Last issue of the 2017–2018 school year!
Look for the alumni issue in July.
Colorado Bound

As most of you know, former Head of School John Long took up the helm at Bike Houston after leaving Post Oak in 2016. We learned last month from John that he and his wife Kathy (who taught and wore many hats at Post Oak) will be leaving Houston to move to Colorado. John will officially step down as Bike Houston’s executive director as of June 30.

We wish them both much joy, peace, and sunshine in the years ahead. We continue to be grateful for their many years of service to the school and its families.

New Parent Gatherings

- **Elementary**  Wed., 5/9 Lower 6:30–7:15 p.m. | Upper 7:15–8 p.m.
- **Primary**  Thurs., 5/10, 7 p.m.
- **High School**  Tues., 5/15, 7 p.m.
- **YCC**  Thurs., 5/17, 7 p.m.

*Childcare is available for Primary and Elementary-aged Post Oak students; please call the Front Office to make a reservation. The cost is $5 per child and will be billed on your monthly statement.

**ON THE COVER**

Post Oak’s Class of 2018 is going places! Find out where on page 5. Congratulations, seniors!

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

- Instagram.com/postoakschool/ and Instagram.com/postoakhighschool/
- twitter.com/postoakschool and twitter.com/postoakhs
As we enter the last month of the school year, I have been reflecting on the challenges we have faced together as a community. This year has been an extraordinary opportunity for growth. Despite natural disaster and loss, students persisted in their daily activities and arrived ready to work—they continued their education, their studies, their friendships, and they did so with joy.

While enjoying these glorious spring days, one can’t help but notice how much the children have grown and matured, how much the adolescents have come into themselves, and our hearts swell with pride at the adults our seniors have become. Post Oak students truly are enthusiastic, curious, courageous, engaged, kind, and generous.

The Post Oak School mission extends beyond the walls of our buildings and the bounds of our campuses. It shines in the actions of our staff, students, and families. This year, the Post Oak Parent Association initiated a service program that brought our mission into communities across the city. Beginning with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, POPA mobilized families to support those members of our community who lost their homes, cars, and belongings to flooding. This grew into organizing collections for the shelter at the convention center and marshaling teams to help clean out homes.

Harvey provided a launching pad for the community service projects that extended through the year. Upper Elementary students trained to be reading support for children at Nat Q. Henderson Elementary school, a Title I school east of downtown. Families joined together to clean up Buffalo Bayou, and work at the Salvation Army and the Houston Food Bank, to name a few. Coordinated by Post Oak parents Nicole Pedersen and John Duboise, these opportunities brought that environment of “collaboration, cooperation, and peace” to others and gave us the privilege to serve.

At the last community service project, I added my hands to the group of Post Oak students and parents who painted the library at Nat Q. Henderson. Our group worked for hours, alongside their school principal, staff, and their children, to beautify the environment. Watching our students helping others reminded me to be so grateful for the challenges of this year, which provided us with yet another pathway to reach out to others and share our mission.

Service lies at the heart of Post Oak, and our older students engage in it in a variety of ways, such as student-initiated bake sales in Upper Elementary, Middle School weekly service learning, High School internships benefitting local businesses, National Honor Society projects, and community service as a component of the IB program. Service is foundational to who we are at The Post Oak School, and this extension through POPA is a perfect fit. It is the reason that Post Oak exists, and our mission states it: *Post Oak fosters collaboration, cooperation, and peace and provides experiences that promote curiosity, inquiry, and engagement.*

As we close the book on this school year, I am in awe of the kindness and generosity of our student, staff, and parent community. Students will have their end-of-year celebrations in their classrooms, and I would like to invite all parents and employees to an end-of-year celebration of our own. Let’s raise a glass to the power and purpose of this community. Please join me on Monday, May 21 at 6 o’clock in the Bissonnet Campus Library to bid farewell to the 2017–2018 school year and to let me thank each parent and employee for being a part of this community that we love so dearly. ☞
New NHS Cabinet

The Post Oak chapter of the National Honor Society elected its new officers last week:

- **Nathan C** — President
- **Destiny J** — Vice President
- **Carly G** — Secretary
- **Asa F** — Treasurer
- **Joseph O** — Historian

NHS advisor, Ms. Harrison, would like to congratulate these members on their election to officer positions and looks forward to working closely with them next year to continue to build a model National Honor Society chapter.

