Our Big Work capital campaign is making excellent progress – and with your support, we will reach the finish line!

Last April, as you recall, POS was surprised and grateful when friends of the school purchased the “white house” property that bisects our Autrey campus, which had been previously unavailable. Stephanie and Bill Perkins, our generous benefactors, understood how strategically important this parcel of land was to fulfilling the vision for Post Oak School. Thanks to their ability to make big decisions quickly, matched by their tremendous generosity, we have been able to secure this vital piece of property under terms that are very favorable to the school. We are thrilled to announce that the transfer of the property was completed on December 24, 2014.
With the addition of this crucial new property to the Autrey campus, the Post Oak board revisited the campus master plan and decided to restructure the Big Work project. As we previously reported to the community, it was determined that the best solution to Post Oak’s short-term and longer-term facilities needs is to move the Middle School to our existing high school building, build a new high school building at the corner of Montrose and Autrey, and renovate the Bissonnet campus to meet all the stated needs using the space vacated by the Middle School.

With this new plan in hand, preparations for the planned improvements have already begun. As you may have observed, the entire Museum District campus – Post Oak’s Center for Adolescent Education – has been fenced off in preparation for the Big Work ahead.

To say that we are thankful to the Perkins for their gift is truly an understatement. The impact of their transformational gift will be felt by students and teachers in every single grade level at Post Oak for many, many years to come. Our hope is that their generosity will inspire every family in our school community to reflect on what Post Oak School means to you – and to express this appreciation by making a meaningful gift to The Big Work ahead.

With your help, we will be able to complete the work that needs to be done so that this unique school community will continue to flourish. If you have already made a gift that is meaningful to your family, we thank you. If you have not yet made a commitment, we look forward to welcoming you as part of our campaign.

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NOW YOU SEE IT...

As soon as the transfer of the old white house was complete, the school moved forward with the necessary steps to raise the house. A fence will soon be installed around the full campus.

NOW YOU DON’T!

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We will keep everyone in the Post Oak School community informed as we move ahead. In the meantime, thank you for your generosity and your commitment to the Big Work project and how you can help!

Join one of the remaining Big Work events to hear about the project and how you can help!

THURSDAY, 1/29
Lower Elementary Big Work Event

TUESDAY, 2/3
YCC & Primary Big Work Event

TUESDAY, 2/10
All level gathering: LAST Big Work Event

Please call or email Christina Cantu for times and locations.

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NOW YOU DON'T!

Adventures of a Science Afficionado

Q: How did you get interested in space?
A: I was interested in space since I was five years old. I wanted to know the things of the universe and I really wanted to know a lot of stuff about space; stuff about the sun and why there was a big spot on Jupiter. Space is beautiful.

Q: How did you get the opportunity to meet Stephen Hawking?
A: People got to ask Stephen Hawking a question, and the people who wrote the best questions got to meet Stephen Hawking. My question was: would you [Stephen Hawking] like to see your George books made into movies? My grandma is reading these books to me, right now, we are on the second one.

Q: What do you want to do when you grow up?

Q: How much do you want to be when you grow up?
A: That's wrong! They should do it; they should try them out because it is awesome!

"WOAH WOAH WOAH...the girl who won Wired magazine's contest goes to Post Oak??!!" For those who read Wired, "the Rolling Stone of technology," such as Post Oak alumna Alison Wawro (a physics student at the University of California Santa Barbara), the contest to meet Stephen Hawking was a Really Big Deal. So how did Post Oak elementary student Maria Suarez qualify as one of three winners? By asking a good question.

Maria’s a great kid, a typically great Post Oak student: interested in lots of things, full of questions, self-confident, comfortable in her own skin, so we were thrilled to learn about her recognition — not because we wish to echo our culture’s celebration of individual celebrity, but because we believe that Maria is the archetype Post Oak student (And not just because she shares a given name with Maria Montessori). Have you read the Portrait of a Post Oak Graduate lately? Full of questions? We expect students to be full of questions and we intentionally work to nourish their curiosity. We’ve also watched the most popular TED Talk of all time, Ken Robinson’s "How Schools Kill Creativity," and know that most schools unintentionally but systematically repress curiosity. Speaking of questions, middle school students Meghu Needapu and Julia Nassar interviewed Maria for this edition of The Post. Read on.

