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Upcoming Events

Jan. 12	7th Grade Basketball vs. Fremont 5 PM @ Howe School
Jan. 13	Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed
Jan. 16	Parent Education - Dr. Stephen Hughes 6:30 - 8 PM Victorian Farmhouse RSVP to Lisa for Event and Child care
Jan. 17	7th Grade Basketball vs. Howe 5 PM @ Howe School
Jan. 19	Parent Education Event: The Importance of the Third Year in Primary
Jan. 20	Parent Education Event: Lunch and Tour of Primary

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	1	2	3	4

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

Welcome to the New Year!

Please join us next Monday, January 16, at 6:30 PM for a presentation by world-renowned neuropsychologist Dr. Steven Hughes. As a Montessori parent, Dr. Hughes has observed first-hand the impact of the philosophy and education on his own children's success. As a scientist, he has researched the benefits of repetition, security, hands on exploration, and multi-sensory skills in development of the brain. His presentation will provide confirmation of what Montessori parents already believe, but it will expound with great clarity how the skills learned in the classroom affect brain development and ultimately success as an adult. This presentation is offered at no charge and is an opportunity for you to spend an evening learning how lessons taught today will impact the development of your child's brain tomorrow.

This week you will be receiving reenrollment information in the mail for the 2012-13 school year. For the next six weeks, currently-enrolled students have the exclusive right for reenrollment. However, after February 15, the school opens admissions to new students. To help you decide about continuing your child's education at Oak Farm, we are hosting our "Moving Up" meetings for parents of students who will be moving to the next program level. Each "Moving Up" meeting will be held from 6 -7:30 PM with childcare available for Primary through middle-school-age students. We

ask that you RSVP to Lisa for the meeting and/or childcare.

- January 19 The Importance of the Third Year in Primary
- January 20 Follow-up **lunch** and tour of Primary
- January 26 Primary Moving-up to Lower Elementary
- January 27 Follow-up breakfast and tour of Lower Elementary
- February 2 Lower Elementary Moving-up to Upper Elementary
- February 3 Follow-up breakfast and tour of Upper Elementary
- February 7 Upper Elementary Moving-up to Middle School
- February 8 Follow-up breakfast and tour of Middle School

FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

As important as the date and time are, it is even more important to understand the value of the "Moving Up" series of events and what they mean to you and your child. Let's start with the basics.

What is Moving Up?

It is two events.

1. The first is an evening event that will enable you to visit your child's new classroom and to meet with the teachers. During this evening you will learn how the new classroom will address your child's next developmental stage academically, socially, and emotionally.

2. The second is a guided visit with me the next morning in the classroom. You will see for yourself the interaction between students and teachers, lesson presentation, and student engagement. You will be able to determine the benefits of this next important next step in your child's development.

Let's talk about the realities:

One reality is that the world is in a state of flux, the economy may be impacting your family; you have financial planning to do and public schools are relatively free.

Another reality is that continuing your child's education at Oak Farm is an investment in his or her future that will impact her performance in high school and college, and it will build the foundation for maximizing opportunity for her to become a thinking, caring, productive citizen capable of dealing with the world she will inherit. That world will be distinctly different from the world we inherited. The job market will be more competitive, some jobs that exist today may not exist tomorrow, and new, unheard of jobs will likely be discovered. Aside from an outstanding education, which in its own right is important, Oak Farm Montessori provides a student a foundation that nurtures a love of learning and diminishes fear of failure. The result is a youth and an adult empowered with the tools to accomplish his or her life goals.

An Oak Farm Montessori student learns to act, not to react; to recognize the impact of his actions on himself and others; to address an issue rather than circumvent it; to risk and accept setbacks in the pursuit of achievement. Instilled with a love and respect for learning, a Montessori student faces challenges by arming himself with information and employing it to his advantage.

The greatest reality, by any measure, is that an Oak Farm Montessori education represents a wise investment in your child's future.



Oak Farm Montessori School is now on Facebook! Visit our page at www.facebook.com/OakFarmMontessori. Be sure to "Like" the page so you'll receive notification of updates and new content.

