



Our mission is to provide a Montessori environment that inspires children to reach their potential through meaningful work.

# Oak Farm Montessori School

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 4 OFPO Kick Off Event
- Sept. 6 Soccer vs. Central Noble (Home) 5 PM
- Sept. 6 Cross Country vs. Churubusco (Away)  
@ Central Noble 5PM
- Sept. 10 Soccer vs. Hamilton (Home) 5 PM
- Sept. 11 Cross Country vs. East Noble (Away)  
@ Bixler Lake, Kendallville 4:45PM
- Sept. 14 Faculty In-service—**SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Sept. 15 Parent Education: Journey and Discovery

## September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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
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# Ahimsa Avenue

By Judith Cunningham

Have you noticed the new street sign connecting the Victorian House with the Red Barn and Green Farm House? *Ahimsa Ave*, chosen this year by a family at Winter Wonderland, has a special significance for Oak Farm Montessori School. Ahimsa can be translated as “non-violence,” but the meaning goes beyond that. It also recognizes the reverence for all living things and the interdependency of life and the earth.

Mahatma Gandhi laid great emphasis on the importance of ahimsa or non-violence. He advocated a non-violent technique to achieve one’s goals. During the Indian struggle for independence, Gandhi taught his followers to follow ahimsa. Gandhi believed that violence could never be the way to achieve any objective.

Interestingly, Montessori and Gandhi knew each other. In fact, at the Montessori Teacher Training College in London, England in 1931, Gandhi gave an address to the teachers:

*“I hope that it will be possible not only for the children of the wealthy and the well-to-do, but for the children of paupers to receive training of this (Montessori) nature. You have very truly remarked that if we are to reach real peace in this world and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with children; and if they will grow up in their natural*



*innocence, we won’t have the struggle, we won’t have to pass fruitless idle resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which, consciously or unconsciously, the whole world is hungering.”*

Montessori and Gandhi shared a common vision for the children of the world and the belief that education was the means to creating a peaceful world. Gandhi visited Montessori schools in England recognizing that they were a model for social reform that was transferable to India. During the seven years Montessori was interred in India because of the Second World War, she met with Gandhi, and her work inspired the village schools of India, where students learned Practical Life Lessons and Native Arts.

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## Journey & Discovery

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What would it feel like to be a ‘child’ in a classroom at Oak Farm Montessori? Well, on Saturday, September 15th, you will have an opportunity to experience this educational journey.

We request that all new parents attend this informative and educational program. The ‘Journey’ portion begins with a silent walk through each classroom where you will have an opportunity to look at the materials and visually appreciate the beauty of the classroom.

Afterwards you will come together as a

community to discuss the experience and your observations.

Now comes the opportunity to “Discover”. During this experience you will get to participate with the materials and be offered lessons by the teachers in the classrooms. During this Journey & Discovery, you will slowly discover how the child constructs meaning and how each level is the spring board for the next.

The purpose of the program is to provide parents with an understanding of ‘why’ and ‘how’ Montessori works by enabling

you to see the classroom through the eyes of the child. First as an observer and then as a participant in the classroom.

If you were previously unable to attend this event, or would like to experience it again we welcome you to attend.

Please RSVP by September 11th to Nikole at 260.897.4270 or [nalbright@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:nalbright@oakfarmschool.com)

## Violin lessons at Oak Farm

By Nikole Albright

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If you did not know, Emily Thompson has moved and will not be offering violin lessons this year. BUT, we are fortunate enough to welcome Lois Clond of the Ascendo Piano group in Fort Wayne to Oak Farm. She is a Suzuki violin instructor for students aged 3-18. Lois attended William Jewell college where she received her BS in Music Education and the University of Missouri. She also was an instructor at Hanover College where she developed the string program for college and com-

munity students. Lois was a violinist for Northwest Arkansas Symphony Orchestra before coming to Fort Wayne. The Suzuki method was developed to teach young children to play violin with the same ease and fluency that they learn their native language. Students will receive two lessons per week; a private lesson, and a group lesson. There are new brochures in the front office area which offer rates, information and policies or contact Nikole for more information.



## NEWSLETTER NEWS

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*“To learn is to change. Education is a process that changes the learner”*

*Unknown author*

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This year Oak Farm Montessori School will publish a newsletter on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, even if that day is a weekend. This new schedule will allow us to gather articles from each program level and include them in each edition.

For the first semester, we will focus on the four qualities that define the Por-

trait of the Graduate from Oak Farm Montessori School. Life-long learning, leadership, emotional literacy and global citizenship are the qualities that are fostered everyday in our classrooms and distinguish our graduates from others. The next edition of the newsletter will be published on September 15<sup>th</sup> with a focus on life-long learning from Infants through Adolescents.

