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In this issue:

Letter from Judith	1
Family Hoedown	2
Midnight in Paris	3
New Tax Deduction	3
OFMS on Facebook	3
Crossing the Bridge	4
Basketball Season Wrap Ups	5-6
Bus Route Survey	7

Upcoming Events

Jan. 27	Infant and Toddler Classrooms Closed
Jan. 31	New Date! Parent Education Event: Moving Up to Lower Elementary
Feb. 1	Parent Education Event: Breakfast and Tour of Lower Elementary
Feb. 1	Monthly Tuition Installment Due
Feb. 2	Parent Education Event: Moving Up to Upper Elementary
Feb. 3	Parent Education Event: Breakfast and Tour of Upper Elementary

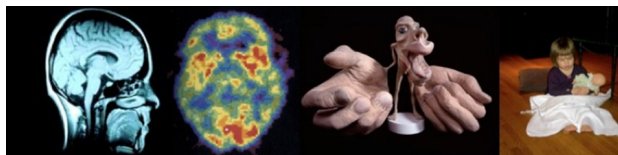
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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

Building Better Brains: The Case for Montessori



Dr. Steve Hughes, who addressed our teachers and parents last week, is a neuropsychologist with a clinical and personal interest in Montessori education. His daughter is currently attending a Montessori Middle School Farm program.

He writes, "My research is directed at identifying social and emotional rearing environments that help to build better brains. We're not just interested in intelligence—we're interested in emotional wellbeing and social functioning, too. Ultimately, we want to show how to maximize the growth and development of children in all domains."

Dr. Steven Hughes' talk last week demonstrated how Maria Montessori's brain-based approach to education provides the best educational foundation for the development of academic, social, and executive functions critical for advanced problem solving and lifetime success. He shared research studies that demonstrated how Montessori education is aligned with what we now know about brain development. Furthermore, his research demonstrated and proved

how Montessori education uniquely fosters the development of advanced cognitive functions, social cognition, empathy, and leadership. On his website, www.goodatdoingthings.com, Dr. Hughes has a screen-cast of a similar talk, click [here](#) to access it.

At Oak Farm we work rigorously to ensure that we are always abreast of the most current research in childhood development, plasticity of the brain, and successful learning techniques. What we learn is shared with our teachers through Professional Development programs and with our parents and the Montessori community through presentations such as Dr. Hughes'. Funds for much of this effort are a result of the fundraising activities of the Parent Organization and the support of the Oak Farm community at our Winter Wonderland. Our thanks to all of you that make such efforts possible.

New dates for parent education events:

The Primary to Lower Elementary Moving Up parent-education event scheduled for January 26 and 27 has been changed to January 31 and February 1.

The Upper Elementary Moving Up to Middle School parent-education event scheduled for February 7 and 8 has been changed to February 6 and 7.

The times for both events will stay the same.

**FAMILY HOEDOWN
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3RD
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.
OAK FARM ARTS CENTER (GREEN DR.)**



Prairie Fire String Band offers a broad spectrum of traditional music of the United States. Their distinctive traditional sound is achieved by featuring only acoustic instruments including: **hammered dulcimer, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and string bass.**

Our caller is Marlin Whitaker from Ann Arbor Michigan. Marlin is an accomplished caller and dancer who will have the whole crowd on their feet no matter what their experience levels might be.

LIVE MUSIC AND CALLER!



Prairie Fire String Band

Fun for the Whole Family! Bring Your Friends Too! A Wonderful Community Experience!

R.S.V.P 897-4270 ext.25208

Hope to see you there!

Kim Green



Midnight in Paris

Date: February 18, 2012

Time: 6 PM

Where: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

Invitations are all out in the mail. We are ready for everyone's RSVPs. Please start sending the responses back!

Why should you come to Midnight in Paris? This year's event will feature an all-new giving hour from 6 - 7 PM. Special benefits and features will be announced next week. This year's event will also include a live auction. Auctioneer will also be announced next week!

Why should I buy a table? Purchasing a table of 8 will secure assigned seating for you and your guests from outside of our Oak Farm community. We would like to encourage everyone to invite friends, family, neighbors, (possible future Oak Farm families). Your purchased table of 8 will include a special Parisian theme. Ten tables have already been purchased. The first purchased table has been named "Colonne de Julliet". The Colonne de Julliet (July Column) is a monument to the Revolution of 1830. This monument is located in the center of the Place de las Bastille to commemorate the Trois Glorieuses ("three glorious") days in July 1830.

What will the menu include? The food will be "fantastique". The menu will feature:

Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail and plenty of it

Prime Rib carving station

Fresh fruit crepes

and last but not least **FOUNTAIN A CHOCALAT**

Silent auction donations: we are still encouraging all our families to donate an item for auction. Please ask families you may know who own businesses or even get together with other families and put together an item to auction off!

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.



Oak Farm Montessori School is 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.

CROSSING THE BRIDGE . . . TO FIND OUR INSPIRATIONAL MUSE

By Elizabeth Smith-Meyer, Middle School Teacher

One of the creative expressions this quarter is creative writing. For this expression we are going off campus to visit places that inspire our creative “muses.” The first week we went to Barnes and Noble and chose journals to record our thoughts. Then we sat in the café and decided on individual topics. We wrote a “stream of consciousness” about those topics and tried to devise our favorite images into a poem. The second week we visited the Farm Show in Fort Wayne. This was a great way to incorporate our creative expression into the farm that we’re developing. The show was amazing in terms of scope and crowd. We stood by tires taller than we are, we heard life-long farmers speak with passion about their land and crops, and we were accepted by all as we sat and wrote the following poems inspired by this experience.

Blades
By A. J.

