WELCOME BACK! • POPA DINNER • BEARKATS GAMES/MEETS
The Post: Ready, Set, Read!

Welcome to the first issue of The Post for the 2016–2017 school year! The Post is published every first Monday of the month during the regular school year. You can receive a printed copy from your oldest child, or a PDF version by email and online. To submit letters, articles, or photos, please send them in electronic form to Communications Coordinator Elaine Schweizer (elaineschweizer@postoakschool.org) by 5 p.m. on the Monday one week prior to publication. Thank you! We look forward to a full year!

October 3
November 7
December 5
January 9
February 6
March 6
April 3
May 1
July 14 (Alumni issue)

On the Cover
A look inside Mrs. Pinto’s new Upper Elementary classroom at the Bissonnet Campus.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for mid-week updates, photos, and more:

www.facebook.com/thepostoakschool/
www.facebook.com/postoakhighschool/
twitter.com/postoakschool
twitter.com/postoakhs

2016–2017
Post Oak
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*Welcome to our newest trustees!
Meet board members throughout the year, including at the POPA Welcome Dinner this month.
A BRIGHT FUTURE

There is so much that I want to share with you about my first weeks at Post Oak, so let me start with this: I am really happy to be here. It is such an honor to be entrusted with the care and leadership of this gem of a school. What a gift this role is for me, and what a gift Post Oak is for your children! In a few short weeks it has been easy to see how special the school is because of its diverse, engaged, and warm community. Thank you for sharing your children and young adults with us; spending time with them makes us better people.

Two weekends ago, I attended the board of trustees annual retreat and I was charged with sharing the history of Post Oak with the new trustees. Yes, it’s okay to laugh—I felt a little bit like an impostor, as I had been here all of eight weeks and had to talk about Post Oak’s history. But it was a great exercise as it allowed me to reflect on where Post Oak came from and where it is today.

Sharing the history I thought about the journey of this wonderful school. I won’t go into the entire story here but 53 years ago a seed was planted and it took root and began to grow. As one of the first Montessori schools in Houston, it quickly expanded from serving three to six-year-olds, to serving toddlers, adding Elementary-aged children, eventually a Middle School, and most recently, the High School. What an accomplishment and what an exciting time to be part of Post Oak!

As the students begin the school year I am reminded that they are continuing their own journey which began at birth. This journey is one that focuses all of their energy and is the purpose of all their work. The children move, observe, listen, and explore to discover themselves. This journey doesn’t have a particular destination or an end, rather it is the path they move along, as they become the people they are going to be.

On the Post Oak website you will see pictures of famous Montessori alums, like chef Julia Child and Google founder Sergey Brin. I am certain they did not know what they were going to do or who they were going to be when they began in their Montessori schools at the age of three. However, they quickly realized that in this place—their Montessori classroom—they were allowed to find out.

The journey, which is a physical, intellectual, and spiritual one, takes place for all people in all places in the world. It is not only Post Oak children who embark on it. However, Post Oak is a wonderful place designed with this important goal in mind: allowing the child to create him/herself. This goal has many, many parts and it is an awesome task to make sure that everything is in place for this to happen.

Each environment from Young Children’s Community to High School has the elements the child or young adult might need for the journey. It has room for movement, materials for exploration, a community of peers, and the freedom to discover and work. It provides opportunities for purposeful work, intellectual exploration, social interaction, and peaceful reflection. It is inspiring and creative and limitless in its possibilities for learning.

Our mission and our promise to our families is that Post Oak will prepare the environment so that with every step students can reach their full potential—every step will bring them closer and closer to that unique individual they are to become.

continued on page 4
As we step onto both campuses at Post Oak this year, we are reminded of the solid foundation of our school. Grounded in Montessori principles, staffed with the most dedicated group of faculty, assistants and administration, and supported by a committed group of families, Post Oak is thriving. We have a full spectrum program from infancy through adulthood, with strong enrollment and lots to look forward to in the very bright future.

