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**Upcoming Events**

- Nov. 13 Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed
- Nov. 14 Parent Fall Fun Night
- Nov. 19
- Coffee with the Head 8:45 AM Victorian Farmhouse
  - All School Parent Education 6-7 PM Victorian Farmhouse Oak Farm's Vision, Values, and Principles RSVP for event and childcare to Kelly. (Prepayment for childcare due on or before November 17.)
- Nov. 24 Grandparent's Day  
**11:45 AM Dismissal for All Students**  
(Half-day accreditation in-service for staff)

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

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[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.*

### FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

***"Grandparents can do more for us than anyone else the world; they sprinkle in stardust in our eyes."***  
**Alex Haley**

Children thrive in an environment where they are nurtured and loved. Grandparents often are just the right adults to create such an environment because they have more time to spend and they can enjoy children for who they are at the moment. This warm, non-demanding, and unconditional relationship is treasured by children and benefits them greatly.

Oak Farm Montessori School values that special relationship between children and their grandparents. To promote an understanding of what their grandchildren do at school, Oak Farm will hold our third-annual Grandparent's Day on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 to 11:30 AM.

We weren't the first to recognize the importance of grandparents. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day (September was chosen to signify the "autumn" years of life). In part, the proclamation reads:

Grandparents are our continuing tie to the near-past, to the events and beliefs and experiences that so strongly affect our lives and the world around us. Whether they are our own or surrogate grandparents who fill some of the gaps in our mobile society, our senior generation also provides our society a link to our national heritage and traditions.

We all know grandparents whose values transcend passing fads and pressures, and who possess the wisdom of distilled pain and joy. Because they are usually free to love and guide and befriend the young without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out past pride and fear of failure and close the space between generations.

Whether grandparents live near or far, we hope you will invite your children's grandparents to share this special day that honors their vital role in child development.

*(Invitations for Grandparent's Day at Oak Farm were mailed on October 29th. A copy of the invitation can be found on page 3 of this week's newsletter.)*

### Oak Farm Montessori School Studies Itself

Within a week you will receive by email a survey which we ask you to complete so we can better understand the needs of you, our parents. Because this survey is being conducted by an independent third party, your responses will be confidential, anonymous, and will not be seen by Oak Farm Montessori School. Instead they will be used to better understand your relationship with the school, your thoughts about the school, how well it meets the needs of your child, and what you believe we need to do to become better. Your frank opinions and comments are not only appreciated but necessary for our growth.

## OFPO IN ACTION

### Join Us in Honoring Grandparents on November 24th

Join us in "sprinkling stardust" over the very special people in our children's lives, their grandparents! Adult volunteers are needed to assist with Grandparent's Day by greeting guests, setting and cleaning up, and providing baked goods. Please contact Heather Barth at [ofpovolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:ofpovolunteer@gmail.com) or call (260) 704-2753.

### What is Philanthropy?

By Melea Britt Alexander, Annual Fund Drive Committee

The word "philanthropy" derives from the Ancient Greek, meaning "love of people" or "love of humankind." Modern definitions include the idea of voluntary donation of goods, services, time, and monetary gifts to further a socially beneficial cause without expectation of financial or material reward to the donor. It would follow, then, that philanthropy has two parts: caring, and giving. The first is a feeling, and the second is *the action to which one is moved* by that feeling.

While there are many different expressions of philanthropic feelings, there are two basic kinds of philanthropy: traditional and progressive. Traditional philanthropy is often thought of as the charity model—responding to the immediate needs of a community experiencing crisis—and is exemplified by the millions of dollars in goods and funds donated to the residents of New Orleans in the weeks following hurricane Katrina. Progressive philanthropy looks at and aims to improve the social conditions that sustain inequality or perpetuate social ills; Habitat for Humanity might be a good example of progressive philanthropy.

If you have given time or donations to faith-based organizations, you are a philanthropist. If you have volunteered your time to a non-profit, you are a philanthropist. If you have rallied to gather canned food or gently used clothing for the victims of natural disaster, you are a philanthropist. Consider the ways in which you give, and consider the implications of them. Are you compelled to give by the acute needs of disaster victims? Do you participate in the planning and implementation of community programs? What kind of philanthropist are you?

What moves you to give?

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## SHARING THE VISION AND VALUES OF OAK FARM SCHOOL: AN EVENING YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

On Thursday, November 19 at 6 PM, Judith Cunningham will share the vision of Oak Farm Montessori School and the values that sustain it. Last year we documented our conversations with Lorene about her founding vision and values. She shared her deepest thoughts about the school and what it should mean to the community and to Montessori education across the globe. The resulting document is a "road map" that reflects Lorene's values and the needs of our community. This road map guides our path and drives the long term future for Oak Farm while providing a plan that will enable us to sustain our mission.

We want to share with you both the long range vision and the values and principles that create our culture at this hour-long parent education event.

We look forward to seeing you. For your convenience childcare for Primary and elementary-aged students will be available for a cost of \$5 per participant, prepaid. Please RSVP for the event and childcare to Kelly on or before November 17.

## NEW STAFF PROFILE: FALEN LATENDRESSE, CO-TEACHER IN THE INFANT CLASSROOM



Falen Latendresse received her Infant and Toddler AMS Certification in July 2009. She has taught in Montessori schools for four years, but has been involved in Montessori education since birth. She is also currently working on a psychology degree.

