

September 26, 2011

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September 2011

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Upcoming Events

- Sep. 26 Soccer vs. Garrett (Home) 5 PM
- Sep. 27 Soccer vs. Prairie Heights (Home) 5 PM
- Sep. 30 Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed
- Oct. 1 Monthly Tuition Installment Due
- Oct. 6 School Pictures: Infants, Toddlers, and students in Primary 1, Primary 3, and Middle School
- Oct. 7 School Pictures: Students in Primary 2, Primary 4, Elementary, and Retakes
- Oct. 8 Fall Harvest Festival 11:30 AM - 2 PM
Victorian Farmhouse Lawn

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, 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

“Just in Time” Education

In the world of business, the phrase “just in time” refers to the practice of managing your inventory and your relationship with your suppliers so perfectly, that at the moment an item is needed for the next stage of the product’s manufacturing, it is always available. Product inspection is another important step along the way. If a product needs extra care to be perfect, time is taken out to make sure that the necessary attention is given.

Not that any of us are robots, but as the brains of our children develop, it is important that we at Oak Farm and you at home provide “just in time” support. If we all do our job, then we will help optimize your child’s emotional, academic, and social development.

And if your child needs extra attention, we have our new Learning Center with well-trained, highly experienced specialists who can provide assistance in Reading, Articulation, and Speech. We have also incorporated the Listening Therapy Program after last year’s successful pilot program. This individualized program requires referred students to listen to specially modulated music twice a day for 30 minutes in their classroom and impacts the child’s ability to organize eye-hand, attention, and listening skills together. It also has significant positive effects on challenges with speech and language development, balance and coordination, poor memory, anxiety, and stress tolerance. Nola Katinsky will be leading this

program and will share more about this unique additional support at Oak Farm in a future newsletter article.

For us to be most effective in educating your child, our teachers carefully observe and monitor each student’s progress, so that we are always there “just in time” to support the next stage of development. And, if during the observation a teacher believes a student needs extra attention, the teacher will first provide that in the classroom. If the teacher believes more attention is needed, then the teacher will reach out to the parents to discuss the perception of the potential issue, after which it might be in the child’s interest to meet with one or more of our Specialists at the Learning Center.

At Oak Farm Montessori our goal is to ensure that your children and our students always have the finest possible opportunity to achieve their maximum potential. The addition of our Learning Center is one more step in that direction.

Reminder from Jillian Chaulk, RN: vision screening will be held this week. The date has been changed from Tuesday, September 27 to Thursday, September 29 to better accommodate the students.

If you have any questions regarding the vision screens please contact Jillian by phoning (260) 897-4270 extension 25201. Jillian’s office hours are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

JOIN US FOR THE FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 FROM 11:30 AM - 2 PM

By Amy Dankert, OFPO Events Representative

Please join us for our annual celebration of the season and of our Oak Farm Montessori School community. It is a relaxing opportunity for all of our students, faculty, parents, and grandparents to share a time of fun and fellowship. Please bring a picnic lunch, including beverages, for your entire family to enjoy during the festival. You will also want to bring chairs and/or blankets for your family to use while eating lunch and during the rest of the afternoon.

There will be a performance by Emily Thompson's Suzuki violin students at 11:45 AM. Elizabeth Smith will have the elementary students sing a short performance at noon.

The DeKalb County Draft Horse Association will be joining us this year again! Horses and wagons from the Association will arrive at the Victorian Farmhouse at 11:30 AM to begin to take those interested on a horse-drawn wagon ride. Some of the activities that will be available include a chuck wagon (food sampling of vegetarian soups, soup with meat, and cornbread cooked over an open fire) and an antique farm equipment demonstration. Free-will donations will be accepted by the Draft Horse Association.

Parking will be available on the Victorian Farmhouse and Elementary campuses; however, there will be **designated no-parking areas** because of newly planted grass.

The Fall Harvest Festival will end at 2 PM. The last wagon ride will depart at 1:45 PM. We hope to see you there!

GREAT PUMPKIN TRADITION CONTINUES AT THE ANNUAL FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

By Amy Dankert, OFPO Events Representative

The Fall Harvest Festival is upon us bringing with it a chance for each of us to gather together to celebrate and kick off the beginning of the new school year. Heather Miller, our art specialist, started a wonderful tradition several years ago that combines creativity and family time.

In continuing with that tradition, each Oak Farm family is invited to decorate a pumpkin, gourd, or any other fruit or vegetable which will then be on display at the Fall Harvest Festival. Let your creative juices flow freely as you and your child use materials such as paints, felt, dried noodles, feathers, glitter, fabric, sticks, or even small vegetables to create an unusual pumpkin masterpiece.

