Thirteen different activities were going on in a lower elementary classroom this morning. The teacher was working with a group of five children, coaching them as they worked with number multiples. It was the end of the lesson and the children were doing follow-up problems. Their teacher needed to know that they would remember how to do the work once they left her table.

One of the boys said to a friend as they worked, “You didn’t invent multiples.” His friend replied, “I didn’t say that. I said I invented this way of doing them.” Montessori students are creative. They
Lower Elementary students work on a completely separate subject simultaneously in the same classroom pictured on the cover. They look for new ways to do things. They are given the freedom to make the work their own, to structure it in their own way, to put their stamp on it, to be innovative and inventive. And they see themselves as inventive.

So the teacher was giving a lesson to five children. What were the others doing? One was working with the classroom assistant counting coins. One was reading a book about prehistoric mammals. Another was reading a fictional chapter book. One was drawing a picture.

Other children were working in pairs on a math problem. One was working with the classroom assistant counting coins. One was reading a book about prehistoric mammals. Another was reading a fictional chapter book. One was drawing a picture.

The structure in the Montessori classroom is much more complex. The teacher delegates much of her control to the children individually and collectively. When you look into the classroom, you usually see the teacher working with an individual student or a small group while the rest of the children are working independently. This entails trust in the child. Some people mistakenly believe that Montessori children can do whatever they please but that is wrong. Freedom to choose their own work and to direct their own learning entails responsibility both to themselves and to each other as members of a civil community.

Montessori teachers prepare children for the freedom they offer by helping them to develop a set of inner strengths and characteristics. "Control" in a Montessori classroom is rooted in the self-control of the children. There is also independence, respect, love of learning. Montessori observed that children have a deep and abiding desire to learn. They are intrinsically motivated and when we are able to direct that inner drive, children will do far more than we could command them to do.

Last night POS alumna Ben Jawdat, who is a freshman at Emory University in Atlanta, said, "I want to major in everything." He also said, "Post Oak gives you the desire to learn rather than the desire to make a grade. If you have the desire to learn, the grades will come." Ironically he credits Post Oak with giving him the desire to learn. Montessori would have said that the desire to learn was within him all along. What Post Oak did was to nourish that desire while avoiding extinguishing it under a load of drudgery within a restrictive structure.

This does not mean that conventional schools are all blindly tyrannical. In overt ways they are not. Most teachers are well intentioned and dedicated to the children. Many conventional schools are humane places. But Montessori observed that the way in which we learn shapes who we become, and that children educated in Montessori schools would be identified as "the New Children." This leads one to wonder, not whether Post Oak is different, but how so.

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This course covers two topics that are very hot in psychology today. Positive psychology and fixed vs. growth mindset. Positive psychology is the study of not only what makes people happy, but how happiness is, in part, created from one’s own attitude, rather than externally. Fixed vs. growth mindset is the idea that attitude towards one’s intelligence, emotional well being, or social status is either set in stone, or can be changed by hard work, attitudinal change or diligence.

Course topics are explored through readings, interviews and sharing with each other this month...

POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY AND MINDSET J-TERM
This course covers two topics that are very hot in psychology today. Positive psychology and fixed vs. growth mindset. Positive psychology is the study of not only what makes people happy, but how happiness is, in part, created from one’s own attitude, rather than externally. Fixed vs. growth mindset is the idea that attitude towards one’s intelligence, emotional well being, or social status is either set in stone, or can be changed by hard work, attitudinal change or diligence.

Course topics are explored through readings, interviews and presentations with researchers, videos (TED talks and other lectures), and experiences around these topics. Further, students will conduct an exploratory observation project to gather data about whether one’s intelligence, emotional well being, or social status is either set in stone, or can be changed by hard work, attitudinal change or diligence.

Positive psychology is the study of not only what makes people happy, but how happiness is, in part, created from one’s own attitude, rather than externally. Fixed vs. growth mindset is the idea that attitude towards one’s intelligence, emotional well being, or social status is either set in stone, or can be changed by hard work, attitudinal change or diligence.

WINTER ORIENTATION
The Winter Orientation J-Term affords all participants the opportunity to engage in a host of winter sporting activities situated in Telluride, Colorado. In addition to alpine skiing and snowboarding, students receive instruction in the disciplines of telemark, cross-country and backcountry skiing, snowshoeing and ice skating. Participants will complete a three-day avalanche training course that will involve both classroom and field instruction. The experience will culminate with a guided overnight backcountry excursion to Alta Lakes Observatory.

