

May 4, 2009

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Upcoming Events:

- May 8 •Celebratory Breakfast for Mothers/VIPs
RSVP to Kelly
• Infant and Toddler Programs Closed
- May 19 Afternoon With the Arts at the Arts Center (located in the Oak Farm Community Center on Green Drive) 4 - 6 PM
- May 22 Last Day of School
- June 1 '09-10 Program Fees Due
1st Month Tuition Due

| 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, TN 46710

260-897-4270

FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Why Are the Arts Important?

One often hears or reads about the arts being cut from school budgets for economic reasons or to provide more time for the Three Rs. At Oak Farm Montessori School, we believe the arts are needed by our students as a forum for safe expression, communication, exploration, imagination, and cultural and historical understanding. For intellectual and emotional development they are as important as the Three Rs.

These are some of the reasons why the arts are so important for your child's full development:

- Brain research confirms that arts education strengthens student problem-solving and critical thinking skills, adding to overall academic achievement, school success, and preparation for the work world.
- Art classes provide students a chance to develop cognitive and creative skills, and to develop their imaginations.
- For some students art is the area where they have success or where they excel, providing an important balance in their total educational experience.
- The arts teach our students to be more tolerant and open through multicultural and historical perspectives and through their involvement in the creative process itself.

- Due to the collaborative nature of art, students develop crucial skills in cooperative decision-making, leadership, clear communication, and complex problem solving while working with others.
- Regular participation in the arts develops self-confidence, self-discipline, persistence, and the knowledge of how to make multiple revisions to create high quality work.
- The skills and experience that students develop by learning to perform, create, and respond to works of art provides a foundation for the kinds of literacy students must have to communicate and work successfully in our ever-changing media, technology, and information age.
- Arts education supports not only your child's intellectual and educational development but also their personal and social development.
- Arts education helps develop a positive work ethic, flexibility, and pride in a job well done.

This is why we are celebrating An Afternoon with the Arts on May 19th. The Arts Center—located in the Oak Farm Community Center on Green Drive—has gone through exciting changes since we first acquired the building late last year. We invite you to join us and to enjoy musical performances, wander through joyful art displays, and try on your own artist's cap as we work together to create a community art piece. All of our Primary through Middle

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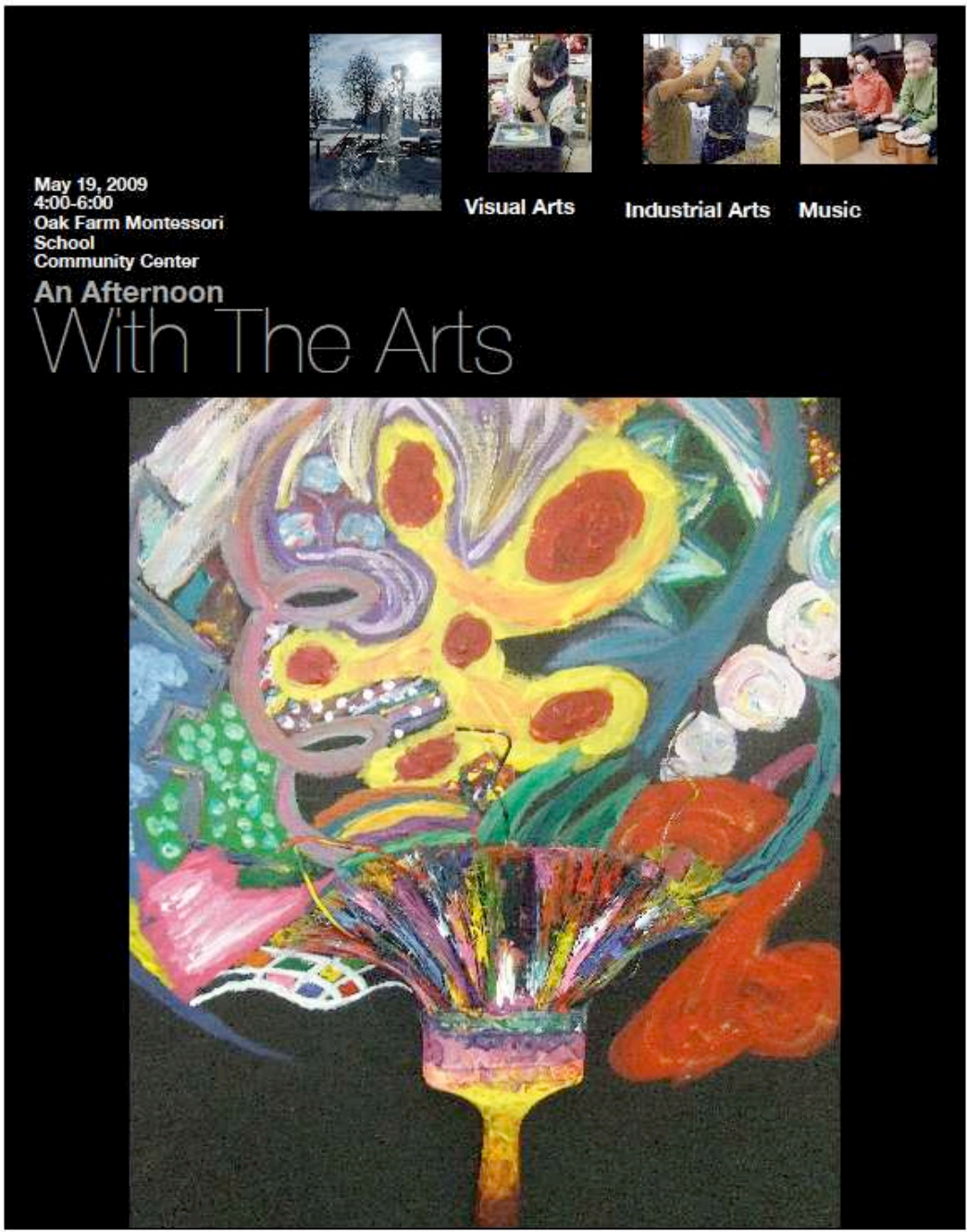
LETTER FROM JUDITH

