher for different age groups in several schools. Miss Matthew’s career goal is to complete AMI training and to become a Montessori teacher.

Our second new Primary teacher is Danielle Dalsey. Miss Dalsey comes to us from Austin and has four years’ experience as an AMI-trained primary teacher. She has a BFA from Louisiana Tech University, AMI primary training from the Washington Montessori Institute, and an MEd from Loyola University (MD).

Outside the classroom, Miss Dalsey has done mission work with her church, and has many creative interests including baking, dancing, singing, playing the drums, painting, and photography.

Miriam Winton will have a new assistant in the fall since Christine Green plans to stay home after her baby is born. Monica Moreno will by joining Miriam. Miss Moreno has nine years’ experience working with primary-age children, including five years in a Montessori school. She has a BAAS degree from the University of Texas at Brownsville.

New Roles & New Faces in Faculty
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Dinah Chetrit’s Primary Home Environment team sees several changes. Long-time Post Oak assistant Norma Paulin will join Ms. Chetrit and Millie Chavez on the core team. We will continue with a second group of younger children during the lunch hour and nap time. This group will be housed in Deidre Lodrig’s Infant Community classroom. Ms. Lodrig will work with that group and will be joined by Infant Community assistants Marcella Menjivar and Lilia Garza. Primary assistant Alma Armendariz will be joined by Ms. Menjivar during the early morning period in the home environment.

INFANT COMMUNITY
Deidre Lodrig’s assistant Diana Ayala is unable to return next year because of her university class schedule. Ms. Lodrig will be joined by Lilia Garza who moves over from the Full Day Infant Community team after three years there.

Jada Hickman joins Elizabeth DiCesare as an assistant on Phoebe Yeager’s Full Day Infant Community team. Miss Hickman has four years’ experience as a lead teacher with this age group. She has a BA in early childhood education from Texas Southern University and an AMS toddler certification from the Houston Montessori Center.
Connecting with Guatemalan Students

by John Reed, Post Oak parent

Last week I flew to Antigua, Guatemala to meet the teacher of the Cerro Alto school and to deliver school supplies collected by my daughters’ Girl Scout troop. I am so happy I made the trip, and that my family has become involved in Let’s Be Ready, an organization that provides pre-K schooling to children in small towns all over Guatemala.

When I arrived at Cerro Alto School, just outside of Patzicia, I was surprised to be greeted by all of the students, their parents, and the townspeople. The students put on several simple plays and two students read a book to us. Afterwards, we all got on the floor and worked together making a HUGE and wonderful mural. Little did I know that the mural would be going home with me as a gift from the school.

After a snack provided by the student’s mothers, we returned to the classroom to listen to a series of short speeches from various parents and the town’s mayor. Most moving of all were comments made by the teacher. She was barely able to finish her short speech as she was so overcome with emotion and a deep sense of gratitude. Repeatedly, the community shared with me what a difference these simple gifts would make, and how much being supported meant to Cero Alto. Needless to say, it was a bit overwhelming and unexpected.

Let’s Be Ready is doing great and important work in Guatemala, and we are extremely pleased to be able to help. One of the most attractive aspects of working with this organization is that all family members can contribute and have a sense of their work over time. When I returned to Houston, my daughters, who visited a Let’s Be Ready school in 2011, eagerly asked about my trip, looking at the mural and pictures I took. They have already begun brainstorming ideas to help the school for the upcoming year and, as a family, we eagerly look forward to returning in the near future.

In Guatemala the school was like a little house with three rooms. One room is a classroom with little tables and shelves with crayons, paper, glitter, and some other school supplies. One of the other rooms is a recess room where they play with balls, dolls, and fake food. The third room is a bedroom where one of the students lives. The school is very different from Post Oak because it is smaller, it only has one grade (pre-K), and recess is indoors. I feel like we did something good to help the kids and their school. But I feel like they still need more supplies. I would go back and help again because all they really have is art supplies and puzzles.

Compared to our school, it was sad to see them not getting a very good education. I feel like we need to send them more supplies so they can get a better education. The children at the Let’s Be Ready school were very happy to get the supplies the Girl Scouts sent.

– Upper Elementary student

Photos submitted by John Reed
Running Star

Congratulations to [name] who had his second season running with the Wings Track Club and qualified to run the 800 m race at the USA Youth Outdoor Track & Field Championships held at The University of Texas Arlington's Maverick Stadium from June 26 to July 1.

[came in sixth place with a time of 2:53:44 out of 26 runners. The top eight finishers were awarded medals.]

Bearkats Sign-up Day

Friday, August 31 in the gym

Bearkats – grades 6, 7, and 8
Future Bearkats (Intramurals) – grades 4, 5, and 6
Bearkats – mandatory practice
on Mon., Tues., & Wed., 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Future Bearkats – Thurs. & Fri., 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE
Post Oak Biennial Gala
Friday, February 1, 2013

2012–13 Important Dates

AUG. 20–24
First week for Elementary, Middle School and High School
AUG. 27–31
First week for IC 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
MLK, Jr. Day (school closed)
FEB. 18
Presidents Day (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
**THE POST OAK FUND**

**TOGETHER WE CAN!**

Post Oak’s environment, professional development, facilities, technology enhancements – all are supported by your gift to the annual fund. It takes everyone working together to maintain the level of excellence you expect from Post Oak.

