Over the course of the past several months, the Post Oak Head Search Committee has been working with our consultants at Triangle Associates/Heads Up to review and qualify the candidates that have come forward for the opportunity to lead our school. After an international search, we recently hosted four semi-finalists in Houston for interviews with the search committee. Based upon those interviews, we have selected two finalists that we will introduce to you next week.

Both candidates are highly qualified and excited about the opportunity to be a part of our
community. While it is ultimately the responsibility of the search committee to recommend a single candidate to the board of trustees for consideration, we are determined to provide everyone with an opportunity to meet each finalist and to offer your impressions of the candidates.

Résumés of each candidate are posted on the Head Search page of the school’s website.

CAMPUS VISITS
Each candidate will be on campus for a one day meeting with our community: students, parents, faculty, staff, and trustees. The visits will take place on Monday, December 7, and Tuesday, December 8.

PARENT & FACULTY FORUMS
Each audience in our community will have the opportunity to meet and interact with each of the finalists over the course of their visit. These audiences include a parent forum, a faculty forum, and a student forum.

The OPEN MEETING WITH PARENTS is scheduled for 1:15–2:00 p.m. each day in the Multipurpose Room at the Bissonnet Campus.

The OPEN MEETING WITH FACULTY & STAFF is scheduled for 4:00–5:00 p.m. each day in Errol Pinto’s Room.

SEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEES
In addition to the opportunity that each of you will have to meet our finalists, we have also formed three advisory committees (composed of faculty, parents, and students), which will interview each finalist and provide feedback to the Search Committee. The Advisory Committee members are: Jennifer Chavis, Joe Henry, Kelly Hill, George Levan, Michelle Lu, Kevin O’Gorman, Stelli Parsapour, Heidi Rosenstrauch, Zeenath Selvakumar, Nikayla Thomas, Kim Yates, Alison Wong, Rebecca Duran, Emily Hansen, Robin Lunsford, James Moudry, Maya Pinto, Ben Preston, Jeff Schneider, Mirani Smith, Simran Sood, Jami Sweeney, Mark Tucker, Miriam Winton, Shiraz Ghauri, Jordan Barger, and Isabella Neblett.

Please feel free to reach out to any of these individuals to suggest questions for their consideration, to offer your impressions of each candidate, etc.

FEEDBACK
We hope that many of you will take the time from your busy schedules to come out and interact with each of our finalists. We value each of your perspectives, and we will be inviting you to provide your feedback on the finalists via a confidential questionnaire which will be handed out at the respective meetings. These questionnaires will be tabulated and reviewed by the Search Committee before they make their final recommendation. Based upon the results of these finalist visits, the Board of Trustees is expected to make a decision on our next Head of School by December 11.

Please help us take this important next step for the future of our school!

Bert Mellinger
Search Committee Chair
Our sincere thanks to the 77% of Post Oak families who have contributed $270,000 toward our $300,000 goal.

*We need to reach our financial goal and 100% parent participation.*

**Congratulations**
to the classes reaching 100% parent participation:

- Maya Pinto
- Emily Hansen
- Simran Sood

Several classes are *very close* to reaching 100%. Please send in your contribution today to support the school and get your class to 100% participation.

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**2015–2016 PARTICIPATION TO DATE**

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<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
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<td>Employees</td>
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<td>Parents</td>
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**2016 POST OAK FUND DRIVE**

Making a Difference TOGETHER

We need your help to get to $300,000

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**The goal is big—do small gifts really make a difference?**

Yes, they do. All gifts are important and appreciated. If you are considering a small one-time donation, please consider setting up an automatic monthly charge to your credit card as an alternative. If every family who gave $100 in the past would consider donating $25 on a monthly basis to the Post Oak Fund it would have a significant and positive impact on the campaign.

**How much should I give?**

Post Oak plays a significant role in the lives of our families. We encourage you to give an amount that is meaningful for your family. We receive gifts ranging between $100–$15,000, with the average gift being approximately $1,000.

**Can I choose where the school spends my donation?**

Yes, the Post Oak Fund allows you to direct your gift in the following categories:

- Financial Aid
- Financial Sustainability (e.g. endowment)
- Capital Expenditures (e.g. building repairs)
- Professional Development (e.g. sabbatical awards, teacher training, professional conferences)
- Wherever the school needs it most

*The school reserves the right to redirect gifts as needed if a fund has become oversubscribed.*

The development office will continue calling the remaining families asking for support. Please show your support of The Post Oak School by making your Annual Fund contribution today online, via pledge, securities, or check.

**THANK YOU!**
Alumni Voices
A PARENT EDUCATION EVENT OPEN TO ALL

Thursday, January 7, 2016
at 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Bright Minds & Bright Futures:
How Post Oak prepared these alumni for success

Join us as we welcome back former students as they reflect on their experiences at The Post Oak School and thereafter. Parents of current students, as well as prospective parents, are invited and encouraged to attend.

