October 21, 2013

Sue's News

Happy Tuesday. This place is hoppin' with a festive fall feeling, as we spend this week getting ready for the 19th Annual Oak Grove Hibernation Festival. Please join us on Sunday between noon and 4pm for an amazing afternoon of family fun. There will be craft activities for the kids to do both inside and outside. There will be homemade soups, sandwiches, hot dishes, desserts all to purchase and eat here. We will be selling the Oak Grove 2014 calendar, as well as some other unique items. We will be raffling off a Bose SoundLink Mini Bluetooth portable speaker. And so much more. So much more that I couldn't possibly write it all down cause my fingers would cramp from too much typing! It will be a fun afternoon for kids of all ages (that includes us old folks too!) Bring your friends and family!

The PA will be sponsoring a series of three evening educational events over the winter. (Wednesday November 13th, Wednesday December 11th and Wednesday January 29th-all will be at 6:30pm and daycare will be provided)

- November 13th - A big picture overview of Montessori Education and the three year blocks that create each classroom, transitions between classrooms, and transition and life after Oak Grove. We will be asking for questions from parents about a week before the meeting so that we can direct the meeting in the direction that ensures the most amount of questions are covered.
- December 11th - 2 parent workshops. Each workshop will be about 40 minutes long (so that parents can get to both workshops). The workshops will each cover Montessori curriculum giving parents a hands on look at the materials and a window into the different teaching styles of our talented staff.
- January 29th - A Montessori guest speaker

Ok, let's talk playground rules for a moment. There seems to be a lot of confusion about the rules of the playground after school. First of all, let us all remember why we have the rules...The rules are designed to ensure the safety of the children and to ensure that every adult, both staff and parent, will be prepared to maintain a consistent and safe environment. I am reaching out asking that everyone go out of their way to respect the difficult nature of this situation, as we are mixing kids that are in a school program with kids that are under the supervision of their parents. During the school day the teachers will maintain the rule that the 3-6
students stay on the smaller playscape and the 6-9 and the 9-12 students will stay on the larger playscape. After school, more specifically, after the 3-6 class is dismissed at 3:30, the larger playscape will be open to children that are 5 years old or older. Children under 5 must play after school on the smaller playscape. We believe that 5 year olds are not only physically large enough to handle the larger playscape, but they also are able to understand and respect the rules. I am sorry for the confusion surrounding this issue. I am happy to talk with anyone who has questions or concerns. There are a lot of opinions and ideas of how things should work. We have based this decision on what we truly feel is the safest, the most responsible and the most manageable.

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to sort this all out. We also want to remind everyone how important it is to be actively watching your children if they are not in daycare and you have signed them out of school. Without this happening, the jobs of the afterschool staff becomes very very challenging. I certainly am under no delusion that there with not be issues and events that come up after school. There will be. They will be addressed and lessons will be learned. Seeing so many children playing together outside after school is my motivation to keep trying to make this work. It is a special and very important time for kids and parents.

A few other news-y things to pass along...

You all received a "Save the Date" email for December 7th. In the next two weeks you will receive the invitation that gives the details to this event. After 19 years of doing an annual auction and gala, we are talking to heart feedback that we were given that a break is needed from doing an auction-auction fatigue. Last year's auction was a huge success. We exceeded our financial goals and were able to create a fun and wonderful event. The committee worked extremely hard and our entire community rallied and supported the event. Although the thought of not doing an auction is a bit scary, I agree that a break from this event will serve our community well. With that said, and with the knowledge that we still need to raise those funds, we are planning a few other (very unique and very fun) events throughout this school year. Saturday December 7th will be the first event.

As the weather begins to get colder, I want to remind everyone about our snow day policy. If Mansfield schools are closed, we are closed. If Mansfield schools have a delay (whether it be 60 mins or 90 mins etc), Oak Grove will start classes at 9:30 am. If Mansfield has an early closing, Oak Grove closes at 12:30. IN bad weather however, the arrival and the departure if any student is always at the family's discretion. Please listen to the radio or watch the local news for Mansfield's announcements. Oak Grove does not make up snow days unless there
are more than seven. At this point the Board of Trustees will address the issue of whether or not to make up the additional days.

And one final reminder (as we quickly approach the holiday buying season)...Amazon.com Amazon.com Amazon.com. Remember that if you are ordering anything from Amazon.com, please enter the website through our home page and Oak Grove will receive 6% of all purchases.

A big thank you goes out to everyone that came to the Fall Parent Social. It is always fun to see parents and staff enjoying their time together, getting to know each other, having a few relaxing moments, and having a chance to meet new families and friends.

See you all on Sunday!

In peace,
Sue

If you have any questions...