PARENT PERSPECTIVE • MMUN • MS BLACKWOOD TRIP
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!

POPAP COFFEE | WORK Day

Wed., April 4, 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

High School students traveled to a few faraway places for A-Terms. Pictured are students who undertook work in Nicaragua, Ireland, and China. Catch their presentations and more on Wednesday, April 11.

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

www.facebook.com/thepostoakschool and Instagram.com/postoakschool/ and twitter.com/postoakschool
and www.facebook.com/postoakhighschool and Instagram.com/postoakhschool/ and twitter.com/postoakhs
The children at Post Oak are most fortunate to have teachers who are meticulously trained in child development, the Montessori curriculum, IB strategies, and with a solid foundation in the subject areas they teach. Many have completed a full academic year AMI training course, have advanced degrees, and spent several years being mentored by experienced teachers. Some Post Oak teachers have multiple decades of experience, and all of them have engaged in professional development on a regular basis. I myself have two Montessori diplomas, a Masters in Education, a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and philosophy, and engage in professional development and exchange at least twice a year. As an educator, I feel prepared.

But as a parent, I wasn’t given any training before I began the most challenging job I have ever had. Maria Montessori herself recognized that the most important teachers in the child’s life are the parents. Most days, that feels like a lot of pressure, as I don’t have a degree in parenting! And why is it that all the things I learned about child development were much easier to implement in the classrooms of the schools where I have worked than in my own home?

Like your children, my son did not come with an instruction manual. I started out just doing the best I could with what I had. Sometimes that was just great, but other times have been really, really difficult. When my son was much younger, my husband and I made the choice to take a parenting course with a trained Positive Discipline parenting educator. Like the Redirecting Children’s Behavior and Love and Logic series offered by Post Oak, this seven-week commitment really changed our perspective on how to approach our son, and, finally, provided me with the “training” I had craved. It did not give us direct instruction, that is, it was not a “how to” course. Rather, it provided us with a process for looking at our child’s behavior and creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust in our home. It helped me to remember that as his parents, we are the most important teachers in our son’s life.

Parenting education is one of the opportunities at Post Oak that really differentiates our school from others. Post Oak offers a plethora of events, a variety of topics, and covers the whole development of the child, from 14 months through 18 years. Post Oak understands that parenting is not always intuitive, and, like the Montessori teachers, some training is really helpful. Like many of you, my husband and I take advantage of the presentations by teachers and staff to better understand what happens at school and how that can inform our home life. In a Montessori classroom, the children learn the balance between freedom and responsibility. They have as much freedom as they can handle and be responsible with. This is a fragile balance parents would like to maintain at home too, and now that we have a teenager who drives, it’s more important than ever.

It’s April already, and the end of the school year is just around the corner, and still Post Oak keeps parent education opportunities on the calendar for parents of toddlers through teens. Pathways to Independence at the Museum District Campus, Coffee with the Elementary Director, Families Integrating School and Home (F.I.S.H.) and YCC Teachers’ Afternoon Tea are all offered this month. We are all very busy, but prioritizing this time for ourselves benefits our children as they grow. I do rely on his teachers to inspire his learning throughout the day. I need to rely on myself, with help from Post Oak, to continue to inspire my learning throughout his life. •
POP A Community Service
Sat., April 21 and 28

POP A has been partnering this year with Nat Q, Henderson Elementary in the upper eastside of Houston to do a weekly literacy event called A Bridge of Books where Upper Elementary students read with Henderson first and second graders to help practice and promote literacy. It’s been a terrific program and much appreciated by the folks and students at Henderson Elementary, and a great experience for Post Oak kids, too.

Henderson Elementary’s library needs a full overhaul. POP A Co-Chair Nicole Pedersen worked with Councilmember Jerry Davis to secure funds so we can buy paint, a new rug, take off burglar bars, and give the library a refresh.

Volunteers are needed on Saturdays, April 21 and 28 to help create a bright and inviting space for kids to read. Watch your email for details, and please join in.

