Upcoming Dates...
- Wed Oct 21 - School Picture Day
- Thurs Oct 22 - Family Morning 8:30 - 9:30 - join your child in their classroom for the first hour of school
- Sun Oct 25 - Hibernation Festival noon - 4:00. A family fun filled afternoon of craft projects, entertainment and food!
- Fri Oct 30 - Teacher Work Day - No school
- Wed Nov 11 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School
- Mon Nov 16 - Muffin Monday

Why Family Matters at School
We value and promote parental involvement at Oak Grove. Parent involvement creates partnerships, builds community within our school and gives the children a sense of connection between school and home. In Montessori education there are three important roles: the child, the parent and the teacher. Each of these roles are essential and interrelated. Acting as a triangle, these three roles are unique and separate, yet are connected directly. The teacher provides the social and academic, outside-family, education. The parents provide the individual, private and intimate education. Children are supported fully and succeed easier when the adults in their lives communicate with each other and trust each other. It has been shown over and over again how essential parent involvement is throughout a child’s education. Teachers and parents need to understand the role of each other and help one another help the child. The more you can know and understand your child’s teacher and classroom, the more you can support your child! Please join us for Family Morning. You will spend the first hour of the school day with your child. They will show you around their classroom and share with you how the school day starts for them. Also, teachers will be posting signup sheets soon for Parent/Teacher Conferences. This is a time for you to sit and talk with your child’s teacher and hear how the transition into the new year has been going and about your child’s progress. The collaboration between parents and teachers is so important to the continued

Join Us!
Hibernation Festival!
Sunday October 25th
Noon - 4:00
Fun Family Afternoon!
Great Food! Fun for the whole family!
Bring your friends and neighbors!

A huge thank you to Julie Giannelli, Miriam Drew, Sherry D’Alessandro and Cindy Henry for going above and beyond to ensure a great day for all!
Building a Culture of Giving

Maybe it’s because the Annual Appeal is being mailed out today or maybe it is because the Auction and Gala Committee has officially started to plan for this year’s event or maybe it is because it was the theme of last week's Fall Parent Social. But I find myself talking and talking and talking about fundraising and the financial goals needed to help keep tuition as low as possible and our programs as strong as possible.

I try to talk about fundraising in many different terms and equate our dollars raised to the programs and operating expenses that they help fund. No matter how eloquent I try to be or how poignant I am, at the end of the day, it is still just asking for money.

This weekend I attempted to step back from this fundraising and budget mindset, which seems to occupy much of my brain space, and look at our budget line from a different perspective. Although it is my job to support the teachers and staff and to manage a budget that allows this school to continue to thrive, I realized I needed to change the way I look at our bottom line and to change the language used to get there. After all, our hard and tireless work with your children is not a business transaction. This work is an expression of a generous contribution of our teachers and staff to the importance of each and every child and to the future of human culture at large.

Every year, we ask you to support our school by volunteering your time and donating to our annual appeal and auction and other events, all of this above and beyond the tuition that you already pay. And the response is generous! And the most important pay off is that we, as a community, are building a culture of giving. Our entire community of board members, staff, teachers, parents and friends all actively participate in building this culture of giving.

When I step back even further, I can see the impact that creating a culture of giving has on our children. I see the small acts of help in the classrooms and on the playground: a four year old helping a three year old put on a shoe, a five year old cutting up a snack for a four year old, a group of elementary children quickly putting together a bake sale to raise money for a needed relief, a classroom committing their time and service to a local organization that needs help. Our entire community of children and adults supporting our larger community through events such as Walk for Warmth and the Polar Plunge. Oak Grove students learn to give help and to receive help. Giving help builds self confidence and compassion. Receiving help builds gratitude and humility. Together these build an awareness of support and independence.

Giving and receiving help and learning about service and compassion are essential elements of the Oak Grove education. These are also part of the school’s culture and valued by the adults as well. Whether you are serving as a board member, working on an auction committee, cooking for
events, driving on field trips, or the hundreds of other ways that you are asked to volunteer, our adult community understands and values our culture of giving. **We all begin to feel that we belong to something bigger than ourselves and this adds meaning to our lives.** This meaning is passed directly to our children, and they feel it and understand it.

Our community continues to give generously of time and talent. And I ask you to continue to give financially. To all of us that work at Oak Grove and to all of us who are parents at Oak Grove, much has been given. And much is expected. **We expect much of ourselves and we expect much of each other. Each of us must give what we can. It is our contribution to the individual child, to the entire school community and to the culture that adds meaning to our lives. It is this culture of giving that helps to define Oak Grove as a school and as a community.**

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Aside from the Annual Appeal and the Annual Auction, our two largest and most important fundraisers each year, there are many additional ways to help.

- **Amazon.com** - When you buy from Amazon.com, enter their website through our website ([www.ogms.org](http://www.ogms.org)). At the bottom of our home page, click on the Amazon link. Oak Grove will receive 6% of most purchases.

- **Stop and Shop** - Register your Stop and Shop card (and your friends and family's cards) at [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus). Enter in our school I.D # 07710.

- **Target** - Register your Target Credit Card (and your friends and family's cards) at [Target.com/TCOE](http://Target.com/TCOE). Enter in our school I.D. # 136149.

- **Land’s End** - Show your school spirit by wearing our logo on your clothes. Go to [Landsend.com](http://Landsend.com). Our preferred school number is 900153420, or you can search our school by name.

- **Other ways to support Oak Grove...**

Bring friends and family members to our events! Talk about Oak Grove in your circles of friends and invite folks to come and see who and what we are!

- **Come to the Hibernation Festival.**
- **Come to the Winter Fair.**
- **Come to the Auction,** or even better, gather a group of friends and buy a table at the auction- it’s a very fun night!
- **Buy a school calendar.** These are great gifts for grandparents!

**Thank you!!**