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Upcoming Events

Feb. 6	Parent Education Event: Moving Up to Middle School 6-7:30 PM Middle School
Feb. 7	Parent Education Event: Breakfast and Tour of Middle School
Feb. 8	Primary Cook Day
Feb. 9	Faculty In-Service Day School Closed to All Students
Feb. 10	School Closed: Mid-Winter Break
Feb. 16	Lower Elementary Science Fair
Feb. 18	Winter Wonderland Gala

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 (260) 897-4270

FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

A vision of our founder, Lorene Dekko Salsberry, was for Oak Farm to create a comprehensive Montessori program from infancy through grade 12 that would not only be a benchmark for Montessori education, but that would also be a beacon to help guide other schools. Her goal, by the example set by Oak Farm, was to help raise the standards of all schools in Northern Indiana.

We continue to be on a path towards excellence in Montessori education, and this past year, the Board studied the feasibility of creating a high school. The research showed us that it will require at least five years for Oak Farm to have significant enough Middle School population to consider that phase of growth. For now, your child can have the benefit of a Montessori high-school education because the Board has created an opportunity for any graduating 8th grade student to attend the Montessori High School in University Circle, Cleveland as a boarding student. Oak Farm will provide financial aid to help fill the gap between what you would pay in Oak Farm tuition and the cost for your child to attend the Montessori High School in University Circle.

The Montessori High School was chosen because of the long standing relationship between Oak Farm and

David Kahn, the founder of the high school, the proven excellence of its curriculum, and because it is the only boarding Montessori high school. The principles of that program align with Oak Farm's. Their brochure states, "MHS's mission is centered on inspiring learning. We believe high school students need to develop a sense of purpose and relevance toward their academic studies that motivates them and creates a lifelong love of learning. They need a holistic experience that builds a sense of responsibility for, and pride in, their individual contributions. MHS provides this opportunity through a rigorous, creative curriculum and interdisciplinary collaboration with the University Circle community."

MHS's relationship with the University Circle community will provide your child an excellent preparation for community college or university. The Oak Farm Board's significant financial support will make attendance at MHS affordable. The financial commitment is unprecedented, and represents the Board's support for your child and Oak Farm's recognition of the lifelong value of a Montessori education.

If you have any questions about this opportunity for our Oak Farm graduates, please contact me directly.

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FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

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This week, we will be able to utilize Thursday as a faculty in-service and Friday for a mid-winter break since there has only been one school cancellation this year. We typically plan for 3-4 days closed due to weather each calendar year.

Last year the school was closed an inordinate number of days due to snow so we built into this year's calendar days that could be used to make up for excessive snow days. Since that has not happened this year, we will retain the days for professional development and winter recess.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS 2012

By Kelly Elias

Some of you may have noticed your child brought home a summer camp brochure for this summer's current program. Teachers received these brochures to hand out late last week, and we would like to point out some highlights. This year we are offering up to 6 weeks of camps for toddlers through middle-school students. Back by popular demand is Jill's culinary camp, which has been divided up with Primary one week and Elementary/Middle School another week. Elementary and Middle School students can also look forward to a couple of new camps being offered by Nancy Bradtmiller and Andrea Deihl that promise a lot of outdoor discovery time. Parents of toddlers can look forward to sending their children to the comfortable Toddler environment of the Victorian Farmhouse, which contains so much for the toddler children to explore.

We are again offering "Moving Into Montessori" for all of our new and returning Primary students. This is a great way for an older toddler to gain the confidence of transitioning into a new Primary environment, for a new-to-Oak Farm student to feel comfortable in her new school, or for a returning Primary student to gently adjust from a summer schedule to the upcoming school year. Students will enjoy a half day in a Primary classroom with a Montessori trained teacher who will guide them in learning some new materials or simply allow them to revisit some favorite works.

All of our camps, with the exception of "Moving into Montessori" will begin at 8:30 AM and will end at 3:30 PM. For those of you who have children moving from one level to the next, make sure to sign your children up for the summer camps that coincide with their new levels. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kelly Elias at k Elias@oakfarmschool.com or at (260) 897-4270 extension 25204.

"MIDNIGHT IN PARIS"

By Jillian Chaulk, Winter Wonderland Committee Member

Midnight in Paris is quickly approaching. Doors will open at 5:45 PM.

The silent auction will begin at 6:00pm and will CLOSE at 6:50 PM.

The silent auction will include many of our classroom projects. You do not want to miss the first hour—this hour will feature the silent auction, wall of wine, pot of gold and a wish table! We are excited to offer this fast, action packed giving hour, so that the rest of the evening can be spent with the friends and family that support our children every day.

