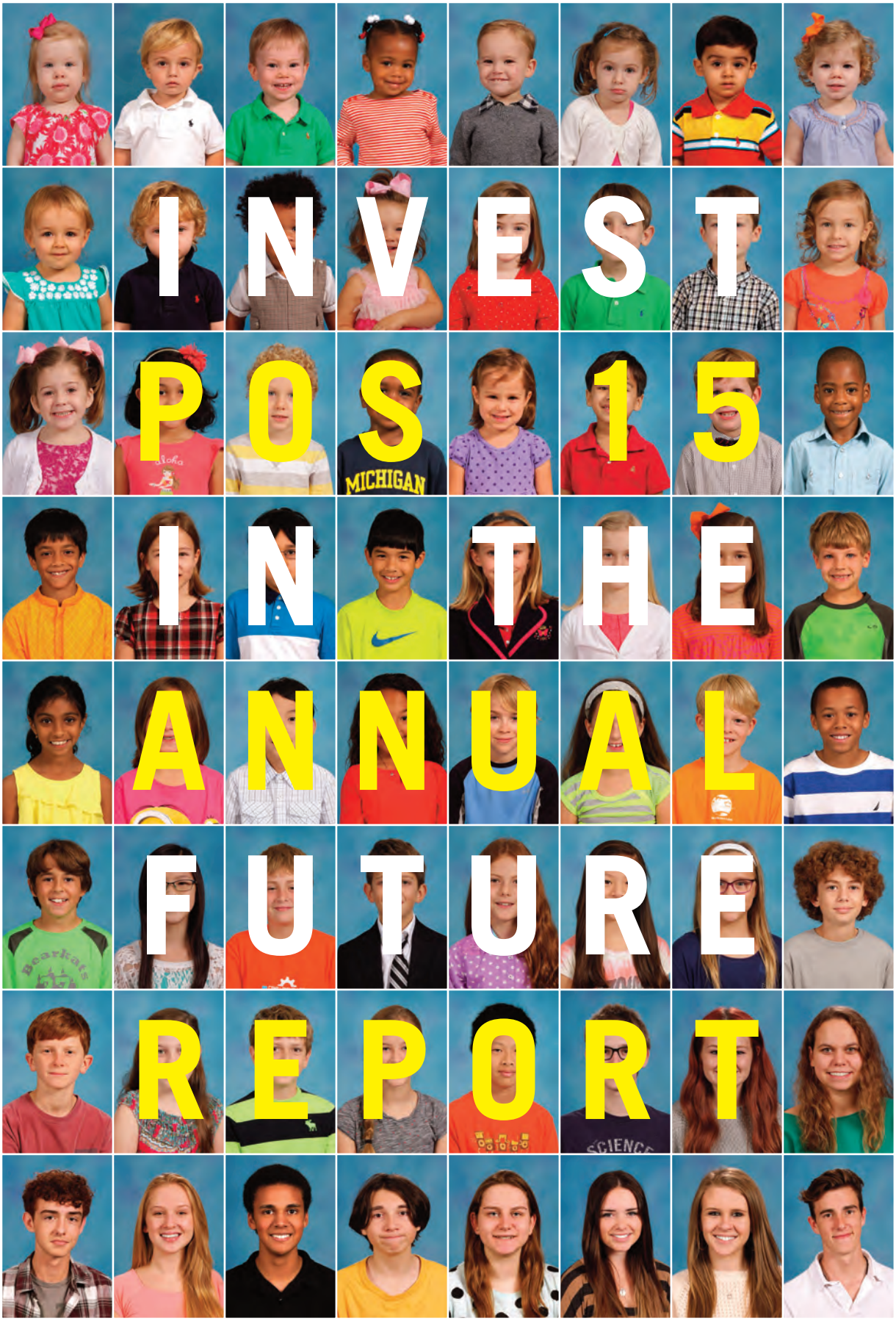
