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April 2012

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Upcoming Events

- Apr. 1 Monthly Tuition Installment Due
- Apr. 6 **School Closed - Good Friday**
- Apr. 11 Primary Cook Day
- Apr. 12 Coffee with the Head
8:45 AM Victorian Farmhouse
Where is Oak Farm Going and What Will It Be When It Gets There?
- Apr. 12 6 PM Presentation: *Where is Oak Farm Going and What Will It Be When It Gets There?*
- Apr. 18 In-service Day - School Closed to Students
- Apr. 19- Parent - Teacher Conferences—School
- Apr. 20 Closed to Students

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	1	2	3	4	5

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

As the Head of the School, I see the bird's eye view of life at Oak Farm. Spring, as the season of rebirth, fosters activities emphasizing the full development of each child's potential. This is a time when our teachers create wonderful opportunities to extend academic learning to physical, emotional, and character development.

First, all students daily run, jump, explore, and enjoy the beauty of our 54-acre wooded and prairie lands. From the playgrounds to the forest to the soccer fields, your children enjoy the wonder, the beauty, and release the outdoors uniquely provides.

Springtime on the farm has created a wonderful mentorship program for our Middle School students to share their knowledge and sensitivity about the animals and the farm with the Primary students. Kindergarten students were recently given a special farm tour guided by the Middle School students. Just as in the classroom, the older student experiences the responsibility and privilege of their leadership and the younger students look forward to growing up as kind and thoughtful.

Students in all our programs enjoy time to cultivate

the gardens outside classroom areas, in the community garden, or in the greenhouse at the Middle School. Our chef, Jill, is leading the garden projects on the south campus with the students and teachers.

On April 27, we will celebrate Earth Day with a family potluck and student guided tours of the outdoor projects. Please be sure to mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend and enjoy the celebration with your family. This is also a wonderful time to share with your friends who might be interested in joining our Oak Farm Montessori community.

Lower Elementary is busy planning their annual overnight trip which will be nature based this year. For many first-year students, this will be their first night away from home. It is a moment to strengthen the independence developed during the year as well as to enjoy outdoor activities with our PE teacher, and botany and ecology studies with the classroom teachers.

Upper Elementary will complete the third World Changers Café next week. Each Upper Elementary student chose a person whose actions spoke to him

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FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

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or her of Leadership, Citizenship, Emotional Literacy, or Life Long Learning. After researching this special person, they prepared a speech to share about the influence that person had on the world and on them. While a third of the class presented their World Changer Speeches at each Café, their classmates became the chefs preparing the food and the wait staff serving it. The funds raised from their café will be donated to a charity whose work speaks to the students. What did students learn from this extensive undertaking? Certainly, nothing that could be measured by ISTEP or an achievement test, but what they did learn will lay a foundation for their emotional and social growth that will stay with them forever. In addition, the academic components of research and speech writing were based on each student's choice of the subject. Whenever choice is a component of learning, Dr. Montessori wrote, "engagement is assured". The students learned how people have made a difference in the world, inspiring them to do as well. Their decision to give the profit to charity demonstrates the ethical and emotional impact of this event. Moreover, the students delighted in having the adult responsibilities of chefs and servers, which helps hone their emotional maturity.

Our eighth-year students will be representing Republic of Argentina and the State of Qatar this year at the Montessori Model UN Program from April 25-28. At the NYC event, they will negotiate and write draft resolutions on pressing global issues in collaboration with 1200 Montessori students from nine countries. Then they will vote on their resolutions at the United Nations. This experience inspires students to not only understand global issues but to become global citizens. Montessori believed that education is the tool for peace and peace the tool of education. In addition, the students develop and sharpen their research, negotiation, and public speaking skills as well as develop a greater understanding of the scope and diversity of the world they will inherit.

Spring sports are underway for Elementary and Middle School students and include Golf and Track and Field. Practices begin this week; watch for match and meet schedules in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

The school year will culminate with An Afternoon with the Arts on May 16 at the Art Center on Green Drive. Elementary and Middle School students will sing and play music in the main room while their art work is displayed in the Gallery. The Middle School students will share selections from their spring play.

From my bird's eye perspective, these opportunities enable our students to find their wings in sports, the arts, nature, and global leadership. Every spring, some of your children and our students leave the nest to as they fly to their next level of education. At Oak Farm we hate to see them go, but are glad to know that we and you have provided them the finest academic, emotional, and social foundation to support their flight from the nest.

Finally, I'd like to remind you of our upcoming parent event scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 6 PM in the Victorian Farmhouse. Along with hearing from the OFPO and Winter Wonderland Chairs, we will answer the question, "Where is Oak Farm going and what will it be when it gets there?" This event is for the entire Oak Farm community; **childcare will be provided free of charge** for any Primary through Upper-Elementary-age student beginning at 5:45 PM in the Victorian Farmhouse. Please phone or email your RSVP to Lisa for the event and for childcare before 3 PM on Tuesday, April 10. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

KINDERGARTENERS VISIT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL FARM

By Elizabeth Green, Primary 3 Teacher



Hope shares fiber from one of the animals.



Kindergarten students pet the very large sow!

After months of planning and preparation on the part of the middle-school students, our middle-school farm visit took place on a mild afternoon just before spring break. Not even a gentle rain could dampen the excitement of the kindergarteners as they rode the Oak Farm bus up the road for the first outing to the growing middle-school farm.

