

September 1, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

September 2009

In this issue:

Letter from Judith 1

Notes from the Chef 2

Time and Talent Form on Website

Carpool Forum

Upcoming Events

Sept. 3 Soccer: Central Noble, AWAY, 5 PM

Sept. 4 Infants/Toddlers Closed

Sept. 7 **SCHOOL CLOSED** - Labor Day

Sept. 11 Soccer: Bethany Girls, HOME, 5PM

Sept. 17 Soccer: Westview Girls, HOME, 5PM

Sept. 17 Parent Organization Kick-Off Event
Victorian Farmhouse 6-7:30 PM

Sept. 18 **SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS**
Staff In-service Day

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, TN 46710

260-897-4270

FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

To our new families, a hearty Oak Farm WELCOME! To our returning families, a hearty WELCOME BACK! We have missed you. To all, we want to share with you what's new and what you and your children can look forward to as we begin our academic year.

Oak Farm Montessori School is in the process of earning accreditation from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) and the American Montessori Society (AMS). Accreditation is a continuing process that independently verifies that Oak Farm is meeting the highest standards of the accrediting agencies. The accreditation process is exacting; each Oak Farm teacher and administrative person is engaged in a self-study committee. Our self-study report will truly reflect our community. During the course of the year we will be sharing more information with you as we progress. We have already successfully completed the first phase by achieving ISACS Provisional Membership and AMS Full School Membership. Accreditation is a distinction only awarded to schools that have engaged in a three-year, self-study process and—through the eyes of the visiting on-site team—have met the highest standards.

Long before “going green” became a buzzword and care for the environment became a popular cause, Dr. Montessori stressed the importance of understanding the interdependency between the environment, our planet, and ourselves. Ecoliteracy and an appreciation for our planet have always been an important segments of an Oak Farm educa-

tion, and this year we are continuing to expand the program under the direction of Nola Katinsky. This includes expanded organic gardens at both the main campus and the Middle School. The harvest goes directly to the classrooms and our lunch program. We also have a prairie restoration project managed by the Middle School students under the direction of Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center. Additionally, we will be building trails and engaging in pond study at the main campus as well as investigating and applying green practices at all our buildings and around our grounds.

The ecoliteracy program is more than just learning about protecting the environment. Within the studies are practical learning experiences regarding history of place, the science of relationships between all life, mathematics, cultural development, and art.

Last spring we had a potluck dinner to celebrate the ecoliteracy program and to develop a parent volunteer support team. We will be continuing that this year, and if you would like to become involved in this interesting and fun program, please contact Nola at ndkatinsky@yahoo.com or leave a message with Patty at reception.

This is going to be a great year for the Oak Farm Montessori community and I look forward to seeing each of you.

Best regards,
Judith

NOTES FROM THE CHEF

By Jill Hoffelder

The mission of the Oak Farm School Lunch Program is:

“To provide our students with quality organic, nutritious, healthy, whole foods that enable them to work to their fullest potential.”

The Lunch Program is in full swing and once again the aromas from the kitchen are wafting through the hallways of the Victorian Farmhouse.

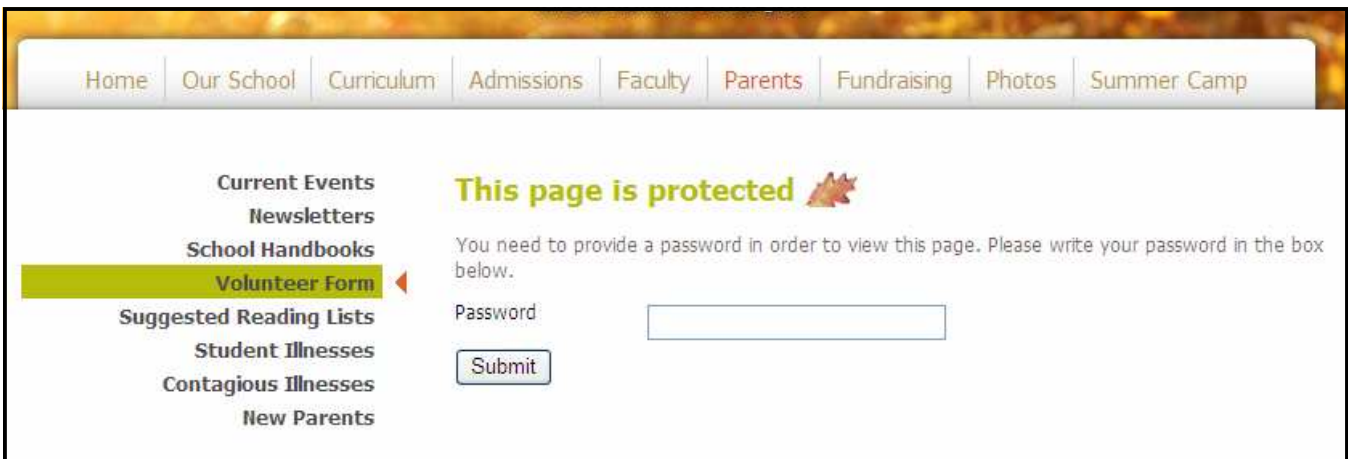
Thanks to Nola’s hard work and talent, the gardens at Oak Farm are filled with an abundance of beautiful vegetables, fruits, and herbs that are being used daily for the lunch program. And, thanks to Andrea, Oak Farm once again has chickens. Fresh eggs for baking and hard boiling are also available on a daily basis. Students will begin helping with lunch preparation this week, cooking foods that originated on Oak Farm’s campuses.

If you are interested in honing your cooking skills, you are more than welcome in our kitchen. Please sign up to volunteer in the Victorian Farmhouse kitchen.

Bon Appetit!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT OAK FARM BY VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are the life blood of Oak Farm Montessori school. We have launched a way to successfully match parents' interests with opportunities at the school. Just go to our website at www.oakfarm.org, click on the Parents tab at the top of the page, then choose Volunteer Forms (see below). You will need to provide a password, it's oakleaf.



The screenshot shows a website navigation bar with links: Home, Our School, Curriculum, Admissions, Faculty, Parents, Fundraising, Photos, and Summer Camp. Below the navigation bar is a sidebar menu with the following items: Current Events, Newsletters, School Handbooks, Volunteer Form (highlighted with a green bar and a red arrow), Suggested Reading Lists, Student Illnesses, Contagious Illnesses, and New Parents. The main content area displays a message: "This page is protected" with a small oak leaf icon. Below this message is a text box for a password and a "Submit" button. The text reads: "You need to provide a password in order to view this page. Please write your password in the box below."

Click on submit and fill out the Time and Talent form. Once the form is completed, click on submit and you will be entered into our database. Even if you only have one hour during the school year, please sign up. We will only call you for the choices indicated and at the times chosen.

CARPOOL FORUM

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

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 every-day 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.