Continued from page 1

School students have been involved in helping create this event and want to share their work with you. Art displays are open for viewing immediately after school. Musical performances will begin at 4:00 PM.

We look forward to seeing you; please feel free to bring your entire family and your friends. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your Oak Farm community with them.

Driving directions are simple: Leave Oak Farm by turning left onto Lemper Road. Turn LEFT on SR 8. Turn LEFT onto Green Drive (CITGO gas station/Subway sandwich shop). The Arts Center is the first BLUE building on the LEFT.



May 19, 2009
4:00-6:00
Oak Farm Montessori
School
Community Center

Visual Arts Industrial Arts Music

An Afternoon
With The Arts

The poster features a large, vibrant abstract painting at the bottom, characterized by bold, expressive brushstrokes in shades of yellow, red, purple, blue, and green. Above the painting, four small square photographs illustrate different art activities: a person working on a sculpture, a person painting, a person working with clay, and a group of people playing drums. The text is arranged in a clean, sans-serif font on a black background.

OAK FARM PARENT ORGANIZATION (OFPO) IN ACTION

By Belinda Burton
OFPO President

Last week a fellow parent asked me why the OFPO doesn't have monthly meetings. Thanks for asking the question, I'm sure others would like to know the answer. There are two reasons why the OFPO does not meet monthly:

1. The founding OFPO officers have done much research and have brainstormed about how to develop the most effective and progressive parent organization. In our research we found that, like successful businesses, the most effective non-profit organizations are driven by goals. These goals are based on the organization's needs and desires for success. The OFPO founding officers felt monthly meetings did not achieve the desired *goal driven* objective. Instead we felt they were a product of tradition and what is felt by many in our culture to be how parent organizations "should" work. Our objective is to be *goal driven* and purposeful in all we do.
2. We live in a very busy culture. I've heard it described as pseudo ADHD—hyper busy and jumping from one activity to the next. For this reason monthly parent organization meetings are not well attended. Our research shows that only about 10% of a school's parent population attends the monthly meetings. At the same time, the preparations for monthly meetings are time and energy consuming. As parents in a busy culture, we want our time to be used wisely. If we are going to be involved in a volunteer organization we want it to be intentional, effective, and productive. In other words, *goal driven*.

I hope that answers your question about why we don't meet as an entire organization on a monthly basis. However, *goal driven* OFPO meetings occur monthly if not weekly. If you would like to be a part of any OFPO *goal driven* activities, please contact us at ofpovolunteer@gmail.com. We make it a priority to respect each parent's availability so this is a safe way to get involved. We are a community and we can each do our part, big or small! The OFPO is making a difference at Oak Farm Montessori School. We hope you'll join us.

PLEASE REMEMBER

*Celebratory Breakfast for Mothers or VIPs
of Primary, Elementary, and Middle School students*

May 8, 2009

Victorian Farmhouse

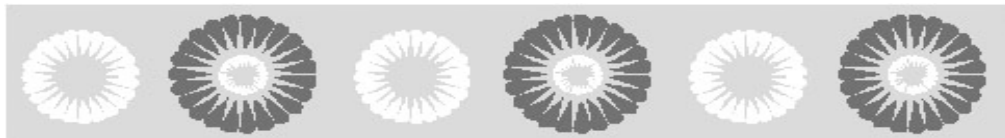
Staff Families 7:30am-8am

Open House for Oak Farm Families 8am-8:45am

Please RSVP to Kelly

(897-4270 or keliias@oakfarmschool.com)

Before Wednesday, May 6th



Please mark your calendars for May 8. If you would like to be a part of planning this wonderful event it will not take a lot of time. We need a few volunteers to help with decorations, set up, and clean up. Please contact Abigail Loeffler, (260)710-1607 or email aloeffler3@yahoo.com if you are interested. Thank You!