

June 4, 2010

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June 2010

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**Upcoming Events**

- June 4 Last Day for Faculty
- Aug. 23 Parent Orientation 5:30 PM
- Aug. 24 Whole School Parent/Student  
Classroom Visits 9 - 10:30 AM
- Aug. 25 First Day of School
  - Toddler Separation Environment Begins
  - Primary Follow Staggered Start Dates
  - Lower Elem. 1st Years and New-to-Lower-Elem. Students Begin

**Summer Office Hours: 8 AM - 4PM  
Offices Closed July 5 - 9**

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			

## 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.*

### LOWER ELEMENTARY I RECAPS ANNUAL OVERNIGHT

**By Macy McNaughton, Lower Elementary I Teacher**

On Monday, May 18 both Lower Elementary classrooms packed up their belongings and headed north to Camp Potawatomi for two days and one night of outdoor fun. The clouds hung above our heads full of rain and cool wind, but that did not dampen the children’s spirits at all – they were all ready for 30 hours of fun!

Camp Potawatomi offered many activities for the students. They each created a dream catcher and learned a little history about the Native American tribes that used to inhabit northeast Indiana. They studied owls and had the opportunity to dissect an owl pellet. They also practiced their communication skills with a team-building exercise. Another activity allowed the students to work in teams to create a capsule that would protect an egg from being dropped 20 feet. They had to keep track of their supplies and keep a budget for each item they used.

One of the highlights of the trip was the treasure hunt we all went on Monday night. The students discovered clues which would lead them to another area of the camp where they would find a “piece of gold.” During the adventure they had to steer clear of the “pirates” and make sure they did not steal their gold!

The third year students had the challenge of climbing a 35 foot wall. They used the skills they have been learning in Adventure class with Andrea: strategy, communication, and encouragement to help each other face the challenge.

Camp Potawatomi has great facilities that include the lodge we stayed in. There is a large common-area room and seven small bunkrooms all with separate bathrooms. For some of the students it was their first time staying away from family. All of them handled the separation with ease . . . mainly because they were all so tired from a day of hard mental and physical work!

Dr. Montessori found that at this plane of development, the child is ready and eager to learn about the outside world. So being away from the comforts of home provides an opportunity for the child to learn more about his role in society – this is a key aspect of the Lower Elementary curriculum.

As teachers it was amazing to see the children engage with one another as a family. We have the blessing of working with the children for three years and seeing each of them grow to become independent members of our Red Barn community. The end-of-the-year trip is not only special for the students, but for all of the teachers as well.



**Third students listen to instructions and prepare to make the climb of their life!**



**The Toddlers had a great year together and ended with a picnic on our playground. We hope everyone enjoys their summer!**

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## **SOCCER COACH NEEDED FOR FALL SEASON**

**By Andrea Deihl, PE Specialist**

The middle school co-ed soccer team is looking for a coach for the fall season. Experience and knowledge of the game is required. Practices are twice a week with a thirteen-game schedule. If you are interested in the position, or know of someone who might be, please contact Andrea Deihl at [adeihl@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:adeihl@oakfarmschool.com) or call the school at 260-897-4270.

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## **LIBRARY THOUGHTS FROM 2009-2010**

**By Sara Gensic, Librarian**

Thank you for supporting Oak Farm Libraries this school year. We have received book donations through our new online Adopt-a-Book program, volunteer support for several library projects over the course of the year, including the addition of a parent reader during Primary Library every Monday, monetary donations, and an overwhelmingly large support of our first ever customized Book Fair through Summer's Stories.

As school winds down for this year, we are gearing up for a bit of summer work in the library. Collections will be developed further and library environments made ready for the fall of 2010. While you enjoy time off with your children, keep track of some great books that you share with them this summer, or some good titles you come across while browsing your public library. We have already begun our Summer's Stories book fair list for next year and will be calling on parents to help select books once again.

One last library note, we will continue to move towards an all online Scholastic Book Fair order. If you would still like to receive paper flyers, please let me know. I want to accommodate this preference, if possible. The vast majority of our orders are online at this time. I only receive one or two paper orders per month which is the reason I am working towards online only. For every order placed online, the library receives credit towards a free book.

Thank you again for all your support. Please don't hesitate to ask for book suggestions or for assistance with our parent resources available in the Victorian Farmhouse Library, Lower Elementary, and the Middle School. I am most easily reached at [sgensic@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:sgensic@oakfarmschool.com).

## LOWER ELEMENTARY II ENDS “SPECTACULAR” YEAR

By Debbie Kovets, Lower Elementary 2 Teacher

After an engaging year, full of adventures in learning and friendship, Lower Elementary II is ready to wrap things up!

First, acting as student ambassadors, we hosted the kindergarten students for lunch and a trip to the Community Arts Center. Seeing the kindergarten students side by side with the third graders made everyone realize how much growth occurs between ages six and nine.



**The third years measure and paint lines on the soccer field with Andrea.**

Our third year students have spent many years studying geometry so they went to work applying those lessons by creating the lines of the soccer field on the Red Barn playground. Next, we went to the Middle School where draft horses, bred to pull many times their weight, carted us in wagons as we observed other horses plowing a field, and grinding corn into meal.

As always, the end-of-the-year overnight was a big success. What could be better than spending time with classmates at beautiful Camp Potawatomi, developing our team-building skills? Even the rain didn't dampen our spirits.