WANTED: FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR USE AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Oak Farm Middle School is looking for some fitness equipment for the students to use in personal fitness. A treadmill and/or elliptical are needed for the fitness room. Please contact Andrea Deihl by phone (260) 897-4270 or email adeihl@oakfarmschool.com

“THE IMPORTANCE OF THE THIRD YEAR IN THE PRIMARY CLASSROOM” TOPIC OF UPCOMING PARENT EDUCATION EVENT

By Bonnie Schultz, Primary Coordinator

The Primary faculty are preparing two important events for you, the parents of a kindergarten-age child in the 2012-2013 school year.

On Thursday, January 19, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. we will be sharing information about the third-year Primary (Kindergarten) student and the curriculum for this age child. This evening event will be held in the Primary 4 classroom.

Then on Friday, January 20, at 12:30 PM, lunch with Judith will be provided in the Multi-purpose room at the Victorian Farmhouse. Following lunch, Judith will guide you on a tour of two of the Primary classrooms. This will be an opportunity for you to directly see third-year students engaged with their lessons and the materials.

The program is designed for parents of students who are currently in their second year of Primary; however anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Childcare is provided for any Primary through Middle school age OFMS student from 5:45 - 7:45 PM on Thursday evening in the Victorian Farmhouse. The cost is \$5 per child; please RSVP to Lisa for either or both events and for child care on or before January 16.

The teachers are looking forward to familiarizing you with the materials and answering the questions you may have.

7TH GRADE BASKETBALL TEAM FALLS TO FAIRFIELD

By Andrea Deihl, PE Specialist and Athletic Director

The 7th grade boys basketball team recently lost to a tough Fairfield team by a score of 52 - 21. Nick Passino was the leading scorer with 10 points.

OAK FARM ATHLETIC SCHEDULES CAN NOW BE FOUND ONLINE

By Andrea Deihl, PE Specialist and Athletic Director



Oak Farm's athletic program is now using HighSchoolSports.net to convey all practice and game-day schedules. Type "Oak Farm Montessori School" in the search box to find the calendar. Select "Oak Farm" in the box that pops up.

Signing up as a "regular user" will allow you to see the calendar of all practices and games, directions, and will allow you to receive game alerts.

“MIDNIGHT IN PARIS”: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

By Jillian Chaulk, Winter Wonderland Committee Member

Midnight in Paris

Saturday, February 18, 2012

1. Can I invite friends to "Midnight in Paris"?

Absolutely. This event is for everyone. Please feel free to invite family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc..

2. Should I purchase a table for the event?

YES! Purchasing a table of 8 will secure your assigned seating, table recognition, and perks during the evening.

3. What should I wear? Should I dress up? May I dress in a 20's theme?

We encourage everyone to dress however they feel most comfortable. You may choose to dress up, dress down or dress in a 20's inspired theme!

4. Do I need to spend additional money at the event once my ticket for the evening is purchased? Do I need to participate in the auction?

No. Once your ticket for the evening will include your meal, entertainment, and entrance to the museum.

Look forward to seeing everyone on February 18, 2012.

CROSSING THE BRIDGE. . . OINK OINK

By Elizabeth Smith-Meyer, Middle School Teacher



The Middle School welcomed six baby piglets to the farm over winter break. We thought the babies would be born in mid-January, but they decided to make their appearance early. Unfortunately because of that, we did lose several babies due to exposure, but that is the reality of life on the farm. The surviving piglets are doing well and are as cute as can be, all squirmy and pink. We can handle them but must be careful because their mother—all 300 pounds of her—can be quite protective. Right now, the newly formed Outreach Advisory is devising a way that the entire campus can share in our burgeoning pig program, and we look forward to welcoming our younger schoolmates to the Middle School for this exciting development.

Elijah and Sage perform a weekly weigh-in of one of the new piglets so its health and weight can be tracked.

IDLING VEHICLES: ARE THEY REALLY NECESSARY?

By Adam Wylie

Mr. Wylie, Oak Farm Parent, Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, and Certified Professional Environmental Auditor submitted the following article based on his research and Oak Farm's value of environmental sustainability.

In line with Oak Farm's holistic approach to education, including our children's health and the environment, I think it is important to talk about something many of us have not thought enough about: vehicle idling.