RSVP to Christina Kopanidis-Cantu, Development Director, at 713-661-6688 or christinacantu@postoakschool.org

IMPORTANT DATES

NACAC FAIR
Tues., February 9, 2016
The NACAC national college fair is at NRG stadium from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

COLLEGE VISITS
Tues., February 9, 2016
11:45 a.m., Brown University
Thurs., March 3, 2016
9:00 a.m., University of Houston
Tues., March 22, 2016
11:45 a.m., University of Texas

2015 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

New: Louisiana State University & St. Edward’s University

Austin College
Colorado State University
The Evergreen State College
Hanover College
Southwestern University
The University of Alabama
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Mississippi

We’ll keep you updated throughout the year as they come in.
November 23 & 24, 2015
AT THE POST OAK SCHOOL

The days before Thanksgiving are always an exciting time as students share with grandparents and friends a glimpse into their lives at Post Oak. Their guests enjoyed a coffee or light breakfast in the gym while being entertained by performances from Elementary students. Afterwards they were led by parent and student volunteers to the classrooms where many hugs and smiles were shared, friends were introduced, and lessons were demonstrated.

Remember if you have a talent you would like to share with the class, please call the school and speak with the teacher to arrange a time—children love to hear these presentations. Also, if you would like to have lunch with your Post Oak grandchild or friend, please call the school to schedule a time with the teacher. A big thank you to all our visitors!
The Middle School Land Experience Trip

From November 16 to 20, the Middle School class embarked on a mission, a mission to learn to work on a farm! This Land Experience relates to our current humanities unit, which is all about permaculture and the ecosystem; this trip gave us a hands-on experience. On Monday morning, we made the journey to Camp Lantern Creek, where we would be staying and spending our free time. From there, each day three different groups of people went to three different farm locations: Animal Farm, Sustainable Harvesting, and Jollisant Farm. After our long days at the farms, we all came back to the camp to spend some quality time with our friends. We all chose to spend our free time differently. Some preferred staying in their cabins doing things like reading and playing trivia games, while others chose to head outside to play an intense game of Knockout on the basketball court, or a grueling game of Gaga Ball. While we all got different experiences, in the end, it was a worthwhile trip. We had a great week, and we can't wait to share it with you!

COOKING

Tuesday was our first full day of work, and my group’s job was to cook. Each group cooked a day of meals for the whole class. A big thank you to Ms. Pope for helping us cook! The groups that did a full day of cooking, including my own, met at the kitchen by 6:30 a.m., and from there, our day of cooking would start. In addition to cooking, we also set up the tables, served everyone, and washed everyone’s dishes. For breakfast, my group served scones, fruit, cereal, and eggs. As soon as we finished our breakfast we got back to work. The kitchen was very busy, but all the work was very systematic and organized. It was tough sometimes, like when I was cutting the onions, and everyone in the kitchen started crying. We made beef and cheese tacos for lunch along with some sides. After doing the dishes, we started prepping for dinner and tomorrow’s boxed lunch. Finally, we all got a break for about an hour. Then the girls on the basketball team, including myself, went back to school for a game, but the rest of the cooking group went back to make sushi for dinner. Overall, it was a lot of work but really fun with all of my friends by my side.

GIRLS’ BASKETBALL GAME

On the second day of our trip, the girls on the basketball team (including myself) headed back over to school for our first basketball game of the season! We could all feel the nervous energy on the way back to school, mixed with a little bit of excitement. When we arrived, we started warming up. Soon enough, our competitors, The Emery/Weiner School, walked in and started warming up on the other side of the court. We were all a little bit intimidated, because they seemed about as good as us, but we knew we could win! It was an intense game, and I was hanging off my seat as we tied and went into overtime, but I saw my teammates put their best foot forward, and kill it! It was a very close game, but we won, 34–32! I was so proud of each and every one of the Bearkats! After that, we had dinner at a restaurant, and drove back to Camp Lantern Creek, where we told all of our friends about our exciting night. Thank you Mr. Sweeney for driving us!

continued on page 11
SUSTAINABLE HARVESTERS

I will go as far as to say that Wednesday, the day my group went to Sustainable Harvesters, was the best day of the entire trip for me. Sustainable Harvesters’ main center was their aquaponic greenhouse. They first gave us a tour of the greenhouse, which was really interesting. Sustainable Harvesters mainly grew varieties of lettuce in the greenhouse, so that was what we worked with all morning. We planted, harvested, pruned, and packaged lettuce that was going to be shipped to grocery stores in Houston, such as Kroger. Sustainable Harvesters also has traditional gardening outside of the greenhouse, where we weeded the beds and collected eggs from the chicken coop that they had. It was not only a great place for us, but it also saved the farm two weeks of work.

