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 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 on our website at www.postoakschool.org/postoak/alumni.asp or contact jessicajackson@postoakschool.org.

CLASS OF 1997

Philip Storey

Four days before graduating from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Philip Storey competed in the Texas
Ironman Triathlon. After graduation, Philip accepted a one-year Ophthalmology Research Fellowship at Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia. This summer, Philip will begin an internship in Internal Medicine at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco before heading to sunny Los Angeles and the University of Southern California for ophthalmology residency.

CLASS OF 2001
Abbie Kamin
Abbie graduated Cum Laude from Tulane University in 2009 where she was president of the political science honors society, Pi Sigma Alpha. Following her graduation, she remained in New Orleans to work for a mayoral campaign and from there went on to work as a paralegal in a law firm for a year.

Abbie moved to Washington, DC in 2011 to attend law school at American University. Last summer she interned with the Democratic National Committee in the voter protection department working on election law/voting issues for the presidential election. This past fall and spring she moved over to Capitol Hill and began an internship in Senator Landrieu’s (D-LA) office where, among other things, she did research regarding the BP oil spill and the multi-district litigation surrounding it. She is currently working as a summer legal intern with the minority party of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Abbie says her move to DC was definitely a change but she is enjoying it; she does prefer Houston food and traffic to DC’s!

CLASS OF 2002
Sam Geer
Things are well in L.A. As of March I’m no longer working at Apple and am now working freelance full time. In addition to a lot of lower budget projects, I was recently a production assistant on a new NBC show called I Am Victor that’s going to be airing later this fall.

As far as my film goes, finding the right story to tell has been more challenging than I initially anticipated. I’ve written and scrapped three different drafts so far in trying to find the best possible narrative to bring to life. Things are finally coming together on my latest draft, so I’m hoping to have the script ready by the end of summer. The plan right now is to secure financing for the film throughout the fall and to be going into production sometime in the Spring of 2014, most likely March or April.

Nick Hetherington
Everything is going great here in Los Angeles. I am currently working on the show SportsNation and really love it. I am getting to do some things I wasn’t able to do in Bristol like segment produce a bit aside from my normal job of cutting video for the show. Segment producing involves more writing and coming up with qualifiers which is something new that I am getting used to. I am also helping out every now and then on NBA Countdown. Last year capped my most successful year at ESPN as I was promoted from Production Assistant to Content Associate, getting to work on shows like the 9AM SportsCenter and College GameDay in the fall. In early June I am traveling to Barcelona to visit my sister Tina Hetherington, another POS alum, who is studying abroad there aside from working.

Ben Jawdat
I recently finished the third academic year of the physics PhD program at the University of Houston. Some highlights from the past year include attending a conference at IBM last fall, preparing a demonstration of high temperature
superconductivity for a conference at the University of Houston that marked the 25th anniversary of high temperature superconductivity, and presenting some of my research in a talk at an annual meeting of the American Physical Society in Baltimore this year. This summer I plan on continuing my work at the Texas Center for Superconductivity here at the University of Houston.

CLASS OF 2003

Sam Boyar

Sam has worked for the last two years at Border to Border Exploration as a wellsite geologist. He was recently accepted to the Rice University Jones Graduate School of Business and will be leaving his job later this summer to move back to Houston and pursue an energy-focused MBA. He enjoyed getting to spend two more years working in Austin (and East Texas) after college, but is very excited about getting back to Houston and starting the next chapter in his life.

Brittany Fondren

Brittany works in Human Resources at Cornerstone Recovery. Recently she has been working on creating a program that will help Cornerstone better understand the correlation between parent involvement and the sustainability of their adolescent’s sobriety, which she says has been very interesting.

Brittany went to Japan for a week last August with sisters and fellow Post Oak alumni, Lauren and Catherine. This summer she plans to travel to Juárez with Catherine to visit Lauren, who is living there as a Foreign Service Officer. She’ll also travel to Port O’Conner for a week in July to help out with the family fishing tournament (POCO Bueno). Brittany has also done volunteer work with Bo’s Place and the Menninger Clinic.

