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Upcoming Events

Sept. 17	Soccer: Westview Girls, HOME, 5PM
Sept. 17	Oak Farm Parent Organization Kick-Off Victorian Farmhouse 6-7:30 PM
Sept. 18	SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS Staff In-service Day
Sept. 19	Journey and Discovery 9 AM - 1 PM Victorian Farmhouse
Sept. 22	Parent Education Event 6-7 PM Upper Elem. Dialogue in Green Farmhouse RSVP with payment for childcare to Patty on or before September 20
Sept. 24	Soccer: Westview Boys, AWAY, 5 PM

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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FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

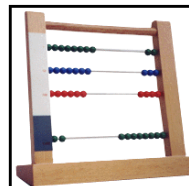
How Can I Support My Child at Oak Farm Montessori School?

Montessori reminds us that the parent is the first teacher of the child and when the home and the school collaborate in that great work, the child feels the dynamic support of all the adults enabling her to reach her full potential. To assist you in that collaboration, each year Oak Farm Montessori School creates lively, interactive Parent Education events.

The first in this year's series is *Journey and Discovery*, an inspiring and informative program for both teachers and parents, this Saturday, September 19, from 9 AM-1 PM. The program's primary purpose is to educate parents about "how and why" Montessori education works so well for their child. It also develops community and helps parents experience Montessori as their child does now and will in the future.

On Saturday, we will greet parents for coffee at 8:30 AM and formally begin at 9 AM in the multi-purpose room in the Victorian Farmhouse where parents will meet in small groups with a staff team-leader. After a discussion of what it means to observe, parents will be led by their team leader on a "silent journey" through the infant, toddler, primary, and elementary classrooms so they can truly observe each classroom's environment, materials, organization, and curriculum sequencing. The groups will return to the multi-purpose room and discuss what they observed and learned.

Next, active "discovery" will take place. Parents will become Montessori "students" and travel from the youngest (infant) classroom to the oldest classrooms at the middle school. Teachers will welcome the "students" to the classroom and present lessons, perhaps referring to Montessori lessons previously given. The teacher will then direct the "students" to explore the available classroom materials. For example, in the lower elementary classroom, the checkerboard, the large and small bead frames, and the bead cabinet may all be available, demonstrating how the elementary uses repetition through variety. "Students" will see the effectiveness of the color scheme of red, green, and blue which represent the place values of the decimal system.



Above:
Examples of
Montessori
math materials
found in an
elementary
classroom.

Parents, as "students", will move from the infant classroom through the middle school classrooms viewing and understanding the connected, interrelated nature of the curriculum. Parents will be given the opportunity to "learn", as does their child, with a lesson presented by a teacher and exploration and use of the specially designed Montessori materials.

Parents will also get to know one another as they move through the day. The activities will provide opportunities for interaction, giving parents time to appreciate one another as well as the Montessori environment. Parents will

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LETTER FROM JUDITH

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also have an opportunity to develop a better understanding of the supportive nature of the Montessori teacher and the way classroom activities are managed. Participants will learn about Montessori in a very Montessori way, through an active, hands-on approach. As with everything in Montessori, to experience it is to understand it.

Following the lessons and work in the classroom environments, the experience will culminate in the multi-purpose room with the uniting of teachers and “students”. Everyone will share their impressions of the day’s experience.

Here are some comments from parents who participated in our *Journey and Discovery* last year:

"The Journey and Discovery gives parents an opportunity to actually see what the ‘nothing’ is that our children say they do each day!"

"I felt like a 7 year old all over again!"

"I loved seeing how the higher grade levels work and the enthusiasm of the teachers. The more I see, the more I like!"

"The global perspective that was woven into all the lessons, as well as the overlap of science, geography and other areas impressed me. The building from one year to the next year was also great to see. You could really see how the upper classes built on what was learned in the lower grades. It was a great experience and I am glad I did it!"

"J and D gave me a better understanding of the elementary and middle school levels."

