

"I have learned to dig

deeper



and be what some people may call stubborn. I like to call it 'persistent.' Because of this, a lot of doors have been opened for me, and I have developed into a curious young lady." That was fourteen year old Emily Paul speaking last May. Each eighth-grade student gives a valedictory speech, looking back at their Post Oak experiences and the impact Post Oak has made on them, while looking forward to what lies ahead.









Anna Arnett spoke of Post Oak's academic excellence, identifying specific skills she mastered, "From learning to read and write, to learning geometry and algebra," while her classmate, Benjamin Brenner, said he acquired executive functioning skills and character traits: "time-management, self-reliance, and self-motivation."

**2011** > *With thoughtful organization and guidance from teachers, UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS conducted an excellent SCIENCE FAIR. Well-researched and interesting projects were presented by students with a sense of ownership and enthusiasm. A fun and informative evening was enjoyed by all who attended.*



Amy Pascoe thanked Post Oak for, "Teaching me to ask the question 'Why'." Daniel Brenner expanded on this idea: "Montessori teaches students to understand concepts, to know *why* things are the way they are. It focuses *less* on memorization of facts and *more* on logical induction in order to learn things. Because of

this, I have acquired a deeper understanding of all I have learned at Post Oak. It has provided me with the fundamentals of how to understand things, how to figure things out, and how to overcome obstacles I meet throughout my life.”

Megan Routbort also spoke of perseverance and optimism, character traits that contribute to emotional intelligence. “Post Oak taught me to never give up; no matter how frustrating the road ahead looks, problems can be solved with a little **ingenuity.**”



**2011** > Each MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATE was accepted to his/her SCHOOL OF CHOICE. More than 80 percent of graduates were placed into geometry. All graduates placed into level 2 Spanish. Most graduates will take honors level English as a freshman.











Through independent and collaborative work in the classroom over many years, Post Oak graduates develop the skills required of leaders and entrepreneurs. This includes a healthy dose of reality while embracing our interdependence. Brian Henderson said, "Post Oak has taught me the importance of asking for help, how not to underestimate a project's size, and the importance of little things."



**2011** > Increased emphasis on PHYSICAL FITNESS at the PRIMARY LEVEL resulted in extra time given to those classes for PF and added equipment specific to the needs of the Primary-age child.

To complement this perspective, Nora O'Neill celebrated the novel and risk-taking side of innovation. "Post Oak has inspired me to seek new adventures. The independence I have learned taught me to make my own choices. It has taught me to want to do new things and to learn new things."

To the conversation about leadership skills and character development, Thomas Rasor added a comment about personal integrity. “The most important qualities that I have developed from my time at The Post Oak School are leadership, independence, and flexibility. I have been able to grow my strengths and practice my skills inside and outside of school. Being able to be yourself 24 hours a day, even with your teachers, is unique.”

These statements from last year’s eighth grade class create not only a portrait of a Post Oak graduate, but also a portrait of the school itself. Consider a final comment from Devina Schneider, “I am leaving Post Oak with many exciting, happy memories, and a mind that will always be yearning for knowledge.”

**2011** > Post Oak continues to identify and sponsor candidates for the AMI ELEMENTARY COURSE. Post Oak sponsored Simran Sood who received her diploma in May. Assistants Jamie Ward and Anita Taj received sponsorships to take the training course beginning in the summer and fall of 2011.











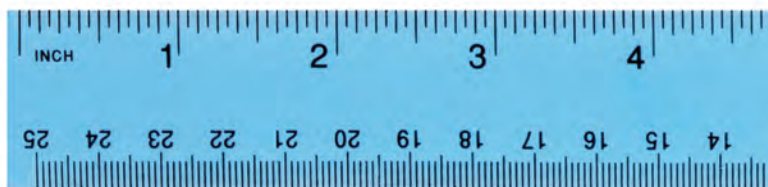


These are the kinds of young people who will enter The Post Oak High School when its doors open in the fall of 2012. During the past year trustees and administration have been hard at work to make that new division of Post Oak a reality. Everywhere we have gone in the museum district, the concept of a high school offering partnerships with museums has gained immediate traction with the leaders of those cultural institutions. Wait until they encounter our students, enthusiastic and insightful young people such as those quoted here.

Post Oak students have developed strong academic skills, and more significantly, the character traits and leadership skills to prepare them for an extraordinary high school experience. They will be prepared to contribute to an amazing school.