As this is a voluntary effort, all materials, including the pumpkins are your responsibility. All decorating is to be completed at home. Please affix your child's name and classroom to his/her creation. Finished creations may be dropped off on the NORTH side of the Victorian Farmhouse on Wednesday, October 5 or Thursday, October 6. Pumpkins must be delivered by 2 PM October 6.

You are encouraged to spend an evening with your child, a pumpkin, and your imaginations. Make something fun to add to our annual Fall Harvest Festival.

Please remember to take your pumpkins home with you as you leave the festival.

PRIMARY 3 OFF TO A GREAT START

By Elizabeth Green, Primary 3 Teacher

The first weeks of school have been filled with many exciting happenings. Soon after the school year began, our new class began to gel as a community as old friends became reacquainted and new friendships developed. The kindergarteners have stepped into their leadership role and can often be seen helping younger friends tie their aprons or serve themselves snack.

In addition to academic lessons, many of our early lessons have included grace and courtesy: how to greet someone, how to walk around a rug, how to get someone's attention, how to carry a chair, etc. We've also enjoyed some interesting taste tests! On a recent morning, we tasted various apples and shared adjectives that described each one. Some of the descriptive words that were offered included delicious, "so yummy", sour, sweet, and crunchy. On Friday we tempted our palate by tasting a "puff ball" (a type of mushroom). Since the one that Bonnie had donated was beginning to decompose, we ventured out into the woods and found our own gem. Later that afternoon, we cleaned it and cooked it before tasting it—a first for all of us.

Our most recent excitement came this past week when the two caterpillars that Hannah brought in emerged from their chrysalises as beautiful Monarch butterflies! We studied the four stages of development (eggs, larva, pupa, and adult) and anxiously observed the habitat each day to see what changes had taken place. Much to our amazement on Friday, we were able to observe the second butterfly literally unfold itself from the chrysalis. At the end of the day, we released it to nature. It had other plans, however, as it perched on Hannah's finger for quite a while before resting on a branch of the butterfly bush by Primary 1. The metamorphosis was spectacular!



Hannah shows Anna the monarch butterfly that just emerged from its chrysalis.

SCHOOL PICTURES SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 6-7

By Kelly Elias

Please note on your calendar that school pictures are being held on Thursday, October 6 (Infants, Toddlers, and students in Primary 1, Primary 3, and Middle School) and Friday, October 7 (students in Primary 2, Primary 4, Elementary, and retakes). We will be using Stellhorn Photography this year and picture order forms will be going home later this week. If you have any questions regarding your child's picture day or other questions regarding the order forms please do not hesitate to contact me at [kelias@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:k Elias@oakfarmschool.com) or (260) 897-4270 extension 25204.

OAK FARM HOSTS FIRST CROSS COUNTRY MEET

By Andrea Deihl, PE Specialist/Athletic Director



On September 19, 2011, Oak Farm Montessori held its first-ever "home" cross country meet. The meet featured Fremont's boys and girls teams as well as Oak Farm's boys and girls teams. Fremont's girls team took the overall victory with a score of 18-37. The winner of the meet was Kaitlyn Culler (Fremont) with a time of 13:01 and the top runner from Oak Farm was Desiree with a time of 16:46. In the boys race, Oak Farm took the top two spots with Mariano placing first with a time of 13:29, and Peyton taking second-place honors with a time of 14:10. The top runner from Fremont was Alexander Buchanan with a time of 14:29. Fremont took the team race with a score of 15-50.

Left: Mariano, Peyton, and Ben begin the race on Oak Farm's "home" course at the Middle School.

CROSSING THE BRIDGE: CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS TAKE CENTER STAGE

By Elijah, Hope, Isaac, Maddie, and Matthew, Middle School Communications Advisory

We're happy and excited to begin a new year of creative expression. This year we welcome back Heather Miller, the art teacher who has inspired us in so many ways. For a first project, we made ourselves out of clay. These will all go on a shelf down the main hallway in the art center. The second project is the designing and making of tiles that will go around a table for the Winter Wonderland. Other tiles will go around the windows in the art room.

Another, always-popular creative expression is woodworking. For the first session of woodshop this year we are making puzzles with the scroll saw. Students can design a shape of any figure in the middle of the puzzle such as acorns, leaves, and cats. Before we used the scroll saw, we had to take a test so that Pat knows we can use it carefully and safely. The final puzzle has to be 5" by 5" so that they will fit inside the frames that Pat cut for us. Some of the puzzles are finished and have provided us with the basic skills to move onto projects such as furniture-making.



Caleb awaits the final carding of his individual roving at the Woolly Knob.

For the first nine weeks, everybody has two weeks in Fiber Arts creative expression with Nola. During those two weeks we learned the basics of crocheting. We started by making a chain of slipknots with our fingers. This was followed by introducing a crochet hook. We will use this basic skill to move onto spinning, weaving, and felting. Our current attempts can also be used to make water-bottle holders, hats, bowls, hot pads, coasters, and bracelets.