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**High School Commencement 2018**

The Post Oak Community is invited to attend Friday, May 25 at Hamman Hall, Rice University, 5:30 p.m.

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Parking at Rice University for Graduation

Hamman Hall is building 31 off of entrance 21. Drivers can pull up and drop off and then park in lot NA during the day or North Lot after 4 p.m. Please note, all parking on Rice’s campus is for a fee—there is no free parking.
Class of 2018 College Acceptances & Decisions

American University
Bard College
Baylor University
Bennington College
Boston University
Bard College
Baylor University
Bennington College
Boston University
Brandeis University*
Champlain College
Chapman University
Clark University
Colorado College*
Colorado State University, Honors Program
Colorado School of Mines
George Washington University*
Goucher College*
High Point University*
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Mary Baldwin University
Mississippi State University
Missouri University of Science & Technology
Montserrat College of Art
Our Lady of the Lake University
Pace University
Purdue University
Rice University*
Sam Houston State University
Santa Clara University
Simmons College
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University*
St. Edward’s University
St. Edward’s University, Honors College
St. Louis University
St. John’s College
Stephen F. Austin State University
Texas A&M University*
Texas A&M, Kingsville
Texas State University*
Texas Tech University
Trinity University
Tulane University
Tulane University, Honors Program*
Tyler Junior College
University of Alabama
University of California, Davis
University of California, Los Angeles*
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Denver
University of Hartford
University of Houston, Honors College
University of North Texas
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Honors College
University of the Pacific
University of San Francisco*
University of Texas at Austin*
University of Texas at San Antonio
Xavier University
*One or more students attending

All together, the 17 seniors been offered $2,352,336 in scholarships. Congratulations to our soon-to-be graduates on all their amazing work!
Middle School A-Term Week

Introduction by Sophia H

Every year, A-Term is an opportunity for Middle School students to learn about different aspects of Houston. This year we participated in community service projects around the city. During seminars, we discussed how our service work not only helps our community, which is still feeling the effects of Hurricane Harvey, but ourselves as well. Participating in service is an essential part of the Middle School experience and makes us feel good about ourselves. We also used this week to plan a donation drive at the Middle School that would benefit senior centers.

At the end of the week, the class calculated that we had completed 700 hours of community service in five days, which I thought was really impressive!

Hermann Park by Gabriel A

At the Japanese Gardens in Hermann Park, we received a lecture on the garden, its history, and why and how community service is needed there. After that, we split into groups and started our projects to beautify the gardens before that weekend’s much anticipated Japanese Festival.

My group cleaned all of the rocks around the Teahouse that is located in the garden. The rocks were very dirty, so it took us a while to complete this task as we had to spend a long time on each individual rock, of which there were hundreds to thousands (we didn’t count). Afterwards, a few of us took rotating shifts grabbing leaves and sticks from the pond with a net, which was easy but repetitive. In the afternoon, we picked up trash around the entire park, and it was easy to discern the difference in the areas of the park where the trash had been removed.

Food Bank by Gabriel A

The Houston Food Bank is the largest Food Bank in the US and it gave out 83 million meals last year alone, feeding around one million people. Our group, working in an assembly line, first packed boxes that will be given to low-income seniors in Houston. We worked fairly quickly, quickly enough to be redirected to another room, where we packed disaster boxes for the rest of our time there. The disaster boxes include many long-lasting, non-perishable food items that will help people during a natural disaster or a disaster of any other kind. This is probably one of the only things in the whole Food Bank that they probably don’t want used, as they will only be used if a storm hits or some other bad thing affects Houston.

Cooking by Sophia H

The last activity for A-Term this week was cooking. Every day, different groups baked goods for the patients at Texas Children’s Hospital and cooked lunch for all the students and teachers. My group decided to make chocolate chip cookies, but as we don’t have an oven at school, we used the conventional microwave. When we finished we delivered the cookies to the hospital and I can imagine how happy the kids will feel receiving them. When we got back to school we decided how we were going to use the previous day’s leftovers for tomorrow’s meal. We ended up with flatbread pizzas, which thankfully did not burn on the grill. Since we had some extra time after prepping, we made a lot of yummy treats for the Book Fair on Sunday.