— John Long, *Head of School*

**2011** > *For students at the POST OAK HIGH SCHOOL, the world really will be their classroom. The school, to be located on Autrey Street, will be the first high school located in the heart of THE MUSEUM DISTRICT.*



## Heartfelt Thanks

Successful and entertaining events led by hardworking and talented volunteers filled the school's calendar this year. The list in the back of the report catalogs the event chairs who worked tirelessly throughout the year. They created a warm welcome at the POPA Dinner, an assortment of fun new activities at Field Day, the magnificent World's Fair at the Book Fair, and a glorious performance at the Cinco de Mayo celebration. Our Biennial Gala, *Dancing Across Cultures*, was chaired by Post Oak parent Annette Gregory. The event broke all previous fundraising records and was a smashing success despite the ice storm that blew in the night before. We offer heartfelt thanks to each and every volunteer who gave time and talent, and to all donors who supported these efforts and in doing so supported the life of the school.

A word of thanks to Melissa Cordero and Erin Stus who, as chairs of the Parent Association for the past two years, have had a hand in every event. They've creatively solved problems and brought new ideas to life, and their unyielding support for Post Oak has made them true ambassadors of the school. Erin additionally took on the creation of this year's yearbook with a superb result. Melissa and Erin are both extraordinary people and the school is a better place because of their work.







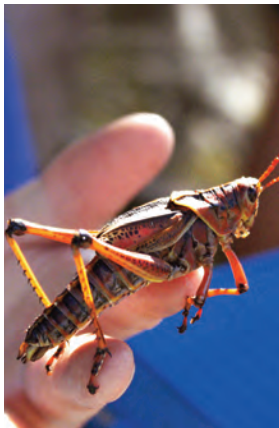
*There are a handful of individuals who have gone above and beyond in the volunteer work they have done this year for Post Oak. Their names do not appear as event chairs or in any program for recognition. They have worked behind the scenes in benefit to the school. We recognize their efforts with special thanks.*



**Robert (Bob) Harvey.**  
*Bob's countless hours as board chair working on Post Oak's path forward has strengthened this institution and has brought excitement for our future. His bold leadership and approachable kindness make him one-of-a-kind.*



**Lana Rigsby.** *Lana makes Post Oak look good. Her design team at Rigsby Hull, has had a hand in our publications and specifically on our website, recently creating the Montessori gallery pages; beautiful, elegant, and meaningful work.*



**Vikas Mittal.** *His marketing expertise has provided valuable insight into understanding the way we present ourselves and the way we communicate. We keep trying to get better, and Vikas' work is helping us on this journey.*



**Lynne Mathre.** *As a former parent she knows the school well, and her keen guidance as our financial advisor has helped the endowment remain strong even during economically challenging times.*



## 2010–2011 Financial Report

The Post Oak School continues to be financially stable and strong. Our audited financial statements for the 2009–2010 school year resulted in an increase in net assets of \$471,241; unaudited results for 2010–2011 show an increase of \$578,191. Enrollment increased from 389 in 2009–2010 to 397 in 2010–2011.

Successful fundraising for both the annual fund and Gala combined with increased enrollment and careful stewardship of the School's assets resulted in growth of our combined cash/property maintenance reserve to 21 percent of operating expenses or \$1,163,667. The School was also able to transfer \$30,500 to our Endowment Fund.

The School's Endowment policy allows disbursements once the endowment exceeds \$1 million average balance for three years. The current asset allocation target is 20 percent cash and fixed income, and 80 percent equities to maximize long-term returns. More than 80 percent of the portfolio is invested in low cost institutional asset class mutual funds managed by Dimensional Fund Advisors.

The year ended June 30, 2011 was a challenge for fixed income because of low interest rates. The fixed income is invested very conservatively and generated a positive return of just under 2 percent for the year. Continued recovery in the equity markets resulted in the equity accounts averaging a 33 percent gain for the year. To put this in perspective, both the S&P 500 Composite Total Return and MSCI EAFE foreign index gained just over 30 percent year ended June 30, 2011.

The combined portfolio returned 27.2 percent for the year, resulting in a gain of \$232,375 for the one year ended June 30, 2011.

Plans for long-term programming needs and for our new high school move forward. This year we hired a high school director and completed marketing and development work. The School's continued fiscal discipline has allowed us to continue our work on these projects without an additional capital campaign.