Special Visitor at Post Oak

Last month, we were very happy to welcome Sterling Richards, the great-granddaughter of the school’s founder Carol Ferguson, for a visit to both campuses at Post Oak. We asked Sterling to share a little about herself with our community:

Carol’s love for and commitment to Montessori had a lasting impact on the Montessori world, and on me. I recently earned my AMI Primary diploma from Montessori Institute of North Texas, and I will soon complete my Master of Education in Montessori and Early Literacy from Southern Methodist University. I work at Lumin Education and Alcuin School in Dallas, Texas, aiming to carry on Carol’s legacy by passing along the gift of Montessori education to children today.
The Post Oak School presents

BOOK FAIR
at BRAZOS 2018

SUN., APRIL 15

Event kicks off at noon!

12:30-2:00  YCC and Primary: Storytime with Cory and meet characters from “Pete the Cat” and “Dragons Love Tacos”

2:30-4:00  Lower Elementary: That’s My Story! Students will read selections from books they have created, which will also be on display at Book Fair.

4:30-5:00  Upper Elementary: Post Oak Book Bee! Upper Elementary students can play a collaborative game testing their memory and reading comprehension of “The Gauntlet” by Karuna Riazi.

6:00-8:00  Middle and High School: Live Music! Enjoy performances by student bands Afterburn and Xenofunk. Students will also share original poems and short stories.

Brazos will donate 15% of ALL proceeds made on April 15 to our school.

Got old books? We will be collecting gently used books to support two local charities: Eight Million Stories & Reach Out and Read. Post Oak Girl Scouts and National Honor Society member Carly G. ’20 will assist in this effort as part of their community service projects.

Join us all day for books, activities, waffles by Snow Topi food truck, and more!

Book Fair Chairs: Teresa Lin & Rhian McKinney

BRAZOS BOOKSTORE
2421 BISSONNET ST.
Poker Night Big Win

The Dads’ Club reported that their annual Poker Night was very successful, raising $3,240, which will go towards our Family Movie Night (see ad below) with enough left over to fund another special project around the school.

Many thanks to all the dads who came out and anted up, as well as Michael Foertsch for the use of his exotic car dealership. Congratulations to the night’s big winners, Garrison Ziff (above, right) and runner-up Vean Gregg (left)!

Post Oak Dads’ Club presents

Family Movie Night
at the Bissonnet Campus
Friday, April 20
Good grub, free popcorn, and a fun film!
Doors open at 6:00
Film begins about 8:15

Friends welcome! Bring the whole family, a blanket, & lawn chairs to this fun, free event.

Bake Sale @ BC
April 25, 2018
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Errol Pinto’s Upper Elementary class will hold a bake sale in the Bissonnet Campus Common Room benefitting Friends for Life. Shoppers/supporters are encouraged to bring up to $5 to spend at the sale.
Parent Perspective

*by Judy Le, Post Oak Parent*

When we started looking at private schools, we did the research, talked with countless parents, toured numerous schools, analyzed our options diligently...and then applied to just one school. As a family, we decided that if we were to go the private school route, it would only be at Post Oak.

As we looked at our options, we came back to our own core values and what was most important to us for their early childhood education. We came to this: we wanted our kids to have academic rigor and, more importantly, we wanted them to love to learn. We wanted them to master critical academic subjects and, more importantly, we wanted them to be critical thinkers. We wanted them to be in a safe and nurturing environment and, more importantly, we wanted them to feel empowered to shape their own experiences and take risks. We wanted them to be surrounded by diversity and, more importantly, to learn about and celebrate differences. Post Oak was the right fit for us.

Our kids entered Post Oak at ages 3 and 5, and it has been a wonderful experience. It's difficult to fully describe the experience, so let me list just a few of the highlights for us:

- **Responsibility and civility.** Having lunch with my child always leaves me in awe. I watch as the children set their own place settings and serve themselves. When there is a guest, the children serve as “hosts.” We have a conversation that is equally silly and serious. And then they clear their plates, load the dishwasher, sweep around their tables, put away their things, and grab a book to read. I never knew lunch with 24 five-year-olds could be so civilized!