While in Telluride, students will track and forecast local weather systems, write an essay on a facet of Telluride’s history that interests them (drawing upon the resources and knowledge of the local museum, library and townfolk), they will attend the town’s inaugural Fire Festival, and will attend a bluegrass concert at the historic Sheridan Opera House.

FILMMAKING J-TERM
The Filmmaking J-Term gives students the opportunity to learn about the art and technology of filmmaking by planning, shooting, editing, and screening their own films. Like the filmmaking process, the course is divided into three parts. Week one is pre-production, during which students work with local filmmaking experts and learn about film genres, avoiding clichés, writing screenplays, storyboarding, and choosing props, costumes, and locations. Week two is production, during which students learn to use filmmaking equipment and shoot their short films. The final week is post-production, during which students edit their films and make rough and final cuts which local filmmaking experts critique. The culmination of this course is a film festival event, planned by students, at a local theater.

FALMOUTH FIELD SCHOOL
In this course, students acquire a deep appreciation for the role played by the Jamaican port city of Falmouth in the global sugar and slave trade of the 17th to 19th centuries and for the ways that the global economic system (in particular, cruise ship tourism) continues to transform the lives of the city’s inhabitants. Students also experience first-hand the complete process by which historical knowledge is produced, from documenting primary source evidence in the field to incorporating it within the larger set of existing data and using it to contribute to discussions of larger historical and cultural issues.

Students make a real-world contribution to the preservation of Falmouth’s extraordinary historical and cultural heritage, adding their work to a comprehensive archive of archaeological, architectural, and oral evidence for the town’s remarkable history maintained by the University of Virginia in collaboration with Falmouth Heritage Renewal. Through their work in architectural preservation and with the students at the Falmouth All Age School, students also have the opportunity to help to improve the lives of the Jamaicans living in Falmouth today, as well as forming life-long relationships of empathy and friendship with the Jamaicans with whom they work and live.

Q. What is your major interest and applying to?
A. History and Preservation in Jamaica or A-term project so far?
Q. What’s your favorite TV show?
A. Macaroni and cheese
Q. What’s your favorite color?
A. History and Preservation in Jamaica or A-term project so far?
Q. Out of all of the POHS trips you’ve taken, what’s been your favorite?
A. LSU
Q. Name someone who has had a strong impact in your life up until this point.
A. My mom
Dear Post Oak families,

Welcome to 2015! The Big Work campaign continues to be Big News around both campuses these days. Many Post Oak families have already been contacted to attend one of several scheduled Big Work events. Please take the time to attend one of the events, learn about the campaign, ask questions, and consider supporting this transformational effort. If you would prefer to learn about Big Work one-on-one, please contact Development Director Christina Kopanidis Cantu at 281.822.8024. Over 90 Post Oak families have generously contributed to the Big Work campaign bringing us to $4.8M of our $8M goal. We are reaching out to every single Post Oak family. All gifts make a difference and as with all things we do at Post Oak, we are beating the drum for full community support.

Please join us.

John Long

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THE 2014–2015 POST OAK FUND TOGETHER WE CAN!

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR REACHING 100% PARENT PARTICIPATION BEFORE WINTER BREAK!

Other classes that have reached 100%:

ORLY KLUK
DEBBIE NICKERSON
ERROL PINTO

This annual effort continues until we reach full participation. Parent participation is currently at 83%, and we have raised $244,000 of our $300,000 goal. Your support is both important and truly appreciated.

WHY GIVE?

Annual Fund supports:
- Financial Aid
- Faculty professional development
- Unexpected repairs such as the three major air conditioning repairs needed this year.
- The new van for the Bissonnet campus
- New lighting and ceiling tiles in the Primary area
- A new sprinkler system that was installed over the summer.
...just to name a few items

Pledges can be made by emailing christinacantu@postoakschool.org, or go online to our website to donate with a credit card or download the Annual Fund form. Pledges are due by May 31.

Questions? Please call Christina Cantu at 281-822-8024

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED!
Parenting the Love & Logic Way®
presented by Phylis R. Tomlinson

This series of courses offers solutions for families with children from early childhood to beyond adolescence, and is designed to give you practical skills you can use immediately. Previous participants are encouraged to return to share experiences and reinforce skills. Caregivers are also welcome. All classes are open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Phylis Tomlinson, Post Oak Counselor & Independent Facilitator of Parenting the Love & Logic Way® curriculum
phylistomlinson@gmail.com • 713-668-6558

Please send registration fees payable to Phylis Tomlinson in advance:
4010 Bluebonnet #109, Houston, TX 77025,
or c/o The Post Oak School, 4600 Bissonnet, Bellaire, TX 77401
Please be advised that there is no childcare provided for the classes.