-- John Long

Lower Elementary student Maria Suarez stands on stage in London to ask Mr. Stephen Hawking her question.
Spelling Bee Success

by Pragya Devashish

“B-L-A-T….” I slowed down as I neared the end of my winning word. “E-R-A-L. ---- Bilateral.” My heart pounded as I waited for the judges to say the one word I wanted to hear the most, and finally I heard it. “Correct.” “YES,” I yelled out loud as I ran towards the audience. Immediately, Lucia and I were surrounded by a crowd of well-wishing students. Next, I found my parents and friends who enthusiastically congratulated me. I guess all that studying had paid off.

Throughout the afternoon, I replayed that one moment over and over again in my head. I couldn't believe it! I had won the Post Oak School 2015 Spelling Bee! I hadn't really expected to win. I just thought I’d get a bit farther along than last year. But, I mean, I'm not complaining. It was one of the most exciting days of my life.

Parents work with their children on Danielle Dalsey’s Gala project.

Reserve a room at the Houstonian to make it a full night of dinner, dancing, silent and live auction, and celebrating Hollywood-style with old and new Post Oak friends!

Parents work with their children on Danielle Dalsey’s Gala project.

Attend any parent education event at Post Oak and you're sure to hear buzz words such as “time management,” “confidence,” and “community.” However, hearing how a Montessori classroom promotes such great qualities and seeing it first hand is a completely different experience. Seven Post Oak alumni attended this year’s Alumni Night to reflect on their experiences within a Montessori learning environment and how Post Oak prepared them for their subsequent education and for life.

Darryll DeVera (class of 1990) opened the event by stating the three characteristics he and the six other panelists shared. Although having met many of them only an hour before, he knew they were all confident. He attributed this confidence to the freedom within a Montessori classroom— an environment that allowed each of them to make mistakes and learn through trial and error. He also knew they all shared the ability to make decisions due to the level of choice within the classroom. And lastly, he attested that because of Post Oak’s environment, they had all developed a great sense of community. These qualities were overwhelmingly evident as each panelist shared their story with such grace and poise. However, they all seemed to share an additional characteristic as well. They’re all appreciative of Post Oak; a place they believe provided them with a profound educational experience, anchoring them into a life of purpose and success.

Payal Chana “I remember always asking questions and that just stayed with me. I don’t really care— I’ll ask, I’ll ask again, I’ll ask in a different way even to this day.”

Alison Wong “The emphasis here was on the holistic approach, the whole brain, the whole mind working on something to learn every aspect.”

Darryll DeVera (1990) “I don’t necessarily worry about what we learned, I have the confidence to know that the way we learned stuff here at Post Oak is going to carry me wherever.”

Masoud Darvishi (1995) “[Post Oak taught me] you can identify problems, and that will be your first step, but what is your goal?”

Justin Boyar (1999) “I can’t emphasize enough the internationalism of the school and the emphasis Post Oak places on diversity; they were doing it before it was really in style.”

Abbie Kamin (2001) “I still carry my planner with me everywhere and that I absolutely took from Post Oak. It seems like a tiny thing, but the organization behind it and [being] aware of all that you want to accomplish during the day started here.”

Nikhil Schneider (2008) “Being raised in a Montessori environment, there’s a tradition of self-confrontation on a daily basis. I continue to remind myself and reassess what it is that I’m doing, where I want to be, and how can I be on the track to where I want to be.”
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Parents work with their children on Danielle Dalsey’s Gala project.
by Kim Harrison, High School Teacher

The Filmmaking J-Term has given students the opportunity to learn about the art and technology of filmmaking by planning, shooting, editing, and screening their own films.

