On Tuesday night the Post Oak School’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to start construction in June on the first large-scale renovation and expansion in 15 years on the Bissonnet campus, pending the City of Bellaire’s approval of our permits. This is a huge moment for our school.

Next week we are beginning a series of 8 meetings that will be held throughout the month of April to let all parents know what is in store during the construction period from a very practical standpoint. It is information all families will want to know. We will also invite every family to participate in the Big Work campaign that has raised almost $5 million to fund the renovation of our campus.

continued on page 2
as well as launching our Post Oak High School. To date over 80 Post Oak families have contributed to the Big Work campaign and we are very thankful to each and every one of them. I hope that you will be able to attend at least one of the meetings to learn about everything that is happening and allow us to answer all of your questions.

I’ll look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings, and to having you with us during this exciting new chapter in the life of The Post Oak School.

How will the construction impact your family next year?

JOIN US TO LEARN MORE!

All Post Oak Parents are strongly encouraged to attend one of the upcoming Big Work information sessions. We will discuss how Big Work construction will impact your family in the upcoming school year, and how you can lend your support to this growth and enhancement of The Post Oak School. You will receive an invitation from your room parent, and other parent volunteers will be helping to get everyone scheduled. We look forward to sharing this next chapter in Post Oak School history with the community – See you there!

With Gratitude to Our Donors

These significant improvements to The Post Oak School would not be possible without the extremely generous support of our community. Thank you to all of these leadership donors to date who have helped us raise over $4.5 of our $6 million goal.

Sushila and Durga Agrawal
Shonali and Rakesh Agrawal
Marcela and Gus Alvarez
D. Kent and Linda C. Anderson Foundation
Anonymous (2)
Frank Apollo
Vivian and Henry Blum
Beverly Bontrager
The Brown Foundation
Sandy Burchle
Erin and Brett Busby
Miguel Calatayud & Reyes Lizarraga
Wendy Calise
Kim and Michael Callahan
Christina and Jorge Cantu
Harpal and Herman Chana
Laura and Martin Citardi
Melissa Coleman and Robert Pauser
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Rosa Wong and Gary Luk
Harold Malveaux
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Paul and Mark Mey
Tom Griffin-Mimsich and Gene Mimsich
Pat and Bill Mitchell
Nandita Gupta and Vikas Mittal
Sharon and George Monfray
National Oilwell Varco
Tara and Alex Noblett
Wendy and Meri O’Hanna
Katie and Bob Orr
Jenny Merv and Matt Parkev
Jaana Perro and Michael Parks
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Mayuri and Dharmesh Patel
Fathe Pechas
Stephanie and Bill Perkins
Joy and Richard Pulaski
Kristen and David Ridgway
Rocha Family Foundation
Alicia Rewaldshak and Benjamin Saldana
Suzan and Jeremy Samuel
Daniela and Manole Sanchez
Farrell and Stuart Sanders
Sherri and Charles Schugart
Ariana and Steve Smot,
Dear Parents,

You may be wondering about plans for summer school at Post Oak, given the construction project to expand and renovate the main campus which is slated to begin June 2nd. That work will require all faculty, staff, and children to vacate the building for the entire summer.

What does that mean for our summer program? Rather than close our summer program this year, we are renting space at Robert M. Beren Academy (just south of 610S/Willowbend) which will enable us to offer a basic slate of summer classes: full day infant community, primary, and elementary transition class. The summer program will be offered for seven weeks beginning Monday, June 16th and ending Friday, August 1st based on the following eligibility:

**Full Day Infant Community** - Post Oak students enrolled for the 2014-2015 academic year with expanded year contracts. Options: 7am – 3:15pm; 7am – 6pm; 8am – 6pm.

**Primary** – Post Oak students enrolled for the 2014-2015 academic year with expanded year contracts. Options: 7am – 3:15pm; 7am – 6pm; 8am – 6pm.

**Transition to Elementary** - all Post Oak children making the transition from primary to lower elementary. Morning care (7am-8:15am) and afternoon care (3:30-6pm) are also available.

