November came and went...

I realized the other day that the month of November came and went and, being unable to practice what I preach, I didn't take the time and the moment and the breath to stop and to share some of my reflections. During this season of thanks and of giving I find it so important to give thanks for the year behind us and to give thanks for the possibilities of the coming year.

It has been a year to remember. I don't know how else to describe it. Just when I think that nothing could surprise me, something happens that most certainly surprises me. Whether you are managing unexpected changes or challenges in your personal life, or you are trying to understand the state of unrest in the world, it is easy to feel and see only the bad and the scary.

Now more than ever we all must be reminded that each day is a gift. This month marks the five year anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy. That fateful day when time stopped and the world changed forever. This day, and the countless other tragic events that have happened since, remind us of why it is so important to teach compassion and empathy and to model compassion and empathy. Teach peace. We must start small and close and build from there. We must work every day at peace. Peace in our families, peace in our schools, peace in our communities and peace in the world. We, as parents, must guide our children to be brave and compassionate agents of change.  Even when we are questioning so much, we must show our children hope and heroes.

As we teach peace, even as we struggle to find our own balance, we must draw on the strength of the Oak Grove community. We will continue to do the best for our children by providing them with love, hope, freedom, guidance and the security they need to grow strong and caring.

I feel such gratitude to the entire Oak Grove community. This gratitude I feel is not only in knowing what this school has done for my own children, but also what this community has done for me. I am growing and learning each day, as we greet and meet the new challenges that the world throws at us.

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season filled with peace. I ask everyone to remember that our greatest gifts are our children.
**Winter Solstice Celebration**

Join Us for the Winter Solstice Celebration following our Winter Music Concert.

We will share holiday treats and desserts, enjoy a fire in the fire pit with s’mores, and sing a few winter songs!

**Friday December 15th**

**OGMS 2018 Calendar**

Remember to pick up your OGMS 2018 Calendar. These calendars make fabulous holiday gifts! Please see Cindy or Sue to purchase. Every OGMS student and staff member are pictured in the calendar!

**Stone Soup**

Many of you may remember the story of “Stone Soup,” in which a hungry traveler arrives in a village, professing his ability to make soup out of only a stone. One by one the villagers come forward with a single ingredient to add (an onion, a carrot, a potato) and soon there is enough delicious and nourishing soup for the entire village to share.

During the harvest season, making and sharing Stone Soup is an annual tradition at Oak Grove. It is a time for our students to see firsthand that by working together, with everyone contributing what they can, a greater good is achieved.

**OGMS Annual Fund**

If you have not yet given your OGMS Annual Fund donation...here is a very friendly reminder of how important it is for us to have 100% participation from current families, staff and board members. Tuition only covers 82% of our operating costs!! Please please please help us reach our goal (and our need) of 100% participation.

Thank you to JoAnn, Sheila, Joe, Maria Pope and Roxana Mocanu for the huge effort making our Stone Soup! (and thank you for the leftovers, my family loved loved, loved the soup!)
If you missed our Parent Education night on Technology, Social Media and Parenting, you missed a great evening filled with so much shared information. I am so glad that we had this night and began this very challenging and important conversation. There are so many good things that have come with this age of technology and information, and there are some negative things that have come too. As parents we are always playing catch up and trying to understand what our children are doing with these new technologies. We must also understand the physical and chemical changes that are now being seen in the developing brain for a young teenager, as well as the added social pressures.

I am happy to share with you all that that we will be hosting a screening of the documentary movie called ScreenAgers.

**Tuesday January 23, 2018 at 6:30pm**

**at Oak Grove Montessori School**

We discussed at the Parent Education night that it would be worth the cost to host a screening of this movie for our community. I have also invited both Mount Hope Montessori and Hans Christian Anderson Montessori School to join us. We will also hang flyers in the local libraries and invite parents from our larger community to attend.

The charge is $7 per person to attend the screening. We will offer childcare for the children in the Oak Grove community only.

Following the 1 hour and 10 minute screening of the movie, I will lead a discussion about the issues that are brought up in the movie.

The link below is to the official trailer of the movie. I will produce a one page flyer to market the movie screening and make it available for everyone to help distribute and to encourage friends and family members to attend.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQx2X0BXgZg