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**Upcoming Events**

- Feb. 16 Oak Farm Graduate Panel (please note change of date from February 17) 6 PM Middle School  
**RSVP to Kelly**
- Feb. 18 Coffee with the Head 8:45 AM Victorian Farmhouse
- Feb. 20 Winter Wonderland Gala 6:30 PM Ceruti's at Summit Park
- Feb. 25 Primary "Bring Your Parents to School" Day
- Upper Elem. History Fair 3:30 - 4:30 PM
- Feb. 26 Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed

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
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## Headlines from Oak Farm Montessori School

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

### FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

**Why Montessori?**

**Graduate Panel on Tuesday, February 16 at 6 PM**

If you can't answer this question in a quick paragraph or two that will educate your friends and family, then you should join us this evening.

If you're wondering if Oak Farm Montessori School is "worth it" and/or question whether traditional education is just as good, please join us.

You will learn a lot about Montessori education from 6-7 PM this evening from a group of experts—Oak Farm graduates! We have assembled a panel of current high school students who completed Oak Farm Montessori School through grade 8 to share experiences and answer questions on the following topics for about 30 minutes:

1. How Oak Farm Montessori School prepared me for High School
2. What Montessori Education has meant for me
3. The transition from Oak Farm Montessori to traditional education

Following the presentation, the panel will answer questions from the audience.

We believe this will be the best 60 minutes you'll spend all day, and we'll watch your children. Please call Kelly to make childcare arrangements.

**Winter Wonderland**

There is the beauty of winter and then, even more beautiful, is the beauty of what the Winter Wonderland Committee has done. As of last week, they have obtained 35%

more in sponsorships and 75% more in donations than last year; and they have increased the number of items by 25% and the number of attendees by 10%.. Success is the result of hours of volunteer work and commitment sustained to make Oak Farm Montessori School even better. The money that will be raised goes directly into the classrooms for materials and for educational trips, and professional development of the faculty. Congratulations to Abigail Loeffler and her entire team. They have been working hard and we all applaud their effort.

**WINTER WONDERLAND UPDATE**

**By Abigail Loeffler**

We are looking forward to a successful Winter Wonderland Gala on Saturday night at 6:30 PM at Ceruti's. If you have not been to Ceruti's here are some easy directions:

Take State Road 3 (Lima Road) south to Ludwig (between Meijer and Lowe's) turn West/right. Go .8 miles to the Summit Park II complex. Turn Left into complex and you will see the Ceruti's sign on the right. Turn right into their parking lot. Our event is in the Diamond Room, the building on the West side.

We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express for any items purchased at the silent auction.

Winter Wonderland and Silent Auction  
Saturday February 20, 2010  
Ceruti's at Summit Park  
The Diamond Room  
6:30pm

## LETTER FROM JUDITH

*Continued from page 1*

### February 18 Coffee with the Head

#### Good at Doing Things: Montessori Education and Higher-order Cognitive Functions

This week's topic will be how Maria Montessori's brain-based approach to education provides an unparalleled foundation for the development of academic, social, and executive functions critical for advanced problem solving and lifetime success. We will share a webcast by Dr Hughs, a neuropsychologist, on how Montessori education parallels what we now know about brain development and fosters the development of advanced cognitive functions, social cognition, and such higher-order competencies as empathy and leadership. Please join us for this 75 minute presentation.

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## PRIMARY BRING YOUR PARENTS TO SCHOOL DAY

### By Bonnie Schultz

Bring Your Parents to School Day gives Primary children the opportunity to show their parents what they do at school.

Parents of children in Primary 1 and Primary 4 are invited to join their children in the classroom from 2:30-3:30 PM Thursday, February 25. Half-day students in Primary 4 are invited to return to school with their parents at that time.

Parents of children in Primary 2 are invited to join the classroom from 11 AM - 12 PM or from 2:30- 3:30 PM.

Please arrive promptly and enter through the cubby area. Plan to observe your child working for an hour. If you have students in two different classrooms, you may split your time between the two classrooms. Remember that the process of the child's work is more important than the product at the Primary level.

Please remember to bring slippers or comfortable stockings, as shoes are not worn in the classroom. We hope each of you can attend!

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## GREEN FACILITIES UPDATE

### By Ben Bollinger

Going "green" is no longer a choice, it is a responsibility to our environment and to our children. Oak Farm is taking steps to become more green and eco-friendly. We are in the process of switching to florescent, energy-efficient light bulbs throughout the facility. Much of our outdoor lighting has been changed as well. We are using green or bio-based cleaning chemicals. Also, green or natural insecticides are currently being used for pest removal, through Orkin. Research is being done to find more eco-friendly ice melt, some are corn-based. We have located a free source of mulch to use wherever possible on campus. Our recycling program continues to grow—we are now collecting glass, however, it has to be taken out-of-town to be recycled. This spring, bat houses will be hung through campus to control the mosquito population and help limit the use of pesticides.

Potential future changes include; motion sensor light switches and eco-ice melt. We all need to work together to reduce, reuse and recycle in an effort to conserve our resources.

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## BOX TOPS SUBMISSIONS DUE MARCH 1ST

### By Tish Teel

Congratulations! As of February 1st, parents and students have collected \$230 worth of Box Tops through General Mills' Box Tops for Education program. The next submission will be made on March 1st. Please drop off all Box Tops in the collection bin located in the Victorian Farmhouse lobby by the end of February. We are, of course, also accepting Campbell Soup UPCs and Tyson Foods Project A+ labels from bags and boxes of frozen Tyson products. If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Tish Teel at [pmteel@yahoo.com](mailto:pmteel@yahoo.com).

## STUDENTS CREATE “WINGS” TRIBUTE FOR LORENE DEKKO-SALSBERY, OAK FARM’S FOUNDER

By Heather Miller, Art Specialist

Over the past several weeks students in Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, and Middle School have been working hard to create their own, personalized tribute to our late founder, Lorene Dekko-Salsbury. Individual sets of wings were created from white paper by each student. At the onset of the project discussions were shared as students were led to understand the symbolic meaning of the project. Some noted that the color, white, symbolizes peace and hope. Others attached meaning to the shape of the wings as they described Lorene's work as our school's founder as inspiring. As Oak Farm's pioneer, Lorene gave each student his/her own set of wings as the education they will gain from the school will carry them to their own personal dreams and goals. With this project, the students remember her work and give back to Lorene a flock of wings, a symbol that reflects what Lorene stood for and what her work means to our community. The display is currently in the process of being installed and will be a focal point of this year's Afternoon with the Arts Festival to be held on May, 19th.