There is plenty to look forward to for the 2016–2017 school year:

- Construction is completed on the new, state-of-the-art High School building, while a major renovation of the Bissonnet Campus is in its final stages.
- Middle School has transitioned over to the Museum District Campus, a space tailored to the needs of our younger adolescents.
- YCC, Primary, and Elementary students at the Bissonnet Campus will enjoy a few new classrooms, an enhanced library space, and the new music and performance space.
- Our Bearkats athletics teams really took off last year and we are expecting this program to be packed again this year.
- Post Oak will go through its Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) reaccreditation visit, which happens every 10 years. What a great time to welcome a team of educators and to show off who we are and how much we have grown, not only in numbers and programs, but in excellence!

I am looking forward to becoming part of the Post Oak community as a fellow traveler in supporting our children as they grow!

Parent-Teacher Fall Conference Registration

FRIDAY, OCT. 7, OCT. 21, & NOV. 11

Parent-teacher conference registration is now open online. To register, please visit our website (www.postoakschool.org/postoak/Schedule_a_ParentTeacher_Conference.asp) and use your My BackPack login information.

HAVE YOU MET MAURA?

Let us introduce you! Join us for an upcoming event:

- POPA Welcome Dinner: Tues., 9/13 (see next page)
- Coffee with the Head of School: Tues., 9/20 (p. 12)
- Montessori Outcomes: Thurs., 9/29 (p. 13)

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETING

We are in the finishing stages of construction on the Bissonnet Campus, with the improved entrance opening just around the corner. Classrooms were completed before the start of school and the music and performance space will be ready very soon.
Post Oak Parent Association

Welcome Dinner

Tuesday, September 13
6:30–9:30 p.m.

Pre-reception at 6:00 p.m. for new parents, faculty, board, & room parents

The Junior League of Houston
1811 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston, Texas 77027

POPA Dinner Chairs: Erin Busby & Jackie Pourciau
Business attire | Complimentary parking
RSVP by September 9 via a link on our homepage

Thank you for your donation to support faculty attendance!

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Family Fun Day T-Shirts
Order Now

Get ready for a day of great music, giant inflatables, a variety of activities, food trucks, and more! Family Fun Day is a FREE event and held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 15 at the Bissonnet Campus.

Get into festivities by wearing the official 2016 Family Fun Day T-shirt! Order online by Fri., Sept. 16—visit the link on our homepage.

Shirts are $15 and come in sizes youth YXS (2–4) through adult XXL.
Go, Bearkats!

FLAG FOOTBALL

HIGH SCHOOL
9/17 vs. Kipp Houston High, 3:15
9/21 vs. St. Stephens, 4:15 p.m. at Feld Park
9/24 vs. Yes Prep, 2 p.m.
6602 Winfield Rd., Houston, TX 77050
10/1 vs. Yes Prep Northside, 2 p.m.
10/4 vs. St. Stephens, 4:15 at Feld Park
10/13 vs. North Forest, 5:45 p.m.
6602 Winfield Rd., Houston, TX 77050
10/15 vs. Yes Prep Northside, 3:15 p.m.
10/17 vs. St. Stephens, 4:15 p.m. at Feld Park

MIDDLE SCHOOL
9/10 vs. Yellowstone, 3:15 p.m.
5215 Jensen Dr., Houston, TX 77026
9/17 vs. Kipp Houston High, 2:00 p.m.
9/21 vs. St. Stephens, 3:00 p.m. at Feld Park
9/24 vs. Harmony, 3:15 p.m.
6602 Winfield Rd., Houston, TX 77050
10/1 vs. Yes Prep Northside, 3:15 p.m.
10/4 vs. St. Stephens, 3:00 p.m. at Feld Park
10/15 vs. Yes Prep Northside 2:00 p.m.
10/17 vs. St. Stephens, 3:00 p.m. at Feld Park

