Library Friends

Friends of the Library is a financial support group for the library. All funds raised go to support the Post Oak Library and book collections on both campuses. You can become a Friend of the Library (FOL) by making a donation online. FOL contributors of $100 and more receive an exclusive T-shirt. Thank you, library friends!

POPACOFFEE | WORK Day

Wed., March 7, 8:45–noon

Parents, grandparents, & friends are invited!

Hosted by our POPA Chairs, this is a great way to meet other Post Oak parents and friends while helping our teachers accomplish a variety of easy-to-do projects for their classroom.

These gatherings generally fall on the first Wednesday of each month. Please join as often as you can!

ON THE COVER

Young Children’s Community students enjoy the warmer weather during their outdoor play time.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates, photos, and more:

www.facebook.com/thepostoakschool and
www.facebook.com/postoakhighschool

Instagram.com/postoakschool/ and
Instagram.com/postoakhighschool/

twitter.com/postoakschool
and twitter.com/postoakhs

2017–2018
Post Oak
Board of Trustees

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Soft Skills Overtake STEM

This month we get to welcome new families into our community with a letter saying we have a space for their child next year. During the months leading up to these decisions, I love to hear prospective families share what they are looking for in a school and how they found Post Oak. Just last week I got to sit down with families of young children to answer their questions, which I happily do, but I am really there for introductions and to hear why they are looking at Post Oak. The majority of the parents are looking for much more than an academic environment. They mention all the wonderful things they have heard about our program and teachers, but their questions are telling regarding what they value and want:

- How do parents get involved?
- When do children start doing community service?
- My child can be shy; how do you encourage social interaction?
- What if my child doesn't choose work?

As parents today, we know that we want our children to develop in many areas and that academics are not the only reason to choose a school. The next generation of Post Oak families knows this too.

For many years, school was about content, studying, and grades, and the goal was moving onto the next grade, the next level of schooling, and eventually a job. In some places, this is still the case. But the new reality is that school is a place where children should develop themselves at the core, where they practice skills that will help them to succeed in all facets of their lives. Those of us working in education, especially the Montessori trained staff at The Post Oak School, know that there are many layers to the work we do. Today’s workplace requires a much more nuanced set of skills than good grades and a degree can provide.

Take Google, for example. The tech giant (founded by Montessori grads) was very forward thinking in the 90s and knew that they needed highly educated people in technology to build their company. They had a narrow perspective on who to hire when they began in 1998. Today they have over 75,000 employees and recently went through the trouble of analyzing the skills and behaviors of their most successful employees. From an article that ran a few months ago in the Washington Post, “Google originally set its hiring algorithms to sort for computer science students with top grades from elite science universities.”

But in 2013, Google tested its hiring hypothesis by hyper-analyzing its hiring, firing, and promotion data accumulated since the company’s incorporation.

Their findings:

“...among the eight most important qualities of Google’s top employees, STEM expertise comes in dead last. The seven top characteristics of success at Google are all soft skills: being a good coach; communicating and listening well; possessing insights into others (including others different values and points of view); having empathy toward and being supportive of one’s colleagues; being a good critical thinker and problem solver; and being able to make connections across complex ideas.”

I couldn’t help but share this article with our visiting prospective parents. My description of the Post Oak classroom community and the work that goes on inside hit on all the top characteristics of success at Google. We discussed the opportunity that each Primary child gets in the multi-year cycle of being the youngest student, the experienced student, and the classroom leader. In these three roles, they practice many of the skills listed above, listening and observing as a new student, communication and empathy as the experienced one, and coaching their peers as a leader.

Post Oak students in YCC through Elementary hone their problem solving and critical thinking skills with every material they take off the shelf. The Montessori materials are designed to challenge their intellect and use their hands to figure out and practice a concept. This hands-on method involves trial and error, getting stuck and changing course until reaching success or mastery.

Our Middle School and High School students’ work takes them into the Houston Museum District where they meet with experts during internships and their fellow Houstonians during community service. This unique part of our program is one of the ways they gain
POPA Community Service
at Buffalo Bayou
Sat., March 31

Volunteer projects can vary and we will know more as the date approaches, but we will likely be picking up trash and debris along Buffalo Bayou. The meetup location will also be announced as we approach March 31. Watch the weekly Post Highlights email for details. The Partnership is allowing children 7 and up to volunteer with our group.

Waiver forms can be found here: http://buffalobayou.org/get-involved/volunteer/

The Post Oak School presents
Book Fair at Brazos 2018

Join us for storytime, fun activities for all levels, yummy food, and, of course, books! 15% of sales go to the Post Oak Library!