Here are the important points:

- Your car emits pollutants like carbon monoxide (CO), Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx), and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Modern, well-maintained vehicles emit much less than in the past, but the exhaust of many adds up. This is especially worrisome to me around the Victorian House playground. Based on an EPA vehicle emissions fact sheet, if we have 20 cars idling for 10 minutes at car line, we emit 2.7 pounds of CO. We also emit almost 20 pounds of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) for every gallon of gas.
- You get ZERO miles per gallon when you're idling.
- Idling wastes money. The Department of Energy offers a flat estimate of 1 – 2 cents per minute without air conditioning (with AC: 2-3 cents). Other estimates are much higher. That cost is surely higher with the \$3.45+ price per gallon today. It is still not a lot of money, but considering all the political, economic, and environmental problems with oil, why waste it?
- Electronic fuel injectors, which replaced carburetors many years ago, use approximately 10 idle-seconds worth of fuel to start. By that logic, it's worth it to shut down whenever you are not moving for more than 10 seconds (but don't do it in traffic).
- Frequent starting will not wear out your engine components faster, at least not in a modern car and in a normal car ownership timeframe. Some estimates say obeying the 10-second rule equates to \$10 more in maintenance per year. Based on the first hit on my Google search for a car battery, that's one battery averaged over 9 years.
- Like mine, your parents probably told you to let the car warm up before driving it. In fact, 30 seconds of warm up is all that is useful even in cold weather, and it's better for your car to warm up while driving. According to a study by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, a car driven for 12 minutes in 14-degree-Fahrenheit weather will achieve the same temperature as one that idles for 30 minutes.

The California Energy Commission makes this recommendation: "If you are going to be parked for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine. Ten seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it. And when you start your engine, don't step down on the accelerator, just simply turn the key to start."

Someone posed the idling question on About.com, and the mechanic that provided the answer went through all the technical information, but finished with this: "This begs the question of why you're letting your car idle for a long time. It's bad for the environment to pump all those extra hydrocarbons into the atmosphere and you're wasting precious, not to mention expensive gas. I don't think you'll do your engine any harm, but why do it? Give nature a break and turn it off."

References:

- US DOE, [www.fueleconomy.gov @ http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml)
- California Energy Commission @ <http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/myths/idling.html>
- Slate Magazine @ http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/the_green_lantern/2008/05/is_an_idle_car_the_devils_workshop.html
- Hamilton County (Ohio) Air Quality Management Division @ <http://www.hcdoes.org/airquality/anti-idling/idle.htm>
- About.com @ <http://autorepair.about.com/b/2009/02/08/is-idling-bad-for-your-car.htm>
- US EPA, EPA420-F-98-014, Emission Facts: Idling Vehicle Emissions, April 1998.

OAK FARM SKI CLUB 2012

SWISS VALLEY

What: Oak Farm's 4th Annual Ski Club Trip

Where: Swiss Valley, a small but great ski resort close to home

When: January 28, 2012 (Saturday) 9 AM-10 PM



Who: All students, family, and friends of Oak Farm Montessori School. Any student in 6th grade and below needs an adult chaperone.

How to Sign Up: Just fill out the sign-up form on the next page and return with payment to Andrea Deihl. Please make checks payable to Oak Farm Montessori School. Form and money are due no later than **Tuesday, January 20.**

Transportation: The bus will not be available this year. Carpooling is welcomed and recommended. Please fill out the carpool section of the form if you are willing to have riders or if you would like to ride with another family. We will try to match someone up with you who may live close to you or wishes to leave around the same time.

Day-of-Trip Info: Check-in time is 9 AM. Andrea Deihl will have lift tickets and rentals cards in the main entrance/ lobby area.

Cost:

	Lift Tickets	Ski Rentals	Snowboard Rentals
Adults	\$30.00	\$17.00	\$21.00
Children 6-12	\$20.00	\$17.00	\$21.00
Children 5 & Under	Free w/ paid adult	\$17.00	\$21.00
Helmet Rental - \$5.00 per person group helmet rental rates.			

Oak Farm Ski Club Sign Up Form



Last Name of Family: _____

Contact number of person attending: (mobile) _____

Names of Participants	Adult	Lift Ticket	Ski Rental	Snowboard Rental	Sub Total
	Child (6-12)				
	Child Under 5				
Example: Andrea Deihl	Adult	\$30.00	\$17.00		\$47.00
Total					

Make checks payable to Oak Farm Montessori School

Transportation: Please check all that apply.

_____ driving as a family

_____ would like to carpool with another family

_____ # of seats available _____ # of seats needed

_____ will meet group at Swiss Valley at 9AM

IMPORTANT – ALL SKIERS MUST KNOW THEIR HEIGHT, WEIGHT, AGE, AND SHOE SIZE UPON ARRIVAL