CROSS COUNTRY

HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL
9/10 Chavez High School
9/17 Second Baptist Church
10/1 Willow Water Hole
10/8 St. John's Ramble at TC Jester Park
10/15 Faith West High School

VOLLEYBALL

HIGH SCHOOL
9/13 vs. Harmony, 6:00 p.m. at Post Oak
9/15 vs. Aristoi, 5 p.m. Post Oak
9/20 vs. Woods, 5:00 p.m.
1321 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX 77055
9/28 vs. North Central, 4:30 p.m.
13703 Aldine Westfield Rd.
10/3 vs. Woods, 4:30 p.m.
1321 Wirt Rd., Houston, TX 77055

MIDDLE SCHOOL
9/13 vs. Yellowstone, 5:00 p.m. at Post Oak
9/14 vs. Beatrice Mays, 5:00 p.m. at Post Oak
9/19 vs. Harmony Endeavor, 5:00 p.m.
7340 N. Gessner Dr., Houston, TX 77040
9/20 vs. Lawson Academy, 5:00 p.m. at Post Oak
9/22 vs. Yellowstone, 5:00 p.m.
2318 Sauer St., Houston, TX 77004
10/3 vs. Yellowstone, 5:00 p.m.
2318 Sauer St., Houston, TX 77004
10/6 vs. Harmony, 5:00 p.m.
7340 N. Gessner Dr., Houston, TX 77040
10/11 vs. Yellowstone, 5:00 p.m. at Post Oak
In Memoriam

by Mirani Smith, Early Childhood Director

We have had to wish a sad goodbye to Jesse Goff, former Post Oak student, who passed away on Tuesday, August 30 at the age of nineteen years.

We remember with love the sparkling spirit of our student and friend who has left behind a legacy of courage and ebullience. She faced her ongoing battle with cancer these last ten years with strength and determination, with patience and unending hope.

Jesse had a significant presence; she exuded confidence, calm and a care-free demeanor. She will always be a part of us.

Jesse attended The Post Oak School from fourteen months to High School. Her strong spirit and zest for life and determination to do what she set her mind to do, including fighting for her life against all odds, became an inspiration to all of us.

Jesse fought valiantly to the very end. Here is a quote she loved:

“You are not a drop in the ocean; you are the entire ocean in a drop.” —Rumi

In 2009, Jesse released butterflies with Mirani Smith and classmates to celebrate successful treatment.

Jesse attended the first year of The Post Oak School’s High School program in the Museum District. The lower left photo was taken at our partner institution Main Street Theater. The lower right photo is from a Primary Cinco de Mayo event.
**Volunteer Coffee**

**Friday, September 9**

8:45–10:00 a.m.

Be sure to drop in to the Volunteer Coffee at the home of Leashanne Guo (3828 Marlowe St.)

It’s a great time to meet new parents and learn about the volunteer opportunities throughout the year!

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**Dads’ Club Kick-off Event**

**Tues., Sept. 6**

6 to 8 p.m.

**8th Wonder Brewery**

2202 Dallas St., Houston, TX 77003

[http://8thwonderbrew.com/](http://8thwonderbrew.com/)

Watch your email for details. Didn’t see it in your inbox? Contact Dads’ Club leaders Blair Garrou, Rick Evans, or Aaron Thomas for info.

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**Popa Coffee | Work Day**

Wed., Oct. 5, 8:45–noon

Grandparents welcome!

