POST OAK BOOK FAIR

TODAY

NOV. 1, 9 A.M.–9 P.M.

BARNES & NOBLE
3003 W. HOLCOMBE BLVD.

BOOK FAIR CHAIRS:
HILLERY HUGG & MARY STEPHENS

Grab a bite at PRONTO CUCININO close to B&N. Don’t forget to give them your bookmark—Post Oak gets 10%!

Save room for MARBLE SLAB Ice Cream available at Book Fair! Yum!
Thank you for also helping build the High School library! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Friends of the Library
UNDERWRITING FOR THE POST OAK LIBRARY

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip ______________________________________________________

Phone ___________________________ Donation Amount $ ________________

Date ____________________________

Make checks payable to “The Post Oak School” and write “Friend of the Library” in memo.

For Credit Card Payments: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card # __________________________ Expiration Date __________ CSV# ______________

Name (as appears on card) ____________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________________________

Please turn in this form, or donate online by clicking on the link on the left side of the website homepage.
CTP 4 Testing

Dear Elementary and Middle School Parents,

Standardized testing for Middle School students will be held Wednesday, November 7 through Friday, November 9. For Elementary students, standardized testing will begin on Monday, November 12, and will proceed through Friday, November 16.

Once a year, for the past 23 years, Post Oak has administered a standardized test to Elementary and Middle School students. This year we will continue to administer the Comprehensive Testing Program fourth edition (CTP 4) to all students from third grade through eighth grade. Make-up testing will be conducted the week of November 26 to 30 for students with excused absences during testing week.

At The Post Oak School, our belief in an emphasis on learning outcomes and development of the whole child, rather than “teaching the test”, is consistent with our mission as a Montessori school. This is not an attempt to avoid accountability. Instead, it goes to the heart of the purpose of education. Montessori teachers would universally agree with Linda McNeil of Rice University who said, “Measurable outcomes may be the least significant results of learning (Education Week, 9/26/01).” The Montessori curriculum is rich and varied, and it provides children with a tremendous opportunity to develop analytical thinking skills, life skills, and emotional intelligence; none of which are measured by a paper and pencil achievement test.

So why do we test at all? Given the manifold uses of standardized tests in our culture, students need experience taking them. Since Montessori schools eschew grading and testing typical of traditional schools, standardized tests can reassure parents that their children are learning what students in traditional schools are expected to learn. Test results can also provide teachers additional information that can be used to guide instruction.

What can you do to support your child and your child’s teacher during this week? You can ease anxiety, if it exists, by emphasizing the faith that you may have in your child’s abilities and talents. Please leave test preparation to the teachers. Overemphasis on high test scores often creates anxiety which can diminish the effectiveness of the experience. Encourage an early bedtime routine and healthy eating habits. Send your child to school with a healthy lunch, a snack, and a book to read silently between testing sessions. Please arrive on time, as testing will begin shortly after arrival each morning.

Thank you for your support!

Jeff Schneider and Shekkola Gray on behalf of the Elementary and Middle School faculty
The Post Oak Fund Continues!

The Post Oak Fund Drive continues until November 16. Thanks to everyone who has participated to date! We have passed the $200,000 mark, and have $50,000 to go to get us to our goal.

**LEADERSHIP CIRCLE!**

Become a member of our one giving group: Leadership Circle.

Annual Fund contributors of $2,500+ will be invited to a fabulous springtime cocktail reception at the home of Windi and David Grimes and are recognized in the annual report.

We appreciate ALL gifts to the Post Oak Fund. Some even make us laugh…

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**2012 POST OAK FUND DRIVE**
**TOGETHER WE CAN!**

**100%**

**CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF 10/31/2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employees</td>
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<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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*September 18, 2012*

Hi Christina,

So yesterday was my birthday! I turned 49. No, really, I did and it was an awesome day! The highlight was having lunch with my son! But here’s the good news for you. When asked what I wanted for my birthday from my parents, I told them I really didn’t want anything. It’s not like I need another car! 😊 Instead I asked them to make a donation to the school. They generously did and I will be mailing you their check. So I’m thinking maybe it will be the first grandparents donation this year??

A Post Oak dad

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**Join the Next Project with Post Oak’s Kids Care Club**

The Post Oak School Kids Care Club, a service organization for kids of all ages and abilities, has an upcoming project at Volunteer Houston on November 17 at 10:00 a.m. We will be making holiday cards for people in hospitals, nursing homes, etc. At noon following the card-making, there will be picnicking and playing in the adjacent park for those who would like to bring a picnic lunch. Compassionate curriculum information will be posted to Post Oak’s KCC’s Facebook group.

Please ask to join the group: www.facebook.com/groups/278032742310211/ or contact Audra French at [email protected] for more info.
You're probably wondering what we had to do with Washington D.C. Or maybe you're a Middle School student, like me, and already know. But either way... Do you know what exactly the capital is? The capital of this nation from which we are from. The life of our nation, the life that is filled with the souls of millions of people including you and me. The capital is what contains our marks upon history, no matter how small or how large. This, people, is Washington D.C.

