

October 31, 2011

Volume 5, Issue 11

In this issue:

Letter from Judith	1
Primary Parent Ed.	2
BoxTops Total	2
Picture Retake Day	2
Shoe Drive Update	3
Community Connections	4-5

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 1 Monthly Tuition Installment Due
- Nov. 1 Middle School Parent Education: Erdkinder
6 - 7:30 PM Middle School
- Nov. 9 Primary Cook Day
- Nov. 10 Victorian Farmhouse Parent Education:
At Home with Montessori
6 - 7:30 PM Victorian Farmhouse
Please RSVP for event and/ or childcare to
Lisa Rimmel by November 8.
- Nov. 11 Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed
- Nov. 16 School Picture Retake Day

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	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 Lempex Road Avilla, J.N 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

Have you ever played a game where you ask others, "With which person in the world would you like to have dinner?" It's a great discussion starter.

One of the people whom I would have liked to ask would be Steve Jobs. As people wrote about his life in the past few weeks, I have seen the implications of Steve Jobs' and Apple's success for schools. I wanted to share with you some of quotes from Jobs. Reading his thoughts, I am even more amazed by his wisdom.

Most of these quotes come from the commencement address he gave at Stanford a few years ago and can be found at <http://www.quotationspage.com>:

"I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life."

"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."

"I'm convinced that about half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from non-successful ones is perseverance."

"You can't connect the dots looking forward you can only

connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something: your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. Because believing that the dots will connect down the road will give you the confidence to follow your heart, even when it leads you off the well worn path."

As I was preparing this article I learned that Rachel Davison, our Middle School science and math teacher, had created a lesson about Jobs asking the Middle-School students the difficult question of how one becomes a leader, a world-changer.

Rachel shared, "First they read an excerpt from Aristotle and asked themselves what a happy life is. Then, as we read Jobs' Stanford commencement speech, the students were awed by how seeming failures turned into life changing events, and were re-thinking their own experiences in life.

The students were asked to imagine their own eulogy, what would they want people to say about them? think about them? They then had to ask what they could do today to work towards that goal? What could they do this week?"

As our Middle School students reflected, Jobs' words provide a foundation for creating a happy life. They also reflect a key Montessori principle. Don't be afraid to make a mistake. A mistake is a learning tool on the path to success, not a stumbling block on the way to failure. To have the confidence to try something new and unproven, to follow a dream, is a quality we work to instill in all of our students at Oak Farm.

“AT HOME WITH MONTESSORI”: A PARENT EDUCATION EVENT SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

By Bonnie Schultz, Primary Coordinator

Infant, Toddler and Primary teachers are looking forward to this important time with you—the parents of students in the Victorian Farmhouse.

At this event, you will tour through prepared rooms of a model home and see how it is possible to apply the Montessori principle of fostering independence in children to your own home environment. You will learn how to create spaces for children in each area of your home that support your child's development; just as we do in the classrooms.

Building connections between school and home not only involves physical environments, but also the preparation of the adults in each of the environments. Nikole Albright will be presenting the Montessori philosophy of natural consequences versus punishment and how this perspective develops from a relationship of trust.

Time will be allowed for discussion, so bring your questions and be ready to share your wisdom with other parents.

Admission to all parent-education events is free. We do ask that you RSVP to Lisa Rimmel by phoning the school or emailing lrimmel@oakfarmschool.com so that we know how many participants to expect.

RSVPs and prepayment for childcare (\$5/child, Primary through Middle-School age) must be made to Lisa on or before November 8.

BOXTOP COLLECTION TOTAL

By Tish Teel, OFPO Representative

Thank you to all students and parents who collected BoxTops for the October 31 submission deadline. Our school will be receiving a check for \$261 in December thanks to all your hard work. Keep collecting BoxTops, Campbell Soup UPCs (I don't need the whole label!) and Tyson Project A+ labels. Collection boxes are located in each classroom, or you can drop off your items in the Victorian Farmhouse collection box. Please contact Tish Teel at pmteel@yahoo.com with any questions.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY RESCHEDULED FOR NOV. 16

By Kelly Elias

We should be receiving school pictures this week, please look for them to come home by Friday. Stellhorn Photo has asked us to change our picture retake day from Friday, November 18 to Wednesday, November 16. Picture retakes will begin at 9 AM on Wednesday, November 16 for students who were absent on picture day and for any parents desiring a “retake” of their child. Classroom group pictures will not be retaken, but can be ordered if you did not originally order one. We will have order forms available in the Victorian Farmhouse lobby after Friday of this week.

HOW DID WE DO WITH OUR FIRST ANNUAL SHOE DRIVE FOR THE DEKALB HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER?

By Nola Dawn Katinsky, Sustainability Expert



Shoes packed for delivery to the shelter.

Why do we care about what we put in the landfill?

When we put waste into our landfills, we are essentially squeezing it as flat as we can and putting it into an enormous plastic or cement lined space. Why? Well we're done with it, aren't we? We want to keep it away from our homes and businesses; from the air we breathe; from the land we live, walk, and play on; from the water we use in our homes and businesses; and from the water we drink. In order to make this happen, we have to keep the air and the rain-water, the snow melt and the wildlife out of the landfill. Trash in a landfill doesn't decompose very much. In fact, if you dug down into a landfill to the trash that was placed in it 40 years ago and found a newspaper, you would still be able to read the print on the pages.



More shoes for the shelter

Why are shoes so important?

