Upcoming Events...

- Wed Jan 20th - 6:00 pm - Parent Education Night - Diving Deeper into the Montessori Math Curriculum - Child care is available
- Fri Jan 29th - Contracts will go out for returning families
- Sun Jan 31st - 1-3 - Open House for Perspective Families
- Sat Feb 6th - 5-8pm - OGMS Winter Fair at Yeoman’s Hall in Columbia
- Wed Feb 24th - 6:30-8pm - Families Moving Up Night
- Wed Mar 2 at drop off - Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Birthday Pancakes and PJs
- Sat Mar 12th 6:00 pm Annual Auction and Gala - Horizons Common Building South Windham Denim and Diamonds

We know you all have some hidden and some not-so-hidden talents. The Oak Grove Winter Fair is where you will be showcasing these talents! We need kids and parents and staff and friends and alumni to practice their skills and hone with acts. Saturday February 6th you will go live with your act! The staff will be performing a variety of skits and acts. Ken Johnson promises to keep the pace moving and the show entertaining as he showcases his MC skills.

We need our community singers and dancers, our joke tellers and poetry readers. We need our musicians and our thespians. Gather your ideas, gather your friends and sign up for a slot! Mother/daughter duet? A father/daughter dance? A father/son dramatic reading? The possibilities are endless.

And luckily for everyone, Cindy already has the opening number prepared and planned out for the staff to do!! Oh boy!

We will be putting a signup sheet out next week. We will also needing folks to sign up to bring food (similar to the Hibernation Festival). It will be a fun/ny night! There will be fun activities for the kids, and a few raffles. We hope you and your family can join us at Yeoman’s Hall in Columbia for the annual Oak Grove Winter Fair - and Talent Show!

After School Enrichment Programs Begin Soon!

- Kids Cafe
- Game On!
- Gardening Club
- ASAP - After School Art Program

Sign up with Cindy in the office

An email update from a former OGMS family. Alumni News

We have exciting news! Cavan just defended his doctoral thesis, and passed with honors!

University of Kansas - Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Chemistry (2011-2015)

University of Connecticut - Bachelor of Science (BS), Applied Mathematics (2004-2009)

Much Credit goes to the wonderful teachers Cavan had throughout his time at Oak Grove Montessori School. Many heartfelt thanks to the teachers and staff for their exceptional teaching skills and support, and for lighting the spark that started Cavan on his journey to become an independent thinker, lifelong scholar, and uniquely wonderful person.

Catherine and Davy Kalonia
The "F" Word
(and The Art of Giving)

The idea of fundraising often makes people cringe. The thought of being approached about fundraising often makes people run for the woods! It is my goal for this little blurb to put the fun back in fundraising and help folks understand the importance of why we give and how we give. As always, I welcome any and all to stop in and chat and keep the conversation going! After all...

"Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving."

The extended Oak Grove community of parents, staff, board members, grandparents, alumni and friends are all asked to participate in helping to create our culture of giving. Through these actions by our adult community, the importance of giving is reinforced to our children and our school is able to provide the highest quality education at the most reasonable rate.

We ask (we need) every family to participate in our two annual large fundraising efforts, at the level that they feel is generous, meaningful and comfortable for them.

Annual Appeal - The Annual Giving Appeal supports our operating budget and covers a large part of the gap left after tuition. Oak Grove remains committed to keeping tuition costs at the most affordable rate possible. We strive for 100% participation from our families, staff and board members. Full participation shows clearly in our grant applications, that our community fully believes in and supports the mission and values of our school. The dollar amount is important and we ask that everyone give as generously as they can. Equally important is reaching our 100% participation goal. Give $10 or give $10,000. Give to the Annual Appeal at the level you are comfortable. There is also the very convenient and popular Planned Giving option, in which you ask us to add a certain amount of money onto your monthly invoice. This Planned Giving option is your Annual Appeal gift and checks you off of our needed 100% participation list!

• How do I make sure that I have fulfilled my commitment to the Annual Appeal? (you may ask...)
  ✓ You sent in your check in the return envelop that was mailed with the Oak Grove Owl in October
  ✓ You are participating in the Planned Giving Option (you can sign up for this at any time)
  ✓ You have brought a check, cash, or a bag of collected coins, into Cindy’s office and said "this is my annual appeal contribution"
  ✓ You have asked Cindy to charge to your school account a onetime gift of $X as your Annual Appeal contribution
  ✓ You have asked Cindy to charge your credit card $X as your Annual Appeal contribution

If you have done one of the above, you have contributed to the 2015-16 Annual Appeal and have met your commitment towards the 100% participation.

Annual Auction and Gala - is such an important night of fun and fundraising for our school. So much work by so many people goes into making this an entertaining and successful evening. We need everyone to support this event as generously as possible. Donate an item or service to the auction, be a sponsor or recruit a business to sponsor, or solicit an area business to donate an item or service. Most importantly, we need everyone to join our staff and board of trustees and gather your friends and family, buy your tickets, and come for a very fun night!

All the Other Stuff - Oh there are many others ways to contribute to our school as well, and we hope you participate in as many as possible. The Hibernation Festival, the Winter Fair, Amazon.com. Stop and Shop, Target, buy a calendar, buy some veggies or eggs, enjoy the bake sales! All of these things do add up and we rely on them as well.

Every gift inspires others to give.
Happenings Around the Grove!