

January 19, 2010

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January 2010

In this issue:

Letter from Judith	1
Winter Wonderland	2
Notes from the Chef	
Jan. Parent Ed. Schedule	3
Family Hoedown	
Preparing the Brain for	4
Brain Gym®	
Troublesome Behavior	5
Folk Dance Club	
HS Planning Meeting	
OF	6

Upcoming Events

Jan. 21	•Coffee with the Head 8:45 AM
	•Lower Elementary Parent Education "Moving Up from Primary to Elementary" 6 PM Red Barn
Jan. 26	Upper Elementary Parent Education "Moving Up from Lower to Upper Elem." 6 PM Green Farmhouse
Jan. 28	Infant and Toddler Parent Education "Creating Connections" 6 PM Victorian Farmhouse (Multipurpose Room)
Jan. 29	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	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

Why Montessori?

In December 2009, Harvard Business Review published an article on innovative thinking and entrepreneurial success. Hal Gregersen of Insead responded to a question regarding his success; it is interesting to all of us committed to Montessori education:

If you look at 4-year-olds, they are constantly asking questions and wondering how things work. But by the time they are 6 ½ years old they stop asking questions because they quickly learn that teachers value the right answers more than provocative questions. High school students rarely show inquisitiveness. And by the time they're grown up and are in corporate settings, they have already had the curiosity drummed out of them. 80% of executives spend less than 20% of their time on discovering new ideas. Unless, of course, they work for a company like Apple or Google.

We also believe that the most innovative entrepreneurs were very lucky to have been raised in an atmosphere where inquisitiveness was encouraged. We were stuck by the stories they told about being sustained by people who cared about experimentation and exploration. Sometimes these people were relatives, but sometimes they were neighbors, teachers or other influential adults. A number of the innovative entrepreneurs also went to Montessori schools, where they

learned to follow their curiosity. To paraphrase the famous Apple ad campaign, innovators not only learned early on to think different, they act different (and even talk different)."

The Characteristics of a Montessori Child

We are at the end of our second quarter and half-way through the school year, so it is time once again to consider the qualities a Montessori education develops in students. The items we discuss each year are:

The Four Qualities of a Montessori-Educated Child:

- Love of Learning
- Emotional Literacy
- Leadership
- Citizenship or service to others

These qualities are the outcomes of a Montessori education and provide the answer when you are asked, "Why Montessori?"

Parking Lot Safety

With snow and ice comes a greater need for parking lot safety. Please drive slowly, please, please, please do NOT talk on your cell phone while operating a vehicle on our campus, and please do not leave your parked car running.

Thanks for creating a safer place for all of us.

OAK FARM PARENT ORGANIZATION (OFPO) IN ACTION

Winter Wonderland Fundraiser to be Held February 20th

By Abigail Loeffler

Winter Wonderland is quickly approaching and the committee is very excited as we coordinate our third annual event on February 20, 2010! In preparation for this evening of dinner, dancing, and silent auction, we would like to share two exciting additions this year:

Special Event Drawing

You may have noticed the following on your Save-the-Date card: "Exchange this card for entry into a special drawing during the event." And the response card stated, "Respond by February 1st and receive an additional entry in the special event drawing. " When you attend the event you will receive a third entry for the drawing. So get those responses in the mail!

Live Auction

After the close of the first section we will auction off a "Montessori Makeover" and after the close of the second section we will auction off "A one-week stay at a condo in Bonita Springs, Florida"!

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!

Please note, auction items secured after February 1st will not appear in the program (due to the printing deadline).

With less than four weeks until this special evening, please remember the deadline for RSVP's is also February 1st! We look forward to receiving your response cards and/or donations in preparation for a fantastic evening benefiting Oak Farm.

Please remember to mark your calendar for:
Winter Wonderland and Silent Auction
Saturday, February 20, 2009
Ceruti's at Summit Park
The Diamond Room
6:30pm

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

By Jill Hoffelder

In my article last week I asked for input on whether or not next year's lunch menu should be ovo-lacto vegetarian. Based upon the responses I received, the lunch program will continue to serve white meat only, with the addition of fish. Thank you for your comments and interest.

The February lunch menu will be sent home this week. I have included fish and shellfish; look for days in February when Clam Chowder and Tilapia Corn Chowder will be prepared. As always I will continue to prepare and serve only the best quality lunches for the students. It is my future intention to offer a vegetarian option on the days meat is served.

Finally, I am always looking for new healthy recipes. If you have any family favorites you would like to share, please send them via e-mail, jhoffelder@oakfarmschool.com.

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 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 "Creating Connections": Infants and Toddlers Parent Education Event
This parent education night will give participants a chance to understand themselves and their children better. Those wanting practical tools to unlock communication with children will not want to miss this event which will provide insights into making connections that will last a lifetime.
Please note: Childcare for this event is for Primary and elementary-aged students.

Submitted by Stacy Hambrook

R.S.V.P 897-4270

Fun for the Whole Family! Bring Your Friends Too! A Wonderful Community Experience!

New This Year: LIVE BAND! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! YOU'LL BE TOLD EVERY STEP BY OUR CALLER MARLIN!

Prairie Fire String Band offers a broad spectrum of traditional music of the United States. Their distinctive traditional sound is achieved by featuring only acoustic instruments including: **hammered dulcimer, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and string bass.**

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.