At seven o'clock on the morning of our departure, you could find Mrs. Gray and me waiting for the rest of the Middle School student body to arrive. A couple of hours later, along with a few passes through the forever dreaded security area, we were seated inside of a plane waiting for take off. I would tell you the rest of my plane flight, except for the fact that I was asleep for the majority of it. However, I did wake up to the sights of an amazing city with which I was soon to be acquainted. Even so, my window view was not nearly as spectacular as seeing it up close. That I can assure you of.

Everyone, and I mean everyone, was exhausted after the trip, so we were given some time to rest. Being me, I took a shower and immediately passed out on the bed. Speaking of rooms, our room had two beds, a futon, and a number of other things that would probably bore you. My fellow room members were [redacted] and [redacted]. They were enjoyable, and I must say that [redacted]'s laugh is quite contagious. But even so, we must not stray from the main topic.

At six, we went to DAS. What on earth is that? Well, DAS is an Ethiopian restaurant that gives a hands-on approach to eating. Literally. Unless you counted the thin, spongy bread that was given out, that is. It was delicious. The experience was interesting, but good. But all good things must come to an end, and our dinner was no exception to that. We walked back to the hotel, and I immediately crashed on the bed.

continued on page 7
CATCH THE FEVER!
TRY THE 3 Rs
OF GALA ADVERTISING

REJOICE
“We are Family”
School support
Community events

REFER
“You’re the One that I Want”
Family business
Friend’s business
Businesses you use

RECOGNIZE
“You Light Up My Life”
Volunteers
Faculty/Staff
Administration

IN HONOR OF ANNETTE GREGORY,
DANCING ACROSS CULTURES GALA CHAIR

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT EVENING!
LISA REED

BENEFITS:
• High visibility to large audience: 500+ MEMBER COMMUNITY
• Prominent ad placement in gala program plus logo for Post Oak family-owned businesses making you a “Preferred Business”
• Additional recognition via school newsletter and website for the 2012–2013 school year, plus “Post Oak School Supporter” poster for your office or storefront.

WHAT WILL YOU SAY? WHO WILL YOU RECOMMEND? GET STARTED TODAY!!!

Not sure where to start? No worries. We make it easy with our graphics support. Just send us your text and artwork or photo.

Advertising contract information AVAILABLE ONLINE via the 2013 Post Oak Gala weblink on our homepage.

• Contact your Advertising Committee members
• Advertising deadline is December 14, 2012

Pam Griffin-Minnich  Belisa Diaz  Dawn Thomas
I will be honest with you. I am not a morning person, so waking up at six was not exactly my version of paradise. But even so, we got our cold, sleepy selves out of bed and got ready for the day. It is colder in D.C. than in Houston, so I wore sweaters or a jacket for most of the trip. Being on the seventh floor, we got a very good view of the hotel. I must say that it is absolutely gorgeous; it took my breath away at first sight. Breakfast was good, but the hot chocolate was definitely the main attraction. After that, we saw things that are hard to describe considering that nothing, and I mean nothing, we saw was in any way simple at all.

We saw a multitude of things, but out of everything the Library of Congress was by far my favorite. The utter complexity of the building made it hard to take in. There was not a single spot in that library that was not adorned by some sort of decor. Marble statues lie upon the base of the grand staircases. If you looked up, you would see an array of angels marked with philosophers’ names above them. There were, however, two thing that may fascinate the religion lover: two Bibles that had journeyed far from their homes and times. Reading rooms surrounded us, with black signs pointing to them. One of the reading rooms we saw was huge, and was definitely the main one. It was absolutely magnificent. Down below, people were working with books scattered around them. It was quite the sight to see, all of these beautiful works of art that were the building itself. But that wasn’t the only thing to stare at in awe.

We went to the Capitol building. Yes, the Capitol building, the building where the representatives of our country meet to pass the laws that are intertwined into our daily lives. The Capitol is white, obviously. It has a lot of layers in it, considering that it is the Capitol. There are statues about that are supported by great pillars where a dead man should be buried but is not. There is a room where sound is completely off although the beauty of the room is undeniable. If you stood on the sort of balcony that was in the Library and looked above, you would see a fresco. The statue room had a ring around it that upon first observation looked like a carving, but upon hearing the docent’s commentary we learned that it had been painted to appear that way. There are a lot of things in there, actually, but my memory is not exactly the best. However, our baseball exhibition? That is a completely different case. Hour after hour of watching the Nationals was exhausting but fun. I enjoyed the experience but then, I am a fan of baseball.

Call me crazy, but I loved riding the Metro despite my constant fear of somehow losing my pass. I loved holding onto those poles for dear life as the world seemed to shake ever so slightly around me. It was an exhilarating experience for me. For most people, it would be annoying, or perhaps slightly scary. But no, not for me. Although holding

continued on page 8
my breath as we passed Arlington Cemetery was not exactly something I enjoyed. However, I am glad that I did it considering that the superstition is, according to [content missing], that bad spirits would come into you. And yes, she was joking. Those were the highlights of my trip.