During the first week of J-Term, pre-production, students divided into three groups. One group – Iris Ayala, James Perkins, and Adam Wygant – developed a psychological thriller called Good Times. Another group – Jordan Barger, Annelle King, and Lauren Dunaway – chose to make two films: a parody called Another Teen Cliché and a PSA about bullying. The other four students – Joseph Hachen, Katherine Clearman, Conor Devlin, and Noble Song Trichell Watson – formed the final group and decided to make a horror film called Tourquett House. These groups wrote screenplays and drew storyboards, attended presentations by Dr. Tish Stringer from Rice University and Camilo Gonzales from Aurora Picture Show, participated in a method acting class with Jonathan Gonzalez from Main Street Theater, went shopping for props and special effects, and learned to use the film equipment.

The second week, production, was full of on-location shooting. Students filled cast and crew positions for each other’s films and scouted and filmed in a variety of locations, including Hermann Park, Noble Song’s and Annelle’s homes, the doomed white house next to the high school, and, of course, the high school itself. On any given day, they were acting, directing, working sound, running the camera, creating special effects, and doing costuming and makeup. Shouts of “Quiet on set!” and “Action!” were ubiquitous as they learned to lead, delegate responsibility, and communicate effectively as cast and crew.

The third week, post-production, has been full of focused work on editing. Students finished their rough cuts by Wednesday morning and then participated in a critique by a panel of experts. Dr. Tish Stringer and Camilo Gonzales returned, and joining them was Dr. Charles Dow from the Rice University film department and Chris Nelson, Senior Editor for Tweak. The panel watched the rough cuts and gave pointed, professional feedback for the filmmakers. Afterwards, the students were fired up to complete the editing necessary for their final cuts. The finale of the Filmmaking J-Term will be a film festival, showing all of the student films, at Rice Cinema on January 30th at 7:30 PM. The students are working hard to plan and organize this festival and are eagerly anticipating showing their films on the big screen.

Dr. Tish Stringer of Rice University instructs students on how to use the filming equipment.

The group with the expert panel after critique

Q. What’s your favorite thing about POHS?
A. Our location.

Q. What’s your favorite food?
A. Mangos

Q. What colleges do you plan on applying to?
A. NYU

Q. What’s your favorite color?
A. Purple

Q. What’s the title of the last book you’ve read?
A. Before Happiness by Shawn Achor

Q. Out of all the POHS trips you’ve taken, what’s been your favorite?
A. I really liked the 2014 History and Preservation in Jamaica J-Term trip.

Q. Name someone who has had a strong impact in your life up until this point.
A. Dr. Ott
From Thrillers to PSA’s: The Filmmaking J-Term

by Kim Harrison, High School Teacher

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Parent Education Opportunities

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.

THE 2014–2015 POST OAK FUND TOGETHER WE CAN!

CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIELLE DALSEY’S CLASS FOR REACHING 100% PARENT PARTICIPATION!

Other classes that have reached 100%:

ORLY KLUK
DEBBIE NICKERSON
ERROL PINTO
MIDDLE SCHOOL

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.

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 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!

Bearkats Basketball

2014-2015 SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

2 vs St Stephens 4:15–COED
5-6 @ Memorial Lutheran Tournament 6:30–Boys
8 vs St Stephens @ Tellepsen YMCA 4:15–COED
9 @ Emery/Weiner 6:00–Boys
11 vs Yellowstone Academy 5:30–COED

JANUARY

7 @ Yellowstone Academy 5:30–COED
16 vs Imman Academy (location TBA) 5:30–COED
20 vs Emery/Weiner 4:30–Boys
21 vs Briar Meadow 4:30–Girls, then Boys
22 vs St Stephens 4:15–Girls, then Boys
22 vs Imman Academy 5:30–COED
23 vs Memorial Lutheran 4:30–Boys
26 vs St Stephens @ Tellepsen YMCA 4:15–COED
29 vs St Stephens 4:15–Girls, then Boys