Nick Wallace

Nick is currently interning with Marathon Oil working for the IT North American Production Operations team. After spending some time in the Sheridan, Wyoming office working with the engineers as they upgrade some of their systems, he headed back to Houston to work out of Marathon’s Galleria office the rest of the summer. He has been working for Marathon since his internship last summer under a College Learner program, which allowed him to work 25-30 hour weeks while taking classes. He is also taking summer school classes and is set to graduate from UH in December with a B.B.A. in MIS (Management Information Systems).

Nick also visited Mexico City and Oaxaca last August for a couple weeks where he practiced his Spanish and ate good food. He spent Memorial Day weekend back country camping in Yellowstone, “...since I’m up in Wyoming. I hiked about 10 miles from a trail head in the Northern part of the park and camped for two nights, didn’t see any other people the entire time, just tons of bison and elk.”

William Wawro

William recently began working as an editor at Hey Guy Media, an independent production and post-production company. He also volunteers at the Manhattan Beach aquarium in his spare time, and is counting down the days until he comes back home to visit his family and Houston. He sees fellow Post Oak alums and L.A. residents Sam Geer, Nick Hetherington, and Jonathan Ward every other weekend. William says, “I hope The Post Oak School is doing well. I was actually espousing Montessori philosophy to some of my friends and got into a detailed discussion about the efficacy for Montessori. I was glad to find research online that supported my core beliefs in Montessori; however, I was a little disappointed by the lack of evidence for its application in a higher learning setting. I am excited for Post Oak’s new high school opening and hope that it can further provide encouraging evidence for what I have known through my anecdotal experience all along: Montessori rocks.”

CLASS OF 2004

Jennie Kamin

Jennie lives in New Orleans where she works in film and television. In May, she worked on a production in Biloxi, Miss. which began shooting there in mid-June.
The film, a southern gothic thriller called *Artists Die Best in Black*, stars Malcolm McDowell, Hani Furstenberg & Luke Goss. Jennie has a supporting role in the film. While the film itself is based on a novel that is set in Biloxi, the goal of the production team bringing the film to Mississippi is actually two-fold: the staff hopes to contribute to the revival of a post-Katrina Mississippi by training the local talent (both behind and in front of the camera) so the state can become a competitor in the lucrative national film market. The intention is for the state to follow Louisiana’s lead and begin attracting large-scale productions to hire local workers and bring their business to Mississippi.

Jennie’s stepfather is directing the film and her mother is on the set. Jennie says, “It has been such a fun and unique experience collaborating with my family in a professional setting like this one.”

**Matthew McDonald**
After graduating from Boston University in May 2012 with a major in percussion performance, Matthew played Episcopal High School’s musical earlier this spring (*Seussical: The Musical*). In addition to occasional teaching at EHS he has also been playing at a church in Katy on select weekends.

**CLASS OF 2006**

**Stephanie Styles**
Stephanie is a rising senior at the University of Michigan where she rooms with fellow Post Oak alum, Becky Bereswill (pictured below with Stephanie). Stephanie is majoring in musical theatre and will play the role of Johanna in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* with Generations Theatre Company in Houston this summer. The show is playing at Hamman Hall at Rice University July 5–28.

**Michael Harvey**
Michael spent his spring semester studying abroad through the Notre Dame London Program. He spent the semester with over a hundred other Notre Dame students living and studying in the heart of London (their classroom building was one block from Trafalgar Square), and it was an incredible experience. As an Economics and Political Science double major, Michael was able to take courses on British politics and the British economy and financial system and then enhance his learning experience with visits to Parliament and the City of London. In addition to visiting many of London’s main attractions, he also spent some time traveling through Europe. The highlight of his travels was being in St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City for the announcement of Pope Francis and seeing white smoke emerge from the chimney above the Sistine Chapel—an experience he describes as, “truly surreal.”

This summer Michael will intern at Amegy Bank as a Credit Analyst Intern in their Commercial Banking Department. In the fall he will return to Notre Dame for his senior year.

