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Upcoming Events

- Jan. 14 Primary Parent Education Event:
"The Importance of the Third Year in Primary"
6 PM Victorian Farmhouse
RSVP to Kelly
- Jan. 15 Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed
11:45 AM Dismissal for All Students
(Half-day accreditation in-service for staff)
- Jan. 21 •Coffee with the Head 8:45 AM

•Lower Elementary Parent Education
"Moving Up from Primary to Elementary"
6 PM Red Barn

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

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

What Happened to Your World?

The world you grew up in no longer exists. Changes continue to occur, and each year there will be more of them coming at your children faster than ever. It is unlikely that the Rust Belt and the Midwest will ever again be a major employer of manufacturing jobs. Small farming, if it is to be competitive and profitable, will be going up against continually improving agribusiness and imports.

What does all this mean to you and your children? It means they need more than an education. It means they need a quality education. It means the standards for success (whether you consider success as having a good job as a skilled laborer, manager, or professional), the standards for hiring, and the competition for all levels of employment will be different for your child than they were for you. Competition will force employers to continue to be more demanding, and employers will also have a larger pool of educated applicants from which to choose. More effective immigration laws will also mean fewer job opportunities for some. Those members of the United States work force without an excellent education will be competing for less desirable jobs against legally documented workers, many of whom, quite frankly, may have a better education and, therefore, be more employable.

To help put this in perspective, let me share some information with you. In India, after allowing for population differences, there are more children in

Honors Programs than there are children in United States schools. Not all those students are going to stay in India. They and well-educated students from around the world constitute the labor market your child will be competing against. Another statistic is that in some areas of Indiana less than 75% of students complete high school. Which students do you think will be more likely to achieve their goals? To be successful, students need their parents' encouragement to stay in school. Failure to do so for most will likely result in a lifetime of failure or reduced opportunity.

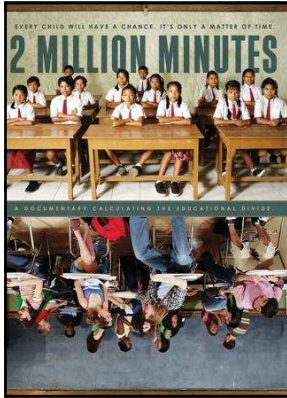
Just before the winter break, our faculty watched the documentary *Two Million Minutes* that tracks two high school students, a boy and a girl, at their respective schools in the US, China, and India. In each country there are approximately two million minutes a student has from starting grade 9 until high school graduation. During that time they have to build their intellectual foundation and prepare for college and ultimately their career. They also must grow from being a teenager to an adult. How this time is spent will affect their economic prospects for the rest of their lives.

The film takes a deeper look at how the three superpowers of the 21st Century—China, India, and the United States—are preparing their students for the future. By following the two students at each school a global snapshot of education, from the perspective of the teenagers while preparing for their future, is seen. At the end of the film, it is clear that all systems have their faults, but that education in the United States is lagging in many areas, most noticeably

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LETTER FROM JUDITH

Continued from page 1



math and science.

The fact that the world your child will inherit is not the world we grew up in is why at Oak Farm we strive so hard to provide your child the finest possible education. By supporting your child's education and encouraging the joy of learning at home, you are opening doors for your child's future.

We would like to share the film *Two Million Minutes* with you. For those who would like to view the film and better understand the issues facing your children, please join the discussion at Coffee with the Head in the Victorian Farmhouse at 8:45 AM on January 21st.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF PARENT EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Please mark your calendar for the following parent-education events. Admission to all parent-education events is free; we kindly ask you to RSVP to Kelly so that we know how many to expect. Each evening event will follow the format below:

- 5:45 – 5:55 PM Drop off children for childcare at Victorian Farmhouse. **Reservations and prepayment (\$5/child) must be made to Kelly at least two business days prior to the event.**
- 6:00– 7:00 PM Parent education event in appropriate classroom
- 7:00– 7:15 PM Pick up children from childcare.