Details to follow in next month’s issue of The Post.
Congrats Post Oak Odyssey Team!

by Emily Weinstein, Post Oak parent and Odyssey coach

Congratulations to the Odyssey of the Mind Post Oak 6th grade team! The team placed 4th at the regional tournament and will be moving on to the state competition that will be held April 14! Team members are Niko, Aurora, Megan, Abby, Talulah, Wyatt, and Jules.

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) is a worldwide creative problem solving and critical thinking competition. Teams solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their interpretation of literary classics, then bring their solutions to competitions at the local, state, and world level.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Post Oak Dads’ Club presents

Family Movie Night at the Bissonnet Campus

Friday, April 20

Good grub, popcorn, and a fun film!

Class Pictures at the Bissonnet Campus

Wed., March 28
Calling Post Oak Dads!

Ready for some friendly basketball games with other Post Oak dads? Contact Stephen Lai (contact information redacted) to get in the game.

Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m.
at the Bissonnet Campus Gym

Happy Spring Break!
March 12–16

We want to see your Post Oak spirit over the break! Wear your Bearkat or school tees, snap a photo, and tag us on social media.

Soft Skills Overtake STEM
continued from page 3

insights into different points of view, a variety of personalities and experiences.

These are just a few examples of where these skills weave into a Post Oak education. There are many more. None of the parents who were visiting told me they chose Post Oak so that their child could get a job at Google, but it’s a good example of the type of workplace they will experience in the future. •

Post Oak Board Brief

NEWS FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

by Alison Wong, Board Member

The Board of Trustees of The Post Oak School exists to further the mission of the school and to ensure the school’s success. Members serve as custodians of the integrity of the school, holding in trust the school’s future, as well as its present.

In recent years, the board’s mission has encompassed several transformative events in the life of our community, such as the formation of Post Oak’s High School in 2012, the Middle School’s move to the Museum District Campus, the renovation of the Bissonnet Campus, our transition to a new head of school, and, of course, dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. During each of these significant milestones, members of the Board of Trustees have lent their experience, education, and expertise to ensure the school’s continued success.

Over the past several years, the Post Oak board has been fortunate to count among its members the CEO and superintendent of KIPP Houston Public Schools, the managing director of a venture capital fund, the director of interfaith relations at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, an Appellate Court Justice, the Chief of Human Systems Engineering & Integration Division at NASA, and the president and CEO at the Greater Houston Partnership. This diversity of thought, background, and experience has been invaluable in helping the board support the school’s strategic initiatives. Currently, the board is organized into several committees including, among others, finance, endowment, audit and risk, development, technology, and campus planning.

The board is comprised of a minimum of twelve members selected from the parent body (including parents of alumni) and the community at large, plus the head of school. Each trustee is elected to a two-year term and is limited to three consecutive terms. Candidates for board service are evaluated by the board’s Committee on Trustees in March and April, with nominations presented for approval at the May meeting. If you would like to serve on the board or a board committee, or nominate someone to serve, please contact the head of school or any trustee, and your name will be forwarded to the Committee on Trustees for consideration. •

Happy New Year!

Lion dancers from the International Shaolin Wushu Center performed for Primary students last month to ring in the Lunar New Year. Special thanks to our Post Oak parents who helped make this happen! •
Post Oak High School students are embarking on their A-Term intensive courses starting the week after Spring Break. Below is a list of what they are undertaking. Look for blog links and presentations to follow in April!

Allocating Capital: Students will be introduced to the world of allocating capital in a variety of ways. Simply put, capital allocation is how businesses divide financial resources within the company between multiple entities to optimize return and wealth for shareholders. Students will get the chance to meet and listen to several experts with years of experience in capital allocation. Also, students will have the chance to sit in university-level classes at University of Houston and Rice University. Students will walk away with a fundamental understanding of capital allocation, strategies involved, and the ability to recognize potential capital allocation opportunities.

Art Car: Houston is home to one of the largest art car scenes in the world! In this course, you will learn about art car history and culture, meet long-time members of this artist-community, and design and create an art car! Please note that part of the course is attending the Art Car Parade on Saturday, April 14. (This is the same weekend as the ISAS Art Conference.)

The Art of Style: An overview of the fundamentals of fashion. Learn about fashion history, costuming, how to craft an outfit, the basics of styling, design and construction. We will touch on fashion careers and pop culture, as well as provide you with hands-on experience and opportunities to interact with professionals.

China Trip: Students will connect what they learned during J-Term in the course “China, the Chinese, and Chinese Culture” to the “real” China. The trip will include three major parts: Each student will (1) be paired with a Chinese student and his/her family, shadowing them in school and having a short home-stay, (2) experience traditional tours of scenic spots and historic sites in China, and (3) spend time serving local communities. Each student will also give a presentation after coming back. The J-Term course is a prerequisite for this course.