**CLASS OF 2007**

**Gray Crawford**
I’ve been attending a small liberal arts school, St. John’s College, in Santa Fe. My studies are hugely time-consuming, but the difficulty inherent in the program provides massively fascinating information. The curriculum works out to be a double major in Philosophy and History of Mathematics & Science, and a triple minor in Comparative Literature, Classical Studies, and History of Music/Music Theory. Every class is seminar-style, with a professor (called the tutor) presiding over 18 or so students discussing the text at hand. It’s all based around the classics, and only primary texts are utilized. We read from Plato to Euclid, Descartes to Bach, Kant to Newton, Heidegger to Einstein, etc... It’s all quite fun to read, albeit often very challenging. We re-perform seminal experiments (Millikan’s Oil Drop, Rutherford’s gold foil, etc...), compose preludes, translate Sophocles, Heraclitus, & many others, track the solar motion continued on page 5
through the ecliptic latitudes (along with understanding Ptolemy’s heliocentric model before moving to Copernicus and Kepler’s geocentric one), and read oh so many significant works. And write oh so many papers.

I worked as the teaching assistant for my sophomore music class, helping with analysis where the class was finding difficulties, explaining concepts in harmonics, etc..., playing examples on the piano for further assistance. It was quite a fun job last year, and it was a joy to work so closely with the tutor for my music class.

At the moment I have no job lined up for this summer, though I expect the summer to be filled with many productive activities. I’m going to expand my design portfolio, teach myself how to program in Objective-C, help my father paint the house, and read purely for pleasure for the first time in the past two years.

CLASS OF 2008

Tom Harvey

Tom is in Jerusalem on a summer abroad program studying inter-religious dialogue and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He will begin his sophomore year at Notre Dame in the fall.

Nikhil Schneider

Nikhil is working full time this summer before returning for his sophomore year at the University of Houston.

CLASS OF 2009

Joshua Brenner

Josh graduated from St. John’s School in May. The research he conducted at MD Anderson over the past year is awaiting submission to a scientific journal. This summer Josh will work in a lab at Baylor working with T-cells before starting his freshman year in the Plan II program at the University of Texas.

Christina Fondren

Christina graduated from the Kinkaid School in May. In January she completed a three-week internship in New York City, and her spring was filled with graduation parties and fun events. Christina will spend time in the Bahamas and California with her family before heading off to Charlottesville to attend the University of Virginia in the fall.

Hailey Heck

Hailey graduated from Episcopal High School in May and will attend the University of Mississippi in the fall. She will travel to the Bahamas this summer with her family.

Sophia Ladner

Sophia graduated from Episcopal High School in May and applied early decision and was accepted into Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Quinn Looper

Quinn graduated from Episcopal High School in May where he received the MVP award for volleyball and the Sportsmanship Award for tennis. He was also selected Homecoming King. Quinn was very involved with ETV (Episcopal TV) during his last two years there and, in addition to screenwriting, filming and editing, he was also designated Special Effects Creator.

Quinn participated in the Volleyball Junior Nationals in Reno, Nevada at the end of June. He accepted a scholarship to Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania where he will study computer science and business, as well as play men’s volleyball.

Tim McMahon

Tim graduated from Episcopal High School in May. He was awarded medals for excellence in the study of mathematics and the study of digital arts for his senior year. Tim was also named Outstanding Moviemaker at the arts awards chapel. He will attend Vanderbilt University in the fall.

Gabrielle Posada

Gaby graduated from the Kinkaid School in May. She interned in a neuroscience lab at Baylor College of Medicine in the
Alumni Updates

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Medical Center. Gaby has a summer packed of adventure, with trips to Florida, Boston, and Colombia. She’ll also be doing her fair share of babysitting before heading to Austin to study neuroscience at the University of Texas.

Natalie Wade

Natalie graduated from St. Gregory College Preparatory School in Tucson, Arizona in May where she played varsity tennis, volunteered and was the manager of the soccer team. Natalie says, “The Post Oak School gave me the education and learning tactics that I use to this day, and that I have used all throughout high school. My teachers at Post Oak were amazing: Ms. Nickerson, Mr. Pinto, Mr. Nez and Ms. Gray to name a few, and I could not imagine being the devoted student I am today without the foundations that were laid for me by the Post Oak School.”

Natalie will attend Wake Forest University in the fall.

CLASS OF 2010

John Henry Styles

John Henry committed to Stanford University to play baseball. He will be a senior at Episcopal.

CLASS OF 2011

Christian Gray

Christian has been accepted to attend the American Festival for the Arts 2013 Summer Music Conservatory at Pershing Middle School for AFA’s Choral & Vocal Studies department. The dates of this program are from July 1 through July 19, with concert performances on July 13 &20.