**2ND ANNUAL
FAMILY HOEDOWN
FRIDAY JANUARY 22
6:30 ~ 8:30 P.M.**

OAK FARM COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

149 Green Dr., Avilla, In 46710

PREPARING THE BRAIN FOR LEARNING BRAIN GYM®

By Kim Green, PE Specialist

PACE

The PACE process is a four-step learning readiness tool created by educator Paul E. Dennison, Ph.D. Pace is only one part of a comprehensive movement-based learning program called Brain Gym®.

PACE stands for:

P = Positive: Hook-ups

A = Active: Cross Crawl

C = Clear: Brain Buttons

E = Energetic: Water

The PACE process: We each have our own pace—a unique rhythm and timing for learning. The PACE activities help us to rediscover that rhythm. PACE is always the first work completed when entering the PE room. Students then can notice if they feel positive, active, clear, and energetic and do the corresponding movements as needed. The steps are completed in reverse order:



Travers and Nicholas get their bodies ready with a drink of water, the first step in the PACE process.

E = Energize for learning, by drinking water to hydrate the brain. An important consideration for both movement and learning is hydration. The brain is about 75% water and water is a natural conductor of electricity. Each neuron sends out an electrical response when one cell communicates to the other.



Eastyn focuses on Brain Buttons the second step in the PACE process.

C = Clear the mind with Brain Buttons, releasing inhibited eye movement and relaxing tension in the back neck muscles that originate in the occipital area of the brain. Brain Buttons improve circulation to the brain and relieve visual stress.



Aidan and Fernando move at their own pace during Cross Crawl.

A = Activate your body with Cross Crawl, simultaneously activates the right and left cerebral hemispheres. Cross Crawl uses the same neural connection as the brain requires for reading, writing and math processes. Activities that cross the midline strengthen and prepare the brain for learning.



Emily completes Hook-ups, the last movement of PACE.

P = Positive experience results when we do the Hook-ups. This activity brings circulation to the frontal lobes – the thinking center for the brain. Hook-ups restore equilibrium after emotional or environmental stress.

PRACTICAL HELP FOR TROUBLESOME BEHAVIOR

By Bonnie Schultz

Do you have children in your home or classroom who can't control their tempers, who are difficult to reason with, or who are disrespectful and demanding? Do you feel you have "tried everything" without results?

If the answer to these questions is "yes", OFMS Coordinators want to help you understand the problem and provide strategies that prevent and correct troublesome behavior. We have this work in common with child psychologist Beth A. Grosshans, Ph. D., author of *Beyond TIME-OUT... from Chaos to Calm*.

Parenting advice over the past forty years has left some parents and teachers uncertain—even intimidated—when children respond to disciplinary efforts by becoming upset or angry. The author challenges this prevailing culture.

Dr. Grosshans focuses on the role of power in the parent-child relationship. She shows why power and authority are as essential as love and good intentions to effective parenting.

Fears and anxiety, tantrums, sleep difficulties, and toileting issues are some of the emotional and behavioral challenges that have their roots in the imbalance of family power.

Loving and leading are two aspects of effective parenting. Children can be loved and have their parents' complete devotion but still be out of control because the adult is not in the lead. We all suffer the consequences.

Dr. Grosshans has seen a growing epidemic of families ruined by this imbalance of power. Realizing that parents need practical answers about what to do and what to say, she has been developing effective parenting strategies based on insights from 15 years of work with over 400 families. The families have experienced results that are dramatic, rapid, and lasting.

Beyond TIME-OUT... from Chaos to Calm is consistent with Montessori methods and goals. Healthy parent-child relationships are crucial in helping children achieve their potential.

A copy of the book can be found in the Victorian Farmhouse library.

FOLK DANCE CLUB TO RESUME FEBRUARY I

By Stacy Hambrook, Music Specialist

Calling all folk dancers. . . it's that time again. I am happy to announce that the fourth annual Oak Farm Folk Dance Club will start Monday February 1. Students in 2nd grade through 8th grade may participate. Folk Dance Club will meet on Monday's from 3:30 - 4:15 PM; we will learn an assortment of dances from all over the world. There is no cost to be a part of this club.

Please call me at Oak Farm to sign up (897-4270 ext. 25240)

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 Farmhouse 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 PARTICIPATES IN ARTS UNITED COMMUNITY MOSAIC PROJECT

By Heather Miller, Art Specialist



Lower Elementary students stand proud as they unveil their painting.



Upper Elementary students work together to create an abstract with warm colors.



Left: Lower Elementary's canvas highlights Oak Farm's relationship with nature.



Right: Middle School students used cool colors to finish this satisfying group effort.

For the past several weeks students have been busy creating large works that will be on display as part of the Arts United Community Mosaic Project. Students in Lower, Upper, and Middle School worked together to create four, 3' square paintings. Arts United, an organization seated in Fort Wayne that supports all aspects of the arts, is sponsoring the program. Over 60 art pieces created by professional artists, student groups, and community organizations are expected to come together to create one, giant mosaic mural. The project is scheduled to be on display at the Arts United Center in Fort Wayne from January 28th through April. The project fit perfectly with Oak Farm's art curriculum as our focus this year is Public Art.

Please consider attending the opening reception scheduled for Thursday, January 28. Drop in any time between 5:30 to 7:30 PM. The event is free and includes live music and appetizers. Attending the event is more than a fun, family outing. By witnessing the reaction of viewers to their own art, Oak Farm students will experience the amazing energy that the arts can bring into a community.