Please Join Us Saturday April 7th for OGMS Spring Clean Up Day 9:30-12:00

Bring your rakes, brooms, gloves, children, snacks and water and join us as we do a spring clean up day. If we all join in, we can get it done fast and efficiently. We will be working mostly outside, but there will be a few indoor projects as well.

Rain Date Sunday April 8th

Every Ten Years...

Every ten years Oak Grove Montessori School goes through a very lengthy accreditation process with Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS). The accreditation from CAIS is very important for our school and holds us to the same standards as all independent schools in Connecticut, including the large boarding prep schools.

The first part of the process is a Self-Study. If anyone has been wondering why I have been squirreled away in my office for the past weeks, it is because the Self-Study was due at the end of last week. After the Self Study is approved by the Executive Director of CAIS, it will be sent to the five members of the visiting committee. They all receive the study and the supplementary material six weeks prior to their visit to Oak Grove.

The Visiting Committee will arrive here on Sunday April 22. The Oak Grove Board of Trustees will host an opening reception for the committee. The committee will be here at Oak Grove for three full days. You will see them working in my office and the conference room. As well, they will be observing in each classroom for extended periods of time. They will sit in on an all staff meeting. They will review all of our systems, from accounting to educational records and medical records. There is not an inch of the physical building, the programming or the administrative systems that they do not examine closely!

I am grateful for the support of the staff and the board as we have progressed through this process and this year of preparation! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. We will plan to celebrate on April 26th!!!
Oak Grove Montessori School

Annual Gala and Auction

Saturday May 12th
Horizons Commons South Windham CT

The Annual Gala and Auction is the largest fundraiser for Oak Grove. We rely on the success of this event to meet our operating expenses each year. Tuition only covers 82% of our operating costs. The success of the Annual Gala and Auction ensures that tuition be kept as low as possible.

This year's fun theme is

**So Happy Together**

Making the auction a success takes EVERYONE! We need everyone's help. The biggest thing that you can do to help is to gather up your friends and come to this wonderful event. It is a ton of fun! The evening is filled with great food and drink and fun auctions and activities. We need everyone to attend and to bring friends too!!

Other ways to help...

- Help us solicit sponsorships for the event. Sponsorship levels range from $100-$10,000. If you know someone who owns a business or if you frequent a business...ask for a sponsorship. (there are Sponsorship letters in the office)
- Ask a local business for a donation of a product or a service
- Ideas of items and services to donate yourself or to acquire from others
  - weekend or week at a second home or vacation home
  - local honey or syrup
  - local products
  - services - salon, cleaning, handyman, landscaping
  - gift cards to local restaurants
  - homemade items - knitted or crocheted items
  - put together a themed basket with a friend: - camping, kids slumber party, cooking, baking, family game night, rainy day activity basket...

Buy Your Auction Tickets! Invite Friends and Family Members!

Order On-line Now! Early Bird Special ends March 25th


Forward this link to your friends and family!!!

Questions?... Ask!!

Need Help with donation ideas?...

Auction Committee Members
Beth Gnazzo
Sherry D'Alessandro
Magdalene Skretta
Emily Schutte
Cindy Henry
Sue Angelides

Dig out your bell bottoms, get your groove on, and together we can make this event the success it needs to be!!!
Technology, Social Media and Parenting

As a community we have spent a lot of time this year talking about the challenge of parenting in the new age of smartphone technology. The are so many positive things that come out of the new technologies and there are many challenges as well. As parents we are navigating through this maze trying to help our children find the balance (like so much in life) of their virtual life and their in-person life. We have spent time going over statistics and medical reports. We have talked about the personal challenges we face with our teenagers, as well as strategies that are working. I have been comforted by the reality that we are all going through these challenges together, and have been able to share and help each other.

After the first Parent Education Night on this subject and the screening of the documentary movie, ScreenAgers, it is clear to me that there is still so much more to share and to wade through. At the last Muffin Monday, we all agreed that we want to continue this conversation. In order to make this conversation available to the most amount of parents, we will do a few additional gatherings over the spring to talk about these issues.

We will gather a few times informally after school under the pavilion when the weather starts getting better. I would like to propose the first of these gatherings to be on Thursday April 12th. We will also plan one more evening Parent Education Night on this subject before the end of the year, perhaps a conversation over a pot luck dinner?!


American Sign Language Afterschool Enrichment Class

Thursday Afternoons from 3:00-4:30 for 10 weeks ($120) March 22-May 3

This class is open to Kindergarteners, Lower and Upper Elementary Students.

This class will be taught by Teresa Bielecki. Teresa is active in our larger community. She is an artist and photographer. She is a musician and a teacher. We are so lucky to have her teaching this class here at Oak Grove. See Cindy in the office to sign up. Fees can be charged to your school account.