She also received the Nowinski scholarship which will be used toward the conservatory tuition. Christian will be a junior at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Megan Rountbort

Megan will be a junior at St. John’s School in the fall. In 2013, she received two regional gold keys and a national silver medal from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for her journalism. She looks forward to working as an Assignments Editor for the St. John’s Review. Besides writing for the paper, during her sophomore year Megan ran cross-country, started the SJS Mock Trial team (based on her love of the competition at POMS!), and earned the Silver Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Over the summer, Megan will be interning at a local law firm and continuing to work as a babysitter and tutor.

Devina Schneider

Devina, a rising junior at Episcopal High School, is attending Youth Conservation Corps for eight weeks at Yosemite National Park.

Jahnavi Schneider

Jahnavi won 1st place in the 2-D Art show at Episcopal High School for a piece titled Solar Storm. She also placed 2nd in the 3200m and 1st in the 1600m in track at the Southwest Preparatory Conference. Jahnavi will work at the West U Vet this summer before starting her junior year at EHS.

CLASS OF 2012

Tenille Tubbs

Tenille finished her freshman year at St. John’s in May. She recalls the big adjustment as she transitioned to another school – specifically noting how quiet the classrooms were compared to Post Oak – but she enjoyed her first year of high school. Her busy summer plans include driver’s education and PSAT prep classes, as well as playing on a traveling lacrosse team.

OTHER ALUMNI

Kate McMahon

Kate finished her freshman year at Duke University in May. She is studying economics. This summer, she is interning at a boutique investment bank in New York City for two months. She loves the city, but Houston is in her blood! In August, Kate will serve as a crew leader for Project BUILD (Building Undergraduate Involvement in the Life of Durham), which serves a comprehensive array of community service sites over an 8-day period prior to the beginning of the fall semester at Duke. Kate participated in Project BUILD last year thoroughly enjoyed meeting and serving the folks in Durham. She attended Post Oak through 5th grade.

All photos submitted by respective alumni.

Jessica Jackson is Post Oak’s Alumni Relations and Development Coordinator. Email her with news, updated contact information, or for volunteer opportunities. (jessicajackson@postoakschool.org)
Congratulations, Eighth Grade Class of 2013!

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

This fall, we will welcome the following faculty and administrators to Post Oak. Join us on Thursday, August 15th for a welcome reception at the school. Details will be emailed to you later in the summer.

HIGH SCHOOL
Kim Harrison will take on the role of English Language Arts Teacher. Kim has lived in Houston for over 20 years and comes to Post Oak from a teaching position at the University of Houston. Her work there as an English instructor, writing specialist, and writing tutor has allowed her to develop her expertise in helping students refine their writing, whether they were first year undergraduates or doctoral candidates. Kim completed her Montessori early childhood training at the Houston Montessori Center and worked for six years as a Primary-level teacher.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Monica Lundeen will join the middle school faculty as the Mathematics Teacher. She comes to us from the Dwight School in New York City where she has been a middle school and high school math teacher. Monica is a Houston native and graduate of Rice University completing a dual major in mathematics and visual arts. In order to extend her math teaching in the direction of the practical, she completed an MS in Forensic Science at the University of New Haven. Her teaching and tutoring experience includes all math courses from grade six through calculus, as well as physics, biology and chemistry.

A SWAP IN ELEMENTARY AND PRIMARY
Lower Elementary assistant Corine Noronha and Primary assistant Ruth Canas are exchanging positions. Corine has started the Montessori primary training at HMI this summer and in the fall will become Emily Hansen’s assistant/intern. At the same time, Ruth Canas will move from primary to elementary, and become Simran Sood’s assistant.

SPECIALISTS
James (Jami) Sweeney will take over as Post Oak’s librarian. He is a trained Montessori teacher and comes with the technology skills to help us realize our vision of what a 21st century library in a Montessori school can be. Jami is AMI-trained at both the primary and elementary levels. He has also taught middle and high school science. Most recently, he was the head of school at City Garden Montessori School in St. Louis, Missouri.

We are pleased to welcome Saida Fagala who joins Post Oak as our new Visual Art Specialist. Born in Azerbaijan, Saida is an accomplished artist with a concentration in ceramics. She earned her Masters of Decorative Arts from the Baku State University of Culture and Fine Arts. She has been teaching art since 1998 and continues to produce her own original works at her studio here in Houston.