FEBRUARY

3 vs St Stephens @ Tellepsen YMCA 4:15–COED
10 vs St Stephens @ Tellepsen YMCA 4:15–COED

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Taught by
Deborah Fry, PhD, CPE

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1. A child in the Young Children’s Community (YCC) sets the table for snack with his classmates.
2. Upper Elementary students calculate the square root of a number using the peg board.
3. A Primary student conducts her work in the Butterfly Garden.
4. Dr. Deborah Fry’s presentation to Primary parents last week had a wonderful turnout.
5. Lower Elementary students engage in multiplication work together as a team.
6. Middle School students gear up for their community service outing at a senior living community in Bellaire.
7. A YCC child makes his contribution to his classroom’s Gala project.
8. Upper Elementary students compete in their version of “The Voice” in music class.
9. A Primary student works addition problems with the strip board.
10. Lower Elementary students explore world geography through flag identification.
SCENES from The Post Oak School

1. A child in the Young Children’s Community (YCC) sets the table for snack with his classmates.
2. Upper Elementary students ponder the next mathematical step in solving a word problem.
3. A Primary student conducts her work in the Butterfly Garden.
4. Dr. Deborah Fry’s presentation to Primary parents last week had a wonderful turnout.
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9. A Primary student works addition problems with the strip board.
10. Lower Elementary students explore world geography through flag identification.
**CALENDAR**

**JANUARY 25-31**

**Mon**
1/26
High School
Second Semester begins

**Tue**
1/27
Redirecting Children’s Behavior (1 of 6)
6:30 - 9:00 p.m. ($ & reg. required)

**Tue**
1/27
Post Oak Dads’ Poker Night
(spots are still left - email postoakdadsclub@gmail.com)
7:30 p.m. (off-campus)

**Thu**
1/29
High School J-Term Presentations
9:00 a.m. at the High School

**Fri**
1/30
Montessori Journey
6:00 - 9:00 p.m. ($ & reg. required)

**Sat**
1/31
Montessori Journey
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. ($ & reg. required)

**FEBRUARY 1-7**

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

**Thu**
2/5
Gala Underwriting Event
(off-campus)

**Sat**
2/7
Nirvana Day

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**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 (elisa.schmidt@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:
NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED • LOCALLY LOVED
DISTINCTIVELY
Houston

and
much more!

CALIFORNIA wine country
CUSTOM MADE-TO-MEASURE SHIRT FROM HAMILTON SINCE 1883

Made-to-Measure is an edited selection of Hamilton’s most popular fabrics and styles. Your Custom Fit is based on four key measurements—collar, chest, waist and sleeve. You can customize the fit on any shirt pictured in Hamilton’s online shop or Create Your Custom Shirt from scratch.

Hamilton Since 1883 is Houston’s oldest family-owned business. For more than a century, the Hamilton family has been crafting America’s finest shirts. Each is hand cut and sewn in their Houston workshop where they oversee all aspects of design and construction. Passed down through four generations, the message “quality above all” has survived unblemished—in fabrics, workmanship, and especially personal service. An American institution worn by statesmen, entertainers and captains of industry, Hamilton isn’t just a brand, it’s a legacy. Passed down through four generations, David Hamilton, a Post Oak parent, and his sister, Kelly Hamilton, are ushering the company into the twenty-first century. With an unwavering dedication to perfection—Hamilton celebrates innovation while respecting the art of timeless dressing.

EXCLUSIVE HATTON HENRY BAG

This handmade leather bag nods to Texas tradition and embraces this season’s breezy style. It’s guaranteed to last a lifetime, only becoming more beautiful and unique as each leather ages differently.

