Upcoming dates...

- Friday December 18 5:30 - Winter Music Concert and Winter Solstice Celebration
- Dec 23-Jan 1 - Winter Break No School
- Mon Jan 11 - Muffin Monday
- Wed Jan 20 6:00 pm - Parent Education Evening
- Sun Jan 31 - Open House for prospective families
- Sat Feb 6 5:00 pm - OGMS Family Winter Fair at Yeoman’s Hall in Columbia

'Tis the Season...

What a wonderful time of the year! It always sneaks up on me too quickly, but once I accept that we are in the thick of it, I love it! I look forward to my family’s yearly holiday traditions. I also know each year will bring us new and unique twists on an old tradition or even something all together new to start and add to our celebration. For example, my family has already added two events to the holiday schedule for this year - an Angelides sibling *Chopped* competition (I hope my kitchen will survive that one!) and an all family lip sync battle. I will be sure to report on each of these after the holiday break!

I urge you all to think creatively about how to spend this precious time. Experiment and enjoy! Children tend to love this time of the year. They are bursting with anticipation and usually enjoy the planning and the preparation too. I encourage you to include your children and have things ready for them to do when they ask to help.

We as parents will ask our children to rise to the occasion over the holidays. We will expect them to be on their best behavior and use their manners. We will want our children to be patient and polite. This is exactly what we should expect of our children. It is not too much to ask of them. In fact it is precisely what we should expect. The holidays give us many grace and courtesy teachable moments. I hope we all seize these opportunities.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season filled with peace and joy. I will let you know how my lip sync number goes, I think my song choice will be very important to my success!!!

Hanukkah To-Do List

1. Buy Presents
2. Wrap Gifts
3. Send Cards
4. Shop for Food
5. Make Cookies
6. See the Lights

After School Enrichment - Holiday Baking with Heather Armstrong (Dec 15, 16, 17 and 18)

Heather will lead the group of children through four afternoons of holiday baking and gift making. The kids will end the week with decorated boxes of holiday treats that they have created, perfect for them to give as gifts. The program will run from 3 to 4:30 each of those days. The cost will be $40 per child. Please come to the office to sign your child up. It will be so much fun!!
**Gratitude Tree**

Thank you to everyone who took a moment to add a leaf to our Gratitude Tree. It was fun seeing the "leaves" grow more each day! Here are a sampling of some of the things we are all grateful for.

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**Oak Grove’s Got Talent!!!!**

Saturday February 6th will be our Annual Winter Fair at Yeoman’s Hall. It is a very fun night for the entire family (friends and neighbors too!) And this year we are doing something different and special. A Talent Show! We all know that the talent runs rich and deep in our community! And when I say talent show, I mean a talent show with children’s acts, adult acts, even staff acts, group acts or solo acts! So, over the holiday break, think about what you will do for the talent show. Will you sing? Dance? Act? Play an instrument? Will you get the crowd laughing or have everyone simply amazed? Ken Johnson will be MC-ing the show. I know it will be a fun filled and entertaining evening for us all! I will send out more detailed information after the break.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday February 6th and join us for a family fun night of food, activities, talent show, raffles and so much more! 

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**Discipline in Montessori**

I am attaching two YouTube videos that I think are a very good introduction for parents who are looking for some guidance in helping to develop discipline in their children in a respectful and productive manner. The key understanding here is the difference between discipline and punishment. Punishment being rooted in inflicting a penalty for an offense, whereas, discipline being the development of behavior by instruction and practice. Discipline = teaching. Punishment = punitive. The two videos are each about 15 minutes long and worth watching. These teachings are by a Montessori teacher and parent. Being able to implement some of this at home helps to reinforce what your children are learning here in their classrooms.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1wojtOxz_4&list=PL2KOzEHXhXARYgjPRtnwiwpP8KQOqlG1s
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcrf3i7vMc

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**Parent Education Evening**

Please join us on Wednesday January 20th at 6:00 for an evening of parent education. The evening will take parents through parts of the Montessori math curriculum. We will all start in the 3-6 classroom and travel through the evening to the 6-9 room and then to the 9-12 room. We will be able to see and understand the sequencing and the progression of the math materials as they are applied to the curriculum. Our teachers will present materials demonstrating how the curriculum flows from a deep understanding of the children’s development. You will enjoy the opportunity to use specific Montessori Math materials and discover concepts your children are learning, not only now, but leading up to now and then experience what lies ahead for your child. There will be ample time to ask our teachers specific questions about the materials and about the learning process.

I encourage everyone to attend. I know you will find it fascinating and it will spark great conversation between you and your child. Child care will be available for those who need it. We will have a sign up sheet in the lobby after the holiday break.

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