ADMINISTRATION
Congratulations to Christine Peterson on her new position as Post Oak’s Controller. Christine has been a consistant and friendly face in the business office for the past eleven years earning her Bachelor’s degree from St. Thomas during that time. We are pleased she is taking on this bigger role. Look for information on a new AP/AR specialist to start work this summer in the business office.

Jessica Jackson has stepped into the role of Development Coordinator previously held by brand-new-mom, Kathryn Murphy (Kathryn had a beautiful and healthy baby girl in June and the family is doing well). Jessica will continue work on community events throughout the year, alumni relations, and will lead our 50th Anniversary celebration activities. Jessica comes to us from St. Stephen’s Episcopal School where she was a Lower Elementary teacher for several years and worked on a variety of events in the development office.

Taking the reins of The Post (formerly, The Weekly Post) along with all of the other communication responsibilities will be our new Communications Coordinator, Elisa Schmidt. Elisa replaces Elaine Schweizer who is in Colorado for training on a new career path. Elisa has worked for several years as a graphic designer at her family’s design firm, Griffin Creative Company. Additionally she was the Creative Director of her own firm Schmidt Creative Company.

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New Roles & New Faces in Faculty
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Alexis Offner is the new High School Admissions Coordinator. Alexis is a graduate of Rice University, where she majored in French as a pre-med student. She has since completed an MPH degree. Her professional background includes recruitment and promotion, in addition to technical work in the Texas Medical Center.

Additionally, there are a number of Post Oak faculty who have been studying hard all summer at the Houston Montessori Institute in the first of three summers to become AMI Montessori Primary teachers. (HMI is Post Oak’s new AMI Primary training center.) Each person has her own reason for pursuing this training, and we’re glad to see such wide-ranging interest. Here’s who has been part of our first course: Rebecca Duran, Lilia Garza, Shekkola Gray, Orly Kluk, Sunila Madiman, Elizabeth Matthews, Monica Moreno, and Corine Noronha. We’d also like to recognize the following people who are pursuing AMI training in centers across the United States and in Mexico: Jamie Thompson is in her final summer of elementary training, Marcela Menjivar has begun the Assistance to Infancy training course in Denver, Colorado, Sandra DeLeon has begun the elementary training in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Patricia Onofre is in training at the Primary training center in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico.

A year of celebration begins in August!

Many activities are planned to highlight this big moment in Post Oak’s history. Mark your calendar for the 50th Anniversary Jubilee to be held at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on Oct. 5. Invitations will soon be mailed.

We need volunteers!
Contact Development Coordinator Jessica Jackson (jessicajackson@postoakschool.org) to help with the festivities.
News from Summer School 2013

By Miriam Winton, Summer School Director

A smaller version of Summer School got underway on June 10th here at Post Oak. The Full Day Infant Community classroom has been humming along under the direction of lead teacher Phoebe Yeager. She has been guiding the children in a variety of cooking activities. The toddlers have made their own fresh strawberry ice-cream, and baked a carrot cake and oatmeal-peanut butter cookies. In preparation for the 4th of July, the children made shakers and folded paper hats. Currently, Deidre Lodrig is leading the class and she has many other special activities planned for the children.

Our Primary and Primary Home Environment classes have been buzzing with activity. Emily Hansen guided the Primary group for two weeks early in June and Tamara Basham is currently leading the class. Daily gardening activities have been a highlight of the summer thus far. The afternoon children have also been enjoying extra time in the library reading books with Tamara. In PHE, Dinah Chetrit has been engaging the children in weekly cooking activities and craft projects. She has also been focusing on social skills and table manners during lunch time. The children made patriotic pencil holders for the 4th of July. And in keeping with summer tradition, Fridays are “Splash Days” for all of the Primary and Infant Community children. Both groups come together to run through the sprinklers out on the field, eat watermelon and other snacks, and play outdoors all morning.

The theme for the summer Transition Class has been “The Savannahs and Grasslands”. The transitioning first graders have been reading about grassland animals and writing lots of animal reports. They are eagerly getting acquainted with their new environment and with the Elementary teachers. Beth Smith, Kathy Long, Anita Taj, Simran Sood, and Lindsay Mistretta have taken turns as co-teachers throughout the summer.

