Upcoming Events...

- Wed Sept 6th - Upper and Lower Elementary Classroom Orientation - 9-12 Classroom at 5:30-6:30pm - 6-9 Classroom 6:30-7:30pm - child care will be available
- Fri Sept 8th - 9-12 Classroom Team Building Day at the Storrs Adventure Park
- Sun Sept 17th - Celebrate Mansfield Day - noon to 4:00pm OGMS will be marching in parade and we will have a booth
- Tuesday Sept 19th at 5:30pm - Let's Get Together - a meet and greet and Q and A with Head of School - child care will be provided
- Fri Sept 22 - First Pizza Lunch (more information will be provided by seniors)
- Sat Sept 30th - Willimantic Downtown Country Fair - OGMS will have a booth
- Oct 2nd - Muffin Monday
- Wed Oct 11th - Family Morning in Classroom - 8:30-9:15am
- Sun Oct 15th - OGMS Annual Hibernation Festival - noon-4:00

Every Summer Has a Story...

The story of Summer 2017 at OGMS is a page turning tale filled with adventure, laughter, tears, sweat and even a little blood - it’s a good read! (although, not necessarily appropriate for all ages!)

Our community and our school are blessed by the generosity and commitment of so many people. I saw this and felt this throughout the entire summer. The support came in so many ways: time, financial, fast turnaround time, discounts, long hours and endless effort. There are a few people and businesses that went so far above and beyond, I just have to share!

A huge thank you to Mark Dressler and D&W Development. They managed a very lengthy zoning and inspection process that prolonged the start date, multiple times. They came in under their original bid and on top of that, generously donated 10% of the final cost, as an in kind donation to Oak Grove. The Henry Brothers Stone Masons donated the cement, the stone and so many hours of grueling work. Beth Acly and Cirrus Engineering generously donated the needed architectural designs and stamp of approval. And of course the generous donations during last year's raise your bid card auction event that jump started this project and allowed it to happen at all!
Although the new entrance way is the most visible project that was completed over the summer, so much more was tackled. A few shout outs to other generous supporters of our community that came forward, stepped up and amazingly helped with various projects...

Milton C Beebe & Sons LLC
Storrs, Connecticut
Oak Grove's Annual - Hibernation Festival Sunday October 15th

We are beginning to plan for the Hibernation Festival. It will be here before we know it! This is a wonderful fun family day filled with great food, crafts projects for the kids to do, and great entertainment for all! Please mark it in your calendar and come and enjoy the great day. As we get closer to the day, we will be asking folks to volunteer to help with parking, to make and bring food items and to help in the food room or at the craft tables.

Sell Your Wears at the Hibernation Festival

Reserve a space now at the Hibernation Festival to sell your wears and crafts. For $25, you will have space to set up a booth and/or table to sell and market your personal products, harvests, crafts and wears.

Please see Cindy or Sue for more information and to make a reservation.
This *Summer's Story* was also filled with reminders of the Social Unrest and Division in our world.

As the school year starts and the newness and possibilities of the upcoming year have us excited and hopeful, it is a good time to reflect and remind ourselves of the challenges that we face in raising and educating children in today’s world. As Montessorians - parents, guardians, staff and teachers - it will serve us well to remember the purpose of our work.

"*Establishing lasting peace is the work of education.*"  
*Maria Montessori*

As Montessorians, we are to model for our children what it is to be an independent, compassionate, caring member of the community in which we live. Dr. Montessori reminded us that "Anger is the principle defect, but it is cloaked by pride which lends it a certain dignity that can even demand respect." (Secret Childhood)

So how do we guide our children in our care as we witness horrific events? First we must shield our children from adult events that are not appropriate for their developmental stage. And with older children we must be sensible and cautious about what to discuss and how to discuss these events. With younger children we must provide them with an environment that is safe, both physically and emotionally. We must imprint on them, through our own words and actions, a sense of optimism and curiosity. The root of this is *Grace and Courtesy*, with lots of teachings of different conflict resolution strategies.

As the child gets older and begins to take ownership of his life, his life’s philosophy and purpose will begin to develop and his community will become much larger. Skills of conflict resolution and skills in differentiating objective reality from opinion are critical. A young person’s ability to listen plays a large part in the success of this.

"*This is how we Montessorians do it: We guide rather than impose. We exemplify rather than demand. We come to the (day) as complete humans in service to the development of those we serve. Decisions about how and when to participate in the wider world come from within each emerging adult, not from us lecturing the child and each other about what one ought to think. We are not the arbiters of another’s life values, we Montessorians are in service to the spirit of man. Our purpose after all is to manifest the idea of humanity for the children in our care.*"  
P.D. Shortridge  
(Montessori trainer, and parent consultant and coach)

"It is not enough for the teacher to love the child. She must first love and understand the universe. She must prepare herself, and truly work at it."

“Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.”

Happy Birthday Maria Montessori  
Born August 31st 1870 - died May 6th 1952

Today we celebrate your birthday by appreciating the gifts you gave to the world.