

October 12, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 6

October 2009

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**Upcoming Events**

- Oct. 15 Victorian Farmhouse Parent Education "At Home with Montessori" 6-7 PM  
RSVP for event and childcare to Kelly. (Prepayment for childcare due on or before October 13.)
- Oct. 16 Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed **11:45 AM Dismissal for All Students** (Half-day accreditation in-service for staff)
- Oct. 21 Picture Day: Infants, Toddlers, Primary 1, Middle School
- Oct. 22 Picture Day: Primary 2, Primary 4, Lower and Upper Elementary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Headlines from Oak Farm Montessori School

502 Lemper Road Avilla, IN 46710

[www.oakfarm.org](http://www.oakfarm.org)

260-897-4270

*Our mission is to provide a Montessori environment that inspires children to reach their potential through meaningful work.*

### FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

#### Memories

These past few weeks have provided delightful learning opportunities for me as well as for so many of us. During our *Journey and Discovery*, as the parents began to think of themselves as Montessori students and experienced the delights of discovery, I closed my eyes and thought back to my own childhood. Do what I did. . .close your eyes and think back to your childhood and your happiest memories. In your mind's eye, what do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? What are you touching? What does it feel like? What can you taste?

When we think back, most of the memories that come to us involve nature or our families or doing a fun project with friends.

A smile came to me as I remembered such things as building a fort in our backyard with my sister and brother, examining earthworms, and catching lightening bugs in jars in the evening and watching their glows with fascination.

For all of us, love of the earth and respect for nature stems from such moments. What a wonderful sense of discovery we felt when we first saw such magical moments as a bud turning into a blossom or a caterpillar changing into a butterfly.

There was so much life to explore in our backyard!

We will bring that sense of discovery to all of our students—regardless of their age—with the Oak Farm land program . We will help them create memories for them, and with that sense of discovery, an interest to learn more.

These are the years your child will remember and you have the opportunity to share the wonders of the earth with her. Spend some time with your child in the backyard or in the park. Share the beauty. Create some memories. Years from now, a teacher may ask your child to close her eyes and think back to a happy memory. Isn't it nice to know she will be thinking of you?

## **PARENT AND TEACHER CONFERENCES SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 28-29**

**By Sarah Shanton-Cox**

All-school conferences will be held on Wednesday, October 28 and Thursday, October 29 from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

### **Scheduling Procedure**

Call Sarah Shanton-Cox (Ext. 25200) to schedule your conferences.

The conferences are for parents only EXCEPT at the Middle School where students will participate. Every attempt will be made to schedule sequential conferences for parents with more than one child. The conferences will be held in the student's normal classroom.

### **Childcare**

Childcare services will be provided for the length of individual conferences only. For example: if you have 2 children and, therefore, 2 conferences to attend, your children may participate in the childcare service for the length of those 2 conferences only. Please let Sarah know if you need this service.

Childcare will be available in following locations:

Toddler: Solarium (Victorian Farmhouse)

Primary: Primary 3 Classroom

Lower and Upper Elementary: Victorian Farmhouse Recreation Room and Multi-purpose Room

For parents of Primary students, please escort your child to the Primary 3 entrance using the porch, then enter through the main Victorian Farmhouse entrance and continue through the hallway to your child's classroom. Chairs will be available outside each classroom for those of you arriving early and needing a place to sit and wait.

### **Middle School**

Middle School students will help lead the conference with their parents.

**School is closed to students on October 28th, 29th and 30th with exception of conference childcare. Enjoy your fall break!**

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## **OAK FARM PARENT ORGANIZATION (OFPO) IN ACTION**

**Intentional Community: the Importance of Philanthropy**

**By Melea Britt Alexander, Annual Fund Drive Committee**

In today's economic climate every dollar counts; this is a truth that is felt at the micro level as well as the macro. Now, more than ever, it is critical that we as individuals and as a community use our limited resources to consciously create that which we wish to see thrive. At Oak Farm Montessori School, your child's spiritual, intellectual, social, and emotional health are nurtured in ways that will sustain him or her for a lifetime; the ripples of this will be felt in every interaction s/he has with others and with the environment. By giving to Oak Farm, you are sending the message that your child and the relationship your child has with the earth are critically important; you are nurturing your beloved as well as your local community and the world at large. As always, it is the intention of the gift that is critical, not the amount; Oak Farm is deeply grateful for your contribution.

**If you have not done so already, please pick up your pumpkin creations from the Victorian Farmhouse lawn before the end of this week.**

## NOTES FROM THE CHEF

By Jill Hoffelder

Cinnamon Chip Scones and White Chicken Enchiladas are the buzz on campus these days. Both are easy and fun to prepare with your child!