# Hearing Screenings

By Sarah Holland, Speech Therapist

Annual hearing screenings will be conducted on 9/10/12 and 9/11/12. Hearing screenings will be administered to the following students: Primary third years (Kindergarteners), Lower Elementary first years, Upper Elementary fourth years, and Middle School seventh years.

Students new to Oak Farm will also have their hearing screened. Due to the complexity of the screening process (i.e. the directions “if you hear a beep raise your hand”), students younger than 4 years old will not be screened. If you would prefer that your child not participate in the hear-

ing screening, please contact Sarah Holland, our Speech Therapist, by 9/7/12. Sarah can be reached at the school number (260)897-4270 or by email at sar@ballstate.bsu.edu.

# Family Potluck Dinner & OFPO Meeting

By Emily Elko, OFPO President

The Oak Farm Parent Organization (OFPO) and Oak Farm faculty invite all families to attend the annual Kick Off Event and potluck dinner on Tuesday, September 4th at 6:00pm.

This community building event will be followed by a social and informative parents meeting. Catch up with old friends, get to know the leadership team and learn about events and opportunities

*Bring Your favorite dish to share!*

for this school year. We ask that you RSVP to Emily Elko @ elko@frontier.com by Monday, September 3rd with number of adults attending, number of children attending and the type of potluck dish you are bringing to share. Please note that we will be providing free childcare during the OFPO meeting portion of the evening. We hope to see you there!



# Speech and Language Screenings

By Sarah Holland, Speech Therapist

## Speech and Language Screenings.

A Speech and Language Screening is a short 5-10 minute interaction between your child and Oak Farm’s Speech Therapist, Sarah Holland. Speech/Articulation (i.e. accuracy of speech sounds) is screened by having your child name pictures. These pictures are intended to elicit specific speech sounds. Understanding of language (i.e. following directions) is screened by having your child follow directions. Use of language (i.e. vocabulary, word structure, and sentence structure) is screened by engaging your child in conversation. Your child’s teacher may refer your child for a Speech and Language Screening if they have any concerns in these

areas. Parents may also request a screening. If you have any concerns about your child’s speech and/or language feel free to contact Sarah Holland. Sarah can be reached at the school number (260)897-4270 or by email at sar@ballstate.bsu.edu.

Following a Speech and Language Screening, results and recommendations will be summarized in a written format. This information will be shared with teachers and parents.

## Save Your Box Tops and Soup Labels for Oak Farm



General Mills’ Box Tops for Education [http://www.boxtops4education.com/image.aspx?id=3878&WT.ac=FMA\\_ParticipatingProd\\_08012010](http://www.boxtops4education.com/image.aspx?id=3878&WT.ac=FMA_ParticipatingProd_08012010)

Campbell Soup’s labels for Education: <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/How-to-Earn/Participating-Products>

Tyson Foods’ Project A+: <http://projectaplus.tyson.com/Products/Default.aspx>

## Oak Farm Yearbook



Early Bird Special  
currently available  
2012-2013 Yearbook

Order yours today for \$15.00

## Oak Farm Soccer team wins

By Andrea Diehl, Athletic Director

### SCOREBOX

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Lakewood Park	1

The Oak Farm Falcons defeated the Lakewood Park Panthers for the first time in our school history. Austin scored the first goal for Oak Farm and was assisted by his teammate, Ryan. Emerson scored the second and ultimately winning goal for the team. Both of Oak Farm's goals came in the second half of the game which added to the excitement. Will Hathaway of Lakewood Park scored their single goal. Our Falcon goalie, Peyton, had 3 saves on record. Their next game is scheduled for September 6th at Oak Farm.

## Volunteer Opportunities: Kitchen, Garden and Soccer

By Nikole Albright

Have you found yourself wishing you could sign up for the mouth watering menu items offered by our chef Jill Hoffelder? The next best opportunity is to volunteer to help in the kitchen on the days that Jill is making your favorite recipe. Not only will you get to learn the techniques under her tutelage, but you are sure to get a tasty sample too!

Jill is also looking for parents who are interested in helping with gardening in the afternoons. This would entail a little more physical activity and the possibility of going home with dirty hands and a great day of fun.

Andrea Diehl, our Athletic Director, is putting together a development program for our younger soccer players. Our program has grown over the last seven years and we have found that there is a need for this program. We would like multiple volunteers who would help coach and direct our younger players in the skills of soccer and develop team play for two hours per week this fall. The program will run from Sept 18th - Oct 18th. (5 weeks) and will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45- 5:00 at the Middle School soccer field. If you are interested in helping with this development program for 3rd-5th years, please contact Andrea at (260)897-4270 x1101 or [adiehl@oakfarmschool.com](mailto:adiehl@oakfarmschool.com).