Once off the bus, the kindergarteners were divided into 3 groups each of which was guided by a middle-school student. The groups rotated among three stations: the piglets in the small barn, the chickens in the chicken coop, and the remaining animals in the large animal barn.

In the small barn, Maddie and Mariano talked with the younger students about the age of the piglets and why they were separated from their mother who still lives in the large barn. They also showed the groups what the piglets' food looks and feels like and how it is filled with all the vitamins and nutrients that they need. Mariano then played a game with the students where they guessed how much food they thought the piglets ate each day by looking at milk jugs filled to different levels.

In addition to the piglets, the students visited AJ and Matthew in the chicken coop where AJ held a 3-day-old chick. The students made many observations about the physical attributes of the

tiny chick whose down was "so soft"! Afterwards, the kindergarteners looked for "eggs" hidden in the coop each of which represented a different stage of development of a chick.

Finally, the groups were met by Hope, Ian, Noah, and Elijah in the big barn which is home to the alpacas, sheep, goats, donkeys, chicks, and one very large sow. The students had the opportunity to pet an alpaca, feed a sheep, and observe a donkey. Hope discussed how the fiber from the alpacas and sheep can be used to make different things. In fact, Rachel, a middle-school teacher, had made a little doll which Hope shared with the groups of kindergarteners. The visit ended with Elijah demonstrating how to milk a goat. Now that's hard work!

On behalf of the Primary teachers and kindergarten students who visited, I'd like to thank the middle-school students and teachers for sharing the farm animals with us. It was inspiring to observe the older students sharing their knowledge so confidently!

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES TO BE HELD APRIL 19-20

By Sarah Shanton-Cox, Admissions Director, Human Resources Director

All-school conferences will be held on Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20, 2012

Conferences on Thursday are being held 11 AM - 7 PM.

Conferences on Friday are being held 8 AM - 4 PM.

Procedure to schedule the conferences for your children:

- Call Sarah Shanton-Cox (Ext. 25200) to schedule your conferences.
- The conferences are for parents only with the exception of the Middle School. See below.
- Every attempt will be made to schedule sequential conferences for parents with more than one child.
- The conferences will be held in the student's normal classroom.

Please make every effort to schedule your child's conference during the designated conference days so that teachers are not taking time away from their already busy teaching schedules.

Childcare

Childcare services will be provided for the length of individual conference only. For example: if you have two children and, therefore, two conferences to attend, your children may participate in the childcare service for the length of those two conferences only. Please let Sarah know if you need this service.

Childcare will be available in following locations:

Toddler: Solarium (Victorian Farmhouse)

Primary through Middle School: Multi-purpose Room (Victorian Farmhouse)

Please escort your children through the main Victorian Farmhouse entrance to drop off in the Multi-purpose Room and Solarium. For parents conferencing in the Victorian Farmhouse, you may continue down the hallway to your child's classroom. Chairs will be available outside each classroom for those of you arriving early and needing a place to sit and wait.

Middle School Students

Middle School students are asked to attend the conference. They will help lead the conference with their parents.

School is closed to students Wednesday, April 18 through Friday, April 20 with exception to conference childcare.

BUS ROUTE TO EXPAND AND CHANGE FOR 2012-13

By Lauren Moyer, Chief Financial Officer

The Oak Farm school bus route is growing for the 2012-2013 school year. We are expanding our route to allow for another stop and we are purchasing a larger bus so that we can increase the number of bus riders. Our bus has been full the past few years so this will allow us more opportunities to meet the needs of our families. The one change that we decided to also make at this time is to change the location of our existing bus location. We will not be using the Sleep Inn but will be moving to the Pet Smart parking lot at the corner of Lima Road and DuPont Road. We plotted the addresses of our current families and felt that this would be a great location.

Morning Bus Schedule for 2012-2013

- 7:25 AM Arrive at Glenbrook Commons in the parking lot of the former Steve & Barry's
- 7:35 AM Leave Glenbrook Commons for the Pet Smart parking lot at the intersection of Lima and DuPont Roads
- 7:45 AM Arrive at Pet Smart parking lot
- 7:55 AM Leave for Oak Farm Montessori School

The bus will leave each location promptly at the noted time. No exceptions.

Afternoon Bus Schedule for 2012-2013

- 4:15 PM Arrive at Pet Smart parking lot
- 4:30 PM Leave for Glenbrook Commons
- 4:45 PM Arrive at Glenbrook Commons
- 5:00 PM Bus leaves Glenbrook Commons to return to Oak Farm Montessori School

Please contact Sarah Shanton-Cox if you are interested in the new bus route and for information on enrolling and cost.

Get Your Oak Farm

Athletic Gear

The athletic department is offering three items for purchase. If you would like to purchase any of the following items please fill out the form below and turn in to Andrea Diehl's mailbox in the Victorian Farmhouse by **April 4th**.

These are not pre-made; they are made after the whole order is turned into the company for printing. You will not receive your order right away. Allow 3 weeks to receive your order.

Oak Farm

Make Checks
Payable to: Oak
Farm Athletics

Form Due by
April 4th



Falcons



Only Adult Sizes Available
Color: Oxford & Forest Green
Personalization Available \$3 each
Cost: \$35.00



Only Adult Sizes Available
Color: Forest & White
Personalization Available \$3 each
Cost: \$24.00



Only Adult Sizes Available
Color: Graphite
Personalization Not Available
Cost: \$ 27.00

Item	Personalize + \$3 each	Size	Cost
EX: Sweatshirt	Athletic Director	Adult XL	38.00

Total Cost: _____