Art Car by Sophia H

Another interesting service site we visited was Westbury United Methodist Church where we painted an art car. The idea of making an art car came from the children at the church for the Art Car Parade on Saturday, but they had run out of time to finish it. The mosaic design was printed onto the minivan in vinyl with numbers on it to show what colors should be painted where. In the front and back was a pair of cupped hands that were holding a heart with a spotted cross on it. After about three hours of work, we completed the art car and were pleased with how it looked.
Your Annual Fund Dollars at Work

by Christina Kopanidis-Cantu, Development Director

Aaron Thomas stepped up to the microphone at the rescheduled POPA Welcome Dinner in October to make the case for strong support of this year’s Post Oak Fund. The need to help the school cover expenses from Hurricane Harvey was top of mind. Aaron and Nikayla Thomas, our Post Oak Fund co-chairs, asked parents to give generously and to consider becoming Leadership Circle members. The response was overwhelming. The Post Oak Fund brought in gifts well beyond the goal, raising over $520,000, of which $170,000 was directed specifically to Harvey repair.

The gifts received from all trustees, all employees, and 91% of our parent body helped cover part of the $300,000 shortfall between insurance and building repairs (we are still battling with insurance on the contents coverage); it went toward replacement of the flooded activity buses; and the replacement of a new and improved library circulation desk. (The library was hit particularly hard during Harvey as that was the entry point for all of the water into our building.)

And your gifts kept on giving as Annual Fund dollars went to support increased financial aid, replacement of a new chiller at the Bissonnet Campus, and flooring repairs and replacement at the Museum District Camps (work that will happen this summer).

In this very unusual year, your gifts went to support the day-to-day work that happens in the classroom for each and every student. Thank you to our class captains, Post Oak Fund Chairs, and to each of you who made meaningful contributions to Post Oak. We are truly grateful.

GENTLE REMINDER

Post Oak Annual Fund pledges are due May 31. Please show your support of The Post Oak School by making your Annual Fund contribution today online, via credit card, securities, or check. Thank you!

Thank You, Post Oak Parents!

by Jennifer Chavis & Nicole Pedersen, POPA Chairs

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parent body for their commitment and support. It is because of you that our community persevered in what was a challenging school year for all of us. Our community continued to thrive in a moment where many in our city and own community faced adversity. Whether you assisted in the recovery process after Hurricane Harvey, served as a room parent, assisted with chaperoning for field trips, or worked in the library, art room, or school office, your help was appreciated.

Hurricane Harvey created a need for service, and our community met the challenge with enthusiasm. While we cleaned our Bissonnet Campus and, under Maura Joyce’s clever leadership, created the largest Montessori classroom in the country to house our displaced Primary students, our families provided bus-loads of supplies three days in a row to those in need and then mucked out flooded houses. We did not stop after the hurricane but instead continued to meet once a month for more service activities. Our Upper Elementary families took

continued on page 11
SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, March 2
for The Post Oak School Biennial Gala
CASINO ROYALE

(Top) Emily Weinstein, Jennifer Chavis, Samantha Wykoff, Margaret Farnsworth, Nicole Pedersen, Whitney Walsh, Rhian McKinney
(Seated) Stelli Parsapour, Jessica Gregg, Jordan Seff, Laura De Vera
We ♥ our students! At the end of last month, Middle and High School students were treated to Maine-ly Sandwiches and shaved ice from Yeti Sunshine at our annual MDC Student Appreciation event. Some brave souls even donned inflatables for friendly rounds of bubble jousting as friends looked on!
our service commitment a step further and read weekly with first and second graders at a Title I school. Then, when our high school tragically lost one of its teachers, the parent body gave lunches, coffees, and their time by driving students to internships and manning the front desk so faculty could address the emotional and academic needs of the kids. These events brought us together and supported our school culture of generosity and greater responsibility. Thank you to everyone who participated. The service initiative will resume next year under the continued leadership of Community Service Chair John Duboise.

As we look forward to the 2018–2019 school year, we are excited about it also being a Gala year! This biennial event is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community in a variety of ways. Our gala and subcommittee chairs will be reaching out to you. It will be an exciting year as we come together once again to help enrich the lives of our children, faculty, and staff. Your support makes a difference, and our children and community reap the benefits of our efforts.

Finally, there is one more way you can support the school before the end of the year. You will soon receive an email asking for your entry in a directory to help our high school students with college admissions and internships. We hope you will participate.