The annual 4th of July parade in the parking lot was held on Wednesday morning before the holiday. Children from the Transition Class, Infant Community and Primary all walked together in the parade. Everyone looked great decked out in red, white, and blue and we all celebrated afterwards on the playground with watermelon and popsicles.

It has been a busy summer so far and there is lots more fun ahead!
Classes at the Motherhood Center

INFANT-PARENT CLASSES
A small group of parents and infants come together as a community 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., Starts Sept 3, 2013
(twice a week for 8 weeks), 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Class B (crawling–walking)
Wednesdays, Starts Sept. 4, 2013
(once a week for 8 weeks), 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Class C (12 months and walking well - 2 years)
Wednesdays, Starts Sept. 9, 2013
(once a week for 8 weeks), 1:30–2:30 p.m.

To register:
www.postoakschool.org/InfantParent
The Motherhood Center 3701 W. Alabama Ste. 230
Houston, Texas 77027
Telephone: 713-963-8880

TUTORING & BABYSITTING BY MEGAN
Megan Routbort, a Post Oak alum and rising junior at St. John’s School, will be offering tutoring and babysitting services during the summer. She can mentor students in the full academic curriculum, including Spanish language, as well as teach preparatory courses for standardized tests including the ISEE and CTP-4. Megan has extensive experience as a babysitter and has worked with children from 3 to 13 as a camp counselor at Main Street Theater. She is CPR and AED certified by the American Heart Association. Her contact information is:
Cell phone: 713-408-9068
Email Address: meganroutbort@gmail.com

Kids Care Club
Post Oak’s Kids Care Club is a service group for children and their families. All ages are welcome, as the goals are to serve, teach the value of service, and spend time with family. There is a compassionate curriculum to accompany the service projects, so that child volunteers get the most out of their service experiences.

If you’re interested in participating in The Post Oak School Kids Care Club, please contact Audra French (audra_french@hotmail.com).

Summer bubble fun!
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.

And thanks to those who have already donated!

Annual Fund month starts October 1, but donations for the 2013-14 year can be made online now.

Bearkats Sign-up Day

Thursday, August 29 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.

New Parent Welcome Coffee

Friday, Aug. 30 at 8:45 a.m. in the school gym
AMI Primary Training Course Launched and on its way....

By Mirani Smith, Early Childhood Director and HMI Auxiliary Trainer

The Houston Montessori Institute launched the first Primary Training course on June 10th with 19 students representing Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the United States. Classes are held at the Post Oak High School in Houston’s Museum District.

The Faculty of the Houston Montessori Institute, Dr. Larry Quade and Mirani Smith, are delighted with the group of trainees. They are committed, dedicated, and passionate about the training. They have chosen to devote three summers to explore, research, and study Dr. Montessori’s approach to education.

What does this mean to the Houston Montessori Institute, the Post Oak School, the Houston Community, and beyond? Nineteen AMI trained Primary teachers in the summer of 2015 will branch out and make a difference in the lives of children as teachers, administrators, parents, or grandparents.

Lynn Lawrence, Executive Director of AMI delivered an inspirational letter to the students of HMI. She imparted the following:

"Each and everyone can make a difference and every small difference you make as individuals begins, under the AMI umbrella, to change a whisper into a shout on behalf of all children...be inspired and in your turn be inspirational."

The days are long for trainers and trainees... the journey is both transforming and rewarding.

Many thanks to all who participated in bringing an AMI Training Center to Houston! 🚁
What is My BackPack? and why you should be interested...

By Mirna Andrade-Salgado, Technology Director

Communication and access to data are crucial to the success and productivity of any school. Sharing data with students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and applicants is important. Parents want access to directories, view statements, pay bills online, and review giving history. Faculty and staff need a convenient method to send broadcast emails, and to look up student data. Alumni need a way to connect with the school and each other. For all this, you need a web portal that is directly integrated with a central student database to ensure that everyone has current data, and that integrates with current technology.

The Post Oak School is pleased to announce a new web-based parent portal, My BackPack™ Web Portal (MBP). It is a collection of community modules that provides database access and additional functionality to specific groups associated with Post Oak School. Each user sees a customized landing page with a menu for all functions appropriate to his/her community group.

