

October 27, 2009

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October 2009

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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 28-29 Parent /Teacher Conferences
- Oct. 30 **SCHOOL CLOSED for Fall Break**
- Nov. 1 Monthly Tuition Due
- Nov. 13 Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed
- Nov. 14 Parent Fall Fun Night
- Nov. 19
 - Coffee with the Head 8:45 AM Victorian Farmhouse
 - Parent Education Event 6-7 PM Victorian Farmhouse
 RSVP for event and childcare to Kelly. (Prepayment for childcare due on or before October 17.)

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

Our Heartbeat

What is the heart of Oak Farm Montessori School? What makes it beat so strong? Some think it is our inspiring campus; some will say it is our scientifically prepared classrooms. Still others will say it is the invisible magic our teachers create in the classroom. That magic puts smiles on the children and stirs the administration and board. Certainly others will point to the enthusiastic support of our parents as providing important beats.

All of the above collaborate to create our culture, but not our heartbeat. And what a wonderful culture we have. But for our heartbeat—that which gives Oak Farm its life—we owe our gratitude to Lorene Dekko Salsbery, our founder. Lorene gave us the values and vision.

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 have planned a parent education event to share with you both the long range vision and the values and

principles that create our culture. Please join us at the Victorian Farmhouse on Thursday, November 19 from 6-7 PM.

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, pre-paid. Please RSVP for the event and childcare to Kelly on or before November 17.

I would also like to invite you to this year’s first Coffee with the Head beginning at 8:30 AM on Thursday, November 17. If you are not familiar with this event, it is an opportunity for us to have an informal discussion regarding any Oak Farm events or concerns you might have. Please join me in the Multipurpose Room at the Victorian Farmhouse after you have dropped off your child. We will begin our dialog at 8:45 AM.

Reminder
School is closed to students on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday this week.

Please schedule and attend parent/teacher conferences on Wednesday and Thursday.

Friday is fall break.

H1N1 SWINE FLU VIRUS

By Sarah Shanton-Cox

Perhaps you've recently heard your child mention that there have been reported cases of the H1N1 flu at Oak Farm. It is our understanding that most family doctors are advising their patients to assume that a person with influenza-like symptoms likely has H1N1. Doctors are also advising that persons with influenza-like symptoms do not need to be tested for H1N1. Oak Farm will assume that anyone having influenza-like symptoms has H1N1. We will continue taking the proper precautions to ensure that our school environment is safe and sterile. Some of the precautions we are taking at school (that you may also want to consider at home) are:

- Encouraging frequent and proper hand washing, at least 15 seconds with soap and warm water each time
- Using hand sanitizers
- Cleaning classroom environments thoroughly
- Taking care of our bodies (encouraging proper nutrition, exercising, and getting enough sleep)

We are also encouraging anyone experiencing influenza-like symptoms to stay home and take care of him/herself.

Please let this serve as a courtesy notice that Oak Farm Montessori School is battling the H1N1 flu to the best of our abilities. We will not send notices as flu cases (confirmed or non-confirmed) are reported, instead we will continue taking precautions and educating our constituents regularly.

H1N1 Flu Vaccinations

Doctor offices and local health departments are now administering the H1N1 flu vaccines. If you would like more information about the vaccine and locations to obtain it, please contact your local health department or your family physician.

Allen County Health Department	449-7561
Dekalb County Health Department	925-2220
Noble County Health Department	636-2191

CARPOOL FORUM

Please submit information you would like included in or removed from the forum to Laura lpounds@oakfarmschool.com by 9 AM on Mondays.

I'm looking for an Oak Farm Middle School family that drives through **Waterloo and Auburn** who would be willing to pick-up my brother near the Auburn Wal-Mart and take him to school and drop him back off in Waterloo, five days a week. If interested please contact Natasha at 260-5 70-3096, just leave a message and I will get back with you. Thanks very much.

We live in **Waterloo**, and we can make the drive back and forth every day, but feel guilty about it! Let's carpool in order to reduce the imprint we have on the environment. We have one in Primary (all day) and one in Upper...Contact Brandy at depriestb@trine.edu or 260-243-1245.

Looking for a half-day carpool family on the **north side of Fort Wayne**. I live in Woodmont off of Dupont Road and have two little ones attending half-day—one in Primary and one in Toddler (3 days a week). I am available to drive home everyday if anyone would be willing to drive mornings. Please contact me if you are interested. Thanks so much!

Gretchen Fruchey gretchenfruchey@gmail.com or 414-4331.