Cultural, Historical, and Political Exploration in Ireland: The objective of the first half of this course is to discover the culture, politics, and history of Ireland in its capital city, Dublin. In the second half, students learn about art and experience the nature and landscape of Ireland from a base in Killarney, Co. Kerry, creating their own works through photography and other traditional media. Students will return not only with a better understanding of Ireland, but also a better understanding of its significance in the EU and the world.

Managua Field School—Ecology and Civic Engagement: Experience the majestic countryside and diverse ecology on Ometepe island. Visit coffee plantations and hike in the rainforest. From there, we will take a step back in history and stay in the colonial city of Granada, exploring the old churches and architecture. But why does so much poverty exist in a country with such a rich cultural and agricultural history? Why do the majority of Nicaraguans live on only $1.25 a day? These and other questions will be explored during the second part of our trip just outside of Managua at the Center for Development in Central America. Here, we will volunteer in an array of community development activities and participate in “charlas” by local experts. Spanish language experience is highly recommended, but not required. Students should note that this trip is physically rigorous and may be emotionally taxing.

Paleontology Fieldwork on the Craddock Ranch: The paleontology fieldwork in the red beds of Texas will give students a good overview of paleontology in the Permian Period. They will have the chance to participate in an actual dig for fossils from this period, learning both proper fieldwork skills and fossil preparation. This course continued on page 9
Way to Go, Bearkats!

TRACK MEETS
(ANY UPDATES WILL BE POSTED THROUGH THE TEAMSNAP APP)

MIDDLE SCHOOL
3/6  FBCA Quad Meet #2 at Fort Bend Christian Academy, 4 p.m.
3/22  St. John’s Junior Maverick Relays at St. John’s School, 4 p.m.
3/23  St. John’s Junior Maverick Relays at St. John’s School, 4 p.m.
3/27  at Houston Christian, 4 p.m.
3/28  at Houston Christian, 4 p.m.
4/5  FBCA Quat Meet #3 at Fort Bend Christian Academy, 4 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL
3/8  at Briarwood School, 4 p.m.

Bearkat Banquet
Tues., April 17

Show your Bearkat pride!
Get tees, sweats, caps, and more in the official spirit store at postoakbearkats.com.

15% of purchases goes to the Post Oak Athletic Department!

High School A-Term
continued from page 8

has three parts: a reading and lecture period before we leave for Seymour, Texas; the fieldwork in the red beds; and fossil preparation and a presentation to the rest of the school after we return. Assessments are on participation, understanding the reading material, and on skills out in the field and in the prep lab. Assessments will be a combination of observation, self-assessment, and quizzes on the readings and lectures.

Physical Computing: In this class, students will learn the basics of coding, electronic diagrams, and circuit board design and construction. Students will also learn about Arduino microcontrollers, the programming of which can allow interaction with everyday objects. (Ever wanted to send a Tweet to your coffee pot to make it brew your coffee?) Then, using boards constructed in the High School makerspace, La Tinkeria, in combination with Arduino hardware and the software Fritzing, students will design, build, and program custom Arduino boards that may serve a variety of purposes.
Coffee with the Elementary Director

Wed., March 21 at 9 a.m.
in the Bissonnet Parenting Center

The POST OAK SCHOOL

Topic: Watch the weekly Post Highlights email!

SUMMER SCHOOL

Register now for summer courses for YCC through High School.
Log in to My BackPack to register your child for weeks of focus, fascination, and fun with friends at Post Oak!

If you have any questions, please contact Auxiliary Programs Director Miriam Winton by phone at 713-661-6688 or by email at miriamwinton@postoakschool.org.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PARENT ED

Pathways to Independence

The Science of High-Risk Behavior

Wednesday, March 7
6:45 p.m. Refreshments
7:00 p.m. event start, High School
facilitated by Lori Scovill, Ph.D., Post Oak MDC counselor

Is drug and alcohol use during the teen years simple experimentation? How do parents know if or when they should be concerned? Are teens who use alcohol at an early age more likely to become addicted later in life? And what about gaming and smartphone addiction? Is it even possible to become addicted to technology? These and other topics will be discussed by Dr. Crystal Collier on March 7 at our parent education night. Given both the relevance and importance of this topic, we hope to see you there!

Dr. Crystal Collier has been working with adolescents and adults suffering from mental illness, behavior disorders, and substance abuse since 1991. She has been licensed by the State of Texas as a professional counselor since 1999 and counselor supervisor since 2008. She possesses a master's degree in clinical psychology and a doctorate in counselor education. Her area of expertise includes adolescent brain development, prevention programming, independent living skills training, parent coaching, and training new clinicians.
SAFETY AT POST OAK

Post Oak’s safety and security procedures are reviewed and updated periodically. Procedures have always included fire and severe weather drills, and several years ago we added lockdown drills, which the children and students on both campuses practice throughout the year.