MBP is another way to facilitate productive communication between school and home. MBP is secure, easy-to-use and will help parents find answers to common administrative questions and update contact information.

Through My BackPack (MBP), parents can:

- Update contact information and emergency contacts,
- View the school directory,
- View their account transactions and statements, and make online payments via credit card (limited) or eCheck,
- Online enrollment,
- ASEP and Summer School registration,
- Review giving history.

In addition, MBP has a mobile app. With the Advantage Mobile App, parents have the ability to view important information from their mobile devices. You now have the ability to view school-related data in real-time, such as the full student/parent directory and view balances via an Apple or Android device.

In the next few weeks, look for an email invitation to login to MBP from the school which will include your login information.

To get the app, go to the iTunes App store for Apple devices or Google Play store for Android users, search for "Advantage Senior Systems," and install it. It is a free download. The Post Oak School code is posterkschool. Use the same username and password as My BackPack.

Shop & Support Post Oak

There’s an easy way to help raise money for our school – when you go shopping! Whether buying groceries at Randalls, back-to-school items at Target, or catching a great deal on MamaSource, your purchases can benefit Post Oak! Grandparents, alumni, and friends are all welcome to participate in the programs.

When you shop at Randalls, Post Oak can receive 1% of total purchases. Just link your Remarkable card to the school by visiting www.randalls.com▶Community Caring (link at the bottom of page under Company Info). From here select the Good Neighbor Program link on the right and complete the short Good Neighbor Charity Addition form at the bottom of the page. Be sure to include Post Oak’s charity number 2531.

Have a Target REDcard or Target Visa Card? Through their Take Charge of Education program, cardholders can designate Post Oak to receive 1% of all Card purchases made at a Target store or at target.com. Target also donates .5% of all Target Visa Credit Card purchases made outside of Target. To link Post Oak to your card, go to target.com/tcoe, enter the school’s ID (1510) or search by city and state, and click on the Select This School to enter your card information. You can also check the school’s progress any time.

For great deals on clothing, toys, magazines, courses, and much more, shop with Mamasource by Mamapedia (deals.mamapedia.com/). When making a purchase, select The Post Oak School and they will send 5% to us! Easy peasy!

We truly appreciate all your support! Happy shopping! •
**CALENDAR**

**AUGUST 18–24**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| Mon 8/19 | 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 8/20 | All EL & MS students 8:30 a.m.–noon  
HS back to school luncheon 11 a.m.–2 p.m. |
| Wed–Fri 8/21–23 | MS Retreat at Artesian Lakes |
| Wed 8/21 | EL, MS, & HS begin full day  
Room Parent meeting, 9 a.m. |
| Thu 8/22 | HS parent orientation, 7 p.m. |
| Fri 8/23 | PRI walk through, 9–11 a.m.  
IC walk through see orientation schedule |

**AUGUST 25–31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon–Wed 8/26–28</td>
<td>IC &amp; PRI orientation (see orientation schedule)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon–Fri 8/26–30</td>
<td>HS Odyssey Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8/26</td>
<td>PHE begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 8/27</td>
<td>MS parent orientation, 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 8/27</td>
<td>EL parent orientation, 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 8/29</td>
<td>All IC &amp; PRI attend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Fri 8/30 | Bearkats sign up (gym)  
New Parent Welcome Coffee 8:45 a.m. |

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**NOTICE BOARD**

**SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION**

In just a few weeks, we will send out a mailing with your school calendar.

At the beginning of August, you will also receive an email with links to forms, the handbook, ASEP and items for the new school year.

Watch your inbox for more information.

To find out the school start date for your child(ren), go to the website,

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**SHOW YOUR SPIRIT!** The Post Oak School's logos are available at Lands' End for embroidery or printing on your Lands' End purchases. If you would like to show your Post Oak spirit by wearing clothing with either the school logo or the Bearkats team logo, contact Lands' End School Division directly at 1-800-469-2222 or online at landsend.com.

Post Oak's preferred school number is **900115890**.

The logo numbers are:

- Post Oak logo # 0843027K
- High School logo # 1112656K
- Bearkats logo # 0729937K

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**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 Elisa Schmidt (elisaschmidt@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 the Communications Coordinator 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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