Sue's News

December 19th 2013

Here it is, the last newsletter of 2013, and my oldest daughter's 19th birthday. A perfect time to reflect and to express my gratitude.

This time of the year holds different meanings for lots of us. Many different holidays are celebrated and many different customs are honored. The holidays are a time of celebrations of joy, relaxation and peace. We come together as family and friends and do our best to carry on long traditions. It is a time of sweet smells of yummy treats cooking, a time of beautiful decorations and lights and the laughter and excitement of the children. Right? Doesn't this sound so nice and warm and cozy? If you were to peek in the windows of my house, the scene might appear a bit more chaotic and loud! But I guess in a strange way, that is all a part of our family's traditions. And I cannot imagine it any other way! Our family lives (especially during the holidays) by the wise words of Dr. Seuss. "Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one."

Here comes the reflective part of the newsletter...It's the end of another year and it is time for all of us to ask ourselves a few important questions. We all take care of so many and so much, we must also take the time to take care of ourselves. Here are a few questions to ponder. If possible find a quiet place (ha ha!), grab a cup of tea or cocoa, or maybe even a glass of wine, and take this reflective time to think about your accomplishments and your goals.

Questions to Ask Yourself Before the End of 2013

What am I most proud of this year?
Where am I feeling stuck?
Where do I need to allow myself grace?
What lessons have I learned?
How did I spend my free time?
How well did I take care of my body, mind, and soul?
How have I been open-minded?
When did I feel most creatively inspired?
In what ways can I re-structure my time?
How have I allowed fear of failure to hold me back?
Where has self-doubt taken over?
When have I felt the most alive?
How have I taught others to respect me?
How can I improve my relationships?
Have I been unfair to anyone?
Who do I need to forgive?
When is it time to let go?
What old habits would I like to release?
What new habits would I like to cultivate?
How can I be kind to myself?
This has been amazing first half of the school year at Oak Grove. I am so proud and so thankful for the incredible staff. This talented group has worked tirelessly and every day brings so much of their hearts and souls to their jobs. I also want to thank the Board of Trustees for their continued support and guidance. We are blessed to have this community. We are a group of educators, parents and friends that understand the importance of education and have put the success and the happiness of these children at the top of all lists. I am so grateful to be a part of this community. The energy and support that I feel each day helps me try to do the best job I can for the school.

And speaking of family...Our Oak Grove Family welcomed seven bundles of joy this year. An extra special holiday wish for these families - Drew, Drew, Haydock/Hine, Hunt/Stintzcum, Mocanu/Trindade, Piotroski and Slavic.

2014 will start off strong. We have a PA meeting scheduled for Wednesday January 8th. David, Willa and Grace will be taking parents through a few of the Montessori lessons and explaining how and why these materials are used. This is the second in a series of three meetings on Montessori education.

In the first week back from the break, we will be sending out the After School Enrichment Program offerings for the winter and the spring. We have some fun and unique classes for your children!

We still have a few 2014 calendars left if you are in need of a last minute gift! And keep on ordering on Amazon through our web site! Oak Grove gets 6% of every dollar spent.

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season filled with love and peace and hope.

Thank you all for the kindness and support I feel each day.

In peace,
Sue

Don't forget to grab that tea or wine and spend some "me" time pondering those questions!