POST OAK’S BIENNIAL GALA FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY NIGHT FEVER

THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2013
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TO OUR GENEROUS UNDERWRITERS!

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Jennifer Wheler  
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Samantha & Charles Wykoff

Special thanks Underwriter Co-Chairs  
Michelle & Tom Lu  
and Kim & Chuck Yates.

THANK YOU TO GALA CHAIRS  
ERIN STUS AND JIAN SHORT  
FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!  
ENJOY THE EVENING!

THE GALA PROGRAM

... is online, for your viewing pleasure

THE GALA IS A SOLD OUT EVENT!
Thank you, Volunteers

So many people—too many to list!—volunteered their time and energy to make the 2013 Gala possible. We thank you for this and offer our sincerest gratitude for all that you do each day to create a rich experience for the students of The Post Oak School.
BIG BOARD!
There will be a fabulous assortment of popular items listed on the Auction Big Board! The Big Board will be up during Silent Auction and will remain open until after Live Auction closes. Mark out the last person who bid, and put your winning bid in on the board!

MYSTERY BOXES
Not sure what to bid on? Don’t leave empty handed! Pick up a perfect surprise with the purchase of a Mystery Gift. For $50, you will walk away with a gift worth more than $50 that is sure to please everyone.

CLASSROOM CORNER
This special auction offering allows you to contribute directly to your child’s classroom. Funds raised in this donation-only section will be divided equally among all classrooms. Teachers use these funds to purchase “extras” for the class. Examples of previous purchases include: garden benches, a trellis, a globe, a special colored pencil set, an infant sofa, and a video camera. Your teacher decides how the funds will be used for class benefit. Using your bid sticker, donations can be made at your table to be picked up during dinner.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DAY-OF SETUP
Contact Gala Chairs ERIN STUS
or JIAN SHORT

Bid early! · Bid often!
Silent Auction starts at 6:00 p.m.

Complimentary valet parking is provided with your ticket.
2013 Post Oak Gala—Class Projects

Tamara Basham
The Roots of Love

Dinah Chetrit
At the Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea

Danielle Dalsey
Wild and Free

Emily Hansen
Butterfly Spiral

High School
Life Like Water

Orly Kluk
Picasso in True Cubism

Deidre Lodrig
Color My World

Kathy Long
Gala Mandala

Middle School
Mapping Art

Sarah Moudry
An Orchard of Buttons

Debbie Nickerson
Curiosity Unleashed

Julie Parraguirre
Moments of Miró
Dear teachers, assistants, gala coordinators, and room parents,

Thank you for the extraordinary work you have put into these Gala art projects, as well as the support and guidance given to the students throughout this process. Each piece shows the amazing effort you all demonstrated to materialize true works of art. This will be a stunning exhibition for the live auction at the Gala!

With deep appreciation for all of your work,

The Post Oak Parents Association
Primary Parent/Child Night

Thursday, February 7

Group 1: 5–6 p.m.
Group 2: 6:15–7:15 p.m.

This is an evening when children bring their parents to school and demonstrate to them the work they do during the day. Childcare is available; call the front office to make a reservation.

F.I.S.H. is back!

Here are the dates for the Families Integrating School and Home (F.I.S.H.) meetings, which start at 9:00 a.m. in the Common Room:

Fri., February 8—Young Artist
Thurs., March 7—Outfitting your Montessori Home
Fri., April 19—Young Chef
Fri., May 10—Backyard Fun

See you there!
Our Town: a Middle School Production

by [unsigned] Middle School student

There was a girl who doubted her immense talent, a boy who read his lines with devotion, a girl staring intently at the computer screen in front of which this writer types, three girls who are pondering whether or not they will be able to capture the immensity of their roles, two boys who were pretending to act cool but, even so, were still somewhat nervous about their roles, and then there is you, wondering what this means. It means a lot of things. It means the confident yet doubting way that says her lines as the boy playing George stares. It means the nervousness bubbling in the pits of the stomachs of the protagonists. It means the gentle, caring way that the girl in the role of Emily reads the play. A gentle rustling is on the bench and it's the result of the nervousness of the stage manager in Act III. A girl who is determined to bring her role to perfection pretends to cook, as it is written in the play. This girl plays Mrs. Webb. But who they are comes later. So, now that you have an idea of what this means, do you want to know why it is being done?