Be the first to make your annual fund contribution and avoid more mail, emails, and phone calls!

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**Annual Fund month starts October 1, but donations for the 2012–13 year can be made online now.**

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**High School: Ready to Go!**

*by James Moudry, High School Director*

Post Oak High School—the faculty has arrived—now ‘Population 4’! This past week the High School faculty began their work on curriculum development and, of course, getting to know each other. The energy is high and the minds are fast! Jeremy Grisbee, Jan Ott, and James Quillin are in high gear prepping for students to arrive next month. We have been enjoying the rain this week as we sit and plan for the fall trip, advisory groups, and technology deployments. The air is full of great conversation and big ideas!

At our Open House in June, we had (again) a great turnout and for the first time we hosted the event at our campus. It was wonderful to share the building with our community and see some new faces. We have admitted new students since May and continue to receive new inquiries. Gradually, the quiet building is coming to life! With furniture orders and book orders being placed to prepare for the fall, the high school readies for action.

Part of the summer work is finalizing details for the fall Odyssey trip. We have targeted New Orleans, the Gulf Coast, and the Marine Education Center at the Gulf Coast Research Lab. The lab is a part of the University of Southern Mississippi and committed to education focused on marine biology. The Odyssey is a challenging trip. Students will encounter academic, social, and physical challenges during the week of travel while getting to know each other better.

This year promises to be amazing. The students are ready to leap into the world with the faculty ready to guide. We are looking forward to welcoming the High School students at their Welcome Back Luncheon on August 21. Soon, we will be off and running! 🎉

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**New Parent Welcome Coffee**

Thurs., Aug. 30
at 8:45 a.m.
in the school gym
News from Summer School 2012

By Miriam Winton, Summer School Director

Summer school classes have been underway at Post Oak since June 4. Our youngest children have been thoroughly enjoying their time in the Full Day Infant Community room. They have been doing a lot of work outdoors in their classroom garden. They have also been busy taking care of one of the Primary classroom gardens for the summer! Together the children have weeded, watered, and harvested eggplants, tomatoes, and squash.

At the Primary level, children in the Spanish Immersion class have had the opportunity to work with familiar materials in the Montessori environment, but with all verbal instruction given in Spanish. Children in the regular Primary class have been working on embroidery projects. Many beautifully stitched pillows have gone home already. Fridays are “Splash Days” for all of the Primary and Infant Community children. They run through the sprinklers out on the field, eat watermelon and other snacks together, and play outdoors all morning. The annual fourth of July parade through the parking lot was enjoyed by all.

The theme for this year’s Transition to Elementary class is “The Coral Reef.” A beautiful mural has been created by the children on one wall of the classroom. Two children in the class told me that making coral and jellyfish for the mural were their favorite activities in the class so far. The new first graders have also been very excited about their math work. Several children identified the wooden hierarchical materials as their favorite work in the class. Others told me “Doing my math book” was the best part of the class. Of course, all of the children told me that they have enjoyed their special summer snack and movie on Fridays.

Elementary children have participated in a wide variety of activities this summer. The summer began with creative writing, poetry, cooking, baking, stamp collecting, chess and art. It continued with fashion week, basketball camp, and art week. Field trip week was lots of fun with trips to Discovery Green, Main Street Theatre, Reliant Stadium, and NASA. Still to come are Greek mythology week, history week, Olympic week, and lots more art!
CALender

AUGUST 19–25

Mon
8/20
Orientation for gr. 1, 4, 7, and EL & MS new to Post Oak
8:30 a.m.–noon
EL & MS Before- & After-Care begins

Tue
8/21
All EL & MS students
8:30 a.m.–noon
HS back to school luncheon
11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Wed–Fri
8/22–24
MS Retreat at Artesian Lakes

Wed
8/22
EL, MS, & HS begin full day

Thu
8/23
HS parent orientation, 7 p.m.

Fri
8/24
PRI walk through, 9–11 a.m.
IC walk through
see orientation schedule

AUGUST 26–SEPTEMBER 1

Mon–Wed
8/27–29
IC & PRI orientation
(see orientation schedule)

Mon–Fri
8/27–31
HS Odyssey Trip

Mon
8/27
PHE begins

Tue
8/28
MS parent orientation, 7 p.m.

Thu
8/30
All IC & PRI attend
New Parent Welcome Coffee
8:45 a.m.
EL parent orientation, 7 p.m.

Fri
8/31
Room Parent meeting, 9 a.m.
Bearkats sign up (gym)

Check out our online calendar
or download a copy at www.postoakschool.org

NOTICE BOARD

SUMMER PACKETS HAVE GONE DIGITAL!

In just a few weeks, we will send
out an email with links to forms, the
handbook, calendar, and items for
the new school year.

Watch your inbox for more
information.

The Parent Directory is now a
separate publication that will
be distributed to all families at
orientation.

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 p.m. 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 p.m. 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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