- **Consequences.** My son has learned that if he forgets his homework folder on Monday, he doesn’t get homework. Sounds great for some! But he understands that means one less day to do it, and he’s not happy about that. My daughter has learned that when she uses up all the construction paper, her friends don’t have any left to use. I have learned to continue these lessons at home, and a common phrase we say in our family is, “When you make bad choices, you get fewer choices.” I love how these lessons are staying with them as they grow older.

- **Needing help and giving help.** I had to get used to the idea that one classroom combines three grades. Now that my kids have been through three years of Post Oak, I have seen how helpful it is to be the youngest and have older kids model high standards of learning and behavior. And then I have seen them be the oldest and take responsibility for mentoring and teaching the younger students. What a gift!

- **Finding their voice.** My kids were shy when they began at Post Oak. My son would go into anxiety attacks days before having to speak in front of a group. His first class play was performed with his eyes closed every time he was on stage. Last semester, he presented a group project in front of his class, and they received a standing ovation. I can’t tell you how much it means to us to see their confidence in themselves grow.

My professional background is in leadership and team development. I spent seven years doing leadership development at Rice University, working with some of the best and brightest college students. I can definitively say that the skills and behaviors Post Oak instills in students are critical to success for, *and beyond*, academic achievement. I want my kids to grow up to be active, engaged, and creative contributors to society. Post Oak reminds me that my kids already are. There are so many instances in our time here that have affirmed our decision to be part of the Post Oak community. ☝️
By Maya and Errol Pinto

The Montessori Model United Nations conference in New York from February 21 to 24, was inspirational—as always! With close to 1,000 students in attendance from over 25 countries (not including the United States), held in the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York, it was an experience to cherish! Watching the enthusiasm, the energy, and the empowerment shown by all our participants in their various committees, sincerely working out the details of their various collaborative resolutions, made it all so rewarding! It helped us all realize that we are a concrete realization of Mahatma Gandhi’s claim, “If we are to reach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children….”

MMUN 2018 Conference Highlights for Post Oak Students:

- 24 Upper Elementary students attended. They represented the People’s Republic of China and The Russian Federation.

- Three Post Oak High School students were glad to share their leadership by serving on the Bureau and coordinating the consultations of the delegates. Andrew served as Chair for DISEC 1 with Charlie as Vice Chair at the Middle School level. Joseph served as Vice Chair for SPECPOL also at the Middle School level. All three leaders began their journey to the Bureau by being delegates for several years beginning in grade 4 Post Oak.

- Several Post Oak students were chosen to speak in the United Nations General Assembly at the closing ceremony to mark the completion and ratification of their resolutions—the results of their conference deliberations. One delegate graciously gave her privilege to speak at the General Assembly to her partner—“I can always get another opportunity—maybe next year,” she said with a smile.

“At Montessori Model UN, we take global issues and bring them down to the personal level, then empower children with the tools and knowledge they need to problem solve,” said Judith Cunningham MMUN founder and executive director. The United Nations is a forum for the voice of nations to be heard—MMUN is a forum for the voice of children to be heard. It is small wonder then that the international community at the United Nations will continue to be inundated with the fresh and unbiased perspectives of children who come and who care.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank our Head of School, Maura Joyce; our Business Office; and our parents and chaperones, who were invaluable in their support, enthusiasm, and faith. We are looking forward to next year to provide a valuable learning experience for all our students, those who will return as experienced delegates interested in resolving a different issue, and those who will explore this program for the first time.

By Maria, Upper Elementary

I really loved MMUN. I represented the People’s Republic of China with my partner Raka and we made friends from China, Canada, and Peru!

My committee was called SOCHUM (social and humanitarian). Our two topics were the rights of indigenous peoples, which I was assigned to research, and the rights of disabled persons and their families.