Income Statement	<i>Operating Fund</i>	<i>Temporary Restricted</i>	<i>Endowment</i>	<i>2010-2011 Total</i>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Tuition Based Revenues	\$ 5,725,180	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 5,725,180
Other Tuition and Fees	469,014	—	—	469,014
Other Income (Loss)	15,373	—	241,631	257,004
Annual Giving	248,126	—	—	248,126
Gala Revenue	340,471	19,800	—	360,271
All Other Giving (Net)	7,812	10,000	—	17,812
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6,805,976</b>	<b>29,800</b>	<b>241,631</b>	<b>7,077,407</b>
Net Assets Released from Restriction	47,900	(47,900)	—	—
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 6,853,876</b>	<b>\$ (18,100)</b>	<b>\$ 241,631</b>	<b>\$ 7,077,407</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 2,828,029	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,828,029
Financial Aid	552,430	—	—	552,430
Other Program Expense	570,151	—	—	570,151
Plant Expenses	915,006	—	—	915,006
General Administration	1,638,895	—	—	1,638,895
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,504,511</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,504,511</b>
Transfers In/Out	(30,500)	—	30,500	—
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 319,365</b>	<b>\$ (18,100)</b>	<b>\$ 271,631</b>	<b>\$ 572,896</b>

Consolidated Balance Sheet	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Temporary Restricted</i>	<i>Endowment</i>	<i>2010-2011 Total</i>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 2,227,043	\$ —	\$ 1,225,908	\$ 3,452,951
Net Student Receivables	60,855	—	—	60,855
Other Pledges and Receivables Net	43,907	—	120,000	163,907
Prepaid Expenses and Other Deposits	45,618	—	—	45,618
Interfund Receivables	4,686	12,756	4,000	21,442
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,382,109</b>	<b>12,756</b>	<b>1,349,908</b>	<b>3,744,773</b>
Land	1,837,500	—	—	1,837,500
Property, Plant and Equipment	4,289,074	—	—	4,289,074
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>6,126,574</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,126,574</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,508,683</b>	<b>\$ 12,756</b>	<b>\$ 1,349,908</b>	<b>\$ 9,871,347</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts Payable	\$ 70,166	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 70,166
Accrued Salaries and Benefits	239,388	—	—	239,388
Deferred Income	972,273	—	—	972,273
Interfund Payables	16,756	—	4,686	21,442
Other Accrued Expenses	8,603	—	—	8,603
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,307,186</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 4,686</b>	<b>\$ 1,311,872</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>				
Net Assets Unrestricted	\$ 8,365,164	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 8,365,164
Net Assets—Cash Reserve				
Board Restricted	(1,163,667)	—	—	(1,163,667)
Net Assets—Temp Restricted	—	12,756	—	12,756
Net Assets—Endowment	—	—	1,345,222	1,345,222
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 8,508,683</b>	<b>\$ 12,756</b>	<b>\$ 1,349,908</b>	<b>\$ 9,871,347</b>



# Alumni Update

Our graduates remain part of the Post Oak community. Many return to volunteer in a classroom, or work in the front office as summer assistants. Often they come back to visit with teachers, or to talk about their Montessori experiences at our annual Alumni Night. They always remember the community that nurtured them, and are willing to talk about how those early experiences at Post Oak shaped the people they have become.

## **Class of 1981**

*Stephen Marchione* is the owner of Marchione Guitars. He became a full time luthier in 1989. Montessori education “made me the artist and business man that I am now.”

## **Class of 1991**

*Jessica Wagner*, an alum and former Post Oak teacher, is getting married in the spring and is teaching first grade at The Fay School.

## **Class of 1995**

*Masoud Darvishi* is an attorney in the Houston area.

## **Class of 1996**

*Allison Dryden* recently completed her residency at Vanderbilt Medical Center and is an ER doctor. She is married to a musician who travels around the world and they have an infant daughter.

*Rahim Kurji* is attending the Wharton School pursuing his MBA. He just completed five years working for the Clinton Foundation in India and South Africa, working on AIDS projects and recently on alternative energy.

## **Class of 1997**

*Philip Storey* completed three years at John Hopkins Medical School after leaving Vanderbilt Medical Center.

Prior to that he completed a year of study in Australia during which he obtained his Masters in World Health. He has also studied in China. Philip currently lives in a remote village in Tanzania.

