

January 30, 2012

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Upcoming Events

Jan. 31	Parent Education Event: Moving Up to Lower Elementary 6-7:30 PM Red Barn
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 6-7:30 PM Green Farmhouse
Feb. 3	Parent Education Event: Breakfast and Tour of Upper Elementary

February 2012

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

This past week I attended the ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States) Head of Schools Conference in Chicago. One of the keynote presenters was from the Kellogg School of Management; his topic was *Strategic Planning: A Failure Tolerant Approach*. Given that 10-30% of all strategic initiatives are sustainable and, therefore, 70-90% are not successful, we were challenged with the idea of moving beyond right and wrong, to be vigilant and recognize the difference between thoughtless sloppiness and healthy failure. He helped us to appreciate that in a true learning organization, learning opportunities come from both success and failure.

The Failure Tolerant approach is further defined by John C. Maxwell in his book *Failing Forward*. Maxwell examines failure and defines the secret of moving beyond failure by using it as a lesson and a stepping-stone.

Interestingly, many great achievements first landed in failure. Consider the paths of the Wright brothers, Jonas Salk, Arnold Palmer, Erma Bombeck, Amelia Earhart, Hank Aaron, Thomas Edison, George

Bernard Shaw, and Mother Teresa—each experienced failure, and each learned how to turn failure into a stepping-stone for success. As Peter Drucker said, "The better a man is, the more mistakes he will make, for the more new things he will try." Mistakes really do pave the road to achievement.

Concepts of risk, discovery, innovation and trial-and-error apply to Montessori Education and connect to lessons about life. Every day that your child comes to school s/he takes the risk of learning something new. As part of that process, your child will make mistakes. In a Montessori classroom, errors are looked upon as great learning opportunities because they guide the teacher to better understand how a child learns and what opportunities will make them successful. Mistakes are viewed as friends that point us in the direction of success.

How interesting that recent books on the topics of leadership and management are citing the same principles that Montessori knew were key to lifelong learning in and out of the classroom.

**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



ANNUAL WINTER GALA APPROACHES

By Mandy Westropp, Winter Wonderland Committee Member

Midnight in Paris

Date: February 18, 2012

Time: 6 PM

Where: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

Pour lq bonne qualite expirera

(Something for the vegetarians)

Here are five more reasons to purchase a ticket (or 8) to this year's Gala:

1. Portobello mushrooms poached in a rich garlic "jus"
2. Herbed cheese stuffed red potatoes
3. Creamy French Brie en Croute
4. Roasted vegetable crostinis
5. Stuffed zucchini boats.

Bon Appétit!

We are still hoping to get one silent auction from each of our Oak Farm families, here are a few ideas: a month's worth of Jill's lunches, movie tickets, family game-night basket, restaurant gift certificates, car wash passes. No donation is too small; please support your child's classroom with a donation and by attending the Gala.

COACHES FOR SPRING SPORTS NEEDED

By Andrea Deihl, Athletic Director/PE Specialist

Oak Farm is looking for coaches for our spring sports. 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

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COACHES NEEDED

Continued from page 3

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 (to four nights a week for practices and meets mid-March through mid-May)
 - recent background check.
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CROSSING THE BRIDGE . . . AND SHARING THE FARM

By Elizabeth Smith-Meyer, Middle School Teacher

For this quarter our advisories have been divided into two different groups with very specific purposes. One is the Farm Advisory, and the other is called the Outreach Advisory. The Outreach Advisory is trying to devise a way to share our farm experience throughout the Oak Farm community. To this end, for the past two weeks, we have been visiting the Primary and Lower-Elementary classrooms to gather information. First, we devised a strategy on what to ask the younger students and how to judge their interest. We took pictures of our animals and asked the younger students what they knew about farms and farming and what they would like to know. We were very impressed with how intelligent many of the questions were and how excited the other students seemed to come up to visit the Middle School. From these questions, then, we're dividing into our interest areas and planning "stations" for each animal for when the students come to visit. We hope to have our stations planned and organized by the middle part of February so that we can begin sharing our farm experience with the other classrooms.