- January 14** “The Importance of the Third Year (Kindergarten) in the Primary Classroom”: Information Meeting for Parents of Second-Year Primary Students
- January 18** Parents of students currently in the second year of the Primary program are invited to a noon lunch with Judith. After lunch, Judith will conduct a guided tour of the Primary classrooms focusing on the work of the third-year Primary student.
- January 21** “Moving Up” from Primary to Lower Elementary: Information Meeting for Parents of Third-Year Primary Students
- January 22** Parents of students currently in the third year of the Primary program are invited to an 8:45 breakfast with Judith. After breakfast, Judith will conduct a guided tour of the Lower Elementary classrooms focusing on the work of Lower Elementary students.
- January 26** “Moving Up” from Lower to Upper Elementary: Information Meeting for Parents of Third-Year Elementary Students
- January 27** Parents of students currently in the third year of elementary are invited to an 8:45 breakfast with Judith. After breakfast, Judith will conduct a guided tour of the Upper Elementary classroom focusing on the work of Upper Elementary students.
- January 28** Infants and Toddlers Parent Education Event

PLANNING FOR AN OAK FARM MONTESSORI HIGH SCHOOL

By Jackie Henry

All Oak Farm parents are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd at 6 PM in the Victorian House to discuss the development of an Oak Farm Montessori High School. Some of the topics that will be discussed include: vision, curriculum, location, model, and timeline. Please come with your ideas and questions to this evening aimed toward sharing information in regards to furthering your child's future. Childcare will be provided for \$5 per child. Please RSVP to Kelly by January 29th.

OAK FARM PARENT ORGANIZATION (OFPO) IN ACTION

Winter Wonderland Fundraiser to be Held February 20th

By Abigail Loeffler

The Winter Wonderland & Silent Auction is quickly approaching and the committee is very excited as we coordinate the third annual event on February 20, 2010. In preparation for this evening of dinner, dancing and silent auction, we would like to share with you an opportunity that you may find of interest. You may be asking yourself: "How can I help?" Let us give you a few ideas.

1) Help Secure Silent Auction Donations*:

- Items from local merchants such as products or gift baskets.
- Services from local merchants (nails, spa, housecleaning, dog sitting).
- Create a special package using YOUR talents, for example: cookie of the month basket, dinner once a month, a special dinner/evening out with childcare, tax preparation or financial planning services, or a weekend away at your lake cottage.

2) Help Secure Event Sponsorships*:

- Event Sponsorships are important because they give an individual or business a great marketing opportunity and increase the overall financial success of our event, which of course, is to benefit the children of Oak Farm Montessori School.
- Opportunities for Event Sponsorships include:
 - Overall Event Sponsor
 - Music
 - Dessert bar (with Chocolate Fountain)
 - Hors D'oeuvres or a Dinner Station
 - Decorations
 - Program

* All silent auction donors and event sponsors will have signage and be listed in the evening's program and slide-show.

If you or someone you know would be interested in making a silent auction donation, please contact **Kelly Strong** at **260.750.9197** or strongs2@mchsi.com. If you or someone you know would be interested in being an event sponsor, please contact **Nikole Albright** at **260.347.8525** or nikole@profsearchgroup.com before February 1st. Thank you!

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

Please, don't forget to respond by February 1st and receive an extra entry into the special-event drawing.

NOTES FROM THE CHEF: AN OVO-LACTO VEGETARIAN LUNCH PROGRAM?

By Jill Hoffelder

Should Oak Farm's lunch program become ovo-lacto vegetarian? Please share your thoughts with me. jhoffelder@oakfarmschool.com

(The following information is taken from http://www.bellybytes.com/foodfacts/vegetarian_food_facts.html)

Vegetarian Food Facts

Approximately 12 million Americans consider themselves vegetarians, or at least ovo-lacto vegetarian (one who eats milk and eggs). This food trend is pursued for a variety of reasons from religious to the belief it is a healthier form of eating.

While vegetarianism can be a way of achieving a healthier diet, it is a radical change and one that is not easily adhered to. There are sufficient studies and evidence that do provide us with proof that even a modified vegetarian diet is beneficial and results in a healthier life.

Quick Facts

- B12 is usually taken as a supplement, since it is found only in sufficient quantities in animal products.
- Most vegetarians have lower cholesterol levels than meat eaters.
- Vegetarians have fewer cases of colon cancer and digestive problems.
- Soy products contain high levels of phytoestrogens which scientists now think will reduce the risks of breast and prostate cancer.
- Tofu products may vary significantly regarding nutritional content, best to read the labels.
- Tempeh is a chunky, chewy soybean product that has been mixed with rice or millet.
- Miso is a combination of soybeans and a grain. Has very little fat and usually used as a seasoning for soups, dips and stews.
- Iron and zinc are not as easily absorbed by true vegetarians and may have to be supplemented.
- Beans and rice are one of the best combinations to acquire all the essential amino acids.
- A good source of calcium is dark green leafy vegetables.
- Vegetarian products made from soybeans have a lower fat content and still provide an excellent source of protein.
- Most vegetarian foods contain too much sodium. When preparing vegetarian foods, try to omit the soy sauce which seems to be the high sodium source.