## **Class of 1998**

After working for UBS in New York for four years, *Rehman Kurji* is a student at Pepperdine University in its MBA program.

*Ellen White* completed her education at Austin Theater Alliance in 2006. She is continuing her studies at Circle in the Square Theatre School. Off-Broadway plays as well as many other acting projects allow Ellen to continue to build her rapport with the performance industry and she hopes to start a family once her career is established.

## **Class of 2001**

*Lauren Fondren* has started a job as a Foreign Service Officer at the State Department.

*Kristy Eddington* attends Western State University College of Law.

## **Class of 2002**

*Sam Geer* lives and works in Los Angeles pursuing a career in the film industry. Sam worked on *The Tree of Life*, which premiered in May of 2011 at the Cannes Film Festival and was awarded the Palme d'Or for feature films. Sam also recently worked on the film, *Beginners*, which was released in June of 2011.

*Ben Jawdat* is in graduate studies at the University of Houston. He completed his undergraduate degree at Emory University in 2010 with a major in physics.

*Josh Tobin* graduated from Davidson College. He is working toward his Masters of Fine Arts in the professional actor training program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This past summer he performed with the Chautauqua Theatre Conservatory in New York.

### Class of 2003

*Lindsey Moore* graduated with honors from Southwestern in May 2011 with a degree in English. She plans to stay in Houston while embarking on a career as a writer.

*Brittany Fondren* graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Southwestern University. She works at Texas Inter-Faith where she is developing a group that will publicize the company and help Texas provide more complete communities for its residents.

*Laura McClure* is continuing studies at University of Colorado and plans to graduate in the spring of 2012.

*Sam Boyar* had a paid summer internship with Plains Exploration Co. He plans to pursue an MBA, but would like to work as a geologist for a few years first.

### Class of 2004

*Jennie Kamin* is studying at Tulane University and will graduate in 2012. She is a political science and communications major. This past fall she studied in London.

*Christina Moser* is currently a student at The University of Texas in Austin. She spent half of her 2011 summer break traveling in Italy, visiting Rome, Venice, Florence, and more.

*Bethany Sharp* is an undergrad working toward her BA in graphic design at Boston University. This past summer, she took animation classes at New York University.

### Class of 2005

*Allison Bereswill* is a junior at Southern Methodist University studying accounting at the Cox School of Business. She served four years on the honor counsel board at Episcopal High School and is

serving her third year as an officer at SMU. She is serving her second year as an intern at The George Bush Presidential Center.

*Rebecca Bereswill* is a sophomore at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She practices figure skating intensely for six hours a day to build her skills. Rebecca aims to become a part of the U.S. Olympics team.

*Stephanie Styles* has won several awards for her performances in music theatre. She is attending the University of Michigan.

*Lara Brenner* studies biology at Carleton College. She aspires to become a veterinarian. This past summer, Lara had an internship with a wildlife rehabilitation coalition.

### Class of 2006

*Michael Harvey* is an honor student at The University of Notre Dame. He studies economics as well as political science. Michael was an intern at United Way for the summer.

### Class of 2008

*Alexi Beaver* is a senior at St. John's School. She plans to travel to Costa Rica with her school, where she will tutor young students.

*Jeffrey Davis*, a senior at Episcopal High School, received the Rensselaer Medal, a scholarship awarded for academic achievement in mathematics and science.

*Tom Harvey* is in his senior year and is the vice head prefect at St. John's School. This summer he interned for the Ellen Cohen campaign.

Now in his senior year at Episcopal High School, *Nikhil Schneider* is very interested in movie making.

He has earned awards for Most Promising Movie Maker, and Most Outstanding Screenwriter. He is also interested in environmental science, runs on the cross country and track teams, and worked backstage on a few on-stage productions. During his sophomore year, he also rode the MS 150 with his sisters, Devina and Jahnvi (2011), and dad, Elementary Director Jeff Schneider.

### Class of 2009

*Joshua Brenner* is a junior at St. John's School in Houston.

Upon graduation, *Natalie Wade* moved to Tucson to attend St. Gregory College Preparatory High School, where she is a junior this year. She says, "Post Oak School was such a great experience for me and really shaped the relationship I have with school and learning." She looks forward to going to school each day and to learning new things, as well as traveling to Kenya with her high school this year to help teach children.

### Class of 2011

*Benjamin Brenner* is attending Carnegie Vanguard High School.