We would like to share a NEW item that will be available at the event...Matilda Jane Clothing has donated

“MIDNIGHT IN PARIS”

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SERENDIPITY—the entire spring line of clothing, in the size of your choice. Serendipity can be viewed prior to the auction at www.matildajaneclimbing.com (The spring line will include three releases, and the first is available now.)

The live auction will begin at 8:00 PM.

The live auction will include some of the classroom projects and a few other surprises!

We are accepting donations for the silent auction until February 10, 2012. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding your donation. If you are interested in donating, and have not yet made your contribution, we are in need of WINE! We are asking families who have not donated a silent-auction item to donate a bottle of their favorite wine. The donated wine will be showcased during our WALL OF WINE. This event will take place from 6:00-6:50 PM.

Please RSVP by 2/13/2012. RSVPs can be sent by phone or email. I can be reached at jillchaulk@gmail.com or (260) 415-7291. If you have purchased a table of eight, a table will be reserved for you and your guests. All other tickets come with general seating. We look forward to sharing this amazing evening with you and your guests!

ART HAPPENINGS

By Heather Miller, Art Specialist



Guest artist, Deb Walterhouse, demonstrates her craft of creating tiles with clay to Upper Elementary students.



Upper Elementary students are busy working on a large, tile mural that will be installed over the fireplace at the Victorian Farmhouse. Tatum uses the pattern to help her place the tile she created from clay.



Heather demonstrates to students as the puzzle of clay pieces grows larger.



Middle-school students, Isaac and Ian concentrate as they cut designs from fusible glass. Students are creating small plates, bowls, and hanging sculptures from glass that is melted and fused in the kiln.

FAMILY HOEDOWN A WONDERFUL EVENING OF DANCING AND COMMUNITY FUN

By Kim Green, PE Specialist

Just minutes after the Prairie Fire String Band began playing Friday night, the Oak Farm community came to life with music and dance. The band had dancers of all ages up and moving as they joined hands and followed Marlin's calls in several old-fashioned country dances making for a very exciting and memorable evening.



Look for more Hoedown pictures on our Facebook page. See ya'll next year!

Thank you to the Dekko Foundation for their support.

COACHES FOR SPRING SPORTS NEEDED

By Andrea Deihl, Athletic Director/PE Specialist

Oak Farm is looking for Golf and Track and Field coaches. If you are interested please contact Andrea Deihl (260) 897-4270 or adeihl@oakfarmschool.com.

Golf Coach

The golf team is a co-ed team consisting of no more than 10 students from both Oak Farm and St. Mary's School (Avilla). Students in grades 4-8 may participate. Requirements: knowledge of the game and playing etiquette, patience and willingness to work with young students who may have never played before, able to model and hold student athletes accountable to the Oak Farm Code of Conduct, able to organize and manage practices (up to four nights a week for practices and matches mid-March through mid-May), recent background check.

Track & Field Coaches (2 needed)

The track team is a co-ed team consisting of no more than 25 students from both Oak Farm and St. Mary's School (Avilla). Students in grades 5-8 may participate. Requirements: knowledge of running, field events, sprinting, and hurdling; patience and willingness to work with young students who may have never played before; able to model and hold student athletes accountable to the Oak Farm Code of Conduct; organize and manage practices (up to four nights a week for practices and meets mid-March through mid-May); recent background check.

LAST CALL: BUS SURVEY DUE FEB. 13



Bus Route Survey January 2012

Oak Farm is in the process of developing a plan to add another bus stop to the Fort Wayne area. Currently, the bus stop is at the Sleep Inn at Dupont Road and I69. We want to add another location farther south of the current bus stop and would like your opinion on a few possible locations.

Approximate morning pick up time – 7:15 to 7:30am

Approximate afternoon drop off time – 4:45 to 5:00pm

Please rate the following possible locations with 1 being your first choice and 3 being your last choice.

Glenbrook Mall/Lima Road Area

Downtown/Main Street/Berry Street

West Jefferson Street/Jefferson Pointe

The anticipated cost for this route is:

	<u>Roundtrip</u>	<u>One Way</u>
1 st Child	\$135	\$80
2 nd Child	\$85	\$60
3 rd Child	\$55	\$35

Please complete one survey per family and provide your name below so that we may be better able to determine the geographical locations of our families. **Providing your name does not obligate you to participate in the busing service.**

Name

Turn the completed survey into Lisa Rimmel or Lauren Moyer.