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**The History of Houston’s Musical Soul**

The 6th Annual Houston History Conference

September 30 - October 2, 2016

**Friday, Sept 30 • The Deluxe Theater on Lyons**

- Texas Zydeco screening and talkback with Ruben Duran, Roger Wood
- Party with Fred Rusk and the Zydeco Highstoppers

**Saturday, Oct 1 • Match on Main**

- Keynote by Joe Nick Patoski
- All-day convos: Hip Hop, Latino, Blues, Jazz and much more
- Performance by the great Johnny Bush
- FREE live performance Saturday night by Trudy Lynn at Continental Club

**Sunday, Oct 2 • The Continental Club**

- Evelyn Rubio sings her heart out for the Houston Blues Museum

Tickets on sale now at [HoustonHistoryAlliance.org](http://HoustonHistoryAlliance.org)
Do you like large parties, too? Or are you looking for the perfect place to wear your fringe-trimmed dress, dazzling feather headpiece or flowing strands of pearls?

We invite you to join us for Post Oak’s ninth biennial gala, The Great Gatsby Gala, which will take place at Hotel ZaZa on Friday, February 10, 2017. It will be a fun-filled evening of dinner, dancing, and silent and live auction action, so don’t miss out on the fun!

There are also endless volunteer opportunities to get involved in the planning, so we hope you will consider working on one of our gala committees.

And a party wouldn’t be a party without tables filled with friends. The underwriting committee chairs will be reaching out to you soon. So gather your friends, buy a table, and let’s party Gatsby-style and make this the most successful gala yet.

Jennifer Chavis & Stelli Parsapour, Gala 2017 Co-Chairs

“We like large parties. They’re so intimate. At small parties, there isn’t any privacy.” —The Great Gatsby, F Scott Fitzgerald
THE POST OAK SCHOOL

MUSEUM DISTRICT Campus

GRAND Opening

It’s time to celebrate!
WED., OCT. 5, 4 to 7 P.M.
1010 Autrey St., Houston 77006
RSVP frontoffice@postoakschool.org
A CAMPUS WITH HISTORY
During orientation week, all new students to the High School were introduced to the broader Houston Museum District Campus. Students started their second morning at Post Oak by learning some important moments in Houston history, anchoring them to the city by time and space. Students then traveled to the Hine’s observatory floors in Williams Tower where they heard the history of Houston prior to the arrival of settlers. After, they enjoyed a short visit to the Waterwall. Other exciting orientation events included a Museum District scavenger hunt, Odyssey planning, as well as advisory breakfast and lunches!
—Jamie Lee, HS History & Social Sciences

We take learning further afield. Come find out how.

FALL OPEN HOUSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL
Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 7 p.m.
Thursday, December 8, 2016, 7 p.m.
PARENTING the Love & Logic Way®

presented by Phylis R. Tomlinson, LPC, LMFT, ATR-BC

Thurs., September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, Nov. 3 (6 weeks)

9:00–10:30 a.m.

$130 individual, $240 per couple
workbook (optional) $15

Call or email in advance to reserve a spot:
phylistomlinson@gmail.com | 713-668-6558

Register by sending payment to Phylis Tomlinson in advance: 4010 Bluebonnet #109, Houston, TX 77025
(Childcare not provided)

Redirecting Children’s Behavior
taught by Deborah Fry PhD

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.

Free introduction
Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1
6:30–9 p.m.

Course fee: $245 for one; $345 per couple

For information and registration please call Deborah at 713-840-8663 or register online at www.deborah-fry.com.

Coffee with the HEAD of SCHOOL

Tues., Sept. 20 at 9 a.m.
in the Common Room
at the Bissonnet Campus

Coffee with the ELEMENTARY DIRECTOR

Wed., Sept. 21 at 9 a.m.
in the Common Room

Topic: Meet the Specialists
Young Children’s Community & Primary Parent Ed

Wed., Sept. 28
9 a.m.

Parents of Young Children’s Community and Primary students are invited to learn more about continuing on a Montessori path into Elementary. (Bissonnet Campus)

Montessori Outcomes

Thurs., Sept. 29
7–8:30 p.m.

Pre-reception at 6:30 p.m. | Bissonnet Campus

What are the outcomes of a Montessori education? What is the Post Oak difference and how do we help students become who they are meant to be?