The first two days we each had to give a one-minute speech on the topic we had researched to state our country’s views. Then we got to vote for the formal and informal consultations in committee. In the formal consultations, the countries would raise their placards and the chair would choose one of them to go to the mike to give an opinion about the resolution. In the informal consultations, which I and everyone else loved, we could move around and meet with other delegates to work on the resolutions. At the end of each day, we finalized and voted on our resolutions that we worked out, to be presented at the U.N. General Assembly on Saturday.

continued on page 9
By Charlotte Aguilar, Post Oak grandparent

When we attended the orientation last spring for MMUN, the Post Oak program was impressive—but it seemed a bit daunting for a 9-year-old. I suggested to my granddaughter, Maria, that she might want to wait until she was older to participate. “But Grammy,” she said, “I want to learn how to make a difference—NOW.”

Shame on me. Having completed several intense months of study and training in the weekly after-school MMUN activity and four days in New York City as a junior diplomat, Maria and The Post Oak School Elementary delegation convinced me that they will make a difference in the world—that, in fact, they already are having an impact.

From the luncheon in the Delegates’ Dining Room overlooking the East River and U.N. tour...to the impressive opening ceremonies at their Times Square “headquarters”...to two full days of their carefully crafted speeches and spirited negotiating to find solutions to real-world problems...to the cultural and social evening programs...to the magnificent closing session at the U.N. General Assembly...every minute was packed with layers of learning and lifelong memories. The students forged deeper relationships with their Post Oak partners, and learned the essence of diplomacy, compromise, and respect for differing viewpoints from their counterparts who ventured to New York from throughout the U.S. and the world. At the end, they giggled with and wistfully parted from their assigned rooms, they followed the precise protocols masterfully. They forged alliances among nations, diplomatically argued their views in informal and formal “consultations,” and used complex acronyms, procedural terms and titles with the fluency of mastering another language. While much of the research and writing in preparation for the MMUN session for the first-timers is done with guidance at home, it soon became evident that the after-school program prepared our student delegates to operate professionally and confidently in the intense structure that mirrors how the U.N. functions.

Being part of this family activity and connecting with the parents who bolstered the delegation had its own rewards. And enough credit can’t be given to Maya and Errol Pinto for their nine-year commitment to make Post Oak a part of MMUN. They connect with the international organization on the complex logistics of housing and moving youngsters and families, prepare the Post Oak Elementary students both technically and philosophically, and stand patiently in long lines for four days to handle details of an event that one of the organizers told me involved nearly 12,000 students, chaperones, and on-site staff and security.

Seeing the Post Oak youngsters take their seats at the actual delegates’ desks within the U.N. General Assembly for their final session was beyond inspirational. Last May, I never could have imagined I would witness my small, free-spirited granddaughter—dressed in a suit and tie, hair in a bun, nerves under awe-inspiring control—step to the podium of such an historic venue and speak.

In these divisive and explosive times in our own nation and around the globe, it is easy to feel despair about the world and the legacy we are leaving for our children and grandchildren. MMUN is a reminder that they are our legacy. It embodies the essence of Maria Montessori’s words: “An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live.” And ultimately, to shape those times—and make a difference.

By Noor, Upper Elementary

My experience in New York was very exciting! My friend/partner and I were being filmed! The filmmakers first met us at the airport. We tried to act normal. That night we had the opening ceremony where the founder of MMUN told us a bit more about MMUN and then we got to celebrate. Before the opening ceremony the filmmakers put these tiny microphones on us so, they could hear us better in the big crowd.

The next day we went to look at our display poster board that my partner and I had made to represent China. The delegates attending from China approved of our poster, they really liked it. That same day it was the first day of committee. We were discussing my topic, the effects of atomic radiation. We had to come up with our own resolution for this problem through negotiating and discussing different ideas with each other. Together all the countries represented in my committee agreed on the resolution we decided to adopt. The second day in committee we were discussing my partner’s topic, Palestinian refugees. The same thing happened. We all agreed on a resolution together. One interesting thing that everybody in our committee noticed was that during our discussions, our chairperson fell asleep! At the end of that committee session we were determining which country would best speak at the General Assembly. The country that I was representing, China, got chosen!