Primary Parent Education Event:
Setting Boundaries and Gaining Respect
Thursday, January 15, 6:00 p.m.

presented by Deborah Fry, Ph.D.; CPE.

Deborah Fry is a certified instructor for the International Network for Children and Families. Deborah gives talks and teaches 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.

Childcare offered for primary and elementary children.
We will serve a light dinner for the children too. Please call the front office to reserve a space for your child.

Redirecting Children’s Behavior
The Gentle Art of Parenting

This six week, fifteen hour course teaches parents how to help children grow in a way that enhances self-esteem, teaches responsibility and promotes cooperation and self mastery.

Tuesday evenings
6:30-9:00 PM
Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3

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

Taught by
Deborah Fry, PhD, CPE
For more information and to register, please call Deborah at 713-840-8663.
1. Lower Elementary students perform in Mrs. Taja Mahmood’s class play.
2. A child in the Young Children’s Community (YCC) decorates gingerbread men with her classmates.
3. An Upper Elementary student works on a multiplication problem using the checkerboard.
4. A Lower Elementary student finds a quiet space for reading in the library.
5. It’s back to work in Middle School this week.
6. The 9th/10th grade students witness the creation of a sand mandala by Buddhist monks at the Menil Collection.
7. A Lower Elementary student explores mirror images and negative space in Art class.
8. A YCC child learns to integrate will, intellect, and movement through table washing.
9. Children in Primary Home Environment (PHE) gather for a family sing along.
10. Upper Elementary students perform in the holiday presentation from Mrs. Pinto’s class.
11. A Primary child learns to differentiate circumference and depth with wooden cylinders.
CALENDAR

JANUARY 11–17

Mon 1/12
Spring ASEP Begins

Tue 1/13
High School Admission
Open House
7:00 p.m. (Autrey Campus)

Wed 1/14
Coffee w/ EL Director
9:00 a.m.
Parenting the Love & Logic Way
(1 of 6)
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. ($ & reg. required)

Thu 1/15
Parenting the Love & Logic Way
(1 of 6)
9:00-10:30 a.m. ($ & reg. required)
Primary Parent
Education Meeting
6:00 p.m.

Fri 1/16
Application deadline for
new students
HMI Information
Gathering Session
6:30 p.m. (Bissonnet Campus)

JANUARY 18–24

Mon 1/19
SCHOOL CLOSED
MLK Jr. Day

Thu 1/22
Brown Bag Lunch w/
High School Director
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
(Bissonnet Campus)

Fri 1/23
HS J-Term ends

Check out our calendar
online at www.postoakschool.org

NOTICE BOARD

POST OAK DADS’ CLUB
Poker Night

by Michael Foertsch, Post Oak Dad’s Club Chair

I am happy to announce that we have a date for the next Post Oak Dad’s Club poker night: January 28, 2015. It will be held at the location of my vintage exotic car dealership, M. Brandon Motorcars, so not only will we play some cards, we can look at lots of interesting cars as well. (And, when I say “lots”, I mean it: Alara Garage, a car storage facility, and Sphere Motorsports, an exotic car service facility, are in the same location.) The address is:

3233 West 11th Street, Suite J2, Houston, TX 77008

Doors open at 7:30 pm, and we will start dealing cards at 8:00 pm. We play no limit Texas hold 'em, tournament style. 40 seats are available. The buy-in is $60, with unlimited re-buys up to the halfway point. 11:00 pm is when we end. Antes increase throughout the night, and we play until there is a winner.

Alan Ying will be handling the money, as usual, and you can either bring cash or PayPal him. We will have drinks and snacks available, and most likely we will have professional dealers and tables as well.

All money raised by the event will go directly to Post Oak School.

Specifically, the money that we raise in this event will be used to purchase the fine wine assortments which will be auctioned off at the upcoming Gala, multiplying the amount of money the school ultimately receives. There will be no cash prizes distributed. We are working on a “surprise” for the winners.

Please RSVP to me at postoakdadsclub@gmail.com. This has been a highly successful event in previous years, and I hope that we can continue the tradition. Plus, it’s a lot of fun!

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
STARSTRUCK
A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS

SILENT AUCTION PREVIEW

Featuring:

STUDENT Experiences

UTAH’S ULTIMATE SKI EXPERIENCE and much more!
UTAH’S ULTIMATE SKI EXPERIENCE

DONATED BY THE GORDY FAMILY

This all inclusive vacation package not only guarantees that you’ll discover everything Deer Valley has to offer, but ensures that you will do it with luxurious style.