### Cinnamon Chip Scones

Ingredients:

2 cups flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons sugar

½ cup butter

1 cup cinnamon baking chips (you can find them in the baking aisle at Meijer)

1 egg separated

1 teaspoon vanilla

¾ cup buttermilk

cinnamon and raw sugar

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Combine dry ingredients in mixing bowl.
3. Cut in butter.
4. Stir in cinnamon chips.
5. In a separate bowl, combine egg yolk, vanilla and buttermilk. Add to dry ingredients. Mix completely by hand.
6. On a floured surface roll out dough by hand into ½ inch thickness.
7. Cut with 3-inch cookie cutter and place on ungreased baking sheet.
8. Brush egg white over scone and sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar.
9. Bake 18-22 minutes.
10. Cool scones a couple of minutes before serving.

Makes 10-12 scones

### White Chicken Enchiladas

Ingredients:

3 chicken breasts

10 whole-wheat tortillas

16 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

¾ cup chopped onion

2 cloves of garlic, minced

½ cup butter

1 cup flour

2 cups chicken stock

1 cup sour cream or plain Greek yogurt

1 can green chilies

2 teaspoons cumin

Instructions:

1. Boil chicken, strain and reserve stock. Shred chicken when cool to touch.
2. Melt butter in pot, add onions and garlic. Cook till onions are soft, blend in flour to make a roux. Simmer for a couple of minutes then slowly add stock whisking until mixture thickens (if too thick add more stock from your pantry).
3. Stir in sour cream, chilies, cumin and salt and pepper to taste.
4. Place shredded chicken and cheese on tortilla and roll tightly. Place seam side down in baking dish.
5. Pour sauce over tortillas and top with remaining cheese.
6. Bake 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

If you are interested in volunteering with the lunch program you can sign up in the Victorian Farmhouse kitchen. You will find the monthly menu on the stainless refrigeration units. Place your name on the day you would like to volunteer. I am available in the kitchen from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM if you have any questions.

The monthly lunch menu is available for viewing on our website. Just follow the link found at the top right corner of the home page. November lunch sign-up is due on Wednesday, October 21.

Bon Appétit

Jill

## DELAYS AND CLOSINGS

This time of year fog could potentially make driving conditions hazardous and cause school to be delayed. As stated in the Parent Handbook, notice of school closings or delays will be broadcast on the following radio and TV stations: WOWO (1190 AM, Fort Wayne), WMEE (97.3 FM, Fort Wayne), and Fort Wayne television stations 15, 21 and 33. Parents will also be notified of a school delay or closing via the SafTNet AlertNow service.

- Decisions to delay or to close school will be made the evening before (when possible) or by 6 AM the morning of the delay.
- Delays are in effect from 8:30 AM; school begins at 10:30 AM in all classrooms during a two hour delay. Before care is not offered when there is a school delay.
- School is closed to all half-day students in the event of a delay.
- The lunch program is cancelled in the event of a delay.
- Parents will be called only once for each delay or closing and should monitor the radio or TV for updates after receiving a call from the SafTNet AlertNow service.
- Parents should use their own discretion when driving in adverse weather conditions. If the school is open and you are uncomfortable driving, do not bring your child to school.

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## CARPOOL FORUM

Please submit information you would like included in or removed from the forum to Laura [lpounds@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:lpounds@oakfarmschool.com) by 9 AM on Mondays.

I'm looking for an Oak Farm Middle School family that drives through **Waterloo and Auburn** who would be willing to pick-up my brother near the Auburn Wal-Mart and take him to school and drop him back off in Waterloo, five days a week. If interested please contact Natasha at 260-5 70-3096, just leave a message and I will get back with you. Thanks very much.

We live in **Waterloo**, and we can make the drive back and forth every day, but feel guilty about it! Let's carpool in order to reduce the imprint we have on the environment. We have one in Primary (all day) and one in Upper...Contact Brandy at [depriestb@trine.edu](mailto:depriestb@trine.edu) or 260-243-1245.

Looking for a half-day carpool family on the **north side of Fort Wayne**. I live in Woodmont off of Dupont Road and have two little ones attending half-day—one in Primary and one in Toddler (3 days a week). I am available to drive home everyday if anyone would be willing to drive mornings. Please contact me if you are interested. Thanks so much!

Gretchen Fruchey [gretchenfruchey@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenfruchey@gmail.com) or 414-4331.