*Aquaponics is a system where the waste produced by farmed fish or other aquatic animals supplies nutrients for the plants, which are grown in water (no soil). The plants in turn purify the water.

JOLLISANT FARM

On the fourth day of our trip, my group went to the Jollisant Farm. I appreciated the fact that our work on this farm was very real. We got bitten by bugs, we got sweaty, and we got dirty. We first pulled out bad green bean plants, rows of them. Then, we planted onions in those holes, which was slightly terrifying because every other time some ants/crickets/grasshoppers/spiders would crawl out of the hole. We also picked some green beans from their good green bean plants, and some fallen okras along the way. We were told that we saved the farm hundreds of dollars by working for them! As a treat, we got to eat some watermelons that were grown at the farm, as well as some flavored honey. We even got to take a jar of jam home with us!

ANIMAL FARM

On Wednesday, my group went to Animal Farm. When we got to the farm, we were led to a seated area in the farm by our leader for the day, Gita. There, she told us a little bit about permaculture* and the way her farm works. We had an activity where we were to draw a map of how our own farm would look like, and how our resources would depend on one another. After that, we had lunch, which consisted of a mushroom sandwich, and squash soup. Very healthy! I loved the squash soup, and I am not ashamed to say that I got thirds. After that, we had twenty minutes of free time where we could explore the farm and the natural scenery. We all had a lot of fun killing our shoes from all of the mud, but I think we all bonded a little in that short span of twenty minutes, and we were all entranced by the beautiful scenery. After that, we went over to the greenhouse, where we planted various vegetables. Then, we went outside and harvested carrots, which was very cool! After we finished up at Animal Farm, we stopped by an amazing bakery, which made all the hard work at the farm worth it. Thank you Mrs. Long!

*Permaculture is the development of an ecosystem that makes it self-dependent.

Overall, the Land Experience was amazing. We learned a great deal, experienced new environments, and had tons of fun! From working on farms to cooking delicious meals, I think I can speak for the whole Middle School when I say that this was a trip we won’t soon forget. •
‘Tis the Season to be Sharing

Annual Braes Interfaith Ministries Food Drive (on both campuses)

Join the Post Oak Family as we continue our tradition of Holiday giving. Each year we seem to break the record for the most donations. Let’s do it again! We will be collecting food and toiletry items for Braes Interfaith Ministries from Monday, November 30 through Tuesday, December 8.

With donations from the whole Post Oak Family, several elementary students will deliver the much needed items to Braes Interfaith Ministries on December 8. Donation boxes will be located throughout both campuses. Thank you for your support in helping families in need and making this a meaningful experience for our children!

Suggested BABY and TOILETRY items:
- Bars of soap
- Shampoo
- Hand lotion
- Diapers (particularly size 4 and 5)
- Baby Food (particularly fruits and vegetables)
- Enfamil with Iron

Suggested NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS:
- Boxes of Cereal
- Packaged pasta and sauce
- Canned vegetables and meat
- Rice, lentils, beans
- Soups, broths
- Dried fruits and nuts

Way to go, Bearkats!

UPCOMING BASKETBALL GAMES

6-7-8 GIRLS
12/7 @Yellowstone, 5:30 p.m.
12/8 vs. Yellowstone, 4:30 p.m.
12/10–12/12 Fallbrook Tournament

6-7-8 BOYS
12/7 vs. Western Academy, 4:15 p.m.
12/10–12/12 Fallbrook Tournament

HIGH SCHOOL
12/15 vs YP Fifth Ward, 5:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for more in 2016!
Post Oak Students at TEDxYouth

On November 14, 2015, The Post Oak School participated in its sixth annual TEDxYouth event hosted by ISAS schools. This year the TED stage was set in Becker Theatre at The Emery/Weiner School. We had eight participants from Post Oak who shared the stage with students from Chinquapin, Duchesne Academy, Emery/Weiner, The Kinkaid School, and Second Baptist School. The theme of this year’s event was “Made in the Future.” Students spoke passionately on their topics: a Future without Alzheimer’s, Global Warming, Online Privacy, What Cultural Diversity Should Mean, Sports and Numbers, and more.

Here are students’ reflections of the event:

“Overall, I enjoyed my TEDxYouth experience. I grew not just as a public speaker but as a person, too. Creating, refining, and presenting a speech teaches you how to refine your thoughts and communicate them effectively and efficiently. That is a skill useful in all aspects of life, whether on a stage or just talking one on one with a friend. I look forward to coming back to TEDxYouth next year with a better speech that shows signs of the growth I have undergone through this year’s experience.” — [Student Name], eleventh grade

“My TEDxYouth presentation was such a wonderful time to express my ideas and thoughts on cultural diversity. At first, I was quite nervous talking in front of such a big crowd full of adults and teenagers. Eventually, while I was on stage, I forgot about the audience and just spoke my heart out. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I am very honored that I participated this year. I am looking forward to next year!” — [Student Name], tenth grade

View the event conversation on Twitter @TedxYouthEWS15. The recorded event link is available here: https://livestream.com/accounts/16051742/tedxyouthemearyweiner (login required).
Young Children’s Community Transition to Primary
Thursday, December 10
9 to 10:30 a.m.

This informational morning meeting by Early Childhood Director Mirani Smith is for parents of children moving up from Young Children’s Community to Primary during the current or following school year.

Shop for the Holidays and Support Post Oak

There’s an easy way to help raise money for our school—when you go shopping! Whether buying groceries at Randalls or holiday gifts and school supplies at Target, 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 RE/Dcard 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.

We truly appreciate all your support! Happy shopping!
¡La Revolución está aquí!

Autores: [Nombre no especificado]

LA CELEBRACIÓN EN POST OAK HIGH SCHOOL

Un estudiante con un gran bigote da un discurso. Por hoy y solo hoy, el es Emiliano Zapata. Emiliano Zapata fue un revolucionario, la voz de los campesinos, quería los derechos de tierra para las masas.

La preparatoria Post Oak tuvo la celebración de la Revolución Mexicana. Muchos estudiantes en la escuela participaron en la presentación de las tradiciones. Los estudiantes hicieron teatro acerca de los personajes de la revolución, ellos fueron: Díaz, las dos esposas de Díaz, Madero, Zapata, Villa, su esposa y Huerta. Fue muy cómico y tenía información histórica.

Los alumnos cantaron también. La canción era un "corrido". Los corridos son canciones tradicionales de la revolución. El corrido que cantaron los alumnos fue "Adelita", es acerca de una mujer en la revolución.

También los estudiantes bailaron un baile tradicional de la revolución, era tipo polka. Fue muy divertido porque muchos estudiantes participamos, solo pocos estudiantes eran buenos bailarines, pero todos nos divertimos mucho.

Los estudiantes trajeron comida mexicana para la comunidad. La comida fue tradicional, deliciosa y muy variada. Algunos estudiantes cocinaron y otros compraron la comida. Algunos de los platillos fueron: chiles rellenos, caldo de res, enchiladas, tostadas, arroz mexicano, gorditas de carne asada, tacos de carne, quesadillas, salsas diferentes y guacamole. Hubo postres como pastel tres leches, flan, churros y pan dulce. Para beber había aguas frescas de horchata y de jamaica.

Las mesas tenían muchos platillos con comida tradicional. Los alumnos hicieron un buen trabajo con la comida y todos hicimos una gran fiesta.

La experiencia fue muy buena para nuestro conocimiento cultural. Fue muy interesante y divertida también. Nos gustan las fiestas mexicanas. Nosotros debemos hacerlo otra vez, ¡Viva México!

The following is a translation of the High School students’ Spanish essay above.

The Revolution is Here!

By: [Nombre no especificado]

The celebration at Post Oak High School

A student with a large mustache is giving a speech. For today and only today, he is Emiliano Zapata. Emiliano Zapata was a revolutionary, the voice of the farmers, he wanted land rights for the masses.

The Post Oak High School had a celebration of the Mexican Revolution. A lot of students participated in the presentation of the traditions. The students did a skit about the people involved in the revolution, they were: Díaz, the two wives of Díaz, Madero, Zapata, Villa, his wife and Huerta. It was entertaining and had historical information.

The students also sang. The song was a "corrido." Corridos are traditional songs from the revolution. This song was "Adelita," is about a woman in the revolution.

Also, the students danced a traditional dance from the revolution, a type of polka. It was entertaining and many students participated, though only a few students were good dancers, but it was a lot of fun.

The students brought Mexican food for the community. The food was traditional, delicious and varied. Some students cooked other dishes: stuffed peppers, ox tail soup, enchiladas, tostadas, Mexican rice, asada gorditas, meat tacos, quesadillas, different salsas and guacamole. There were desserts such as tres leches cake, custard, churros and Mexican pastries. For drinking was horchata and hibiscus ice tea.

The tables had a lot of dishes with traditional food. The students did great work in the food, and everybody did a great party.

The experience was good for our cultural knowledge. It was very interesting and fun too. We like Mexican parties. We should do it again. ¡Viva México!
Welcome!

It was an eventful Thanksgiving weekend for Post Oak Facilities Technician Anthony Cisneros, as his little baby boy, [redacted], arrived into the world on Wednesday, November 25. He is a healthy eight pounds, five ounces and 21 inches long. Mom, Maria, and [redacted] are both doing well and went home on Friday. Congratulations to the family! 🎉

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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 Elaine Schweizer (elaineschweizer@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 International Baccalaureate® Programme (IBO) and the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)

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