*Our Town* was written by Thornton Wilder a long while back, and his most known work. It is a brilliant, minimalistic play that captures life just for what it was and is. It captures the physical things of life as of his time, but also the mental aspects of eternity. Anyone who is a part of this play, whether audience or actor, is allowed to gain maturity and wisdom from it. There are a whole lot of things to learn from this play, actually. However, rather than telling you now, why not just experience it firsthand?

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**Our Town, Tuesday, February 5, 2013 in the gym**

Refreshments and light fare available for purchase starting at 6:00 p.m. The play starts at 7:00 p.m. and runs for two hours including intermissions. Adults and students in UE, MS, and HS are welcome. Childcare is available by calling the front office. RSVP: ryantucker@postoakschool.org.

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**Help Wildlife with the Kids Care Club**

Post Oak’s KCC has a service project at Texas Wildlife Rescue Center on February 16, from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at their Houston location on 10801 Hammerly Blvd., Suites 200 & 208. We will be participating with other volunteer groups. Each group rotates between project stations. A final project list and program agenda is distributed to participants one week prior to the program, but activities could include:

- Cage building, cleaning, and painting
- Food preparation
- Feather labeling
- Education item display development, organization, lamination, painting, labeling or constructing
- Small mammal hammock, snuggie cutting, or sewing
- Animal Paw Print Painting!

RSVP if you're joining us by posting to our Facebook group or emailing [unsigned]. Bring friends and family! We look forward to this fun opportunity to help local wildlife. For more information on our upcoming projects, join our FB group: www.facebook.com/groups/278032742310211/
Hello? (The Art of the Greeting)

Dear Post Oak Parents,

As part of our Families Integrating School and Home (F.I.S.H.) curriculum, we will publish a series of articles with parenting tips for Post Oak parents to use at home, based on Montessori-based techniques. If you have any suggestions for upcoming articles please send me an email at (email address not provided).

Every article will have input from Montessori-trained faculty and staff. Join the next meeting, Young Artist, on February 8 at 9:00 in the common room.

We are just pulling into the Post Oak driveway. It has been a mixed morning for my children. (age 6) and (age 3). I am preparing myself for the next challenge... the greeting during drop-off. We get Kathryn Murphy.

“Good morning,” she says warmly. “Good morning,” I reply just as warmly. says nothing but is busy re-wrapping the sea shell in the napkin she brought for show-and-tell. looks at Kathryn and points to his pajama shirt. “Let’s say good morning to Kathryn,” I say cheerfully. Both children ignore me.

starts unpacking the clothes that he refused to put on this morning, and as I am busy re-packing them, pushes by and jumps out of the side of the car where Kathryn is helping un-buckle his seat belt. “Say excuse me,” I remind. says, “Bye Mom, I love you to infinity and back forever!” By now, is down and both children are walking to class.

No hellos for Kathryn. I sigh.

Greetings are such a basic form of communication. Why aren’t my children exhibiting the grace and courtesy naturally needed for a simple “hello?” I model it often enough. Greetings are our first interaction with another person and can set the tone for how people engage with us. How do we guide our children to greet people successfully?

Greetings, I came to find out, are pretty complex for a small child.

“We are expecting young children to understand what a greeting is, then take an action based on that understanding and add vocabulary to it,” says Jeff Schneider, Elementary Director. “If you break down a greeting, there must first be recognition, then eye contact, then remembered vocabulary. It is a series of steps that takes time to evolve.”

In Primary and Elementary, a child’s world revolves around them. Primary age children are more likely to make a comment about themselves when you open the car door, like, “I don’t have any socks today,” rather than a comment about you. “It isn’t until children develop more social awareness that we can expect active discernment and engagement with another person,” says Jeff. “With Elementary students, I feel just as good when I get a comment about why I’m not directing traffic that day, as I do from a formal ‘Hello, Mr. Schneider’ because I know the child really sees me as an individual,” Jeff laughs. After all, we don’t want to teach our children to be robots, but to greet each other and us, in a natural way. That might be different for different people. We might say, hello or good morning to an acquaintance, but greet a close friend with a hug or an endearment.

Part of the issue might be the expectations we have of our children. Can we expect a three year old to remember to say hello to the person opening the door, while at the same time remembering how to un-buckle a seat belt, grab a coat, say goodbye to us, and find his or her way to class? Wasn’t it only two years ago that the little one was learning how to walk? It is important not to have rigid expectations. Ordering a child to say good morning or correcting him as our final parting ends up leaving the child walking into school, feeling badly about himself.

