Upcoming Events...

- Sunday October 16  12 -4pm **Hibernation Festival**
- Wednesday October 19th - School Picture Day
- Wednesday Oct 19 - 6:30pm **Fall Parent Social**, child care will be provided. We ask that at least one adult from each household attend this. The Board of Trustees will be introduced and they will give a short talk on the schools strategic goals for the year.
- Thursday October 20 - 8:30am Family Morning - join your child in their classroom for the first hour for the school day
- Monday October 24 - 8:30am Muffin Monday
- Friday October 28 - No School - Teacher Work Day - staff goes to Montessori Schools of Connecticut Annual All Day Conference
- Thursday Nov 3 - 6:30 pm 6th grade parents and student pot luck dinner and meeting
- Friday Nov 11th - Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School

**Hibernation Festival**

Please join us on Sunday October 16th for our Annual Hibernation Festival. It is a fun day for the entire family! Bring friends and family. This event is open to the public and we welcome everyone! There will be lots of activities for the children. We will also be hosting the UCONN Street Performers, Johnnie Walker and his traveling playground - stilts, hula hoops, corn grinding, Marv the Magician. We will also be having a demonstration from the CT Trooper K9 Service. There will be craft activities for the children, including Cindy's bean bags and David's tops!

The food room will have all sorts of delicious food to buy for lunch for the whole family! **(please sign up in the lobby to contribute to the needed food)**. The Harvest Tables will be set up in the front by the PE shed selling homemade goods. There will be a few vendors selling some wonderful products as well. All in all it is a great day for everyone. Please join us in celebrating before we all head inside for the long winter months!
Child Readiness

I have been doing a lot of thinking and questioning lately about child preparedness. Maybe it’s because this has been a fall for many new starts in my house - one daughter starting college, one daughter starting high school, one daughter starting middle school, and the scariest of all, one daughter in her final year of college. So, how ready are they? How do I support these changes in their lives and these new journeys they are embarking on?

I spend a lot of time reading about new studies and debating education methods. It is a topic that has always interested me, long before becoming Head of School. Now as Head of School I consider it part of my job to stay abreast of current studies and findings and theories. Time and time again these readings and conversations only reinforce Montessori education and all that we do here at Oak Grove. As a parent, even as I read and debate, I still wonder about my children’s readiness for life or readiness for the next chapter of their life.

Self-Esteem vs. Self-Efficacy

Julie Lythcott-Haims, a Stanford University graduate, Harvard Law School graduate and long time advocate for students, spent over a decade as the Stanford University's Dean of Freshman. Towards the end of her tenure as Dean, she began speaking publically about the relatively new phenomenon of helicopter parenting. Last year, her best-selling book *How to Raise an Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success*, was published. I have read this book twice now, and I highly recommend it for parents of kids of all ages. One idea that she writes about is the difference between self-esteem and self-efficacy.

Self esteem has become a very popular term and is a concept that refers to a person's overall evaluation of himself, an appraisal of one’s own worth. Self efficacy is different than self esteem. Self efficacy influences self efficacy. Self efficacy is built by doing the work and seeing the success that comes from the effort. It is built by repeated trial and error opportunities that come almost daily in childhood and in school. Without self efficacy, self esteem will be hollow. Lythcott-Haims does a very good job addressing the question - Why did parenting change from preparing our kids for life to protecting them from life? This change in parenting is actually working against our children and their readiness to live life on their own. As I read her book, I am reminded again of the great work we do at Oak Grove to promote self efficacy. It is the root of Montessori education. I recommend this book. I am also attaching a link to a TED Talk she did on the same subject. • I am also attaching a link to another TED Talk by Sal Khan. Sal Khan is the founder and CEO of Khan Academy, a not-for-profit with a mission of providing a free world class education for anyone, anywhere. He believes students must master skills and this will come at an individualize pace. He is a graduate from MIT and has a MBA from Harvard Business School. His talk is about the absolute necessity for children to master skills, not just get a passing grade and move on. Again, these two short videos are well worth watching!


https://www.ted.com/talks/sal_khan_let_s_teach_for_mastery_not_test_scores?utm_campaign=ios-share&utm_medium=social&source=email&utm_source=email#t-465531

I look forward to seeing everyone at the *Hibernation Festival* on Sunday and at the *Fall Parent Social* on Wednesday.

I also want to thank the entire staff and board of trustees for all the support and effort that has made the start of this school year wonderful!