The package includes:

- 5 day stay
- 5 bedroom home
- ski-in and ski-out
- 10 Delta Airline Vouchers
- ski rentals
- private ski instructor
- kids ski program
- transportation

ABOUT THE HOUSE:
This ski-in and ski-out home is located on the ski run, Jordanelle, located at the Mountaineer Express Lift. At nearly 11,000 square feet with five magnificent bedrooms (4 king and one queen) this home can easily accommodate two families. Whether you want to relax in the hot tub, break a sweat in the workout room, or gather the family in the theater room to watch a movie- this house has it all! Other luxuries include your own ski locker room, steam shower, dry sauna, and elevator.

SKIING IN DEER VALLEY:
Receive full ski gear for ten people, a private ski instructor for full day instruction (depending on availability), and youth ski instruction at the Children’s Ski School at Deer Valley.

With private ski instruction you’ll work on techniques that are personalized to your abilities. Become more confident in powder. Carve powerful turns. Ski the Daly Chutes. Whatever your goal, the certified Ski Instructors will provide you with all the tips you need to improve at your own pace.

The Children’s Ski School at Deer Valley is packed with non-stop fun and includes activities like hot cocoa and snow cone parties; natural and man-made terrain features and activities; and four fuzzy mascots that roam the slopes looking to say hello to the littlest guests. Taught by enthusiastic Instructors, Children’s Ski School lessons are designed to ensure that each child receives personal instruction, supervision and has fun with their peer group. For more information about Deer Valley visit [http://www.deervalley.com/](http://www.deervalley.com/)
GETTING TO DEER VALLEY:
This package includes 10 Delta Airline vouchers for ten people ($500 each). A car service will take you and your family to and from the airport upon your arrival and departure date. Explore Deer Valley in style with access to one Suburban and one Cadillac SUV to be used locally.

Make this your next vacation destination and get the ultimate Utah experience!


STUDENT Experiences

RACHEL MCNEILL BEHIND THE SCENES
Lights, Camera, Action! Come to a behind the scenes tour of the Local 2 studios. You and 5 guests will meet Local 2 personalities and watch a live news broadcast. Package includes autographed head shots of your favorite Local 2 personalities. Minimum age is 5.

SPEND A MORNING WITH A HEART DOCTOR
Come join Dr. Wayne Franklin at Texas Children’s Hospital as he gives a private tour of what it’s like to be a pediatric cardiologist. Activities will include a lecture about the cardiovascular system and visits to the echo cardiography lab, the catheterization lab, the pathology section where participants can get a “hands on” view of real hearts, and the intensive care unit where the smallest patients are being treated. Minimum age is 8.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES RADIO EXPERIENCE
This exclusive Houston Public Media Station Tour includes a tour of Houston Matters Talk Studio, access to watch the show live, access to the post-show debriefing, and an exclusive Q & A with the producers of Houston Matters. Available to 3 top bidders - Minimum age is 12.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TV EXPERIENCE
This exclusive Houston Public Media Station Tour includes a tour of the Red White & Blue TV Studio, access to watch the show live, access to the post-show debriefing, and an exclusive Q & A with the producers of Red White & Blue. Minimum age is 12.

INTERNSHIP AT THE BERCUTT PHYSICAL THERAPY AND WELLNESS CENTER
This four day internship is for a student interested in a career in physical therapy. They will discover how these health care professionals diagnose and treat individuals of all ages using a variety of treatment techniques. 8th through 12th grade students only.

EXPERIENCE A CAREER IN MEDICINE
Earn an honorary “white coat” while you experience on-call activities. Student will join Dr. Jay Volpi and his team in the ER for first hand experiences in evaluating and treating patients with critical brain diseases, such as strokes, brain bleeds, and seizures. High School students only.

PSYCHIATRY SHADOWING EXPERIENCE
One week shadowing at a solo child, adolescent, and adult psychiatry practice. Student will observe patient appointments, electronic medical records use, and prescribing while also learning the business end of running a private medical practice. High School students only.
**Important Dates**

**Bid on these silent auction items**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Children’s Bollywood Party</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>An Evening with Apollo Chamber Players at the Wortham</td>
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<td>April 24-26</td>
<td>Family Camp Weekend at Camp Lonehollow</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>Wine &amp; Light Bites - Mom’s Night Out</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Pajama Movie Night At Post Oak</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Miriam and Monica’s Tea Party</td>
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<td>June 5-7 or</td>
<td>Weekend In Galveston I</td>
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Check the next 4 Post editions for other auction highlights!