*Daniel Brenner* is attending St. John's School.

### Other Alumni

*Vanessa Friedemann* is a freshman at Stanford University.

*Will Geer* is a sophomore at the University of Southern California. He is in the inaugural class of the Popular Music Program at the USC Thornton School of Music.

*Mary Elizabeth Harvey* is in her freshman year at St. Johns School.

Both *Aziza* and *Azam Janmohamed* received the President's Award for Educational Excellence in 2011. They left The Post Oak School last year and moved to Pakistan where they attend Karachi American School. Aziza achieved outstanding student for the eighth grade, and participated in a community service trip to Galapagos Island. Azam was selected to speak at his Elementary graduation because of his academic qualification. He attended the Cowboys football camp in Dallas and is trying to introduce American football at his new school.

*Pooja Salhotra* completed *Houston Chronicle's* four week summer fundamentals of journalism program and was listed by them as a "Future Headliner," crediting her journalistic maturity. Pooja received the news quiz plaque for being an outstanding student. When at Post Oak, she was in Barbara Hacker's Primary classroom.

*Elizabeth Sills* attended Post Oak for four years before her family moved to San Antonio in early 2010. She is currently in the third grade and spends five days a week ice skating and competes at the pre-preliminary level. Elizabeth supplements ice skating training with classes in ballet and modern dance.

*Alison Wong* is living in Houston and works as an attorney/trial consultant. Her child will start at Post Oak this year.

# Alumni Outcomes

## High School Admissions

*During 2011 Post Oak School graduates were admitted to the following highly recognized college preparatory schools:*

Awty International School  
Bellaire High School  
Carnegie Vanguard High School (CVHS)\*  
Duchesne Academy  
Emery/Weiner School  
Episcopal High School\*  
High School for the Performing and Visual Arts\*  
Incarnate Word Academy  
The Kinkaid School\*  
St. Agnes Academy\*  
St. John's School\*  
St. Pius X  
St. Thomas High School  
Xavier Educational Academy\*

*\* Denotes school attending*

## College Admissions

*Post Oak alumni populate top colleges and universities throughout the state, the nation, and abroad. In 2011, all but one 2007 middle school graduates were accepted to their college of first choice. Post Oak college acceptances over the past eight years include:*

American University  
Art Institute of Boston  
Art Institute of Chicago  
Art Institute of Houston  
Auburn University  
Austin College  
Baylor University  
Boston University  
Brooks Institute of Photography  
Brown University  
California College of the Arts  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Clemson University  
College of Charleston  
Colorado College  
Colorado School of Mines  
Cranbrook Academy of Art  
Drexel University  
Eckerd College

Elon University  
Evergreen State College  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Fordham University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Tech  
Goucher College  
Hampshire College  
Ithaca College  
Lone Star Community College  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola Marymount  
Loyola University, New Orleans  
Millsaps College  
New York University  
Notre Dame University (Honors)  
Oberlin College  
Rhodes College  
Rice University  
Rollins College  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco Conservatory of Music  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
Sewanee—The University of the South  
Skidmore College  
Smith College  
Southern Methodist University  
Southwestern University  
Stanford University  
St. Edwards University  
St. John's College  
Syracuse University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Christian University  
Texas Christian University (Honors)  
The Citadel  
Trinity University  
Tulane University  
University of Alabama  
University of Arkansas  
University of Arizona  
University of California—Los Angeles  
University of California—San Diego  
University of California—Santa Barbara  
University of California—Santa Clara  
University of Colorado—Boulder  
University of Georgia  
University of Houston  
University of Houston (Honors)  
University of Indiana  
University of Kansas  
University of Massachusetts—Amherst  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Mississippi  
University of North Carolina  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Oklahoma  
University of the Pacific  
University of South Carolina  
University of Southern California  
University of Southern California—School of Cinematic Arts  
University of Texas—Austin  
University of Texas—Austin, Plan II  
University of Texas—Business Honors  
University of Texas—San Antonio  
University of Texas—Tyler  
University of Tulsa  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia—Richmond  
U.S. Naval Academy  
Vanderbilt University  
West Point  
Wesleyan University





### **Mission Statement**

The mission of The Post Oak School, as an accredited Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) school, is to provide a superior Montessori environment and dynamic learning experiences which are designed according to the developmental characteristics and needs of children; to guide and nurture each child—intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

*The*  
POST OAK  
SCHOOL