## Carpool Forum

Looking for a carpool family in the Kendallville area who could help with transportation of my daughter to and from school. I have one child in Primary. Willing to help with fuel costs. Please contact me if you are interested. Thanks!

Helene Gulley at (260) 242-2942 or [heleneeg@yahoo.com](mailto:heleneeg@yahoo.com)

# Light the Night

## The Oak Farm Acorns

Dear Parents, Students, Teachers, and Staff,

We would like to invite you to join our Light the Night Team, THE OAK FARM ACORNS, which will be raising both funds and awareness for Leukemia and Lymphoma. We are walking in memory of our school founder, Lorene Salsbery, and in honor of our friend and fellow classmate, Allison Burton. Allison is the 2012 Northeast Indiana *Light The Night Honored Hero*. Allison was diagnosed on August 5, 2011 with Acute Myeloid Lukemia and has finished her last round of chemo and is doing very well. She is back at Oak Farm and in her 4<sup>th</sup> year in the Green Farm House.

Last year we were very successful. Not only did we have a great time, we raised approximately \$9,000 and our group received the award for top fundraisers in the schools category! Also, the overall individual top fundraiser was a member of the Oak Farm Acorns!

The LLS (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society) was founded in 1949 when a diagnosis of leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma was almost always fatal. Thanks to innovative research, funded in part by the LLS, the survival rates for a few blood cancers have doubled or some even tripled. So it's important to donate and raise money so someday leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma will be 100% curable.

Over 912,000 Americans are battling leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. Every 4 minutes someone new is diagnosed and every 10 minutes someone dies. Leukemia causes more deaths than any other cancer in young adults and children under 20. Lymphoma is the most common blood cancer, and the survival rate for myeloma is only 37%.

### How can you help?

The Oak Farm Acorns want you to be a part of our Team! Our Captains are Jordan Axel (8<sup>th</sup> yr.), Ben Axel (6<sup>th</sup> yr.) and Emma Leedy (4<sup>th</sup> yr.). Our Adult Co-Captain is Natalie Axel. There are several ways in which you can participate. If you would like to be an active Team Member and help raise money and walk with us in the Annual Light the Night Walk, please contact us ASAP at [natalie.axel@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.axel@gmail.com) or 260.343.8270 for more information! If you are interested in making a donation, the Captains will be speaking to their classes next week and will have information to hand out to those classmates that would like to participate. We will also be speaking at the OFPO Kick-Off Event on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> and will have information available there as well.



The money raised will help provide assistance programs for patients and their families. It will also help educate healthcare professionals on the latest medical advances and research. The Light the Night Walk will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2012. Please consider walking with us! We will begin walking at 5:00pm at East Noble High School in Kendallville, IN. It will be a great opportunity to show the community what we can do!

### How to get started

Go online to register as a member of our team at: <http://pages.lightthenight.org/in/NEInd12/OakFarmAcorns>. When you first open the page you will see our team goal and a list of the members that have signed up. At the bottom of the link it says, "join our team now", and it is highlighted in yellow. Click the word *join* and it will take you to a new page where you just have to complete the three steps. Once you have completed the three steps, just click the word *register* and you can start fundraising. If you are not able to join us for the walk, you can still be a member to help fundraise and raise awareness. **Note:** If you do not have access to the internet you can still raise money and fundraise by contacting us at: [natalie.axel@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.axel@gmail.com) or calling us at 260.343.8270 and arrangements can be made to get you a collection envelope.

Raise as much money as you can. Talk with family, friends and neighbors about the importance of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Walkers raising \$100 or more will earn a special Light The Night (LTN) t-shirt! Those raising \$25 or more will earn a LTN Balloon to carry during the Walk

**Very Important:** If you choose to use the LTN Walker Collection Envelope, please complete and fill in all the required information on the front and back! If you qualify, please make sure to **write what size of t-shirt you want somewhere on the envelope!!!!**

Turn in all completed envelopes and all money raised to a Co-Captain **on or before Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**! We are doing it a bit different this year and turning in all money before the actual day of the Walk. This should help the event go smoother and hopefully you will all have your t-shirts the night of the walk if you earned one.

We hope that you will join us to honor Allison as she bravely fights her battle. Lorene believed in giving back and so do we! She made such a difference in so many lives. We hope we have inspired you to walk. Thank You!

Jordan Axel

OAK FARM ACORNS

Co-Captain