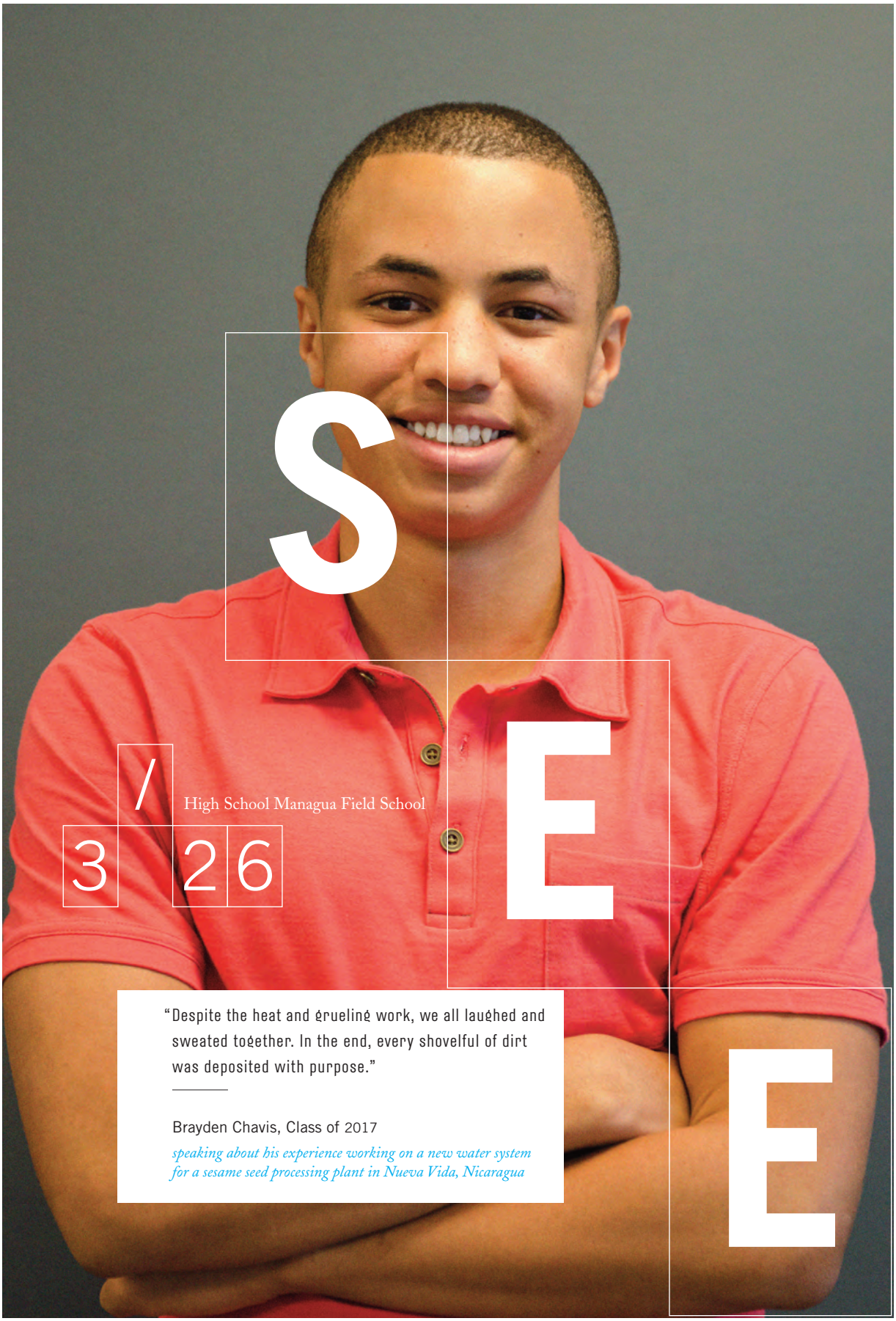