We understand that housing the summer program at a different site is not the same as offering the program on our own, wonderful campus. It’s not home. However, we believe that Beren Academy offers us a good alternative. For starters, it is nearby and readily accessible. Secondly, one of the challenges we faced in trying to relocate our classrooms for the summer is that conventional classrooms in most other schools and churches are generally too small. Since Beren Academy offers a Montessori program, the move will be much more workable.

For the full-day infant class, primary, and primary home environment, we will set up the classrooms with our own Montessori materials, sleeping mats, and furniture. For our transitioning elementary students, we’ll be able to move right in to Beren Academy’s lower elementary classroom.

As always, Post Oak faculty will be teaching the summer program. In addition, Post Oak Administrative staff will be on the campus from 7am until 6pm each day.

Eligible families will soon receive the Post Oak Summer School registration brochure. More detailed information will follow to orient eligible families to the Beren Academy campus as well as drop off and pick up procedures and other practical details.

If you have any questions regarding these plans, please contact summer school director Miriam Winton (miriamwinton@postoakschool.org).

Sincerely,

John Long
Head of School

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**FLORA & FAUNA**

The Outdoor Experience A-Term is learning about the flora and fauna they will encounter while on their trip. The students will be traveling to Big Bend next week.

**MONTROSE MAVENS**

The Critical Writing A-Term is active and at-large in H-town! They have been reviewing everything under the sun, from local restaurants to current films. Read their blog, http://montrosemavens.tumblr.com/.

**SOCCER TEAM**

Our new HS soccer team played their first game on Tuesday at Bear Creek Park. Watch the Post Highlight for the date and time of their next game and come out to cheer on Post Oak’s newest star athletes!

**FILM SCREENING**

On March 14, the high school language arts class hosted a short film screening of their production “The Merchant of Venice,” which was adapted, directed, filmed and edited by the students.
Where in the world did your 50th shirt go on Spring Break?

It’s not too late to send us a photo of your family members wearing their Post Oak gear on Spring Break! These photos are also going in the yearbook as part of our 50th celebration. Send your pics to jessicajackson@postoakschool.org.

Spring Break at Post Oak!
Post Oak Students One Step Closer to Japan!

Post Oak students [redacted] and [redacted] have been selected from among an impressive pool of twenty-plus candidates to interview for the 2014 Houston-Chiba Sister City Youth Ambassador Exchange Program.

They will interview this Friday with the Japan-America Society of Houston Sister City Committee and the Japan-America Society of Houston Board President to share more about themselves and their interest in Japan.

Please join us in wishing them luck!

An Update on Post Oak’s Mutton Bustin’ Champ

by Post Oak parent Analitza Factor

We wanted to share a quick update regarding [redacted]. Our little cowgirl participated in the Mutton Bustin’ Finals on Sunday, March 23rd, competing against 15 other champs. She rode (sideways!) to the very end, where the sheep turned right and the clowns plucked her off by her feet (holding her upside down...very funny). Carolina scored a 90 and came in 2nd place (the winner scored a 91).

On a Montessori note, while several of the other kids were upset and some crying at their loss, [redacted] took it all in stride, saying once briefly that she wished she could have received the trophy but that was all. She did not dwell on the fact that she didn’t place 1st. Her focus was on enjoying the experience, trying her hardest, and doing her own personal best. We know this is what she is taught in class every day, and it’s what we instill at home as well. In fact, of the 16 participants, only three were girls [redacted] included) and when she came in 2nd place one of her comments was, “I think it’s cool that a girl won!” (the winner was one of the other little girls)...great attitude!

[redacted] had SO much fun with the whole experience and was thrilled to be part of ‘Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo’ history. Thanks to all of you for your well wishes!

Post Oak Swimmer Takes Silver in State Meet

Post Oak student [redacted] recently swam in the Texas Age Group Swimming Championships (aka TAGS). The meet is widely considered to be the “State Championship” because it pulls swimmers from all over the state and every swimmer must accomplish a qualifying time to earn a spot in the meet. [redacted] competed in the girls 10 and under category, winning two silver medals, taking second place in the State of Texas in the 50 yard freestyle and the 50 yard breaststroke. [redacted] also placed 10th in Texas in the 100 yard Individual Medley and earned 16th place in Texas in the 50 yard butterfly.