We have to start somewhere though.

“A good avenue,” says Mirani Smith, Early Childhood Director, “is to allow them to practice at home.” For primary-aged children, role play at home is often the best way to practice without the stress of a formal encounter. You can park in the driveway and say, “Okay, let’s practice that we are just arriving at school.” “You can take your children through a tour of the Post Oak website,” encourages Mirani. “It often helps children to be able to put a picture with a name and know what each person does at the school.” If we know that Norma Paulin grew up and studied in Mexico, we can practice with our children to say “buenos días” to her. We can point out that Vivian Blum helps...
families with the journey of becoming part of The Post Oak School and new classmates joining our classrooms. In Infant Community, I remember teacher Sarah Moudry would take my son's hand at dismissal and say, “May I see your eyes?” She would wait until he looked at her before saying, “Goodbye. Have a nice afternoon.”

It is this repetition and practice that helps our children.

“This applies to elementary-aged school children, too,” says Jeff Schneider. “You cannot expect a child whose eyes have been glued to a mobile screen device for the entire car ride to school to exhibit grace and courtesy when someone opens the car door. A little bit of preparation is necessary.”

“For elementary-aged children, make it fun,” says Jeff. “As you are driving up, ask questions… Do you know everybody’s name at arrival? Who do you think we will get? Will John Long say, ‘Welcome to Friday?’ It is sometimes easier for a teacher to give these kinds of lessons,” says Jeff, since they have the benefit of the collective conscience of the class and, as we all know, children tune us out as soon as we start to lecture them. “Seeing how their friends are doing it ends up being one of the most powerful behavior shaping tools.” This doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t reinforce it with your own modeling. “Elementary children are mature enough that you can even show them the wrong way of doing something and can accomplish a good effect because they have the capacity for social humor,” he adds.

How we model our own greetings to our children are also important. We do this at dismissal, when we see our children after their school day. If our first comment is “where is your lunch box” or “did you have an accident,” it is as bad as someone you can’t wait to say hello to demanding whether or not you have paid your taxes yet. What better way to greet your child than look him in the eyes when he gets into the car, greet him by name, and say, “Welcome to your car ride home!”

—Nikayla Thomas, Post Oak parent


Parents, send in your parenting questions now for this column in The Weekly Post. Post Oak Counselor Phylis Tomlinson offers guidance and advice on issues such as discipline, consequences, money and children, peer relationships, and more. Please include the gender and age of your child for an appropriate response—letters will be included anonymously in conjunction with Phylis’ response.

Send questions to phylistomlinson@postoakschool.org or leave a note anonymously in her mailbox at the front office.
CALENDAR

POST OAK
2013 GALA!
The Houstonian Hotel
6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 3–9

Nirvana Day
Wed
2/6
POPA Coffee/Work Day
8:45 a.m.–noon

Thu
2/7
Primary Parent/Child Night
Group 1: 5–6 p.m.
Group 2: 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Fri
2/8
F.I.S.H. Meeting
9:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY 10–16

Sun
2/10
Lunar New Year

Tue
2/12
Mardi Gras

Wed
2/13
Ash Wednesday
Coffee w/ EL Director
9:00 a.m.
Bearkats Basketball
4:15 p.m. in the gym

Thu
2/14
Valentine’s Day

Fri
2/15
Teacher in-service
Classes not in session: only students with expanded year contracts attend
Re-registration deadline (new)

NOTICE BOARD

Bearkats Basketball
Come support the team!

THURS., 1/31
vs. St. Stephens

WED., 2/13
vs. St. Stephens
Home games start at 4:15 p.m.

NEW DATES ADDED!

Unite in the Fight

Upper EL student, [REDACTED] has been a member of Apex Cheer for several years. This group has a member, [REDACTED] who has been diagnosed with level four cancer. Apex Cheer is selling t-shirts and bracelets to contribute to a fund for [REDACTED]. The shirts are $15 and say Joy for [REDACTED] and Unite in the Fight. The bracelets are $5. If you would like to support [REDACTED] teammate in this way, please make checks payable to Apex Cheer and deliver them to Errol Pinto’s class to the attention of [REDACTED]. Funds will be collected until Feb. 5. For questions, contact Terri Bair [REDACTED].

Nanny Needed

We are looking for a full-time day nanny to care for our family. She must be comfortable with driving. Experience with twins is preferred.

If you know someone who is interested, please have her contact Renee Morris at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

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