INVEST POS 15 IN THE ANNUAL FUTURE REPORT

Invest in the future.

Mitt Romney said, “Education is the investment our generation makes in the future.” Isn’t that why you enrolled your child in Post Oak? It’s easy to invest in our own child’s future. At the same time, few of us are so visionary that we see our own child’s education in the big picture—as an investment in the future of the culture and the advancement of civilization—but Post Oak teachers see this. We see our work as serving the individual child and in doing so, we serve our culture, and the future.



SEE

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High School Managua Field School

"Despite the heat and grueling work, we all laughed and sweated together. In the end, every shovelful of dirt was deposited with purpose."

Brayden Chavis, Class of 2017

speaking about his experience working on a new water system for a sesame seed processing plant in Nueva Vida, Nicaragua

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Lower Elementary outing to
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Maria Montessori observed that the way in which we learn shapes who we become. Montessori students look for new ways to do things. Freedom to choose their own work and to direct their own interests cultivates a lifetime love of learning.

ENGAGE

Post Oak is a Montessori school; one of the best in the world. As society struggles to match education to the needs of the future, an emerging cultural meme was voiced in the *Wall Street Journal* four years ago: "Is there something going on here? Is there something about the Montessori approach that nurtures creativity and inventiveness that we can all learn from?" That rhetorical question aims to make sense of the disproportionately large representation of Montessori alums leading the list of entrepreneurs in the tech world, and other creative professions—people who are not only successful, but true shapers of the culture—including the founders of Google and Amazon and Wikipedia, whose work has reshaped our lives immeasurably.

This is more than name-dropping. The "Montessori mafia" displays a combination of creativity, entrepreneurial drive, and business savvy that the world values, characteristics attributed to their Montessori education. There are new exemplars from the past few months. In a short span, this spring Steph Curry was named MVP of the NBA and Anthony Doerr won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction; both are Montessori alums. What does success in basketball have to do with Montessori education? Here's what Curry's mother said her son took away from his experience: "If you hit a roadblock, don't be discouraged. It provides a sense of who you are. That life throws you challenges and you need to figure it out."

Montessori Model United Nations
2014 China Conference

Nearly 90 students, parents and chaperones from Post Oak attended the first Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) Conference in Zhengzhou, China. In MMUN, students step into the shoes of UN ambassadors to debate current global and social issues, while also honing their research, writing, public speaking, problem solving, consensus building, and conflict resolution skills.

BE

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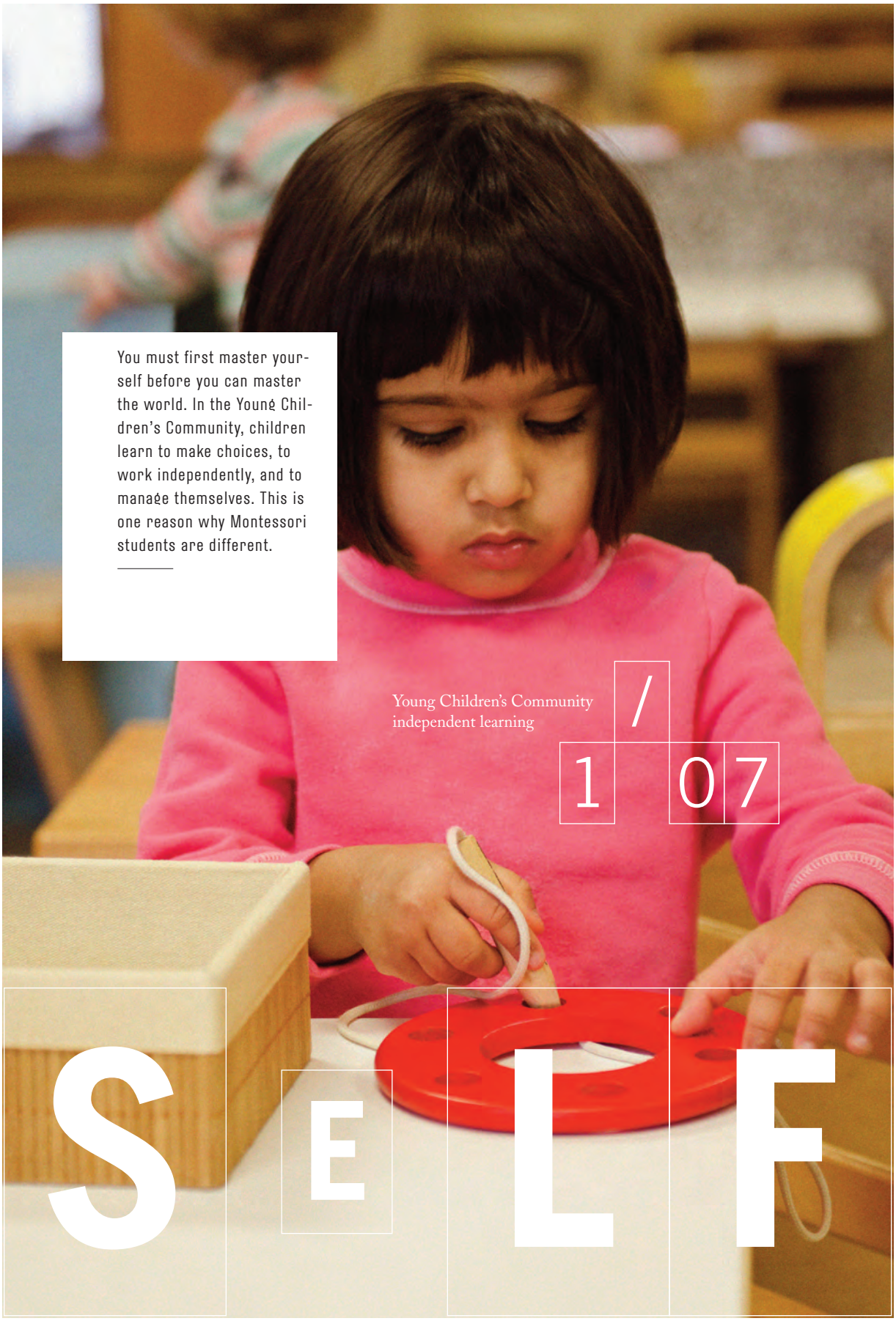