Security experts completed a full safety evaluation of both campuses last year. The school also sent two employees to a two-day safety workshop on ALICE training for further instruction on how best to protect students. ALICE stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter, and evacuate, and it is used by law enforcement officers to train school district employees how to respond to an outside threat. Middle School and High School faculty completed ALICE training this fall. In March, the rest of our employees will complete this training. ALICE training will change how we do our student drills as we go forward.

While we hope never to need these tools, our students’ safety is always a priority.

Spanish Market
Thurs., March 22
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Maya Pinto’s Upper Elementary class is hosting this event for students on the Bissonnet Campus to practice their conversational Spanish and enjoy a market experience. Shoppers are encouraged to bring up to $5 to spend.

Upper Elementary Invention Fair
at The Post Oak School

Thurs., March 8, 2018
7 to 8 p.m. | Post Oak Gym
1 & 2. YCC—preparing a snack and reading a book.
3–6. PRI—Students work on building fine motor skills and a small group receives a lesson.
7. A Lower Elementary student explores the world using a pin map.
8. The art room is a colorful place!
9. A group of Lower Elementary students tackle big math work.
10. Upper Elementary students take advantage of technology (which is supported through Annual Fund gifts—thank you!)
11. Upper El students bring Aesop’s Fables to life for their classmates.
12. UE, MS, & HS students attended Montessori Model United Nations in New York.
13 & 14. Students view work by the senior visual art class at the annual show.
Thank you to everyone who has helped us reach and surpass the $330,000 mark. As you know, this goal was set before Harvey hit Houston and flooded the entire Bissonnet Campus. The need still remains to offset the unplanned expenses of remediation and renovation. Reaching 100% participation also shows the foundations we apply to for grants that families stand firmly behind the work we do.

If you haven’t done so, please take a moment to donate or make a pledge on our website. We are grateful for the generosity and spirit of our Post Oak community!
TexasYogini Spring Break Camp

Spring Break is only a week away! Win the “Rockstar Parent of Year” award from your kiddos by planning an awe-inspiring Spring Break experience—send your kiddos to the TexasYogini Spring Break Yoga Camp!

Who: Hope Wills & Stacy Cash, certified teachers and yoga instructors
When: March 12 to 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. daily
Where: at TexasYogini, 4617 Montrose Blvd, Suite C213
Camper Ages: 9 to 13 years old
Tariff: $420—includes lunch, art class, and an afternoon snack

DAILY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:40–9:00</td>
<td>Drop-off</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00–9:15</td>
<td>Warm-up activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30–10:30</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:35–11:05</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:05–11:35</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45–12:30</td>
<td>Art project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:35–1:00</td>
<td>Healthy snack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:05</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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NOTE: There are only 20 camper spots available, so reserve your spot today! Registration for Yoga Camp | www.texasyogini.com

Mission statement of TexasYogini Kids Spring Break Camp: To provide a spring break alternative above and beyond general childcare options. Our camp introduces and emphasizes mindfulness practices youth can utilize in their everyday lives long after spring break ends. Using the tenets of yoga and mindfulness practices, we strive to teach kids age 9–13 healthy movement, food and stillness habits.
NOTICE BOARD

LOST & FOUND

Next time you’re at the Bissonnet Campus, stop by the lost and found chest in the Common Room.

Note: If clothing or lunch boxes have a name written on it, the item is placed in your child’s cubicle/locker. It’s a good idea to mark special items so they always find their way home!

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 9

The school uses the School and Student Services (SSS) financial aid program. The application for 2018–2019 is available online: https://ssbynais.force.com/familyportal/familylogin

CALENDAR UPDATES

MDC Student Appreciation will be rescheduled. Watch Post Highlights for details.

2018–2019 CALENDAR

Next year’s one-page academic calendar is available online under Calendar > School Calendar.

MARCH 12 TO 16

SPRING BREAK

Classes NOT in session: only students with expanded year contracts attend.

MARCH 30

SCHOOL CLOSED

Good Friday. Passover begins at sundown

APRIL 6

CONFERENCE DAY

Classes NOT in session: only students with expanded year contracts attend.

APRIL 20

REGULAR SCHOOL DAY

No longer an in-service day: all classes in session (make up from ice day in Jan.)

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 first Monday of the month during 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 to Communications Coordinator Elaine Schweizer (elaineschweizer@postoakschool.org) by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday one week prior to publication. Please direct all requests for permission to reprint articles to the communications coordinator.

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)

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

DON’T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD!

Daylight Saving Time begins

March 11

Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead!