Parenting + schooling are the two major contributors to a child’s education. Schools pay much attention to what needs to be learned (curriculum) as well as to teaching methods (pedagogy). Parents also employ pedagogy, though we don’t usually think much about it. Our children are learning 24/7; they’re hardwired to do so. The way we interact with our children as they engage in the unscripted, unscheduled learning happening every minute they are with us—that is our pedagogy, whether we know it or not, whether we think of it or not. Of course, few children require formal instruction to learn walking and talking. Ever think about what you did to help them learn those complex skills? What pedagogical principles you employed?
These are two principles that I think most parents implicitly understand and use: encouragement; and a tremendous tolerance for experimentation and error. Think about how many times a child falls down learning to walk. Did you ever say, "Get up! No child of mine falls down!" Ridiculous? Who would ever do that? Here’s a one-minute video published last week by The New York Times showing a first grade teacher’s reaction to a six-year-old’s mistake in class. Ironically, the school is called Success Academy.

Coincidentally, I came across a story this week about Ray Dalio, founder of Bridgewater, the world’s largest hedge fund. Dalio has been quoted as saying, "So many students who succeed in school fail in life." He goes on to say, "Mistake-phobia is crippling our society. It is a problem that begins in most elementary schools, where children often learn to learn what they are taught, rather than to form their own goals and then figure out how to achieve them. They are fed with facts then tested, and those who make the fewest mistakes are considered the 'smart ones.' From this, children learn that it is embarrassing not to know something and to make mistakes.”

Following this thread, I came across Warren Berger, an expert on design thinking and innovation, and author of A More Beautiful Question (both a blog and a book). "Berger’s surprising findings reveal that even though children start out asking hundreds of questions a day, questioning ‘falls off a cliff’ as kids enter school. In an education and business culture devised to reward rote answers over challenging inquiry, questioning isn’t encouraged—and, in fact, is sometimes barely tolerated. And yet, as Berger shows, the most creative, successful people tend to be expert questioners. [iTunes preview]"

It must have been the collective unconscious at work this morning when a Post Oak parent sent me an article titled, "10 Reasons Why C Students Are More Successful After Graduation"—with an interesting spin: C students = Creative students. Here’s a teaser:

8. THEY’RE NOT PERFECTIONISTS

"If you are not embarrassed by the first version of your product, you’ve launched too late."

—Reid Hoffman.

Done is better than perfect. C students understand and live by this. They focus on results and getting stuff done. They know that perfectionism leads to procrastination. They prefer to jump right in and learn through their mistakes, through what the market tells them.

This is why so many successful entrepreneurs struggled in school. They understand that failure is a beautiful teacher, even though many of them got kicked out of school for failing.

How’s this for a list of pedagogical principles for parents and teachers:

- Celebrate mistakes; don’t tolerate them, celebrate them; they are the inevitable result of creative effort and experimentation.
- Done is better than perfect; know that perfectionism leads to procrastination.
- Encourage students to define success on their own terms—not yours, not anybody else’s. Don’t become their “guardian of success”—making them dependent on your approval, your ‘conditional love,’ for their happiness.
- Questions are more important than answers. Really. Encourage questions.
- Encourage children to think for themselves; encourage self-directed learning.

Note from Home
Sent to John Long by a Post Oak parent

Last night, my four-year-old daughter asked me where electricity comes from. Now, I have a degree in electrical engineering, so I can answer this question accurately, but I know she’s not (quite yet) ready for Maxwell’s equations. So, we talked about the power lines, power plants, even how static electricity is generated, etc., but she kept pressing me. "But where does it come from? How is it created?"

Ah, the joys of a Montessori child. :-)

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Dads’ Club Poker Night Winner

The winner of Post Oak Dads’ Club annual Poker Night was Aaron Thomas pictured above (thumbs up!) They raised over $3,000 for the school. Congrats, Aaron, and thank you to all the dads who came out to play! Stay tuned for more Dads’ Club activities later in the spring including Family Movie Night on Friday, April 8.

Lower EL International Fair: Love Around the World

Students in Beth Olitzki’s Lower Elementary class recently held an International Fair, presenting information and offering edible delights from around the world. Students hosted other Lower EL classes as well as their parents.
COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The University of Vermont

Appalachian State University
Austin College
Barnard College of Columbia University
Babson College
Colorado State University
Elon University
The Evergreen State College
Hanover College
High Point University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Louisiana State University

Marquette University
Oklahoma State University
Parsons School of Design—The New School
Rhodes College
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
St. Edward’s University
Texas A&M University—College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University—Dwight Look College of Engineering

Texas Christian University
Trinity University
The University of Alabama
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Houston
University of Mississippi
The University of the South (Sewanee)
The University of Southern California
The University of Tennessee
Willamette University

We’ll keep you updated throughout the year as they come in.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Currently the 13 seniors at the Post Oak High School have received scholarship offers totalling $952,000. Congratulations!

THE STIMULATING SEVEN

SENIOR IB ART EXHIBITION

TUES., MARCH 1
6:30–8:30 P.M.
ONE NIGHT ONLY

GLASSELL JUNIOR SCHOOL
5100 MONTROSE BOULEVARD

FEATUREING WORK BY
Primary Parent-Child Night

On Thursday, February 11, Primary students brought their parents to the school in order to demonstrate the work they do during the day.

PHE Chinese New Year Parade

Students in Primary Home Environment parade inside the school to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year.
Our list is still growing. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS to the classes reaching 100% parent participation:

Emily Hansen
Debbie Nickerson
Errol Pinto
Maya Pinto
Simran Sood
Anita Taj Mahmood
Tamara Townsend
Miriam Winton
9th Grade

Getting Closer to 100%!

Please send in your contribution today to support the school and get your class to 100% participation.

We are at 89% parent participation. The development office continues to reach out to the remaining families. Please show your support of The Post Oak School by making your Annual Fund contribution today online, via pledge, securities, or check.

THANK YOU!

YOUR MATCHING GIFT CAN MAKE YOU A LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBER. JOIN IN THE FUN AT THE LOYA’S PARTY!

POST OAK FUND CHAIRS
Lucinda & Javier Loya
Invite you to the Leadership Circle Party

Contributors to the Post Oak Annual Fund at the Leadership Circle level ($3,000) are invited to join Lucinda and Javier Loya at their home for the annual, fabulous Leadership Circle Party in April.

Don’t miss it!
**Primary Parent Education Event**

How Emotional Development Supports Cognitive Growth in Children  
facilitated by Dr. Michelle Forrester  
Tues., Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.  
Child care provided for Primary and Elementary age children, including a light dinner (pizza, fruits, and veggies) for the children.

**Coffee with the Middle School & High School Directors**

Wed., Feb. 24 at 9 a.m.  
at the Bissonnet campus

**Summer at Post Oak**

Summer program information for YCC, Primary, and Elementary Transition are available online. Primary is almost full. Class sizes are limited, so register soon!


**Conference Days**

FRIDAYS, MARCH 4, APRIL 1, & APRIL 8

To register for a parent-teacher conference, please visit our website ([http://www.postoakschool.org/postoak/Schedule_a_Parent-Teacher_Conference.asp](http://www.postoakschool.org/postoak/Schedule_a_Parent-Teacher_Conference.asp)) or a link can be found in the message center of MyBackPack.
STORYTIME

with Cory

A new theme each time, including...

farm animals, spring, & food

March 30, April 6, and April 13
at 2 p.m. in the Post Oak Library

For parents and children in
Young Children’s Community
& Half-Day Primary

There are also two planned storytimes at the annual Book Fair,
Bookapalooza, April 17 at Brazos Bookstore.
Stay tuned for more fun activities!
Faculty and Staff Updates

From a letter sent to faculty and staff by John Long, Head of School

Thanks all for getting me your letters of intent. I have forwarded them all to Maura, which will add a little more information as she gets to know everyone here at Post Oak. I want to update you on a few changes that are in the works.

Ashley Addison has told me that she will be leaving Post Oak March 1 to realize her long-term ambition to become a full-time hair stylist. Ashley has been with us more than five years and has been the gracious and warm face or voice of Post Oak when parents or prospective parents first encounter the school. We will miss her.

Robin Lunsford will be leaving Post Oak and Houston at the end of June. Robin and her husband, Jeff, are relocating to New Orleans, where both of their adult children and grandchildren reside. Robin has accepted a position as CFO at an ISAS school there. During Robin's 11 years at Post Oak, we have benefitted from her big-picture thinking and planning as well as her daily responsiveness and no-nonsense good humor. She is a leader among ISAS and NBOA business managers as well as with the Society of CPAs—as accomplished in her profession as our faculty are in the Montessori world. We will begin a search for her successor immediately.

Crosby Easterling is also relocating to New Orleans at the end of the school year. Crosby has worked with us for the past two years as a floating sub, which means she has helped out in virtually every classroom and office. She already reports that she has not found a Post Oak School in NOLA, but she is still looking.

Phylis Tomlinson will retire from school work at the end of the current year. In her eight years at Post Oak, Phylis has worked with children individually, in small groups (lunch with Phylis has been particularly popular), and in class meetings. She has consulted, advised and counseled both faculty and parents. Her "Love and Logic" classes have been well attended. Phylis has been a key contributor to the Post Oak support structure: things just go better because she is here. We wish her the very best now, as she continues to recover from her recent injuries, and in the future.

Kathy Long will also retire in June. Kathy came to Post Oak in 1995 and served as a Lower Elementary teacher for two years before leaving to teach at St. Stephens and then to serve as director of the Westbury United Methodist Day School. She returned to Post Oak as Curriculum Coordinator, which morphed into Lower School Division Director (and interim Admission Director), roles in which she served for seven years before returning to the classroom as a Lower Elementary teacher. In the past two years Kathy has joined the Middle School team to direct its community service program. Kathy has always been ready, willing, and able to do what was needed at Post Oak, and has served in every role with professional grace and skill.

It’s a Girl!

Primary student [redacted] is now a big brother. Middle School teacher Monica Lundeen gave birth to a baby girl on Valentine’s Day. [redacted] weighed in at seven pounds, nine ounces. Congratulations to Monica, Michael, and [redacted].

Wed., Mar. 2, 8:45 a.m.–noon
Bissonnet campus
1. Who’s ready for the annual Book Fair, Bookapalooza!?
2. A YCC student works on hand and eye coordination.
3. Care of the environment in FDYCC.
4. A Primary student builds fine motor skills while learning about shapes.
5. A student uses sandpaper letters to practice handwriting skills and letter sounds.
6. Friends work on math in Primary.
7. Drumming in LE music class.
8. Students in Lower EL collaborate on work involving leaves and the root.
9. Examining flags from around the world.
10. Elementary students present collaborative work at the recent Coffee with the Elementary Director.
11. Preparing for UE History Fair. Watch for photos of the event in the next Post.
CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 21–27

Tue 2/23
PRI Parent Ed Event
6:30 p.m.

Wed 2/24
Coffee with the MS & HS Directors
9 a.m. (Bissonnet campus)

Thu 2/25
Admission Day: PRI
YCC, EL, MS, & HS in session. Expanded year contract day for Primary

Fri 2/26
Admission Day: PRI & EL
YCC, MS, & HS in session. Expanded year contract day for Primary and EL

FEBRUARY 28–MARCH 5

Tue 3/1
HS IB Art Exhibit
6:30–8:30 p.m. (Glassell Jr. School)

Wed 3/2
POPA Coffee/Work Day
8:45 a.m.–noon

Thu 3/3
MMUN Social Night
6–8 p.m. (Bissonnet campus)

Fri 3/4
Conference Day
Classes not in session: only students with expanded year contracts attend

NOTICE BOARD

Bearkats Soccer Schedules 2016

6-7-8 BOYS

3/8 Bearkats vs Rusk 4:45, Feld Park
3/9 Bearkats @ Briarmeadow 4:30
3/21 Bearkats vs Iman 6:30 Bear Creek Park
3/24 Bearkats @ Pershing 6:00
4/4 Bearkats vs Iman 6:30 Bear Creek Park
4/5 Bearkats vs Rusk 4:45 Feld Park
4/20 Bearkats vs Briarmeadow 4:30 Feld Park
4/25 Bearkats vs Iman 6:30 Bear Creek Park

6-7-8 GIRLS

3/8 Bearkats vs Rusk 4:00 Feld Park
3/21 Bearkats vs Iman 5:00 Bear Creek Park
3/24 Bearkats @ Pershing 5:00
4/4 Bearkats vs Iman 5:00 Bear Creek Park
4/5 Bearkats vs Rusk 4:00 Feld Park
4/25 Bearkats vs Iman 5:00 Bear Creek Park

HIGH SCHOOL

3/5 Bearkats vs Esprit 3:00 Bear Creek Park
3/10 Bearkats vs Esprit 5:00 Bear Creek Park
3/22 Bearkats vs Iman 5:00 Bear Creek Park
3/28 Bearkats vs Esprit 6:30 Bear Creek Park
4/2 Bearkats vs Iman 2:00 Bear Creek Park
4/30 Bearkats vs Iman 9 a.m. Bear Creek Park

Bear Creek Park: 3535 War Memorial St, Houston, TX 77084
Feld Park: 6406 Avenue B, Bellaire, TX 77401
Briarmeadow: 3601 Dunvale Rd, Houston, TX 77063
Pershing: 3838 Blue Bonnet Blvd, Houston, TX 77025

To avoid the school’s email communications arriving in your junk mail folder, please add info@postoakschool.org to your safe sender list or address book/contacts.

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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