Upcoming dates

- Tues Nov 4 Voting Day
- Thurs Nov 6 - All School Morning Meeting
- Tues Nov 11 Veteran's Day & Parent/Teacher Conferences
- No school
- Wed Nov 26 No school and the start of Thanksgiving break

A Huge Thank You

October 27, 2014

Each year we talk about whether or not we should do the Hibernation Festival. The decision is always unanimous. The season would not be complete without this day of autumn celebration. So yesterday we celebrated our 23rd Annual Hibernation Festival.

Albeit a bit windy, we were once again blessed with a beautifully sunny and glorious day. The school is transformed for the day into a community gathering place. We welcomed back many alumni and alumni families. We made wonderful crafts projects. We ate way too much amazing food. (There are people that return each year just for the famous Curry Corn Chowder!) We ground corn with Johnnie Walker. We strummed on dulcimers with Backyard Music. Almost all of us enjoyed the reptile show 😊 and we had the chance to showcase our talents during the Open Mic time. There were some unique vendors here as well. And all the while, the children were frolicking and enjoying the outside space. Again, a reminder as to why we host this event each year. The last outside hoorah before we all hibernate for the winter.

This event takes a huge effort from many people. The success of this event starts in the food room, so a big thank you to everyone who volunteered to cook and bring food to this event, as well as those who volunteered their time serving and helping. Yesterday’s food offerings were incredible. I would like to thank Kelly Mabry for overseeing all the volunteers, the set up, the clean up and the overall managing of the food room. For as long as I can remember, Kelly has taken on this task for each Hibernation Festival!
Hibernation Gratitude Continued

A huge thank you to all of the staff and parents who assisted in the crafts room too. And to all of those who helped make the Harvest Table a success! A big thanks to our fearless leader Joe Smey for growing and donating all the pumpkins! Joe can grow! I personally need to thank Mike Gnazzo for his cappuccinos, that not only gave me a needed zing, but were so delicious! And as the day came to an end and all of our tanks were close to empty, it was the cleanup crew that pushed us to the end. A huge thank you to Ken, Keri and Jack Boucher, Julie Giannelli, Rich and Carrie Brody for staying with us to the very end and getting us through the cleanup! I would like to also express my deep gratitude to the teachers and staff who put in such an effort to clear out their classrooms and then put it all back together. The effort, the hours and the labor is huge and this event could not work without this assistance.

Who am I missing on my list of who to thank? Who? I know there is someone...actually there are two people...No surprise to anyone I hope, Cindy and Joe Henry. They were here when I left the school Friday night at 6:00 and they were already here when I arrived Sunday morning at 9:30. I do not have the words to express the gratitude, love and appreciation that I have for these two. Cindy and Joe are a reminder to all of us to live each day as our best selves. And I thank them for the tone and the example they set every day.
News from Willa and the Lower Elementary Classroom

The lower elementary class has had a great start to this new school year. Our morning meetings have helped us all get to know and appreciate each other. Everyone is kind, helpful, and excited to be part of the group each day. We have completed our first round of shares. Everyone had a chance to bring in a collection and to receive caring questions and comments from the group. The first year students did a great job for their first time with this. Our next shares will be about countries in recognition of United Nations Day.

Each work cycle is a peaceful, busy time full of exploration and discoveries all over the room. The children choose work, figure things out together, and think about how what they are learning fits into the real world. At this age, the classroom has to broaden to include the natural world and the community to which the child belongs. We have had frequent visits to the Nature Trail. Bryan, our organic farmer friend and helper, has helped us to dig the beds to get ready for planting our winter crop of greens. The child’s community is truly the whole world, and the work at the elementary level opens up that larger community for the child, and helps to answer the big questions that naturally arise for children at this level of development.

Lessons so far this fall have included the story of the great stories of the Big Bang, the story of the Coming of Life (the timeline of life), and the Coming of Humans. There is much excitement about work and materials in all areas of study. Our new tone bars have been a favorite. We are excited to share our classroom experience with families this morning.

Dulcimer Making with the Upper and Lower Elementary Classes

Last Friday Dave Magnuson from Backyard Music came to Oak Grove. What an amazing opportunity for our children. The kids in both the 6-9 and the 9-12 classrooms spent time working with Dave. As well as learning about these instruments and the history of them, they helped Dave build five dulcimers. They spent time learning how to play them and experimenting with different songs. What a great day of music! Thank you Backyard Music.

Cindy and I are loving being serenaded by the beautiful sounds of the dulcimers each day as the kids practice in the lobby!