Upcoming Dates

• Saturday Feb 7 – Winter Fair at Yeoman’s Hall in Columbia 5:30-7:30 pm
• Feb 16 & 17 – No School President’s Day and Teacher Work Day
• Friday Feb 20 – 9-12 and 6-9 classes trip to ECSU to see the production Alice in Wonderland (Pizza Lunch that day will be rescheduled to the following Fri)
• Feb 25 – Families Moving Up Night – for families with children who will be moving up to the next classroom in the fall, child care will be available
• Mon March 2 – Dr. Seuss Birthday and Read Across America, Come to school in your PJs and join us for a pancake breakfast in the lobby at the start of the school day
• Saturday March 21 – OGMS Auction and Gala at the Rome Ballroom UCONN 6-11pm – Child care will be available at OGMS during the event

The Blizzard of 2015!
Maybe it takes a blizzard to slow us all down! I am hunkered down in my house watching an amazing amount of snow fall outside the windows. I have been outside four times already to shovel, but finally realized I can wait until it is all over to start the big dig!
Why are snow days different than weekends or holidays? They feel cozy and warm and carefree. They are unplanned and most always welcomed. But most importantly, they keep us from over planning and racing around. Aside from the shoveling, I will be cooking and knitting and perhaps even getting out on the sleds! Thank you, Blizzard of 2015.

Auction and Gala

You have seen the posters in the lobby and all the save the date notices that have gone out. You will continue to hear me and the auction committee talk and talk and talk about the auction from now until the end of March. The invitations will drop in the mail in the next two weeks. At some point you may even see Joe Smey in a tuxedo selling tickets at pick up time. So, why? Why is the auction such a big deal? And what can you do to get Sue and Joe to stop talking about the auction?!! 😊

One of the founding principles of our school is that we do all that is possible to keep our tuition low, allowing our doors to be open to more children and families. I am proud to say that our tuition is SO much lower than comparable schools. But in order for this to remain, it takes a lot of work and effort. The Auction is one way that everyone in our entire community can do just a little and the combined efforts are huge. All the proceeds from the auction go directly into our operating costs. I will be sending out an email this week giving everyone different ways to help contribute to the auction. I will be asking everyone to do something- donate an item or a service, help us find others to donate items to or to sponsor the auction. The auction committee works tirelessly and endlessly. I would like to thank them for the time and energy they all put in to making this a fun and successful event – Joe Smey (Chair), Julie Giannelli, Kate LeGault, Beth Gnazzo and Cindy Henry. The most important thing that each of you can do is come to the event and have a wonderful and fun evening! Gather your friends and family, buy your tickets and have a well deserved night out! And all this while supporting OGMS!
How to Make a Canoe from a Big Log

On Sunday January 18th we got a tree log from Rachael Trowbridge’s dad. We got it because we were inspired when we went to Plimouth Plantation on a field trip in early October. At Plimouth Plantation there is a Wampanoag Village where current natives bring the old culture back to life. There was somebody from the village making a canoe from a giant log. It was one of the most interesting things we saw that day.

Hannah and David decided to investigate the idea of making a canoe of our own. At first they asked Mrs. Trowbridge if they could get a log from Mr. Trowbridge and she said, “I’ll ask him. It would be really cool if we could do that for you!”

It took Mr. Trowbridge a long time to find the perfect log. It needed to be green and that means freshly cut and it needed to be big. When the truck came with the log, it used a big crane to transfer the log from the truck to the grass area outside the 9-12 door. We have been using an ax and a fire to hollow out the log. Eventually we will be able to scoop out the charcoal to make it hollow. When it’s done we will see if we can test it out on water.

Baelen Kaufman 6th grader
Molly Angelides 5th grader

A note from the teachers...

As you all know from the email, our class has begun a very exciting project. The canoe is coming along, and we are trying to stay as true to the original process as we possibly can. We have a group of students working on a research project on traditional dugout canoes, and when it is finished we will post this information for the community as well.

Initially, David used his chainsaw (not very traditional) to put some notches in the tree. The notches were intended to be a starting point for the ax and mallet work the kids were going to do. The students then beat out a small space with the ax so we had a flat spot to begin the fire. The fire is the primary way we will hollow out the log, and as the sap burns it will water seal it naturally.

David has been helping the kids get the fire started in the morning, and we are trying to feed it and keep it slowly burning for as much of the day as possible. We are using additional firewood for the burning, and welcome any donations of firewood from the community.

This will be very slow work, and we are hoping to get as much of the community involved as possible. We ask that if David or I are not around, everyone stay out of the roped off area. If we are out there, please be encouraged to join us. As we move forward we will pick a Saturday, and invite everyone for a larger day of work and fun. For the Saturday event, we encourage all interested parents, grandparents, and alumni to come and work and enjoy the process.

Hannah and David
Happy New Year and welcome to Miss Audrey. The second part of the school year brings real fun because most of our base lessons have been finished and we begin the extension activities, making the classroom materials even more fun to use! Children are really exploring different math materials, the division board, the bead chains, and the stamp game, just to name a few! Our class is just finishing the parts of the earth study, and will soon begin to study the parts of a volcano. We are also learning about land and water forms and telling time.

This week, Audrey made Chocolate chip cookies with her new friends and our class sang the song "Sasquatch" at our all school morning meeting!!! I will be sharing more information in the next few weeks about our next field trip to the Lutz Children's Museum.

Please remember that ALL children in our class need to have snow pants to help keep them warm at recess. The school does have some spares, but each child needs to have their own in their locker. Remember to bring these, not just on snowy days, but also on cold days.

Happy Winter!

Oak Grove Summer Camp
Flyers and Registrations Forms going out in all parent pockets and available in the school lobby.

3-6 Classroom

This month in the Lower Elementary Class, our topic for morning meeting shares has been chemistry and physics. The children have demonstrated some interesting experiments. We’ve seen how parachutes work, what happens when acids and bases are mixed, how surface tension responds to soap, and many more interesting things. Thanks to everyone who has worked on these projects at home to make this month’s share such a great success. I have been getting our science shelves prepared for lots of exploration. Already, it has been getting lots of use.

Music choices have also been a big hit recently. Lessons have taken the children through the basics of rhythm and pitch. The dulcimers we made with Dave Magnuson have not had a chance to gather any dust. It’s been such a joy to observe the children’s discoveries as they work with the dulcimers and the tone bars. I loved hearing a child say, “The D major scale works best with the dulcimer,” as he was sharing in exploration of the tones bars and dulcimer together with a friend. Hearing children sing while playing the dulcimer is wonderful too.

The changes out at the vernal pond have been fun to observe. We try to get out to visit it each week. Our farming has been on hold during the bitter cold and now the snow, but we are eager to get back to it as soon as the ground thaws.

Willa

6-9 Classroom

3-6 Classroom teaches the whole school their song, “Sasquatch.”

Miss Robyn and Miss Audrey

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