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**In this issue:**

Letter from Judith	1-2
Yearbook Update	2
Toddler Art	2
Summer Camp Update	3
Visiting the Toddlers	3
Summer Music Lessons	4
OFPO News	4
August Shoe Drive	4

**Upcoming Events**

May 25	Last Day of School
June 1	First 2012-13 Tuition Installment Due Program Fees Due
Aug. 16	Parent Orientation 5:30 PM
Aug. 17	Parent/Child Classroom Visits 9 - 10:30 AM
Aug. 20	First Day of School Toddler Separation Environment Begins Primary Follows Staggered Start Dates Lower Elementary Returning Students Begin

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

*Our mission is to provide a Montessori environment that inspires children to reach their potential through meaningful work.*

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## FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

### Afternoon with the Arts

Last week we celebrated an *Afternoon with the Arts* at the Oak Farm art center where guests were welcomed with the beat of Africa drumming by sixth-year and middle-school students. The art gallery showcased student work in glass, pottery, paint, and batik, and the students provided additional entertainment by singing, dancing, and playing instruments. A group of middle-school students became a "School of Rock" band performing for the first time for an audience.

A highlight of the afternoon was the debut of the new Oak Farm School song, written by Elizabeth Smith, our music teacher, in collaboration with the upper- elementary students. Understanding how music draws people together unlike anything else, Elizabeth wanted our school song to evoke a feeling of unification. She said, "The quotation *tall oaks from little acorns grow* is such an important motto to our school, that it felt natural to use that beautiful word combination as a foundation for the piece."

Elizabeth wrote the first verse and chorus to give a framework. Using that template, the upper- elementary students wrote verses two and three about things they love about our school. The song is an original expression by the upper-elementary

students and Elizabeth. Read it aloud, and you'll hear the beauty of the words, knowing that they reflect the thoughts of the students.

### Tall Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

Tall oaks from little acorns grow

Branches wide, rooted deep.

Tall oaks from little acorns grow,

Full of life, strong and free.

### CHORUS:

We are here to learn who we will be,

To find out what's inside of me,

And grow, and grow, and grow, and grow

Stronger every day,

That is the Oak Farm way.

### Verse 2:

Tall oaks from little acorns grow

Where my friends greet me.

Tall oaks from little acorns grow

In the woods I feel free.

## FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

*Continued from page 1*

### CHORUS

Verse 3:

Tall oaks from little acorns grow  
Birds of peace sing to me.  
Tall oaks from little acorns grow  
When we leave, we fly free.

CHORUS with last line repeated.

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## YEARBOOK UPDATE

**By Kelly Elias, Yearbook Advisor**

Yearbooks were distributed yesterday; check with your son or daughter to see Oak Farm's first ever yearbook. We are excited by what our upper-elementary students helped create and are looking forward to beginning another one for next year. If you would like to pre-order your 2012-2013 yearbook, they are on sale now for the Early Bird price of \$15. Order forms will be available soon, or you may turn in your check with "yearbook" listed in the memo portion and no order form is necessary. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a successful year for our project, and we hope you enjoy looking at it as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

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## ART IN THE TODDLER ENVIRONMENT

**By Candy Slabaugh, Toddler Teacher**

The toddler art experience enhances language, sensory exploration, fine motor development, and creative expression. Through exploration and practice with paint, chalk, and other mediums as well as with different tools, toddlers are allowed to "discover" art. Hearing, seeing, smelling, and touching experiences provide important clues to the world around them. Toddlers are not only learning the skills needed to create art, the experience allows them have some of their first creative extensions of language.



## SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

By Kelly Elias

We are excited to announce that all of our summer camps at the Primary and Elementary levels are a “go”. If you have signed your child up for one or more of these camps please look for a letter in the mail with your child’s information. We have also emailed camp details including a medical form that needs to be filled out and returned no later than your child’s first day of camp.

If you are still interested in signing up your child for one of our weeks of summer camp please contact me ASAP [keliass@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:keliass@oakfarmschool.com). We have limited openings. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting summer beginning on June 11, our first week of camp.

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## VISITING THE TODDLERS

By Falen Pope, Infant Teacher

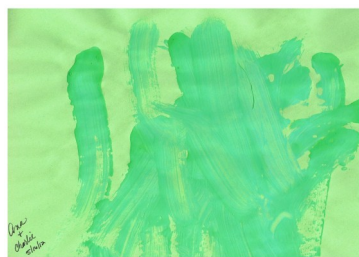
“One can always go for an intellectual walk!”

– Dr. Maria Montessori

Dr. Montessori stressed the importance of children learning from other children. Older children learn from younger children by way of teaching them what they have learned, solidifying concepts. They can also learn patience and kindness among other things. Younger children learn by way of example and lessons given to them by the older children. Montessori speaks not only of learning within the classroom but also moving out and exploring other environments and learning from those children.



Over the last few months some of the infants have been visiting with the toddlers. During the first few days the infants entered with caution but quickly settled in, exploring thoroughly. Now they can’t wait to visit, running in with enthusiasm. The toddlers are also excited to see their new friends. This wasn’t always the case. They had to learn how to communicate with the infants and show them the standards of their environment. They easily melded into this role. It’s exciting to watch a toddler show an infant how to pass the bowl at snack and then see the infant remember and pass the bowl on his own the next time around. It is also exciting to see a toddler, who was originally upset with these new visitors disrupting him, become helpful and show kindness to his new friends.



**Ana (toddler) and Charlotte (infant) painted this picture together.**



## **PRIVATE SUMMER MUSIC LESSONS AVAILABLE**

### **By Elizabeth Smith, Music Specialist**

Private music lessons will be available for Oak Farm Students during the summer. Families may register for a six-lesson package, and have it customized to your summer schedule to honor vacation times. Lessons will be provided at the Victorian Farmhouse. Please contact Elizabeth Smith at [esmith@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:esmith@oakfarmschool.com) or (260) 318-6760 for more details.

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## **OAK FARM PARENT ORGANIZATION (OFPO)**

### **By Emily Elko, OFPO President 2012-13**

The goal of the Oak Farm Parent Organization is to serve the school by cultivating community, volunteerism, and ownership of Oak Farm. Every family at Oak Farm is a member of the OFPO and contributes to its success. We want to welcome the new 2012-13 OFPO Officers:

Events Representative - Cathy Sauder

Ambassador Representative - Janet Canino

Winter Wonderland Co-Chairs - Jillian Chaulk, Erica Dekko, Jenna Ott

President - Emily Elko.

We are asking for volunteers to participate in the Ambassador program for next school year. As an ambassador, you will assist in transitioning new families to our school by being a welcoming representative of Oak Farm. If you are interested in being a resource for our new Oak Farm families, please contact Lisa Rimmel, [lrimmel@OakFarmSchool.com](mailto:lrimmel@OakFarmSchool.com) so we can get the match process started. Thanks!

Save the Date! Tuesday, September 4, 2012 - OFPO Kick-Off Event

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## **SECOND ANNUAL SHOE DRIVE BEGINS IN AUGUST**

### **By Nola Katinsky**

We wanted to give everyone advance notice to save their outgrown and outworn shoes. All shoes collected will be donated to the Dekalb Humane Society. From there they will be redistributed to those in need and the funds generated from this process will be returned to the shelter to benefit the animals in their care. Please invite friends and family to save their shoes, so that we can exceed last year's drive of more than 500 donated shoes!