Types of Vegans

- **True Vegetarian:** Eats nothing from an animal, fresh or processed.
- **Lacto-Vegetarian:** Includes dairy products in their diet.
- **Ovo-Vegetarian:** The only animal product in this diet is eggs.
- **Pesco-Vegetarian:** Includes fish, chicken, eggs and dairy products, no red meat.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PIANO LESSONS?

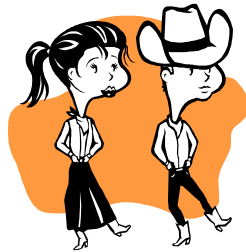
Mary Todd teaches piano two days a week at Oak Farm and has openings on Friday. She teaches Suzuki piano for ages 3 and up, including adults. For more information please call Stacy Hambrook at Oak Farm ext. 25240 or email Mary Todd at mptodd@verizon.net.

Wanted: Used Suzuki Materials and a Piano

If any current or former Suzuki students have a piano, used piano books, or Suzuki CD's you would like to donate or sell to current students please contact Stacy Hambrook ext. 25240.

Submitted by Stacy Hambrook

**2ND ANNUAL
FAMILY HOEDOWN
FRIDAY JANUARY 22
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
OAK FARM
COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER**



LIVE MUSIC AND CALLER!

Prairie Fire String Band offers a broad spectrum of traditional music of the United States. Performances include old-time string band music, music of the Civil War, and Appalachian fiddle and banjo tunes. Their distinctive traditional sound is achieved by featuring only acoustic instruments including: **hammered dulcimer, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and string bass**. Multi-voice harmonies highlight many of the songs the band performs. Through their music, they demonstrate the living tradition of our musical heritage and offer the opportunity to experience the sounds of a variety of instruments.

The Prairie Fire String Band consists of four members. Terri Buchholz, Scott Souers, Bernie Lohmuller, and Paul Kioebge have appeared at festivals, public and private events, and old time square dances featuring their music since 1982. We invite you to sit back, tap your toes, and let the music take you to a time and place when all you have to do is smile and have fun!

Our caller is Marlin Whitaker from Ann Arbor Michigan. Marlin is an accomplished caller and dancer who will have the whole crowd on their feet no matter what their experience level might be.

We look forward to sharing our music and trust everyone will have a delightfully fun evening.



R.S.V.P 897-4270

W I N T E R B L U E S

PUPPETRY

Also open to Non-Oak Farm Students!

Workshop



Grande Finale

The workshop will culminate with a performance on May 19th during Oak Farm's Afternoon with the Arts Celebration.

Please contact Heather directly at 200-402-5267 or heather@creativeenergystudio.com



As this point, scheduling is subject to change to accommodate student needs

Judith Cunningham, "Heather Miller, a talented , professional artist, inspires and guides our students to new levels of creativity and imagination."

* Beat the Winter Blues *

Winter is the perfect time to dive into something fantastically creative. The world of puppetry encourages creative thought and problem solving. It helps students develop communication skills, story-telling, and social interaction.

OAK FARM TEAMS WITH BUSINESS

Oak Farm teams with art specialist, Heather Miller, and her business, Creative Energy, Inc., to make this workshop possible. Oak Farm will provide the facility, the Community Arts Center, while Heather will direct the programming.

Did you know that Oak Farm's art specialist is a professional artist as

well as a published author? "I am so excited to offer this workshop as it allows me to share my passion for teaching, writing, and creating art. Puppets are just plain FUN. I can't wait to see what comes out of this project." Learn more about her at: www.heathermillerbooks.com

www.creativeenergystudio.com

Workshop Details

February 3rd through May 13th

Wednesday OR Thursday
3:30-5:30

*First payment and registration due January 29th.

*Contact Heather for more information and registration form.

*program calendar will be provided upon registration.

Save by paying for the program upfront!

1 payment: \$185.

Or make three payments of \$65.