In addition, the relay team of [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] earned 7th place in the State of Texas in the 200 yard freestyle relay. Please join us in congratulating [redacted]!
Bearkats Backyard Barbeque

Bearkats and Intramural players, along with their families, faculty, and staff, are invited to a backyard barbecue catered by Beck’s Prime, and a program celebrating the hard work of our Post Oak athletes.

Join the fun in the Post Oak gym!
Wednesday April 30, 6– to 8 p.m.
RSVP with number attending by Friday, April 25. Call 713-661-6688 or email frontoffice@postoakschool.org.

Post Oak Students Training in Laparoscopic Surgery

Post Oak Middle and High School students will participate in a pilot program to train teenagers in laparoscopic and robotic skills. We will work with Brian J. Dunkin, MD, FACS (Professor of Clinical Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College; Head, Section of Endoscopic Surgery; Medical Director, Methodist Institute for Technology, Innovation and Education) and Dr. Ioannis Pavlidis, Ph.D. (Eckhard-Pfeiffer Professor, Computational Physiology Lab, University of Houston). In Dr. Pavlidis’ words, “If we succeed, this will revolutionize secondary education.”

Here is an excerpt from the research page of the MITIE website (http://www.mitietexas.com/body.cfm?id=44):

In an ideal world, when a surgeon comes to MITIE to learn a new procedure he or she would leave with a valid measure of competence that would reassure patients and credentialing bodies of readiness to perform real cases. Yet, the current methods of measuring competence take years to develop for each individual operation and require teams of researchers to validate. Dr. Barbara Bass, chair of Methodist’s Department of Surgery, and Dr. Ioannis Pavlidis, a computer scientist from the University of Houston, have teamed up to create a better method of measuring procedural competence using thermal imaging: a special camera is focused on a surgeon’s face while performing a surgical procedure and quantitatively measures the surgeon’s level of stress. The scientists have proved that stress correlates with performance; less skilled surgeons exhibit more stress than experts. By measuring a surgeon’s reaction to performing a procedure rather than measuring the procedure itself, Dr. Bass and Dr. Pavlidis have discovered a new method of measuring procedural competence that can be rapidly adapted to any procedure. This novel work was published in the journal Scientific Reports, a primary research publication from the publishers of Nature.

As you can see, our students are embarking on an excellent opportunity for providing scientists with more information about performing surgical procedures. The work will officially begin in late summer. Students will spend time each week at Methodist Hospital. Their work at Methodist will comprise their science credit for the time they are participating in the experiment.

Children at Risk is celebrating 25 years of working to change the lives of children in Texas!

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014
BAYOU MUSIC CENTER
Chaired by Post Oak parents
STEPHANIE PERKINS & LUCINDA LOYA
With dancing and a performance by Kool & The Gang!
To sponsor a table or buy an individual ticket, please contact Shannon Nunez at 713.869.7740 or snunez@childrenatrisk.org.

POP A Coffee/Work Day
Wednesday, April 2
8:45 a.m.–noon
Parenting the Love and Logic Way®
Enriching Summer Family Time

presented by Phylis R. Tomlinson, LPC, LMFT, ATR-BC
Post Oak Counselor & Independent Facilitator of Parenting the Love and Logic Way® curriculum

LEARN AND REFRESH THESE SKILLS:
- reduce arguing
- respond to “I’m bored”
- manage sibling issues
- money matters
- planning family work/play
- engage cooperation
- create a more peaceful home environment

SUMMER SHORT COURSE AT THE POST OAK SCHOOL
4600 BISSONNET ST.
Friday, May 2 & May 9, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
$30 per day or $50 pre-paid for 2 days

SUMMER SHORT COURSE AT ST. MARK’S CHURCH
3816 BELLAIRE BLVD.
Friday, May 2 & May 9, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
$30 per day or $50 pre-paid for 2 days

The cost of the class is $50 per person. The class will be limited to 12 participants with a minimum of 8 for the class to be held.

