

**In this issue:**

Letter from Judith	1-2
BoxTops Deadline	2
Crossing the Bridge	2
Bring Your Parents to School Info	3
News from Primary 4	3

**Upcoming Events**

Feb. 23	Coffee with the Head 8:45 Victorian Farmhouse
Feb. 23	Toddler Cook Day
Feb. 24	Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed
Feb. 27	Box Tops/Soup Labels Submission Deadline
Mar. 1	Monthly Tuition Installment Due
Mar. 1	Primary's Bring-Your-Parents-to-School Day
Mar. 8	Parent Education Event : Dr. Dunn <i>What is a Healthy Family?</i> 7 PM Victorian Farmhouse RSVP to Lisa for Event and Childcare

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	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	1	2	3

# Headlines from Oak Farm Montessori School

*Our mission is to provide a Montessori environment that inspires children to reach their potential through meaningful work.*  
 502 Lemper Road Avilla, IN 46710 [www.oakfarm.org](http://www.oakfarm.org) (260) 897-4270

## FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

The word “service” has a compelling history that takes us back to ancient India. Its root is embedded in the Sanskrit word *seva*, which means *service from the heart that is for the common good*. That single word is so beautifully descriptive and so aptly describes the efforts of all of us in the Oak Farm community. When I walked into this past weekend’s *Winter Wonderland* event, I quickly realized how much *seva* the committees had devoted to help ensure the success of the evening. And that led me to the thought of how very much *seva* is done within the entire Oak Farm community.

With *Winter Wonderland*, *seva* began with the willingness of Mandy Westrop, Jillian Chaulk, and Jenna Ott to take on the responsibility of chairing the event’s committees. Each committee member performed *seva* as well by collecting auction items, selling tickets, and coordinating the details. Nine months of dedicated *seva* resulted in an amazing event that raised nearly four times the funds as previous years. Saturday night’s *Midnight in Paris* was built of the *seva* of Abigail Loeffler and Kelly Strong, former *Winter Wonderland* Chairs.

By investing their time in the event, as well as their money for tickets and auction items, parents, Oak Farm staff and teachers, and their guests all

performed acts of *seva* for the common good of Oak Farm.

*Seva* is performed in our classrooms every day, as well. The teachers are performing *seva* for the students. The older students are performing *seva* for the younger students. They younger students, by collaborating with one another, are performing *seva* for their classrooms.

The circle is completed by the love and the respect the parents share with their children at home. That too is *seva*.

### Parenting Discussion by Dr. Dunn

On March 8 at 7 PM, Dr. Dunn will present: *What is a Healthy Family? A Psychologist’s Perspective Based on 30 Years of Working with Kids, Teachers, and Families*. The presentation and discussion will take place in the Victorian Farmhouse.

Dr. Dunn founded Dunn Associates, a family-oriented psychological and counseling private practice that has provided care for over 20 years in Fort Wayne. Their mission is to provide knowledgeable

*Continued on page 2*

## FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

and helpful psychological and counseling services to children, adolescents, families, and adults. Their offices are located at 1910 St. Joe Center Road Suite 23 Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Childcare will be provided for any Primary-through-Middle School-age student beginning at 6:45 PM in the Victorian Farmhouse. The cost is \$5 per child; please RSVP to Lisa for the presentation and for childcare on or before March 6.

---

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR BOX TOPS AND SOUP LABELS APPROACHES

**By Tish Teel, BoxTops/Labels Coordinator**

Thank you to all our students and families for collecting Box Tops and Campbell Soup UPCs. We received a check for \$261 this past December. . . congratulations! The next submission date is March 1 so please send in your BoxTops and UPCs by Monday, February 27. Your child may drop off these items in his/her classroom or in the Victorian Farmhouse lobby. Please contact Tish Teel at [pmteel@yahoo.com](mailto:pmteel@yahoo.com) with any questions.

---

## CROSSING THE BRIDGE. . .

**By Elizabeth Smith-Meyer, Middle School Teacher**



**Mariano reads his sonnet in O'Shaughnessy's Great Hall.**



What need the bridge much broader than the flood?

Thus asks Don Pedro in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* when he questions the need to build a bridge wider than the actual river. But in adolescence, we continue to build that bridge, plank by plank, until it is able to traverse any stream, river, or flood. To that end, we traveled to the University of Notre Dame last week to attend this year's Sonnetfest, a celebration of all 154 of Shakespeare's sonnets on Valentine's Day. Mariano, Ethan, Sage, and Jordan all volunteered to make the trip and read a sonnet in O'Shaughnessy's Great Hall. The snow delay worried us somewhat, but we were able to arrive in time and even to rehearse our recitation before going on stage. Each student read a sonnet and signed his or her name to the sonnet book. Scott Jackson, the program's director, explained that the book will be used year after year, garnering signatures of all the readers. Also, after reading, we received an "I Love Shakespeare" pin and a ribbon marking the occasion. We then ate lunch at the student union and hung out with all the college students before venturing home.

We hope to make this an annual event to gain a deeper understanding of Shakespeare, to visit college campuses, and to give more confidence for public speaking.

**Left: Jordan, Mariano, Sage, and Ethan enjoy hot chocolate and cookies after reading their sonnets during Notre Dame's Sonnetfest.**

## PRIMARY'S BRING-YOUR-PARENTS-TO-SCHOOL DAY

By Bonnie Schultz, Primary Coordinator

Bring-Your-Parents-to-School Day gives parents of Primary children the opportunity to share the experience of their child's school environment.

Parents of children in **Primary 1** and **Primary 4** are invited to join their children in the classroom from 2:30-3:15 PM Thursday, March 1.

Parents of children in **Primary 2** and **Primary 3** are invited to join the classroom from 11-11:45 AM or from 2:30-3:15 PM.

Please arrive promptly and enter through your child's classroom cubby area. Your child will welcome you, and then begin a "cycle of work." Please plan to stay for the entire visit. If you have students in two different classrooms, you may split your time between the two classrooms. Remember that the process of the child's work is more important than the product at the Primary level.

Please remember to bring slippers or comfortable stockings, as shoes are not worn in the classroom.

We look forward to your visit!

---

## A CHANCE MEETING WITH FRIENDS FROM THE PAST

By Lyndy Poyser, Primary 4 Teacher



With the unusual winter weather this year, we have to take advantage of the snow when we can. On February 14 we had a snow delay in addition to Valentine's Day. Oh boy! I knew the energy levels would be high in the Primary 4 classroom so I thought it would be a great day to try to get out to the hill to do some sledding. My plan was to be the first class out to the hill so that we could enjoy the snow while it lasted (the temperatures were to rise later on that day meaning it was crucial to get out early.) There was a little blip in the plan due to piano lessons during the morning hours. The "plan" was altered a bit due to the schedule, but I was determined.



We began "morning community" early in order to hand out Valentines. Then, building on that excitement, we decided to see if the hill was available for sledding. We got all bundled up and marched out to the hill only to find out that elementary students were already there. Bummer! Now what to do?

As the adults were discussing whether or not the hill could be shared, the children presented the solution. When some elementary children came to a rest at the bottom of the hill, they stopped and invited their Primary friends to join them—friends from the past met up once again!

As adults we tend to overanalyze situations, but children can see the simplicity. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but to hear the excitement and peels of laughter proved that a remarkably unique opportunity could have been missed.