Join Head of School Maura Joyce for a discussion of the benefits of a Post Oak education from infancy through young adulthood.

RSVP for childcare for Primary through Middle School students at frontoffice@postoakschool.org.

iChild or I, child?
Aligning Media Technology with Values that Nurture a Healthy Child, Community, and World

presented by Dr. Sharon Maxwell

Wed., Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. (Museum District Campus)

This two-hour presentation shows parents how kids are using and abusing media technology and helps parents set balanced, realistic guidelines that bring the Internet into alignment with family schedules and values.

From smartphones to laptops, from texting to Facebook, media technology delivers to our children a new cyber environment, providing an infinite source of information, stimulation, and opportunities for communication. This environment is having a profound impact on how our children think about themselves and is changing the way our children socialize and communicate. How do we best use this amazing resource to enhance our lives? How do we keep it from shaping our children and undermining the values we want to impart?

Read more about Dr. Maxwell and her work at www.drrsharonmaxwell.com.
1–5. Young Children’s Community and Primary students walk through their classrooms during orientation.

6–7. Upper Elementary students volunteer to walk new Primary students to their classrooms during the first days of arrivals.

8. The library is a comfortable place to dive into a good book.

9. Lower Elementary students gather for the first great lesson.

10–11. Middle School students bond on their trip to Artesian Lakes.

12. High School students hold the first seminars of the year.
CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 4–10

Mon 9/5  Labor Day, school closed

Tues 9/6  Fall ASEP begins
          Bearkats practice begins
          Dads’ Club Kick-off Event
          HS NHS event
          5–6 p.m.

Wed 9/7  HS college meeting
          Jr.: 8 a.m. | Sr.: 8:30 a.m.
          EL parent orientation
          7 p.m.

Th 9/8  YCC parent orientation
          7 p.m.

Fri 9/9  Volunteer Coffee Event
          8:45 a.m. (off campus)

Sat 9/10 Bearkats cross country
       at Chavez High School

SEPTEMBER 11–17

Mon 9/12  Eid al-Adha begins at sundown

Tues 9/13  POPA Dinner
           6:30 p.m. (off campus)

Th 9/15  Parenting the Love & Logic Way
         9–10:30 a.m.

          PHE parent orientation
          6:16–7 p.m.
          PRI parent orientation
          7 p.m.

NOTICE BOARD

Fri., Sept. 16

EARLY DISMISSAL REMINDER

for FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HDYCC: 11:00 a.m.
FDYCC: 11:10 a.m.
PRI: 11:30 a.m.
EL, MS, and HS: noon

Carpool Sign Reminder

Please remember to display the sign with your child’s name during both arrivals and dismissals. It is particularly helpful so we can greet your child by name in the morning. Thank you!

ADVANTAGE MOBILE APP FOR MY BACKPACK

Parents, you can view the school directory via your Apple or Android device. Go to App Store for iPhone or Google Play store for Android users, search for “Advantage Senior Systems,” and install it. The Post Oak School code is postoakschool. Use the same user name and password as My BackPack.

The Getting Started with My BackPack User Guide is found on the school’s website.

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

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You can receive a printed copy from your oldest child, or a PDF version online.

Submit letters, articles, or photos in electronic form to Communications Coordinator Elaine Schweizer (elaineschweizer@postoakschool.org) by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday one week prior to publication.

The Post Oak School was founded in 1963 and accredited by both the International Baccalaureate Program (IBO) and the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)

BISSONNET CAMPUS: 4600 Bissonnet St., Bellaire, TX 77401 • Tel.: 713-661-6688 • Fax: 713-661-4959
MUSEUM DISTRICT CAMPUS: 1010 Autrey St., Houston, TX 77006 • Tel.: 832-538-1988 • Fax: 832-538-1926
www.postoakschool.org | facebook.com/thepostoakschool

Check out our calendar online or download a copy at www.postoakschool.org for more dates this month.