To register call Deborah Fry at 713-840-8663

Spring Environmental Lecture

Jaime Gonzalez grew up in the Houston area exploring fields, streams and bayous. While he loves nature even more he loves connecting people with nature. He was a naturalist at the Houston Arboretum for 7 years before moving to his new job at Katy Prairie Conservancy. His biggest passion is educating Houston folks about our prairie ancestry since this biome is so rapidly disappearing.

Jaime is currently the Conservation Education Director for the Katy Prairie Conservancy and speaks regularly to groups of naturalists, educators, Arboretum volunteers, and the public via YouTube. For the Spring Environmental Lecture, Jaime will be discussing topics surrounding the re-wilding of urban areas, and the need for people to reconnect with nature around them. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Post Oak School’s annual Spring Environmental Lecture featuring Jaime Gonzalez
Thursday, April 24
5:30 pm in the Gym

Coffee with the Elementary Director

April 9, 9:00 a.m.

Join Elementary Director Jeff Schneider for a discussion all about the nature of Elementary boys.
All parents welcome regardless of the age of your child(ren).
1. Elementary students enjoy "Oscar and the Bully," a play presented by the Alley Theatre in the Post Oak gym.
2. Hand washing helps young children concentrate.
3. Sketching antique vases in Lower Elementary.
4. Middle School students engage in a math lesson on radical expressions.
5. Students in Lower Elementary work as a group on their origami presentation.
6. An Infant Community child slices strawberries to share with the classroom for snack.
7. A moment in Post Oak history: Board Chair Lloyd Kirchner signs the International Baccalaureate (IB) authorization letter.
8. Lower Elementary students practice multiplication using the checkerboard.
9. Middle School students visit with religious leaders as part of their humanities studies.
10. Students make arepas together in Upper Elementary as part of a Spanish lesson.
11. A Primary child cozies up in the reading chair.
CALENDAR

MARCH 30 - APRIL 5

Wed–Sat 4/2–4/5
Middle School and High School MMUN in NY

Wed 4/2
POPA Coffee/Work Day
8:45 a.m.–noon

Thu 4/3
Big Work Session 1
9:00 a.m.
Nanny class ($ and reg. req.,
9:15–10:45 a.m.

Fri 4/4
CONFERENCE DAY
Classes not in session:
only students with expanded year
contracts attend
High School A-Term ends

APRIL 6 - 12

Mon 4/7
MS at Blackwood Land
Institute

Tue–Sat 4/8–4/12
Upper Elementary
MMUN in NY

Big Work Session 2
11:30 a.m.
Upper EL and MS Parent
Dinner and Tour at
Blackwood
6:00–8:00 p.m.
HS Admission Open House
7:00 p.m.

Thu 4/10
Big Work Session 3
5:00 p.m.

Fri 4/11
F.I.S.H. Meeting
9:00 a.m.

NOTICE BOARD

Free DASH Women’s Soccer Tickets

Post Oak Parents Tina Petersen
and John Duboise are offering
THREE free DASH tickets for the
following games:
Sat, Apr. 12, 7pm • Wed, May
14, 7pm • Wed, Jun. 11, 8pm •
Sat, Jun. 28, 8pm • Sat, Jul. 5,
8pm • Fri, Jul. 11, 8pm • Thu, Jul.
17, 8pm • Wed, Jul. 30, 8pm
Please email to pick up these tickets.

Our 2014 Bearkats are BACK!

2014 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

April 1st • 4:15
April 16th • 4:15
April 23rd • 4:15
April 29th • 4:15

ALL GAMES ARE AGAINST
ST. STEPHEN’S AND WILL
BE PLAYED HERE AT
THE POST OAK SCHOOL.

ABOUT THE POST

The Post is distributed via email every other Friday of the regular school year.
You can receive a printed copy from your oldest child, or view the 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.

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)
4600 Bissonnet, Bellaire, Texas 77401 • Telephone: 713-661-6688 • Fax: 713-661-4959 • www.postoakschool.org