Have you ever gone to a Tex-Mex restaurant? I would have hoped so, considering we live in the southern part of Texas. Let’s just say that the people in Washington D.C. do not have anything on us whenever it comes to cooking Tex-Mex. It tasted good, it just did not have that authentic taste to it. I ordered enchiladas, but I would not have minded some nachos considering that I love nachos. Actually, I would not have minded a lot of things. For example, is it just me or does hair look much better in Washington? Oh well. That is irrelevant. What is not irrelevant, however, is the affect this trip had on us as a whole.

Washington D.C. was a chance to develop maturity and responsibility as well as a sense of what exactly our nation is. This trip gave us the freedom to make the right choices as well as the opportunity to do the wrong ones. However, given that our Middle School is rather smart in our choices, we did the right thing. No one wanted to be sent back home. There were chaperones the next room over, but not in our own rooms. This gave us a sense of freedom, but there was always this knowing feeling inside of you that told you to do the right thing. There are always consequences to your own actions whether you are caught or not. The trip made us utterly aware of that reality, and it also taught us that it’s better to do the right thing because, at the end of the day, the bad thing is never worth it. You will regret it, no matter what you may have thought at the time. See? Even my realization of this has grown. Also, I am almost certain I must have gained some organization skills from that trip because I am more organized now. The maturity part? Well, we all learned how to take care of ourselves on the most basic level. We learned what should have been obvious but may have not been to some. We learned a number of things, actually. What I can tell you, however, is that if you asked a Middle School student about this experience, he or she would describe it as good. Because that is just exactly what makes our Capitol work: How everything runs well. How each and every part works together like a perfect, flawless puzzle. You see, this is why we are a nation. We are a nation of people who are constantly trying to make their mark upon history and at the end of the day, we all do. You, the person standing right next to you as you read this, the person across the street jogging to some song that is unknown to you, and even me. We are all a part of something so much greater then just ourselves. And that, people, is why we went on this trip, to learn not only about how to further ourselves but how to further the lives and people around us even if it just by knowing that they simply exist.
Upper Elementary Trip to Austin

Apologies to [redacted] whose report was omitted from last week's Upper Elementary feature.

This week my class and Mr. Pinto's class went to Austin. I had a blast in Austin! While we were there we went to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Capitol, Zilker Botanical Gardens, the Bob Bullock Museum, bowling, on a dinner cruise to watch the bats, and Pioneer Farms.

My favorite part of going to Austin, other than blowing and the dinner cruise, was the Bob Bullock Museum. At the museum we watched a few movies. Two of the movies were 4D, those were my favorite! I really had fun watching them. In one of the movies there was a part about rattlesnakes being all over the place and then something in our seat popped up.

I had a fantastic, memorable time in Austin! I will never forget this field trip! ♥

By [redacted] Upper Elementary student

High School Admission
OPEN HOUSE

Wed., Nov. 7, 7 p.m.
1102 Autrey St., Houston 77006

Join us to learn more about what makes Post Oak High School an excellent choice.
Bring a friend!
1. An Infant Community student delights in finishing a piece of work involving hand and eye coordination.

2. Cutting spiral shapes in Primary which refines the fine motor skills.

3. Working on a pin map of Australia.


5. Working on spooky decorations in an Upper Elementary classroom.

Elementary Parent/Child Night
Thursday, November 8
6:30–7:30 p.m.

Grandparents’ & Friends’ Days
Invitations Mailed This Week!

If you would like your child’s grandparents or other relatives/friends to be invited to this year’s Grandparents’ Days (November 19 & 20), please visit www.postoakschool.org and submit their email address. Please include anyone you think would like to observe and/or interact with your children in their Montessori environment. After this week, invitations will only be emailed, provided that we are given their email address. If you would like additional invitations, please pick them up from the front office.

Dads’ Club POKER NIGHT
Details next week!

To join in contact Michael Foertsch
## Calendar

### November 4–10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 11/4</td>
<td>Daylight Saving Time ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 11/6</td>
<td>Election Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11/7</td>
<td>High School Election Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed–Fri 11/7–9</td>
<td>POPA Coffee/Work Day 8:45 a.m.–noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 11/8</td>
<td>High School Admission Open House 7–8:30 p.m.</td>
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### November 11–17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 11/11</td>
<td>Veterans Day Birth of Bahá’u’lláh begins at sundown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11/12</td>
<td>Veterans Day (observed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon–Fri 11/12–16</td>
<td>Standardized testing (CTP-4) for 3rd graders and Upper EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon–Fri 11/12–16</td>
<td>Middle School to Blackwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 11/13</td>
<td>Diwali</td>
</tr>
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## Notice Board

### Still looking for Parent Volunteers for Post Oak’s 50th Anniversary Committee

Sign up through the link on homepage or contact Kathryn Murphy at kathrynmurphy@postoakschool.org. (2013–14 is our celebration year)

### Avoid a Ticket!

**A Note from Officer Hefferin**

We have noticed a large number of cars coming through the lot with expired registrations and/or inspection stickers. Please take a look to see that yours are up to date.

### POPA Coffee/Work Day

**Nov. 7, 2012**

8:45 a.m.–noon

## 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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