Upcoming Events...

- Thurs Jan 12th - Afterschool enrichment class, Build a Dog House, begins
- Mon Jan 16th - MLK Day - No School
- Wed Jan 18th 6:30 - Parent Education Night - The Importance of the Three Year Montessori Cycle (Child care available)
- Sun Jan 22nd - Open House for perspective new families
- Fri Jan 27th - Contracts out for returning families for 2017-18 school year
- Sat Feb 4th 5:30pm - Oak Grove Winter Fair at Yeoman’s Hall in Columbia
- Mon Feb 13th - Muffin Monday

Happy New Year!

The New Year is a time for reflection and for contemplation. I welcome this year, this fresh start. Last year highlighted many things for me, and as I reflect on the past twelve months, I keep coming back to one theme - simplicity. I have been thinking about my over-scheduled, under-slept, juggling/balancing act, that is my day. And on top of the busy daily routines and commitments, we all carry bigger weights of the world- raising our children, caring for relatives and friends in need, supporting our many different communities. And for the first time ever I ended the year feeling fatigued; not a great feeling for a strong and stubborn Yankee, and very hard to admit.

Now at the start of the New Year, I have decided that I will not make a New Year’s resolution. New Year’s resolutions seem to only create a pile on effect for me. So leaning on this theme of simplicity, my approach to this year will be small and obtainable challenges that will keep me on track to personal growth and inspiration. Each Sunday I will choose a small goal for the week ahead of me. Simple. Obtainable. Rewarding. These goals will vary from week to week based on what is going on in my life. Some of these goals will be very tangible and visible and others will be more internal and thoughtful. Some will be more challenging, but they will all be obtainable. That is my plan and my approach for 2017. I will keep you posted. Here are a few of the one week long goals that I already know need to be worked into the next 52 weeks:

- Get 8 hours of sleep each night
- Say Yes more often than No
- Write one letter or card and send via snail mail
- Care consciously
- Read a book - Cover to cover/start to finish
- Turn off computer and phone at 6:00pm

2017 will have its ups and its downs and I need to be open to all the lessons this coming year has to teach me. I wish you all peace and joy in the New Year!
Parent Education Night

Why do we do Parent Education Nights? There are so many reasons why this night is important and carefully planned and implemented each year. It is our goal to build the connection between home and school and to strengthen the child-parent-teacher relationship. When this happens the benefit to the child is huge. It is important for us to take the time to look closely at the Montessori principles, curriculum and practices. These practices are designed around the specific ages and stages of development of the child. The theme for this year is The Importance of the Three Year Cycle. I know that we all see the importance of this cycle and have seen the positive impact that it has on our children. But why 3-6 year olds together and not 4-7 year olds? What are the specifics of each of the four planes of development? What are things that we parents can do at home to support our child's current plane of development? Maria Montessori was a brilliant physician and educator. Her focus on pediatric medicine, psychiatry and psychology, lead her to develop the very scientific pedagogy that we use today.

The more we understand about the specifics of the pedagogy, the better we can support our children. I hope that you can all join us. The evening will be a wonderful opportunity to learn so much about the Montessori pedagogy, ask questions, learn more about the classroom materials and spend time in the three classrooms.

The Oak Grove Annual Gala & Auction
Saturday April 1, 2017

More information will be in parent pockets soon. Please save the date and join us for this incredible fun and important night. We need everyone's help to make this the success that is needed. There are many different ways to help and support this event!

Holiday Music Concert
December 2016