You must first master yourself before you can master the world. In the Young Children's Community, children learn to make choices, to work independently, and to manage themselves. This is one reason why Montessori students are different.

Young Children's Community
independent learning

/ 1 07

SELF

And when *Forbes*' list of the 17 "Youngest Power Women of 2015" appeared, it included three former Montessori students: Beyoncé; Samantha Power, United States ambassador to the United Nations; and Taylor Swift—deemed powerful even before she sweetly and sternly rebuked corporate giant Apple, causing it to reverse course on the roll-out of its new streaming music platform. Taylor Swift: "One of the most savvy and inspiring millennial entrepreneurs I've ever come across," according to *Forbes*.

Invest in the future.

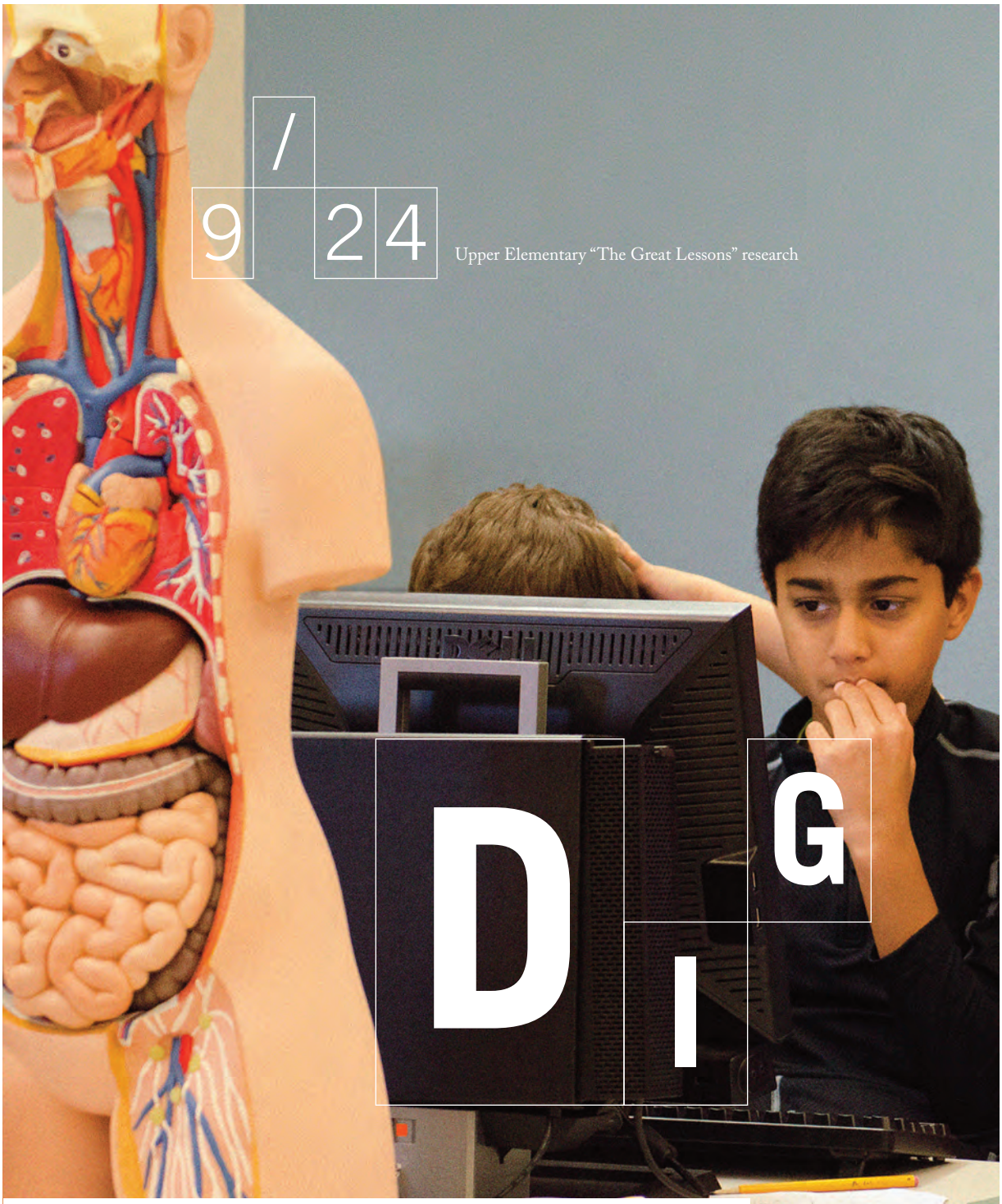
It was a year when we asked you to invest in the future of Post Oak. Parents, alumni parents, grandparents, faculty and staff, trustees, friends and foundations answered the call to invest capital, enabling Post Oak to build a new and larger high school building (in the year when our first class graduates), to relocate middle school to the Museum District campus, and to enhance and renovate the Bissonnet facilities. These improvements will serve your children well, and your grandchildren, too.