The day of the General Assembly, I was so honored to speak there. I listened to the other countries’ resolutions in their committees. After the closing ceremony, my friends and I celebrated by watching the Broadway production of “Wicked.”

From Fyza Piracha, Noor’s mother:

The MMUN experience, whether it is for a student or a parent, is always a powerful one. It continues to serve as a platform for Upper Elementary students to understand real global issues and come up with solutions. And, in the eyes of a 10- to 12-year-old, these problems are solvable. From the opening day speeches including that by Judith Cunningham, to the entrepreneur 13-year-old keynote speaker, Makaila Ulmer at the general assembly, we ended up leaving NYC invigorated and inspired!

By Nora, Middle School

The first committee session for my topic, situation in Somalia, is about to begin, and I’m
**Coffee with the Elementary Director**

Wed., April 11 at 9 a.m.
in the Bissonnet Parenting Center

**Pathways to Independence**

Raising Future Adults
Your Parenting Questions Answered
(or at least discussed)

Wednesday, April 4
6:45 p.m. Refreshments
7:00 p.m. event start, High School
facilitated by Lori Scovill, Ph.D., Post Oak MDC counselor

Join the Middle and High School counselor and directors for this series of ongoing conversations.

**YCC Teachers’ Afternoon Tea**

Tues., May 1, 2 p.m.

**Parenting the Love and Logic Way**

presented by Phylis Tomlinson

Thurs., April 26 at 6 p.m.
and Fri., April 27 at 9 a.m.

Families Integrating School and Home (FISH)
is a parent group with meetings to support Montessori principles at home.
really excited. I’d spent the last night improving my speech, and brushing up on some facts on Italy and Somalia. I was ready to rock the committee session. I grab a notebook and a pen from the supplies table and stuff them in my binder, and proceed to get a cup of water. Before I know it, the committee doors open.

Henry and I walk in the committee room and find our seats. The Bureau and the Chairs go over committee etiquette and rules, and then the speeches begin. As I listen, I jot down notes and write a note to Norway, requesting collaboration. Sending notes is one of my favorite things about MMUN. Notes are not only recommended, but encouraged. You write a note, and hold it up, wherein the Bureau member will pick it up and deliver it to the corresponding member state. Soon, it’s my turn to present my speech. I approach the podium and begin speaking. The words pour out, but soon, I hear the mallet, signifying that I only have ten seconds left, I take a deep breath and finish my speech.

After all the speeches had been presented, the floor was open for suggestions. We have suggestions for an informal consultation, in which we walk around the room, and congregate into groups that have similar view and opinions, and we have suggestions for formal consultations, in which we sit and speak in turns, with a speaking limit of one minute. This one is formed more like debate, and is better than informal consultations at being organized. We take a vote, and the informal consultation begins.

We get up and soon we’ve split into two groups. After we’ve identified the five main branches of the problem and sorted a good 20 solutions into the corresponding categories, we go over to the other group and arrange for us to merge. Soon, our consultation ends. The floor is now open for more motions. This time, we chose a formal consultation to help us get our thoughts together. For the next half-hour we debate and agree on possible solutions to assist the deteriorating situation in Somalia. As soon as this is over we all congregate in the corner and discuss the topics we had reviewed in the formal consultation. Then, we split into five groups, one for each area of the problem, and begin writing our Operative and Pre-ambulatory clauses. For the next twenty minutes we’re writing and setting up our resolution. Before we knew it, the three hours had passed.

During the next three-hour committee session, we dissected our resolution and revised and nitpicked it down to the very last detail during the line by line review. The line-by-line review was organized like a formal consultation, except it was led by the bureau. They read out every line, asking if we wanted to make any adjustment. If two countries didn’t agree on a revision, they would get up, and would have one minute to reach an agreement. Before we knew it, after hours of committee, we had finished our resolution, and were ready to take it to the United Nations. ☀️
Monday by Gabriel

On Monday before spring break, our day started out as a relatively normal day, walking into our class and chatting with our friends about a wide variety of topics. However, the day truly started changing at around nine in the morning, when we were split into our two groups, the Land trip to Blackwood (my group), and the Coastal Trip to Galveston. We then got in and drove the hour long ride to Blackwood. When we got there, we immediately went to our lodgings, which were two rooms on opposite sides of the house filled with bunk beds. After we settled in, the lunch group took off to cook and the rest of us took a tour of the whole property, which we grew to know well throughout the week. We visited the garden, the goat fence, the compost, the high tunnels, the beehives, and many other interesting places throughout the farm.