Some of us were fortunate enough to go visit a fiber mill called the Woolly Knob Fiber Mill in LaOtto. There, Jamie, the owner, talked to us about the different kinds of fiber. We found out that the mill actually cards fiber for clients around the world. Fiber that Jamie has carded includes the normal goat, sheep, and alpaca, but also rabbit and cat. At the end of the visit, we were allowed to choose different fibers and colors for our own roving, which we then carded and can now be spun to make garments or wall hangings.

We certainly appreciated Jamie taking the time to meet with us and look forward to what creations we will be able to make with our individualized rovings.

On another note, classrooms from the Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, and Middle School gathered last week to sign and display a poster wishing Alli the best of luck in her recovery. We are all thinking of her and keeping good thoughts for her and her family. We miss you, Alli. Get well soon.



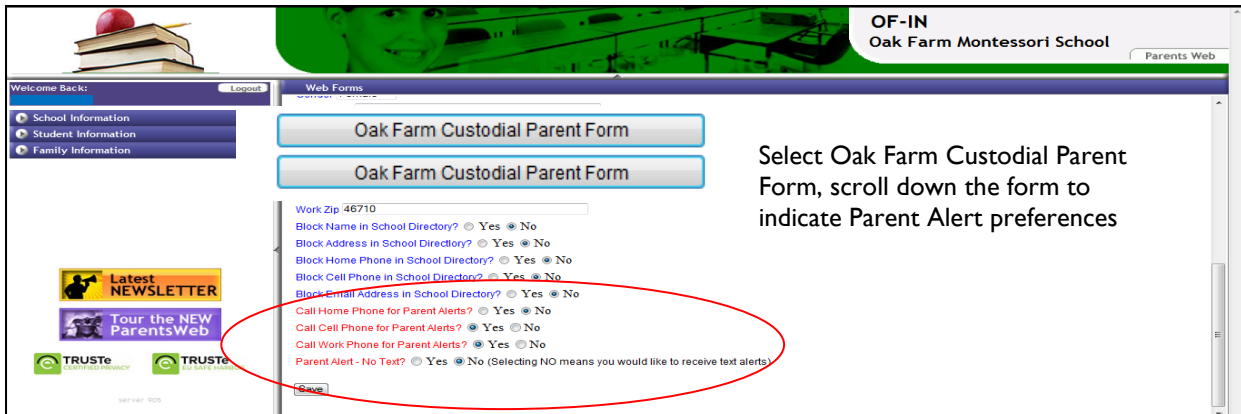
NEW PARENT ALERT SYSTEM TO BE TESTED SOON



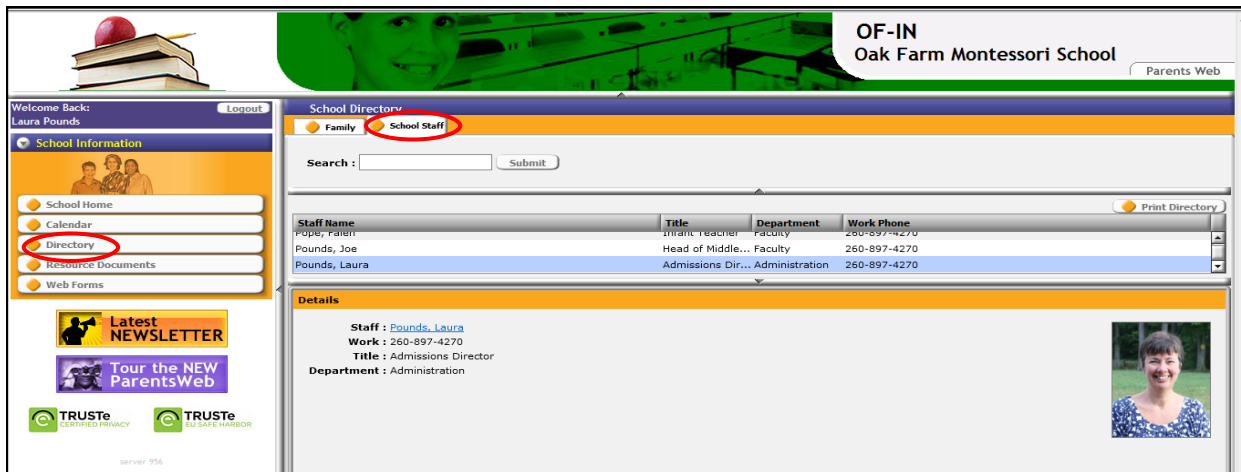
Our new school-information system, Renweb, offers Oak Farm a Parent Alert system. This system can be activated to provide parents information about the school. Oak Farm will be able to provide a voice recorded message and a text message to make parents aware of a school delay or closing.