Join us in celebrating the work we’ve all done this year at our event: “Closing the Book on 2017-2018” on May 21. Have a wonderful summer and come back refreshed, rejuvenated, and recharged. It is going to be another fabulous year! 🏆

Parents & employees are all invited to an end-of-year celebration:

**Closing the Book on 2017–2018**
**Monday, May 21, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**
in the Bissonnet Campus Library

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**Congrats, Odyssey Team**

For the second year in a row, Post Oak’s Upper Elementary team came in first place at the state Odyssey of the Mind competition! The group will compete in Worlds’ later this month. Great work!

Team members are: Niko C, Aurora F, Megan L, Abby M, Talulah M, Wyatt Q, and Jules W.

Post Oak thanks Emily Weinstein for her work throughout the year as the team’s outstanding coach, and guiding them to the World Finals!
Book Fair

Bought any good books lately? You sure did! A big thanks to everyone who purchased books for their classroom and home libraries. Post Oak has proven time and again that we love learning and we love books. Our hearts, imaginations, and shelves are full! Thanks go as well to everyone who became a Friend of the Library (and are sporting some special T-shirts to show it!). It’s never too late to become a Friend—the link is on our homepage in the left-hand menu.

On the day of Book Fair, families gathered for storytime, fun activities, yummy bubble waffles, treats from the Middle School Microeconomy, and good books. A huge round of applause and gratitude to our Book Fair chairs, Teresa Lin and Rhian McKinney, for their dedicated work—it was an awesome day! 😊
Congratulations to all our Bearkats athletes on an outstanding year of sports! Players and their families gathered for dinner catered by Beck’s Prime and a short program including this year’s Bearkat Heart Awards: Clark M (HS), Sutton W (MS), and Andreas C (MS).

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**
- Girls’ cross-country team: 2nd place, St. John’s Maverick Ramble
- Girls’ volleyball team: Regional runner-up
- Girls’ basketball team: Regional runner-up
- Girls’ soccer team: Undefeated in the season
- Boys’ flag football team: Regional runner-up
- Boys’ basketball team: Regional runner-up

**HIGH SCHOOL**
- Basketball team: League champions!
- Flag football team: League champions!
- Boys’ soccer team: Lost one game in the season

Bearkats Heart Award Recipients: Andreas ’22, Sutton ’22, and Clark ’21.
1–2. These YCC students are developing their fine motor skills and muscle memory for shapes.

3. Four-digit addition with golden beads.

4. Building focus, balance, and control.

5. Conversing about color in Spanish.

6. Care of the environment is fun!

7. Students put on a class play for parents.

8–9. Students in Lower Elementary present research on countries for international festivals in the classrooms.

10. Houston Grand Opera performed for Elementary students in the Gym.

11. Bridge building in High School: students use tools, write extremely detailed directions, and learn to follow someone else’s directions.

12. High School students danced the evening away at prom. This year’s theme was Midnight in Paris—great job to the committee for a fun night!
NOTICE BOARD

LOST & FOUND

Missing something? Visit the lost and found chest in the Bissonnet Campus Common Room. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity after May 25.

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!

Redirecting Children’s Behavior Course

taught by Deborah Fry PhD, CPE

June 5, 12, 19, 26, and 25 minutes private phone coaching

This four-week, twelve-hour course teaches parents how to help children grow in a way that enhances self-esteem, teaches responsibility, and promotes cooperation and self-mastery. At the completion, you will be able to:

- Discipline without yelling
- Reduce sibling rivalry
- Establish consequences
- Redirect mistaken goals
- Interact to build self-esteem
- Develop a sense of responsibility
- Develop your child’s resilience
- Create an encouraging family

$245 individual, $345 couple | Register at deborah-fry.com or call 713-840-8663

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.

EARLY DISMISSAL REMINDER

Fri., May 25

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

MUSEUM DISTRICT CAMPUS:
1010 Autrey St., Houston, TX 77006 • Tel.: 832-538-1988 • Fax: 832-538-1926

MEDICINE PICK-UP AT THE BISSONNET CAMPUS

Mon., May 21 & Tues., May 22

Stop by the front foyer to pick up your child’s medicine from the school nurse.

EARLY DISMISSAL REMINDER

Fri., May 25

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

Tutoring, Sitting, & Care

Brayden Chavis, 2017 Post Oak graduate and Rice University sophomore, is offering the following this summer:

- Writing tutoring (summaries, response papers, essays, research papers, help students develop their writing skills)
- House/pet sitting, daily or weekly
- Childcare for ages 4 and up

Contact him at brayden.o.chavis@rice.edu or 832-525-6782

References available upon request.

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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