Falen recently became engaged and her fiancé, Griff, moved with her from Ann Arbor, MI. They are planning a wedding for January 2011. Griff was very supportive of their decision to move to this area after Falen learned about the opportunity to teach at Oak Farm. They are really beginning to enjoy Fort Wayne and the surrounding area.

Falen has a passion for early education as well as educating parents and other educators, and looks forward to becoming more and more active in Oak Farm's parent education programs.

Welcome to Oak Farm Montessori School Falen!

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## GRANDPARENT'S DAY INVITATION MAILED OCTOBER 29

You are cordially invited to Oak Farm Montessori School's annual

### *Grandparent's Day*

Tuesday November 24, 2009

- 8:45 a.m. Welcome by Head of School and Coffee in the Victorian Farmhouse
- 9:15 a.m. Classroom Visit 1
- 10:00 a.m. Classroom Visit 2 – Please arrive at this time if you have only one grandchild to visit. Coffee will be served again at 10:45.
- 10:45 a.m. Coffee in the Victorian Farmhouse Multipurpose Room
- 11:00 a.m. Music Program in the Victorian Farmhouse Recreation Room
- 11:30 a.m. Closing

#### Important Notes:

This event is for grandparents of Primary, Elementary, and Middle School students.

If you have a grandchild in Elementary or Middle School only, please go directly to your grandchild's building to start your day. Coffee will be served again at 10:45 prior to the musical performance.

Driveway #2 – Lower Elementary located in the Red Barn.

Upper Elementary located in the Green Farmhouse.

Driveway #3 – Middle School located in the Brick House.

A bus will be available to shuttle you from building to building if needed.

Please feel free to call Sarah Shanton-Cox with any questions at (260) 897-4270 ext. 25200 or send an email to [sshanton@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:sshanton@oakfarmschool.com).

We look forward to seeing you!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ALUMNI SOCCER REUNION AND FARM UPDATE

By Elizabeth Smith-Meyer

The Middle School hosted its first annual “Falcon Alumni Reunion” soccer game on Sunday, November 8. The idea of a reunion soccer game originated with former coach Laura Pounds, and was first scheduled in October, but due to some alumni players being rostered to sectional teams, the event had to be postponed. We lamented having good enough weather to play, but the 60-degree weather of last weekend proved perfect for a Sunday afternoon game of soccer. Fourteen former soccer players arrived to play and draw cards colored either green or white to form teams. Play was aggressive but fun with players switching between green and white to keep the teams even. Scott Cole, another former coach, acted as referee and play-by-play commentator, especially when Laura ended up playing goalie for a while. The game ended in a 6-6 tie, and then the players with their families gathered for a cookout, with many staying until after dark. A few past players who now play for high school teams—namely Matt and Ian—never seem to have enough soccer and were still playing on the field when everyone else had dispersed. Hopefully this tradition will continue for many years, and our thanks go to Laura for coordinating this event.

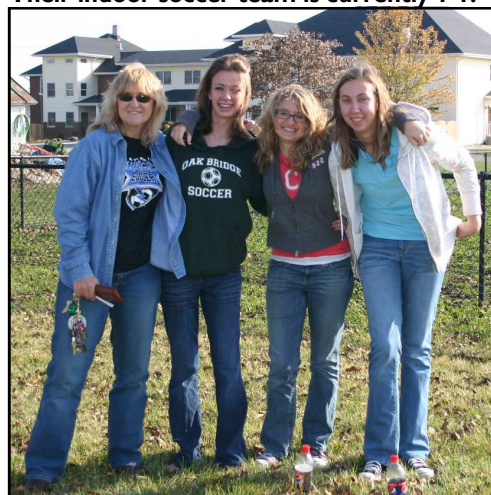
This week the middle school students will welcome an architect to the school to help them with their plans for a barn. The farm that has been envisioned for the middle school continues to evolve, as the students have been researching additional stages of the farm vision. They have been meeting in small groups to design a barn, decide on animal additions, and plan a bioshelter. Since the school began, agricultural elements have been added each year. Goats came the first year, bees the second, gardens the third, and sheep the fourth. This year we hope to add alpacas to our menagerie as we continue to envision the future of Oak Farm Middle School.



**OFMS graduates Ian and Matt were back in action Sunday on the Oak Farm soccer field. Matt and Ian have played together on soccer teams since 2005—and still do. Their indoor soccer team is currently 1-1.**



**Left: Zach (OFMS alumnus) and Dakota (OFMS graduate) defend the goal against Aleksander (OFMS student).**



**Elizabeth Smith-Meyer (OFMS faculty), Sara (OFMS '07), Alex (OFMS '07), and Katie (OFMS alumnus) cheer on their former classmates and soccer team.**



**Participants in the first annual “Falcon Alumni Reunion” soccer game included three former coaches (back row left to right): Scott Cole, Laura Pounds, and Scott Koegler. Also pictured (standing in the front row left to right) are: Mark Meyer (parent), Seth, Remington, Aleksander (OFMS '10, soccer team '07, '08, '09), Tyler, Dakota (OFMS '08, soccer team '05, '06, '07), Zach, Nic, Kerissa, Jordan, and Zack. In the front row are: Matt (OFMS '08, soccer team '05, '06, '07) and Ian (OFMS '08, soccer team '05, '06, '07).**