NEW STAFF PROFILE: JOHN MEISER, ERDKINDER MANAGER

By Bailee Hager, Sixth-Year Student



John Meiser, Erdkinder Manager

John Meiser attended Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree, majoring in a Group Social Science and earning a minor in Elementary Education. He received his Michigan teaching license in 1997 with Elementary and Group Social Sciences endorsements.

John began his teaching career in Omaha, NE at Boys' Town. After teaching there a year he decided that it was time to move on to a different location. At that time John and his wife, Julie, moved to Michigan and he began teaching at Stanley Clark, a private prep school in South Bend. He taught third, fifth, and sixth grades the next ten years. He had a desire to help families with low incomes be able to afford to send their children to private schools. In his next job John raised scholarship money for low-income families. John missed the interaction with children and began to think about teaching again. It wasn't too long after visiting Oak Farm that John was hired as the Erdkinder Manager at the middle school.

John has goals he would like to obtain at Oak Farm Middle School. They are to see the middle school become a national model adolescent program. He would also like to see the middle school move towards a true Erdkinder model of Montessori education utilizing a working farm.

In John's loves spending his free time with his family and two dogs. He is an avid runner and tri-athlete and loves to compete. John has completed sixteen marathons, including three Boston Marathons. John also enjoys playing soccer, kayaking, and hiking.

John has a very kind and caring personality and he also has a great sense of humor. He relates well with children. John is always looking to get the job done. He has some high goals for the middle school. I believe with John in charge these goals will be achieved. I am happy to introduce John Meiser to Oak Farm Montessori School community.

SUZUKI PIANO PROGRAM AT OAK FARM ACCEPTING NEW STUDENTS

The Suzuki piano program at Oak Farm Montessori School currently has openings for new students.

The Suzuki Piano Method is based on the idea that children can learn to make music as they learn to speak their native language: through hearing it spoken, imitating the sounds, and gradually attaching meaning to them. Learning is based on listening. Music reading begins when the child is technically able to play well with hands together. The child learns at his or her own rate, building the piece in small steps, known as "cookie bites".

Lessons, 15 or 30 minutes long, are scheduled during the school day on Mondays and Wednesdays, for ages 3 and up. Group performance class meets monthly after school, and recitals are given twice each year.

Please contact Mary Todd at 260-707-4874 or email mptodd@verizon.net for information and enrollment.

Stacy Hambrook would also be able to answer any questions about the program.

SMALL HANDS DESERVE SMALL-SIZE WITH SUPER RESULTS

By Nancy Hathaway

In conjunction with our recent "At Home with Montessori" parent education event, Oak Farm is once again offering to families, friends, and faculty, Montessori Services' *For Small Hands* catalog. Our school receives a 15% merchandise credit on all items ordered. The catalog will be sent home with students on Tuesday, October 27, 2009.

The items in the catalog are designed to encourage and support young children at home. This family-resource catalog contains many age-appropriate, child-sized items that encourage order, concentration, coordination, independence, creativity, and problem solving. And this year the catalog contains over 200 items under \$10!

Feel welcome to share the catalog with, and make copies of the order form for, family, friends, and neighbors.

The order forms and payments are due (please make checks payable to Oak Farm School) on or before Friday, November 6, 2009. This date ensures us of a before-winter-break delivery.

Please know this is not a fundraiser! The 15% merchandise credit we receive from our sales will go to a general project to benefit Oak Farm parents and families.

Thank you for all you do for your children and Oak Farm.

Enjoy fall, your work, and the time spent with family and friends.

OFPO IN ACTION

Join Us in Honoring Grandparents on November 24th

"Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children." Alex Haley

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 ofpo@gmail.com or call (260) 704-2753.

Annual Fund Drive Update

By Melea Britt Alexander, Annual Fund Drive Committee

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to Oak Farm's fund development efforts this year. The Annual Fund Drive is off and running; the last tally was over four hundred dollars, with 22% participation by parents, grandparents, faculty, and staff. The Annual Fund Drive goal is always 100% participation, and there is still time for those who haven't yet made donations. Check the oak leaf tote board by the Victorian Farmhouse drive for continued progress!

There have been some very inspired fund development efforts for the A-coin Drive this year; Lower Elementary even found a way to involve the classroom rabbit, Zander. When discussing how to keep track of the money collected, one of the students suggested the coins be weighed. As the talk turned to goals, Zander hopped right into the center of the group, and the class came to the natural conclusion that Zander's weight—eleven and a half pounds—would be a great aim. They came very close to reaching their objective, collecting almost 7 pounds of coins totaling close to seventy dollars.

Again, thank you to all the parents, grandparents, faculty and staff who have already made contribution. If you have not given, please remember that we need everyone's involvement to reach our participation goal of 100%.