SHAPE

Ordinary wonders; it's what Post Oak is all about. Being aware of differences helps us appreciate variety. It's the same reason leasons are devoted to bringing descriptive vocabulary to children: rough, rougher, roughest tablets; blue, bluer, bluest colors; ovate, lanceolate, pinnate leaves. The knowledge that there are differences helps us observe them.

12 / 01

Elementary after-school enrichment



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Upper Elementary "The Great Lessons" research

DIG

Can you teach curiosity? We at Post Oak believe that you can teach curiosity, but you do so indirectly—by developing a culture that encourages questions. Post Oak students scored in the top 6 percent of schools participating in the Mission Skills Assessment—a study being conducted by a national consortium of private schools to measure and promote the development of curiosity, creativity, teamwork, ethics, resilience, and time management.

Invest in the future.

In June 2015 the Houston Montessori Institute (HMI) graduated its first class of Montessori teachers, and the following Monday began its next three-year course with 20 new trainees. HMI operates as a division of The Post Oak School and resides in the Post Oak High School building during the summer months. Post Oak faculty contribute expertise to the training center in a number of different ways and at the same time, the training center raises our level of professional practice. In a narrow sense, Post Oak benefits through the training and recruitment of its next generation of teachers. More broadly, Post Oak contributes to the wider community, training Montessori teachers for Houston, for Texas and beyond. By doing so, we invest in the future.

Your investment in The Post Oak School helps make real our vision for a vibrant future. Post Oak now serves children from birth to the cusp of adulthood; we train teachers to enter the profession as a part of our commitment to career-long professional growth; and remembering the comment, “I don’t want to be an accidental parent,” we will continue to expand our work with families, helping parents deepen their understanding of human growth and development, and best practices in parenthood. Few schools anywhere can match this scope of aspiration and offer such an integrated range of services. We thank you for helping to make Post Oak a model of possibility.

John Long, *Head of School*

Primary classroom individual artistic expression

Stocking the library of the senses. Classrooms contain carefully designed materials to support children's exploration and put names to a variety of sensations: size, color, shape, texture, scent, sound, and more.

COLOR

POPA

A year of thanks

At the end of a particularly active school year, the whole community seems to breathe a sigh of relief. So it was in the 2014–2015 Post Oak school year, which called for heroic volunteer efforts from parents who rolled up their sleeves to offer help on campaigns, galas, community events, and more.