After lunch, we went to the goat fence and got started with our task of helping to build a fence for the goats Blackwood is planning to start raising on the property. Since we were new to this activity, we struggled to put it up and it took us a little while to get the hang of it. Once we did, we rapidly sped through the construction of the fence. We kept building until dinner, which closed our day with delicious burgers with all the fixings.

Tuesday by Sophia

On Tuesday, my group woke up early in the morning to cook our first meal, which was eggs along with muffins and cereal. Our activity for that morning was to mulch the high tunnels, which were lengthy rows of plants under a greenhouse roof. There was a huge pile of mulch in a corner that some of us shoveled into wheelbarrows and dumped to layer around the compost. The mulch would serve as nutrients for the vegetables and has to be distributed once a year. I was pretty tired just as we were finishing the four mulch piles. We then moved onto adding fresh compost to the tunnel mounds, where farmer Becca had planted dragonfruit and snow peas. As a treat, she let everyone try some of the snow peas and snow pea flowers, which tasted sweet and watery.

By noon, all of us were hungry for lunch. As soon as we finished eating, we headed for Bee Weaver Apiary, where we divided into two groups. My group went to the visitor’s center and there we met Tish who let us taste test 20 different types of honey from around the world! She explained to us that different types of honey come from different flowers, mostly. There was a lavender honey and an avocado flower honey and each flavor tasted very different. Some were more like molasses while others were quite watery. There were also whipped honey flavors that included a bright pink huckleberry, caramel, and cinnamon. My favorite honey that I tried was from Hawaii, which was almost white in color and a little grainy. After this yummy treat, we switched with the other group and walked down the hill to where all the bees were kept. There, we met Roosevelt, who told us he had been working there for more than fifty years! He was not afraid of the bees at all. We sat in a gazebo that included a net of sorts to make sure the bees would stay on the other side. Roosevelt talked to us about queen bees and drones, which were harmless because they had no stingers. He then walked to the other side and opened up the bee house. Roosevelt lifted up one of the layers of bee comb so we could see the queen. The main difference was that she was much larger than all the others. Roosevelt told us not to be afraid because the smoke that he sprays sedates them in a way to make them calm. Then, he picked up a drone bee, put away the comb layer and walked back in the gazebo. He asked, “Who wants to hold a drone bee?” Lots of other people raised their hands, but not me. However, after I saw a couple of my friends hold the bee, I did too. Roosevelt told us that we could put the bee next to our cheeks to feel it vibrate. I did this and the sensation was bizarre! I let someone else hold the bee. One of my classmates evidently got a bee stuck in his hair, but fortunately he did not get stung and it flew away. On the ride back, all of us were chatting about the bees and the honey.

Back at the farm, my group went straight to the kitchen to go cook dinner. We were going to make baked potatoes. After a dinner of baked potatoes, we sat around a campfire and we told stories until bedtime.

Wednesday by Gabriel

Our Wednesday morning activities included three options: weeding, clearing branches, and working on the goat fence. My group went to go clear a continued on page 13
Middle School Blackwood Trip
continued from page 12

path. We stopped by the potting shed and took with us a number of sharp tools and clippers, as well as gloves for protection. We walked to the area of the farm that needed to be cleared of plant overgrowth. We sawed and clipped the long branches for a while until we had finally made a clear path. After lunch, we went to another farm called Laughing Frog Farms, where we went on a tour of the small, but unique farm. The owner of this farm was named Glenn, who worked with a number of restaurants and sold his produce at the farmer's market often. After meeting about five of the most adorable dogs in the world, we passed their chicken coop and entered the most popular destination on the tour: the large field where Glenn kept his flock of sheep. After feeding them, learning about them, and attempting to catch some of the babies, we moved on to their greenhouse. After Glenn showed us around the greenhouse, we explored their hydroponic systems and their garden beds. Overall, the farm was very welcoming and it was really cool to meet the sheep and, of course, pet the dogs. Once we returned to Blackwood, we ate dinner and after a long day of tiring work, we were exhausted. Once again, we made a fire outside and told many horror stories, a few of which were indeed pretty good.