After returning from the trip, final preparations for our Spring Showcase kept everyone busy. Additionally, children shared their Asia country research with classmates, wrote persuasive letters to parents about what state they should visit over summer vacation, and put the finishing touches on our Tall Tale plays. First and second-year students performed *The Legend of Lightening Larry* and the third years presented *The Legend of Slappy Hooper*. After a dress rehearsal for Lower Elementary I and parents, we took the shows on the road and performed for nursing-home residents in Avilla. What a wonderful way to end a spectacular year . . . giving joy to others.



**Third-year students stand tall beside their kindergarten friends.**



**Both Lower Elementary classrooms pose for a group photo at Camp Potawatomi.**



**Braelyn paints Lindsay's face.**



**Totem poles created by elementary level students will be permanently installed on the main campus.**



**Koral smiles after having her face painted.**



**Marcus shows off his new look.**

Dear teachers and parents,

Thank you all for your cooperation and help given to make this year's Afternoon with the Arts Festival a success. I realize that the event adds yet another item to your "to do" list at a time of year that is overwhelmingly busy, but it is an incredibly important time for our students and their parents. Without your assistance, it could not have happened.

Our students are very fortunate to have the opportunities with the arts that Oak Farm so generously supports. The festival gives our students an opportunity to showcase their creative accomplishments in the classroom, the music room, and the art studio. While public schools are slashing art and music departments, Oak Farm continues to expand in these areas. Our students are very fortunate. The culmination of our efforts at the Arts Festival lets parents see the many opportunities their children have here at Oak Farm.

Next year we plan to make some changes to raise the overall quality of the event. This year's overwhelming attendance helped us see that we have reached a turning point in the direction of this event. It is time to raise the bar and turn the festival into more than a casual, open-house gathering. Next year we look forward to hosting a more formal showcase where students can feel like their work is being honored as if it were in a real gallery and their musical performances will be showcased in a more structured, audience-friendly manner. It certainly is fulfilling to be a part of a school that is growing and improving!

Again, I give my sincere thanks to all of you who put in the extra time to help. I look forward to working with you all again next year as we improve and grow together.

Kind regards,  
Heather Miller, Art Specialist



**A large crowd began to gather in the art room as families enjoyed the activities.**



**The new gallery space at the Community Arts Center shows off student artwork in a new light.**

## SOCCER PRACTICE STARTS ON AUG. 16 (MONDAY)

**Practices are on Monday and Wednesday from 4-5:30 PM**

**Who plays?**

**Game Team: Middle School 7-8 grades and Upper Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

6-8<sup>th</sup> years will travel to games to compete against other local schools. A jersey will be loaned to all game players. Black shorts and black soccer socks are to be provided by players.

**Practice Team: Upper Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

5<sup>th</sup> years are welcome to practice with the team and sit on the sidelines with the team during games. 5<sup>th</sup> years will not play in games, however, they will gain experience practicing with the other students.

**Player Fee:** Starting the 2010-2011 school year, all game team players will be expected to pay a sport fee of \$25.00.

**Away games:** It is the parents' responsibility to transport players to all away games on time for warm-up, 30 minutes prior to start time.

### Soccer Schedule 2010

Date	Day	School	Time	Location
Aug. 31, 2010	Tuesday	Lakewood Park	5:00 pm	Lakewood Park
Sept. 2, 2010	Thursday	Bethany Christian School – B Team	5:00 pm	Bethany C. S.
Sept. 8, 2010	Wednesday	Lakeland Boys	5:00 pm	Lakeland MS
Sept. 9, 2010	Thursday	Central Noble	5:00 pm	Oak Farm
Sept. 14, 2010	Tuesday	Lakeland Girls	5:00 pm	Oak Farm
Sept. 16, 2010	Thursday	Bethany Christian School - A Team	5:00 pm	Oak Farm
Sept. 17, 2010	Friday	Westview Girls	5:00 pm	Oak Farm
Sept. 23, 2010	Thursday	Westview Boys	5:00 pm	Westview
Sept. 27, 2010	Monday	Garrett MS	5:00 pm	Garrett
Sept. 28, 2010	Tuesday	Prairie Heights	5:00 pm	Prairie Heights
Oct. 1, 2010	Friday	Howe Military	5:00 pm	Oak Farm
Oct. 4, 2010	Monday	Central Noble	5:00 pm	Central Noble

## CROSS COUNTRY INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

Oak Farm is expanding the athletic program this fall by introducing a Cross Country team. Students in grades 5-8 are welcome to run on the team and compete in matches. Students may participate on both the soccer and cross country teams. Practice begins on August 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 PM at the Middle School.

### Cross Country Schedule

Date	vs.	Location	Time
Wednesday September 15	Fremont / Eastside	Fremont, IN	4:15pm
Saturday September 25	Garrett Invit	Garrett, IN	9:00am
Tuesday September 28	Hamilton	Hamilton, IN	4:30pm
Monday October 4	Howe / BCS	Howe, IN	5:00 pm

**ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN A TEAM SPORT MUST HAVE AN ANNUAL PHYSICAL EVALUATION FORM COMPLETED AND ON FILE.**

Click on the link to download and print the required form. (If you have trouble, email [adeihl@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:adeihl@oakfarmschool.com))  
[http://www.ihsaa.org/dnn/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Wa\\_mWNBL\\_lk%3d&tabid=587](http://www.ihsaa.org/dnn/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Wa_mWNBL_lk%3d&tabid=587)