The Big Work 2.0 capital campaign required the robust energy of dedicated parents to bring the public phase to a successful conclusion. Paula Mey and Alan Ying, among many others, worked tirelessly throughout the year to make sure every single family at Post Oak knew the importance of this transformative project. The community generously responded. By the end of the school year, we had reached 73 percent family participation and raised over $6 million of our $8 million goal. And if parents weren't working to raise funds for Big Work, they were participating in the countless related meetings to discuss planning, finance, architecture, and scheduling of this major renovation and construction project.

At the same time, another grand effort was in the works. Post Oak parents spent most of the year in full event-mode preparing for *Starstruck: A Night at the Oscars*. Under the stellar direction of parent chairs, Laura Citardi and Whitney Walsh, this star-studded, record-breaking, biennial gala seemed to receive the volunteer efforts of almost every single parent at the school. A major piece of gala work was masterfully managed by auction committee chairs, Jenny Mohr and Stelli Parsapour, who worked countless hours to present one of the most creative and successful auction line-ups the school has ever seen.

Amidst these major efforts, the yearly cycle of events, the annual fund, and classroom activities continued, which required additional volunteer talent and support from all parents of Post Oak. It was a beehive of activity all year long. Please take some time to review the names of event chairs and other volunteers listed in the back of this report.

For all of this, we offer our deep gratitude to all donors and volunteers. We acknowledge that the school would not be what it is without the time and support so generously given by the families and friends of Post Oak.

———

Christina Kopanidis-Cantu, *Development Director*

2014–2015 Financial Report

The financial stability of the Post Oak School grew during the 2014–2015 school year as we enrolled our third class of ninth graders in The Post Oak High School. Our audited financial statements for the 2013–2014 school year resulted in an increase in net assets of $1,307,157. The unaudited results for the 2014–2015 school year show an increase in net assets for all funds of $1,285,231. The School experienced a significant enrollment increase on the main campus to 434 in 2014–2015 from 414 students the previous year and an enrollment of 35 students in the High School.

The overall financial success for the 2014–2015 School year was driven by positive budget variances in the operating budget, with a record setting Gala as well as donations of over $1.5 million to our capital campaign. The School continued to rebuild cash reserves during 2014–2015. The School maintains a strong working capital position throughout the year due to the prompt collection of tuition and fees in advance of the need for funds to operate the School. In keeping with our commitment to the Post Oak School Endowment the school was able to transfer in $34,750 at the close of the 2014–2015 school year.

The investment policy of the Post Oak School Endowment directs a long-term investment approach. 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 combined portfolio experienced a 2.2 percent investment gain for the one year ended June 30, 2015 and 99.8 percent since inception. The market value of the endowment accounts were $1,872,387 at June 30, 2015.

During the summer of 2014, the school completed a master plan for both campuses with assistance of Gensler Architects and Forney Partnership. A building committee was formed consisting of board members, key administrators and several parents to facilitate the project. The architectural firm of Gensler was selected to continue work on the design phase and to complete the construction drawings for both the new high school building on the Museum District campus and the renovation of the Bissonnet campus. As work progressed, a panel of construction firms was interviewed and Mission Construction was contracted to build both projects. In August 2015, the school secured the Museum District campus building permit from the City of Houston and broke ground for the new high school building. Construction on Bissonnet campus will begin in June 2016 and we have initiated the permitting process with the City of Bellaire.

Tax exempt bond financing in the amount of $8.5 million has been secured through BBVA Compass Bank at a very favorable interest rate. This will allow us to refinance our current mortgage on the Museum District property at a lower rate and to supplement the capital campaign for construction costs on both campuses. A portion of this loan will be termed out at the end of the project.

The School's continued fiscal discipline as well as donor generosity has allowed us to expand our world renowned Montessori program to support students from birth through the completion of High School as well as the training of Montessori teachers.