Thursday by Sophia

On Thursday after breakfast, we got to choose what activity we wanted to do for the day. I decided to visit the garden beds for a change and the activity turned out to be really enjoyable. Since there were a lot of thick weeds, there was also an abundance of wildlife. A volunteer at the farm found a family of bunnies burrowed deep inside the soil of one of the beds so we had to skip that one and continue with the rest. We found a lot of other creatures in the dirt like a strange bright red cocoon of a moth and a huge wolf spider that I was extremely scared of. Farmer Becca taught us how to transplant the seedlings into the beds. Today we were planting multiple types of lettuce and chard. Each had their own different leaves that were spiky, purple, or twisted. We watered the lettuce so that they would all have moist soil for the hot day. After lunch outside, we planted a variety of tomatoes. Becca taught us two different ways of planting them. At a tented area, we took out the baby tomato plants and transplanted them into the soil using trowels. After we finished this task, Becca gave us a tour of the rest of the veggies like the kale, radishes, lettuce, and chives. In the early evening, one of the farmers at Blackwood named Philip asked for any volunteers who would like to go collect chicken eggs. I decided to go with a couple of friends and we walked to the chicken coops with some baskets. Blackwood had two coops: one for the males and the others for the females. Philip explained to us that they did not let them reproduce, but instead sold the chickens and the eggs at the farmer’s market. As we collected the eggs, one girl found a very peculiar egg that was an ugly green and a third of what the normal size of a chicken egg is supposed to be. Afterwards, we washed the eggs with soap and water and packaged them in the pantry. That night, the cooking group decided to surprise us by making chocolate chip cookies for everyone! It was so nice eating them and watching the sun set in the beautiful scenery.
1. Learning self-care leads towards independence in YCC and beyond.
2. This YCC student chooses material from the shelves for art.
3. A Primary student skip counts in multiples of five.
4. Two Primary students work side-by-side gauging various dimensions.
5 & 6. Springtime brings outdoor music and working with metal insets.
7. Students learn the formation of letters for writing names.
8. A Spanish lesson in Lower Elementary.
9. Music class gets moving.
10 & 11. Upper Elementary students presented projects at Invention Fair.
12. Spanish Market is always a blast.
13. MS students also took to Galveston for the Land/Coastal trip.
14. HS students work hard during A-Term.
NOTICE BOARD

LOST & FOUND

We are overflowing! 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!

HMI Trainees Seek Accommodations

Post Oak community, do you have a spare room or living space available for rent? Houston Montessori Institute trainees will join us for the Primary assistants training from July 9 to 20, 2018, and are seeking lodging. If you are able to provide accommodations, please email Jenna Pel at info@hmiusa.org.

Nanny Wanted

Post Oak family in search of full-time, live-in nanny to three-year-old girl. Candidate should be active, organized with a clean driving record, have a college education, and a love for travel. Nanny will be provided with many benefits including a vehicle, private quarters with kitchenette, and a consistent and minimum 40-hour work week. Background checks will be performed. Please contact Jennifer Bosch.

CALENDAR UPDATES

MDC Student Appreciation Lunch has moved to Fri., April 27.

New Parent Welcome Reception has moved to Wed., April 25.

YCC Teachers’ Afternoon Tea has moved to Tues., May 1

MANAGING DIRECTOR

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.

And Movie Night and HS Prom!

Save the Date!

Closing the Book on 2017–2018

Monday, May 21
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
in the BC Library

A parent and employee event to raise a glass, wrap up the year, and also to say thank you to our countless parent volunteers.

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)

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