Beam and cast; tablet and lap top; apps and widgets; “Wait, how’d you do that?”

“I just got an email invitation to a lesson tomorrow.”

I asked middle school students to tell me about their new technology environment. You never saw such enthusiasm for the steep part of the learning curve. Four seventh graders gave me a guided tour of the nexus tablets that were issued this week.

“This tablet really helps with time management. I put all my lessons and all my due dates in here. I can do research and write assignments. I can work on a report here at school, save it to Google docs and then open it on my computer at home because all my documents are stored in the cloud. It’s really cool how everything is connected. If I’ve got something on my tablet that I want to share with a classmate, we just press our devices together and ‘cast’ the picture

continued on page 2
Technology! continued from page 1

or whatever. And our teachers can beam presentations or videos from their laptops to the projector and onto a screen or whiteboard.”

“I’ve got to take a quiz now, but the screen on the tablet is too small, so I’m using the laptop instead.”

I asked about widgets and got a demonstration. One of the other students said, “Wait, how’d you do that?” She got a lesson from her classmate, too. These students fearlessly traverse the steep part of the learning curve, and generously share what they know.

They’re on the steep part of the learning curve? How about us adults? My phone locked up because my camera was full to the max. My middle school has been using electronic devices comes later, and at that time this Montessori school fully embraces them.

This year represents a quantum leap as they work to match the ways the high school has utilized technology since it opened two years ago. In fact, this is a great example of how we learn from each other at Post Oak. Montessori education begins from an understanding of the developmental characteristics of the learner at each age. It is not trivial that we now work with children from birth to high school graduation. We enrich our understanding of each stage of development by looking more closely at the stages that proceed and succeed it. Every time Post Oak has added a new level, it has made the school stronger, deepening our understanding of the full spectrum of human development.

But I thought Montessori was anti-technology?

Absolutely not. In writing about the education of adolescents, Dr. Montessori said, "In our times science has created a new world in which the whole of humanity is joined together by a universal scientific culture. Thus, children should learn to use machines habitually as a part of their education.”

However, when considering the education of children younger than seven, Montessori said, "never give more to the mind than you give to the hand,” -- and by that she did not mean the index finger on a glass screen. Yes, two-year-olds can learn to use apps on the Ipad, but this does not mean it is the ideal way for them to learn. When experiencing a cube, a three-year old needs more than a two-dimensional hexagon posing as a cube; she needs the heft and solidity of a three-dimensional wooden block in her hand. The young child needs sensorial reality and screens do not provide that. The right time for electronic devices comes later, and at that time this Montessori school fully embraces them.

Introducing Our New Librarian

We are pleased to announce that Cory Eckert will join us on September 8th as our new librarian. Cory has a background as a school librarian and in public libraries as a youth services director and young adult services intern, and most recently, as a branch manager in the Houston Public Library System. Her educational background includes a Master of Information Resources and Library Science degree from the University of Arizona. Ms. Eckert blogs about library issues, has served on State and National Task Forces for the American Library Association (ALA), and presented a workshop at the most recent ALA national convention. In addition to being highly qualified professionally, she brings good energy, a vision of the evolving shape and role of the library, and an eagerness to be part of a vibrant community. We welcome Cory Eckert to Post Oak.
Field Day is coming and we have the t-shirt to prove it!

Get into the festivities on Saturday, October 18 by wearing the official 2014 Field Day T-shirt!

Order online by Wednesday, September 17 at www.postoakschool.org. Shirts are $15 and come in sizes YXS (2-4) through AXXL. You’ll want one for each member of the family!
Redirecting Children’s Behavior
The Gentle Art of Parenting
Tuesday evenings, Sept. 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, from 6:30–9 p.m.

This six week, 15-hour course is designed to guide parents to use discipline as a process of teaching children self-control and responsibility. Redirecting Children's Behavior is a positive, powerful, informative, and fun training course which will give you a complete system for handling every situation in which adults interact with children, from infancy to adolescence. You will see it working and bringing positive changes to your parenting and your family from the first class onward.

The course will be taught by Deborah Fry, Ph.D. She is a certified instructor for the International Network for Children and Families. Deborah gives talks and seminars for parents, teachers and people involved with children and families, as well as teaches three-year-olds at Westminster Weekday School. With her enthusiastic speaking style and her sense of humor, Deborah helps make the art of parenting and working with children enjoyable. To register, call Deborah at 713-840-8663 or visit www.deborah-fry.com.

Course fee: $235 for one; $335 per couple includes book, workbook, and 15 hours of class time.

FREE Introduction Talk open to all Thursday, September 18, at 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday August 27, 2014 the middle school left on a team building trip to Artesian Lakes, a retreat an hour outside of Houston. Before we left, we took a quick detour to Freebirds for lunch. When we arrived at Artesian Lakes we changed into our swim suits and went straight to the lake. The lake had six giant water slides, which was one of the most fun activities on the trip. Afterwards we ate dinner at the Hilltop Restaurant. After our long day we were so tired we went right to sleep. The next day we got up early to do a team-building course called the low ropes course.

One of the most fun activities on the low ropes course was called the Acid River, where we had 10 wooden boards and had to cross an imaginary acid river using the boards. We couldn't touch the acid river, but the boards could, but the catch is that a person had to be touching the boards at all times, otherwise crocodiles would eat the boards. The team was able to make it across after lots of trial and error and learning to talk to each other. After we finished our activities on the low ropes course, we went for lunch. We finished our delicious food then went to the lake for more swimming and had a blast on the slides.

The next morning we went to do another team-building course called the high ropes course. Everybody's favorite activity on the high ropes course was the pamper pole. To do the pamper pole, you had to get in a harness. Next, you climbed up a 20 foot pole. At the top you had to jump off and grab a large brass ring.

The trip to Artesian Lakes was a great team-building experience for all of the students in the middle school and we look forward to going again later this school year.
Parenting the Love and Logic Way®

A parenting program designed by Love and Logic®, this series of courses offers solutions for families of children from early childhood to beyond adolescence.

Previous participants are encouraged to return to share experiences and reinforce skills. Grandparents and other caregivers are also welcome. All classes are open to the public.

LEARN SOLUTIONS FOR:
- How do I get them out of bed on time?
- How can I stop my children from bickering and fighting?
- How do I get my children to help with the chores without an argument?
- Is there a way to discipline my toddler in public without creating a scene?
- How can I get my teenage daughter to come home at the agreed-upon time?
- How do I get him to stop spitting food or whining at dinner?
- And many other day-to-day parenting challenges...

This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately!

Facilitators of the Parenting the Love and Logic Way® curriculum are independent and are not employees of the Love and Logic Institute.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Phylis Tomlinson, Counselor
PhylisTomlinson@gmail.com
Tel. 713-661-6688 x176 or 713-668-6558.

Class size limited to 30 people for morning classes at Post Oak location. Call or email in advance to reserve a spot! (Parking available along Avenue B only)
Class size at St. Mark’s Church is not limited. Contact Phylis or come to first class to register.

Please send registration fee payable to Phylis Tomlinson in advance:
4030 Blueboume 9109, Houston, TX 77025,
or c/o The Post Oak School, 4600 Bissonnet, Bellaire, TX 77401

$200 per couple, $135 individual
$240 per couple, $150 individual
Optional workbook $15
(a public service offered by Post Oak)

LOCATION
The Post Oak School
4600 Bissonnet St. at Ave. B
(Childcare not provided)

Drop-ins are welcome

MORNING SERIES
Thurs., September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16 (6 weeks)
9:00-10:30 a.m.
$20 for entire 6-week series
Optional workbook $15

EVENING SERIES
Wed., September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15 (6 weeks)
6:30-8:00 p.m.
$240 per couple, $150 individual
Optional workbook $15

LOCATION
The Post Oak School
4600 Bissonnet St. at Ave. B
(Childcare not provided)

DAYTIME SERIES
AT ST. MARK’S CHURCH
Wed., September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22 (6 weeks)
12:00-1:30 p.m.
$90 for entire 6-week series
Optional workbook $15

LOCATION
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Office Parlor
3816 Bellaire Blvd.
Houston, TX 77025
(Childcare not provided)
Snapshots from the 2014 High School Odyssey Trip to New Orleans

#KnowNOLA

**CLASS OF 2016 SPOTLIGHT:**

Q. What's your favorite thing about Post Oak High School?
A. I think the community is my favorite thing because it is very close knit. It feels more like a family than being at school. You get to know everyone because it's small.

Q. What's your favorite food?
A. Mint chocolate chip ice cream

Q. What are your major interests and hobbies?
A. Physical therapy, sports medicine, and traveling.

Q. What's your favorite Houston hangout spot?
A. The Galleria

Q. What's your favorite color?
A. Green

Q. Title of the last book you've read?
A. *The Great Gatsby*

Q. Out of all of the POHS trips you've taken, what's been your favorite?
A. The Shumla School – West Texas Odyssey Trip in Fall 2013 – I liked going into different caverns and looking at and interpreting the rock art.

Q. Who do you feel has had a strong impact in your life up until this point?
A. My grandfather

Q. What's your favorite song right now?
A. “Shake it Off” by Taylor Swift

Q. What colleges do you plan on applying to?
A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Boston University

Q. What's your favorite thing about Post Oak High School?
A. I think the community is my favorite thing because it is very close knit. It feels more like a family than being at school. You get to know everyone because it's small.

Q. What's your favorite food?
A. Mint chocolate chip ice cream

Q. What are your major interests and hobbies?
A. Physical therapy, sports medicine, and traveling.

Q. What's your favorite Houston hangout spot?
A. The Galleria

Q. What's your favorite color?
A. Green

Q. Title of the last book you've read?
A. *The Great Gatsby*

Q. Out of all of the POHS trips you've taken, what's been your favorite?
A. The Shumla School – West Texas Odyssey Trip in Fall 2013 – I liked going into different caverns and looking at and interpreting the rock art.

Q. Who do you feel has had a strong impact in your life up until this point?
A. My grandfather

Q. What's your favorite song right now?
A. “Shake it Off” by Taylor Swift

**“This is Your Campus”**

Our 9th and 10th grade students were introduced to a bit of history of the great city of Houston this week. Dr. Jamie Lee, POHS’s new Integrated History & Social Science instructor, along with Dr. Quillin, led the students on a trip to the Chase building so that they could see the city from a bird’s eye view. They learned more about how the city acts as an extension of their high school campus and what those connections to the larger community will contribute to their experience at POHS.
Welcome new families!

Amid the flurry of back-to-school activities, the gym was home to the New Parent Welcome Coffee hosted by Post Oak’s administration and POPA leadership for all new Post Oak School parents. There was delicious breakfast and conversation shared by all.

SIGN UP FOR GIRL SCOUTS

Attend one of the following rallies to register for the Willow Rock Community of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council!

Wednesday, September 17 (5pm – 8pm)*
Jewish Community Center
Joe Frank Theater
5601 S. Braeswood
Houston, TX 77096

Saturday, September 20 (2:30pm – 5:30pm)*
St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church
Prinster Hall
10330 Hillcroft
Houston, TX 77096

Sunday, September 21 (3:00pm – 5:00pm)*
Bellaire United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
4417 Bellaire Blvd.
Bellaire, TX 77401

*Please bring $15 membership fee (cash, check or financial aid available).

For more information, contact willowrockgirlscouts@gmail.com or Jeanne Chuche at 713-417-6181.

THE 2014–2015 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 one of the first to make your annual fund contribution! And thanks to those who have already donated!

Post Oak Fund month starts October 1. Donations for the 2014-15 school year can now be made online.

S P I R I T  D A Y S

SPORT YOUR POST OAK GEAR Every Friday!
1. Lower Elementary students conduct an experiment with volume.
2. A younger Primary student observes the drawing techniques of an older student.
3. Setting the table is big work in YCC.
4. A Lower Elementary art student in deep concentration on stencils.
5. Middle School students work on dividing their materials fairly amongst themselves.
6. An Upper Elementary student utilizes the noise-cancelling headphones during math.
7. Primary children arrive full of curiosity in the morning.
8. A Lower Elementary student receives a math lesson from Mrs. Taj Mahmood.
10. Primary students gauge width and height with the cylinder blocks.
11. Two new Lower Elementary students find books they like in the library.
CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 7-13

Mon 9/8  Fall ASEP Begins

Tue 9/9  POPA Welcome Dinner
         at Rice University Cohen
         Faculty Club
         6:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Wed 9/10  CALENDAR CHANGE:
           MS-HS Transition Meeting
           moved to October 7

Thu 9/11  Parenting the
           Love & Logic Way
           6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. (1 of 6)

Tue-Fri 9/16-19  Upper Elementary Trip

Wed 9/17  Last day to order
           FIELD DAY T-SHIRTS!

Thu 9/18  Introduction to Redirecting
           Children’s Behavior
           6:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 14-20

Check out our calendar
online at www.postoakschool.org

NOTICE BOARD

Let’s Go Bearkats!

 LANDS’ END

Show Your Spirit! The Post Oak School and Bearkats logos are available at Lands’ End for embroidery or printing on a selection of high-quality clothing. Contact Lands’ End School Division directly at 1-800-469-2222 or online at landsend.com. Our preferred school number is 900115890.

Conference Registration

The online parent/teacher conference scheduling is now open. Conference days are October 10, 24 (YCC is in session on the 24th), and November 7. To sign up for a conference go to www.postoakschool.org. For Parents Schedule/View a Parent-Teacher Conference and have your login information ready. If you are having problems, please contact technology director Mirna Andrade-Salgado, at technology@postoakschool.org or 281-822-8063.

Are You on facebook?

So is the the Post Oak School! We’d like to encourage all our families and friends to head over and like us to stay up to date on the latest POS news and events. Our Facebook pages (POS, High School, and Alumni) are updated regularly and we need your participation to keep our online community vibrant.

www.facebook.com/PostOakSchool
You can also follow us on Twitter! @postoakschool

ABOUT THE POST

The Post appears every other Friday 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.
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