Shoes are bulky items, hard to really squeeze into small spaces. Shoes are generally made out of a variety of man-made fabrics and plastics. It is predicted that plastics will take at least 500 to 1000 years to break down in a landfill. We've already talked about how long it takes something which is easy to break down with light, air, and water on hand—like newspaper. The treated leathers used in manufacturing shoes are significantly more substantial than newspaper. It takes a lot of time for leather to break down in a landfill. In fact, it is more likely for yard waste, paper, cardboard, food waste, or leather to mummify in a modern landfill than it is for it to decompose.

How can a pair of shoes save a life?

When a natural disaster strikes, homes and businesses are destroyed and people are left without access to the essentials—clean water, shelter, food, and clothing. When you can't put gas in your car and drive to where you need to go, you rely on walking. If the roads are torn up, even if your car survived the devastation, you rely on walking. Buildings and vehicles are damaged or destroyed. Broken glass litters the ground. Shards of metal, plastic, and wood are tossed everywhere. How far can you walk safely without shoes? How much harder is this if you are carrying heavy bottles of water or bags of food back with you?

The grand total for our shoe drive was a whopping **485 pairs** of shoes and **18 singletons**. Thanks to all of you who have participated. You have helped redirect all these useable shoes from the landfill to folks in our community and around the world that need them.

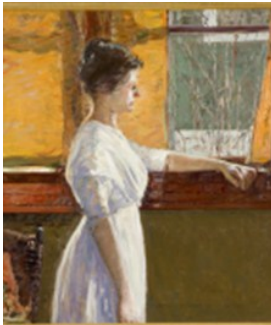
THANK YOU JANET CANINO and CONGRATULATIONS OAK FARM!

November 2011 Community Connections



“Trench Art” at Noble County Public Library from FWMoA

Event Type: Lecture **Phone:** (260)636-7197
Date and Time: **Tuesday, November 8 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM**
Location: Noble County Public Library in Albion, IN (Cole Room B)
Description: *Fort Wayne Museum of Art comes to NCPL for a unique lecture into the world of Trench Art. Trench art is often defined as any decorative item made by soldiers, prisoners of war or civilians, where the manufacture is directly linked to armed conflict or its consequences. The practice of ‘trench art’ flourished during WWI.*



FWMoA at Kendallville Public Library

Event Type: Exhibit **Phone:** (260)343-2010
Date and Time: **Open from 9 AM to 1 PM beginning November 14 - 30**
Location: Kendallville Public Library Main Library (Art Gallery)
Description: *This exhibit showcases some of the popular works from the Fort Wayne Museum of Art’s permanent collection.*



World Holiday Crafts Carnival

Event Type: Noble County Celebrate Diversity Passport Program **Phone:** (260)343-2010
Date and Time: **Wednesday, November 16 6:30 - 8 PM**
Location: Kendallville Public Library Main Library (Meeting Rooms 1 —4 and Board Room)
Description: *Make a variety of crafts from around the world to enjoy around the home or give as gifts. It’s a Celebrate Diversity Program, bring your passport for a stamp and keep collecting for a free trip to Chicago.*

Questions may be directed to Sara Gensic at the Oak Farm Library

sgensic@oakfarmschool.com



“A Dream of Beauty” at Gene Stratton-Porter

Event Type: Historic Home Tour **Phone:** (260)854-3790
Date and Time: **Saturday, November 19 11 AM - 9 PM**
Location: Gene Stratton-Porter’s “Cabin in Wildflower Woods” at Rome City, IN
Description: *Mrs. Porter’s cabin will be decorated during this event in accordance with the traditions of a 1917 Christmas. Visitors will be taken by horse drawn wagon from the parking area to the cabin to enjoy entertainment, activities and refreshments provided by the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society Inc. Admission is \$3.00 per person*



27th Annual Festival of Trees

Event Type: Goodwill Event for the Historic Embassy Theatre **Phone:** 1-800-745-3000
Date and Time: **November 23 - November 30**
Location: Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, IN
Description: *Experience the transformation of the lobbies of the Embassy Theatre and Indiana Hotel for eight days in November. The Festival of Trees is a fundraising and community goodwill event that supports the ongoing operational and restoration efforts for the Embassy Theatre Foundation Inc. Look for the FAME tree this year and you may just get a peek at some snowflakes created by Oak Farm Upper Elementary student artists. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster for \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children 12 and under.*



Historic Toboggan Run from Roosevelt’s “New Deal” Program

Event Type: Family Fun in the Outdoors **Phone:** (260)833-2012
Date and Time: **Opening Weekend Nov. 25 & 26 from 10 to 10 and Nov. 27 from 10 to 5**
Location: Pokagon State Park Refrigerated Toboggan Run in Angola, IN
Description: *What began in 1935 as a bit of fun for the boys from the Civilian Conservation Corps Company 556 soon evolved into the beloved family activity that many enjoy today. By 1940, the CCC boys had built a second track. Over thirty years later, the track became “refrigerated” allowing use on “not so cold” winter days. Today, over 80 years beyond FDR and the days of the CCC, the Pokagon Toboggan Run attracts over 90,000 riders each season. Thank you to the boys of the CCC Company 556 for helping establish this Northeast Indiana tradition. Sleds can be rented for just \$10 per hour.*



Depot Jam at Eckhart Public Library

Event Type: Acoustic Jam Session **Phone:** (260)837-6691, Dwight Zerkle
Date and Time: **Saturday, November 26 from 1 - 4 PM**
Location: Eckhart Main Library—Close Community Room in Auburn, IN
Description: *All acoustic musicians are welcome, including beginners. Come jam with us! No need to register. Sheet music for dulcimers and other details are available from Dwight Zerkle.*