Income Statement

	Operating Fund	Temporary Restricted	Endowment	2014–2015 Total	Percent
Revenue					
Tuition Based Revenues	$ 8,653,311	$ —	$ —	$ 8,653,311	74.7%
Other Hard Income	701,074	—	—	701,074	6.1%
Other Income (Loss)	244	—	20,502	20,746	0.2%
Annual Giving	278,159	—	—	278,159	2.4%
Special Events (Net)	381,781	21,350	—	403,131	3.5%
All Other Giving (Net)	8,000	1,516,684	—	1,524,684	13.1%
Total Revenue	10,022,569	1,538,034	20,502	11,581,105	100%
Net Assets Released from Restriction	1,660,157	(1,660,157)	—	—	
Total Revenue	$ 11,682,726	$ (122,123)	$ 20,502	$ 11,581,105	
Expenses					
Salaries and Benefits	$ 6,046,312	$ —	$ —	$ 6,046,312	58.7%
Financial Aid	969,285	—	—	969,285	9.4%
Other Program Expenses	972,337	—	—	972,337	9.4%
Plant Expenses	1,529,168	—	—	1,529,168	14.9%
General Administration	767,222	8,662	6,190	782,074	7.6%
Total Expenses	10,284,324	8,662	6,190	10,299,176	100%
Transfers In/Out	(34,750)	—	34,750	—	
Increase in Net Assets	$ 1,363,652	$ (130,785)	$ 49,062	$ 1,281,929	

Consolidated Balance Sheet

	General Fund	Temporary Restricted	Endowment	2014–2015 Total
Assets				
Total Cash and Investments	$ 4,617,216	$ —	$ 1,872,388	$ 6,489,604
Net Student Receivables	89,406	—	—	89,406
Other Pledges and Receivables Net	4,500	1,222,103	—	1,226,603
Prepaid Expenses and Other Deposits	167,332	—	—	167,332
Interfund Payables/Receivables	4,686	859,083	—	863,769
Total Current Assets	4,883,140	2,081,186	1,872,388	8,836,714
Total Fixed Assets	10,870,420	—	—	10,870,420
Total Assets	$ 15,753,560	$ 2,081,186	$ 1,872,388	$ 19,707,134
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	$ 328,952	$ —	$ —	$ 328,952
Accrued Salaries and Benefits	232,232	—	—	232,232
Deferred Income	1,679,069	—	—	1,679,069
Interfund Payables/Receivables	859,083	—	4,686	863,769
Other Accrued Expenses	86,231	—	—	86,231
Notes Payable	2,234,780	—	—	2,234,780
Total Liabilities	$ 5,420,347	$ —	$ 4,686	$ 5,425,033
Fund Balance				
Net Assets	$ 10,333,213	$ 2,081,186	$ 1,867,702	$ 14,282,101
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	$ 15,753,560	$ 2,081,186	$ 1,872,388	$ 19,707,134

College Admissions

EDU

Post Oak alumni populate top colleges and universities throughout the state, the nation, and abroad.

Alfred University
American University
American University of Paris
Art Institute of Boston
Art Institute of Chicago
Art Institute of Houston
Auburn University*
Austin College
Bates College
Baylor University
Belmont University
Boston University
Bristol University
Brooks Institute of Photography
Brown University
Bucknell University
California College of the Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University*
Chapman University
Christopher Newport University
Clemson University
Colby College
College of Charleston
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Columbia University
Cranbrook Academy of Art
Dartmouth College
Denison University
Drew University
Drexel University
Duke University*
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emerson College
Evergreen State College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Furman University
Georgetown University
Georgia Tech
George Washington University
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Hampshire College
High Point University
Ithaca College
Juniata College
Kansas University
Lafayette College
Lewis & Clark College
Lone Star Community College
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University*
Loyola University, New Orleans
Macalester College*
Middlebury College
Millsaps College
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Notre Dame University (Honors)
Oberlin College
Oklahoma State University*
Pace University
Pepperdine University
Princeton University
Purdue University*
Randolph College
Rhodes College
Rice University
Richmond University
Rollins College
San Diego State University
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seton Hall University
Sewanee–The University of the South
Skidmore College
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
Stanford University
St. Andrews University
St. Edwards University
St. John's College
Stonehill College
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
Texas Christian University (Honors)
Texas State University*
Texas Tech University
The Citadel
The College of William and Mary
Trinity University
Tulane University
University College of London
University of Alabama
University of Arkansas
University of Arizona
University of California
University of Chicago
University of Colorado–Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Georgia
University of Houston*
University of Indiana
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts–Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of New Orleans
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Portland
University of the Pacific
University of Richmond
University of St. Andrews
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Texas–Austin*
University of Tulsa
University of Vermont
University of Virginia*
U.S. Naval Academy
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Point
Wesleyan University
Whittier College

* Denotes college acceptances for 2011 Post Oak graduates

The
POST OAK
SCHOOL

The Post Oak School 4600 Bissonnet Bellaire, Texas 77401 www.postoakschool.org