

January 17, 2012

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January 2012

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Upcoming Events

- 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
- Jan. 20 Primary Cook Day
- Jan. 26 Toddler Cook Day

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

Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education - Maria Montessori

Yesterday we recognized Martin Luther King, Jr., who inspired many to individually and collectively stand up for the values that create a peaceful society and world. It is a tragedy that King, who was a leader in promoting peace and equality, was assassinated in 1968 by someone that believed in violence and disagreed with equality. In recognition of his efforts to bring about change in a peaceful way and his accomplishments, in 1983 Congress set aside the third Monday in January as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech inspires people to work together peacefully to find a solution. It also echoes Dr. Montessori's message that it is through the education of children that world peace can be accomplished. Like Dr. King, Montessori saw injustice in the world. Early in her career she urged teachers to abandon authoritarian pedagogy and replace it with a dynamic, experiential curriculum in which children could choose what to do. She reasoned that children who did not follow authoritarian teachers would not as adults automatically follow authoritarian leaders.

Nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize, Montessori had one consistent goal: world peace.

"She passionately argued (perhaps most notably before the United Nations) that education was a means—perhaps the only genuine means—of eliminating war once and for all. Without explicit and intentional moral and spiritual education, she believed, mankind would inevitably revert to its habit of war. Values such as global citizenship, personal responsibility, and respect for diversity, she argued, must be both an implicit and explicit part of every child's (and adult's) education. These values in Montessori education are every bit as crucial as the subjects of math, language or science." Cheryl Duckworth, *Journal of Peace Education*, 3(1): 39–53, March 2006.

"Peace is a goal that can only be attained through common accord, and the means to achieve this unity for peace are twofold: first, an immediate effort to resolve conflicts without recourse to violence—in other words, to prevent war—and second, a long-term effort to establish a lasting peace among men" (Montessori, 1949, p. 27).

Cheryl Duckworth continues: *Citizens are less likely to be manipulated and misled into a war not in their interests when they have developed a habit of informed reflection. Ironically, it was the infamous Nazi Goering who, while awaiting the Nuremberg trials in 1946, who also expressed*

FROM JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

this point: "Why of course the people don't want war. Why should some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece?...Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country.

Montessori education centers on this one very important belief. In developing her philosophy and method, Dr. Montessori drew on her experience and education in science, medicine, philosophy, pedagogy, anthropology, and by no small measure, in life. She lived in the time and on the continent of the two great wars of the 20th century. Perhaps this is, in part, why she so strongly advocated that education is the key to peace.

At Oak Farm Montessori, we fully appreciate and understand the importance of teaching the arts of peace, mediation, and collaboration as ways to achieve one's goals. These are important elements in our classrooms, and we work with the students to hone their skills in these areas as much as we work with them in the arts, science, math, and the rest of their curriculum.

As Montessori educators and parents, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day provides an important moment to focus on Peace Education through the example of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life's work for peace.

"MIDNIGHT IN PARIS": AUCTION ITEMS STILL NEEDED

By Jillian Chaulk, Winter Wonderland Committee Member

Midnight in Paris

Saturday, February 18, 2012



Naomi

Midnight in Paris is just around the corner. We are still in need of silent auction donations from our Oak Farm families! Please use your solicitation letter to approach a friend or family member who may be willing to donate an item for the auction.

Formal invitations have been sent. Please look for the invites in the mail over the next few days.

If you have any questions please email Jillian Chaulk jillchaulk@gmail.com or Mandy Westropp dpwestropp@frontier.com.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the event!

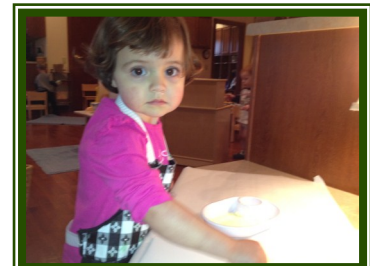
The children at school have been working hard putting together art work for the live auction. Here are some photos to share of the toddlers working together preparing the items for the auction!



Cooper



Charlie



Sabrina

PRIVATE SCHOOL TAX DEDUCTION AVAILABLE

By Lauren Moyer, CFO

A recent change to the Indiana tax law provides a deduction for individuals if they send a child to a private school and have unreimbursed education expenses. For parents that meet the qualifications, a deduction against income of up to \$1,000 per dependent child for tax years beginning after December 31, 2010 is available. Education expenses include expenses in connection with enrollment, attendance, or participation of the taxpayer's dependent child in a private school. Please contact your tax adviser to determine whether your family can benefit from this new deduction. To complete the tax form, you will need Oak Farm's Indiana Department of Education number which is 6060 C984.

FREMONT PREVAILS IN BASKETBALL

By Andrea Deihl, PE Specialist and Athletic Director

Oak Farm hosted Fremont at Howe Military on January 12. Fremont won the game by a score of 46-28.

Oak Farm led at half time but fell behind in the fourth quarter and could not recover. Cole Taube lead Oak Farm with 10 points.

Parents: Please look for the "Bus Route" survey at upcoming Parent-Education events and Moving-Up meetings. Your input is needed on expanding the Fort Wayne busing!

CALLING ALL FOLK DANCERS. . . OAK FARM FOLK DANCE CLUB TO BEGIN 6TH SEASON ON JANUARY 31

By Kim Green, PE Specialist

Dear Oak Farm Families;

We will be starting **Folk Dance Club** after-school, **for 2nd – 8th grade students, on Tuesdays from 3:30 – 4:30 PM.** We will learn an assortment of dances from all over the world.

There is a \$25 fee to be a part of the folk dance club. T-shirts are optional and will be available for purchase.

Please contact me to sign up or if you have any questions.

I hope to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Kim Green

kgreen@oakfarmschool.com

(260) 897-4270 ext. 25208

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