In each parent's information found in the "Oak Farm Custodial Parent" web form on Parents Web, you will see four Parent Alert Options in red that are used to select how you prefer to be notified. The system defaults to the parent's cell phone number and sending text alerts. If this isn't the way you want to be contacted, you will need to edit your information on Parents Web by logging in and selecting Web Forms>Family Demographic Form>Oak Farm Custodial Parent Form. Each parent listed must be edited individually.

We will be testing the new Parent Alert system in October. Watch later newsletters for more information.



Oak Farm's **School Staff** directory is now available for viewing from Parents Web; simply click on **Directory** and select the **School Staff** tab at the top of the adjacent screen. Double click on any faculty member to obtain more information including title, an email link, and a photo.



If you need assistance with Parents Web, please contact Laura Pounds by phoning the school or emailing lpounds@oakfarmschool.com.

October 2011 Community Connections



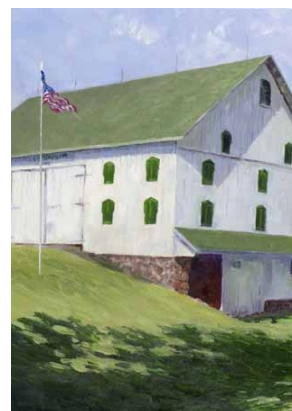
Chief Richardville House

Event Type: Family
Date and Time: **Sat. Oct. 1st from 1 pm to 4 pm**
Location: Chief Richardville House—(260)426-2882
Description: Miami Indian Heritage Days at the Chief Richardville house located at 5705 Bluffton Road in Fort Wayne. The October 1st program will highlight traditional wickiama building and cattail matting.



Stone's Trace Hearthside Dinner

Event Type: Dinner—Call Janet Sweeney for reservations
Date and Time: **Sat. Oct. 1st at 5:45 pm**
Location: Stone's Trace Tavern—(260)856-2666
Description: Enjoy an authentic 1850's meal served hearthside by the Stone family re-enactors. The Stone's Trace Tavern, located in Ligonier, is one of the oldest buildings in Noble county. Reservations are \$40 per person.



Indiana Barns Exhibit

Event Type: Art Exhibit
Date and Time: **Begins October 3rd through November 10th**
Location: Eckhart Public Library—(260) 925-2414
Description: Gwen Gutwein has begun to capture the beauty of Indiana's historic barns. Gwen has completed barn paintings for 32 of Indiana's 92 counties. The Rosswurm family of Noble County has their barn depicted in the painting seen here.



Fort Wayne Youth Theatre—Tom Sawyer

Event Type: Family
Date and Time: **Fri. Oct 7th, 7 pm & Sat.—Sun. Oct. 8th & 9th, 2 pm**
Location: Fort Wayne Youth Theatre—(260) 422-6900
Description: Step into the pages with some of Mark Twain's most memorable characters. Call for tickets. The theatre is located at 303 E. Main St. in Fort Wayne.

Questions may be directed to Sara Gensic at the Oak Farm Library
sgensic@oakfarmschool.com



3 Day Nature Photography Workshop at Merry Lea

Event Type: Beginning and Experienced Photography Workshop
Date and Time: **Thur. Oct 13th, 6 pm—Sat. Oct. 15th, 5 pm**
Location: Merry Lea Environmental Center—(260) 799-5869
Description: Led by Dr. Marvin Bartel, former art faculty member at Goshen College. Meals and lodging are provided on site. \$325 per person.



Salem Witchcraft Trials : History and Sources

Event Type: Genealogy—Family History Month 2011
Date and Time: **Sun. Oct. 16th, 1 pm—2 pm**
Location: Allen County Public Library—Main (260) 421-1225
Description: Explore the history of the witchcraft hysteria in northern Massachusetts in 1692 and examine the historical and genealogical sources surrounding this event, including those executed for witchcraft.



Japanese Art & Writing

Event Type: Presentation
Date and Time: **Tues. Oct. 18th, 6:30 pm—7:30 pm**
Location: Eckhart Public Library, Auburn—(260) 925-2414
Description: Chikuen Kato will present Shodo writing, which embodies the traditional Japanese spirit of beauty, simplicity and peace in the surrounding world. It is hoped that participants will find peace in their mind, while experiencing the simple harmony of ink on rice paper.



Annie Oakley Perfumery Studio Tours

Event Type: Perfumery Factory Tour
Date and Time: **Wed. Oct. 26th and Fri. Oct. 28th—Call for Times**
Location: Annie Oakley Perfumery, Ligonier, (260) 894-7219
Description: Annie Oakley was founded in 1980 by Renee Gabet. Her mission was to create world class perfumes right in the American heartland. She traveled the world in pursuit of the finest natural essences. Annie Oakley has sold over 2 million bottles and remains the only perfumery in the USA.