"It was fascinating to become immersed into the Montessori world in such a short amount of time. The global accents added to the lessons are a big plus!"

"The love warmth and dedication of the teachers and administration was very impressive. The philosophy of respecting the world, self and other individuals made an impact on me."

"I could really see how clearly lessons are presented. The brainstorming sessions and discussions were also a highlight. It was good to share ideas with other parents and feel a sense of unity."

By understanding the “how and why” of Montessori, you will be better able to support your child’s education. Parents who have participated in *Journey and Discovery* have told us that they find themselves at home “practicing Montessori methods as a learning and communication tool on an almost daily basis.” And, “Now, we have more to talk about at the dinner table.”

Please call Patty to reserve your place on Saturday.

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.

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.

OAK FARM PARENT ORGANIZATION (OFPO) IN ACTION

By Belinda Burton

The Oak Farm Parent Organization is made up of five teams. The five teams are: Administrative Team, Ambassador Team, Events Team, Fund Development Team, and Volunteer Support Team. Each team has specific responsibilities. This structure ensures that all tasks required of the OFPO get completed. It also helps divide the work so it is shared by many parents, or teams. More success with less stress! Since ALL parents at Oak Farm Montessori School are members of the OFPO, free of dues, this team structure allows all parents to be involved according to their talents, interests, passions, and availability. At the **OFPO Kick-off on September 17th** we will further discuss these five teams, and give you an opportunity to join a team if you wish. We have a fun and informative evening planned. Hope to see you there!

Cultivating Community Together,
Belinda Burton for the OFPO Leadership Team

UPCOMING PARENT EDUCATION (EVENING EVENTS) CALENDAR

Please mark your calendar for the following parent-education events. Admission to all parent-education events is free. Each event (except the Middle School's) will follow the format below:

5:45 – 5:55 PM Drop off children for childcare at Victorian Farmhouse. Reservations and prepayment (\$5/child) must be made to Patty at least two business days prior to the event.
6:00– 7:00 PM Parent education event in appropriate classroom
7:00– 7:15 PM Pick up children from childcare.

Tuesday, September 22nd	Upper Elementary Dialogue for parents of students in the Green Farmhouse
Tuesday, September 29th	Lower Elementary Dialogue for parents of students in the Red Barn
Monday, October 5th	Middle School Parents' Tea 3:30 - 4:30 PM, childcare will not be available
Thursday, October 15th	"Montessori In the Home" for parents of students in the Victorian Farmhouse

SAVE THOSE BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION AND SOUP LABELS

By Tish Teel

Looking for ways to support the school? Check out the opportunities listed below. Your participation will directly benefit the school and your children!

Oak Farm school participates in both General Mills' Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup's Label for Education programs. Simply clip the Box Tops coupon located on a variety of General Mills products, send them into school, and the school will earn 10 cents for each Box Top. Brand names such as Cheerios, Juicy Juice, Betty Crocker, Cascadian Farms, Pillsbury, Cottonelle, Ziploc, Hefty, Avery, and more are included. For a complete list of products, visit: www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?id=2164.

Campbell Soup point coupons can be found not only on soup cans but also on products such as Spaghettios, V8, Prego, Pepperidge Farm, and Market Day. Please clip the 1 point or 5 point UPC coupon located on the label and send them into school. Some products do not have an actual coupon. In this case, just send in the product UPC. If you are unsure, please send in the whole label including the UPC. Please visit www.labelsforeducation.com/participating-products.aspx for more information.

Lastly, Target credit card holders can designate Oak Farm School to receive 1% of their purchases in cash. If you have a Target credit card, go on line at www.Target.com and link your card to Oak Farm School. Turn your shopping trip into cash for the school!

Please support these programs and start collecting today. Box Tops and Campbell Soup label UPC can be dropped off with Kelly Elias in the Victorian Farmhouse. If you have any questions, contact Tish Teel at pmteel@yahoo.com.