I see the sharp blades,
spinning round and round.
Men in plaid shirts laugh;
they are all eating and walking around,
making their way through the building,
loving everything they see.

The Farm Show
By Matthew

I see so many plows, just like the one at home.
The people here are so friendly and nice;
they give away free hoes,
wearing boots and Amish hats—
The farm show is where it’s at.

A Tractor Ride
By Mariano

The deer-bearing farmer does ride
Across golden waves of corn
To collect the fruits of the Earth
And be, for just a moment,
Hidden in the peace of it all.



Three middle-school students participated in the middle-school ski club’s January 14 outing to Bittersweet Ski Resort. Ethan and Megan, middle-school students, created the ski club and organized the trip. Pictured left to right: Andrea Deihl, Ethan, James Cameron, Chloe, David Deihl, Reid, Brent Straley, and Peyton.

OAK FARM'S FIRST BASKETBALL SEASON A SUCCESS!

By Jerry Albright, 6th Grade Boys Basketball Coach

What began as a combination of two groups of boys, Oak Farm and St. Mary's (Avilla, IN) , quickly became one team of enthusiastic players. With each game came improvement on many fronts. Our first game was quite a revelation for the boys as we played the Garrett Railroaders and did not quite break the double-digit scoring mark. Final score: Garrett 26 - Oak Farm 8. Game 2 found us matched up with Garrett again in what ended up being our only "home" game played in the Avilla Elementary gym. Final score: Garrett 24 - Oak Farm 14. Taking to the road for our next game facing the Fremont Eagles, our boys found themselves leading at the end of the first quarter. They were excited! Unfortunately the lead slipped away heading into the locker room at half time. Final score: Fremont 25 - Oak Farm 15.

We were pleasantly surprised to be invited to join the Holy Cross Boys Basketball Tournament on January 7 in Fort Wayne. Game one of our 2-game day was against St. Joseph Hessen Castle. It was a tough first half facing a much stronger inside game than we had faced in our first few games. Our second half looked much better as we closed off their easy lay-ups and outscored them 25 - 20 to finish the game. Final score: St. Joe Hessen Castle 51 - Oak Farm 35. After a two hour break we faced Holy Cross for our final game of the season. Sticking with our plan from the earlier game, Oak Farm had their first half-time lead at 8 - 7. You could tell the team was very enthused! The second half was quite a battle with Holy Cross 2 points ahead starting the 4th quarter. Unfortunately they were able to increase the lead to finish the game. Final score: Holy Cross 33 - Oak Farm 25.

Each and every player worked hard, learned plenty, and improved with each game throughout the season. They had fun—and so did the coach. We're looking forward to next season!



2011-2012 6th Grade Boys Basketball Team

Front: Carter Taube, Reagan*, Ben*, Evan*, Tim Barendt

Middle: Luke Passino, Dalton Smith, Jordan VanWagner, Ryan*, Emerson*, Joe*, Ethan* (Ball Boy)

Back: Coach Jerry Albright

*Oak Farm student

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Results
Tuesday	Nov 22, 2011	Garrett	Garrett	L 26-8
Wednesday	Dec 7, 2011	Garrett	Avilla Elementary	L 24-14
Thursday	Dec 15, 2011	Fremont	Fremont	L 25-15
Saturday	Jan 7, 2012	St. Joseph Hessen Castle	Holy Cross Tourney	L 51-35
Saturday	Jan 7, 2012	Holy Cross	Holy Cross Tourney	L 33-25

7TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL SEASON WRAPS UP

By Dave Westropp, 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach

I want to congratulate Francis, Reid, Elijah, Trey, Matt, Cole, Joe, Nick, Evan, Nolan, and Landon on a tremendous basketball season.

For many of the players this was the first time they had played organized basketball so the first several weeks we only covered the rules of the game and the fundamentals of playing. Some of the fundamentals we started with were how to throw a proper bounce pass or chest pass, the proper way to slide their feet playing defense, and the basic concept of setting screens on offense.

All the players caught on to that very quickly and then we moved more in depth of the particulars of the game. On the defensive side they became very efficient in playing a 1-3-1 zone and man to man. On the offensive side they understood how to move without the ball and set screens for each other. They were able to recognize what kind of defense their opponent was in and run the proper offensive. By the end of the season they incorporated a full court press and understood the best way to beat a full court press.

The leading scorers for the team were Nick (6.45 points/game), Cole (5.27 points/game), Trey and Reid (both averaged 4.20 points/game). All the players showed great attitudes and sportsmanship all season long and should be very proud of what they accomplished. Congratulations again to the 7th grade boys basketball team.



2011-2012 7th Grade Boys Basketball Team

Front: Cole Taube, Evan Heshner, Nick Passino, Nolan*, Landon Myers

Back: Coach Dave Westropp, Francis Smith, Trey Zabona, Joe Stanley, Elijah*, Reid*, Matt*

**Oak Farm student*

Date	Opponent	Location	Results
Nov 17, 2011	Churubusco	Howe	L 26-30
Nov 22, 2011	Garrett	Garrett	L 11-31
Dec 5, 2011	Eastside	Butler Ele.	L 13-34
Dec 7, 2011	Garrett	Avilla Ele.	L 15-34
Dec 8, 2011	West Noble	West Noble	L 19-21
Dec 12, 2011	Central Noble	Howe	L 33-35
Dec 13, 2011	Prairie Heights	Prairie Heights	L 31-38
Dec 15, 2011	Fremont	Fremont	L30-54
Jan 5, 2012	Fairfield	Howe	L 21-52
Jan 12, 2012	Fremont	Howe	L 28-46
Jan 17, 2012	Howe	Howe	W 47-23
		Season Record	1-10



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.