Do you all know that are only thirteen days until Thanksgiving break?! Yikes! This hit me like a brick yesterday and I had a moment of panic realizing that I have yet to do a single thing to prepare for this holiday. I do love Thanksgiving. It is my favorite holiday of the year and a perfect time to reflect on all that I am grateful for...and that is a very long list!

We have a bunch of great things happening here over the next stretch.

- **Tonight** is the first of a series of three Parent Association meetings. Tonight will be a big picture overview of Montessori education. We will talk about education in the 21st century and how we meet the needs of our children in the new and always changing world of technology.

- **December 11th** will be a parent workshop led by a few of our teachers. We will dive into the Montessori curriculum and have a hands-on look at some of the materials that our children work with each day.

- **January 29th** will be the third meeting. We have Una Berry from the Greater Hartford Montessori School coming to talk to us. Una.

  Una has been involved with Montessori education for over 28 years—25 of them at MSGH. She spent 9 years as a Primary-level classroom teacher before taking on the position of Program Coordinator for 9 years. During that time she served 1 year as interim Head of School before becoming the official Head of School in 2004. She serves as a consultant for the Association Montessori Internationale, the world’s most respected authority on authentic AMI Montessori education, and she chairs accreditation teams for the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS).

Some Oak Grove parents are organizing a non-perishable food and clothing drive to do what we can to assist in the efforts to help the people of the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. Starting Monday, November 18th, we will be collecting non-perishable food items and clothing here in the lobby. We will collect these items until Tuesday the 26th. On the 26th we will host a bake sale in the lobby at the end of the school day with all the donations going to help those affected by this historically tragic event. To help bake for the bake sale or to assist in other ways, please contact Rachel Drew (Emma’s mom - 6-9 classroom). You can place a note in Emma’s parent pocket, catch her in the parent lobby, or email her at lily_baby81@yahoo.com.
Every year Oak Grove joins our local community in WAIM's (Windham Area Interfaith Ministry) *Walk for Warmth*. The walk is on Sunday November 24th at 2:15 with an interfaith service at 1:30. The service and the start of the walk is at the First Congregational Church at 199 Valley Street in Willimantic. Come for the service or just join us for the walk. After the walk there are tons of wonderful refreshments. This is a wonderful way for Oak Grove to show our support for our greater community. There is a flyer in the lobby with more information. Please join us if you can, it truly is a fun and inspiring afternoon event.

For the first time ever, Oak Grove will be participating in the annual Wadsworth Atheneum's Festival of Trees. This is a beautiful event that supports the incredible Museum of Art we have right here in Hartford. Oak Grove will be donating a decorated tree to the festival. The trees go on display starting December 5th at the museum and then are sold as a fundraiser for the museum. Our Oak Grove Tree will be named/themed "**Owl Be Home for the Holidays**." All of our students and staff will be making ornaments in art class over the next couple of weeks. We will have the lighted tree on display in the lobby so everyone can see the beautiful ornaments as they are completed and put on the tree. For more information the on the Festival of Trees go to: [http://www.thewadsworth.org/festivaloftrees/](http://www.thewadsworth.org/festivaloftrees/).

I hope that you will join us to kick off the holiday season while supporting our school for the December 7th Holiday Cocktail Party. Invitations were mailed last week. We promise an amazing evening with great food and drinks. Please also remember that we are doing this event in place of our annual auction. We will not be having a spring auction or gala this year. We will laugh. . .we will eat too much (because it is too good!). . .we will sample specialty festive drinks. . .we will be in the company of amazing people. . .we will show our support for our school!

As the holidays approach, please remember to do your Amazon.com buying through the OGMS home page. Oak Grove receives 6% of all the sales that are generated through our website. Tell all your friends and family. Amazon just announced they are starting Sunday postal deliveries too!

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the staff and to the volunteers who helped make our Hibernation Festival a hugely successful and fun day! Thank you all.
In peace,

Sue

And remember...if you have any questions...