Hatton Henry is the namesake of two true American entrepreneurs, George Hatton Vaught and George Henry Vaught, better known to the saddle making world as G.H. Vaught & Son. They produced saddles, harnesses, men’s belts, and more out of their leather workshop in Rockwall, Texas for over 100 years. Following in the footsteps of her grandfather and great-grandfather, self-taught designer Vanessa Vaught has a passion for handmade items that will last far longer than their mass-produced counterparts. Each Hatton Henry piece is made one at a time, by hand, with great care and attention to detail in Vanessa’s Houston studio. She spends much time sourcing her raw materials: leather, durable hardware, and one of a kind handmade and vintage textiles which are incorporated into the Hatton Henry limited edition bags.
PRIVATE DINNER & COOKING DEMONSTRATION WITH CHEF MONICA POPE FOR 10 PEOPLE AT SPARROW BAR + COOKSHOP

Ten guests join Chef Monica Pope for a cooking demonstration and seated dinner in the upstairs private room of her restaurant. Monica will prepare and serve a five-course local market dinner for you and your guests (includes a wine pairing with each course). Be ready to help because Monica will call up one or two guests to give her a hand during the demonstration!

COOKING THERAPY WITH CHEF MONICA POPE AT SPARROW BAR + COOKSHOP

Everybody needs a little therapy! And there’s nothing better than therapy where you cook, eat, drink, and laugh. This is a private, hands-on adult cooking class with Chef Monica Pope at her restaurant, Sparrow Bar + Cookshop, featuring four recipes that you help make…and then eat! We’ll pair your recipes with Monica’s favorite wine or specialty cocktail. Two-hour participatory cooking class for up to 10 guests.

Dubbed the “Alice Waters of the Third Coast,” German-born, Texas-reared chef and Post Oak parent, Monica Pope, has been revolutionizing Houston’s culinary scene since she debuted her first restaurant in 1992. Pope shares her passion for connecting local farmers and consumers with cooking classes, an online cookbook Eat Where Your Food Lives, plus Sparrow Bar + Cookshop and Beaver’s restaurants. She is the only female Texas chef to be named Best New Chef by Food & Wine magazine thanks to her inventive “grassroots” cooking style.

EXPLORE CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY

NAPA VALLEY AND SONOMA

Experience the quintessential Napa Valley lifestyle with a four night stay in this classic Napa Valley farm house, gently situated between St. Helena and Rutherford. Complete your Wine Country adventure with a wine tasting that’s as unique, personal, and intimate as where you’ll be staying. Complete your Wine Country adventure with a comparative wine tasting for up to 8 guests at Sojourn Cellars and experience the nuances and distinctive qualities in their portfolio of vineyard sites. Your seated tasting will feature flights of single vineyard and appellation Pinot noir, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon paired with local artisan cheeses.

- Four bedrooms and 5 1/2 baths.
- Sleeps a maximum of eight
- On 1.16 acres perched slightly above the Petit Verdot vines
- Outdoor sanctuary with pool, fire pit, grill, and dining area
- Breathtaking views of Quintessa Vineyards
- Comparative wine tasting for 8 at Sojourn Cellars
**Mark your calendar!**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**BID ON THESE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Children’s Bollywood Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>An Evening with Apollo Chamber Players at the Wortham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Compagnie Käfig in Correria Agwa at the Wortham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Pajama Movie Night At Post Oak hosted by Orly Kluk &amp; Lindsey Mistretta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24 - 26</td>
<td>Family Camp Weekend at Camp Lonehollow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Wine &amp; Light Bites - Mom’s Night Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Pajama Movie Night At Post Oak hosted by Simran Sood &amp; Amanda Tee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Miriam and Monica’s Tea Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5 - 7 or August 8 - 10</td>
<td>Weekend In Galveston I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5 - 7 or August 8 - 10</td>
<td>Weekend in Galveston II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ONLINE AUCTION VIEWING OPENS **FEBRUARY 22 AT NOON**
ONLINE AUCTION BIDDING OPENS **MARCH 1 AT NOON**
THROUGH THE [LINK ON THE POST OAK HOMEPAGE](#).