

# IN A NUTSHELL

## Oak Forest Montessori School (OFMS)

2000 Greenleaf Street  
Longview, Texas 75605

### A note from Ms. Beth:

Dear Parents,

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make Fall Fest such a success! We had beautiful weather, fun activities, good food, lots of shopping and a great turnout! It couldn't have all come together without the help of the entire community. We really want to emphasize how much our wonderful parents do to make events like this possible. Gina Mundt, our PTO President, organized the Fall Fest with the help of an awesome team! Angela Wright, Rachel Zhorne, Kristin Bates, Sage Huskey, April Sanchez, Anne Obousy, Dawn Stringer, Sarah Pirtle, Liz Sperring and Amy Dyer all served on the Fall Fest coordinating team. There were also many parents and teachers that took time out of their busy schedules to volunteer with set up, take down, working the games and cooking the delicious food! We could not have done it without YOU, thank you.

December is an exciting month and we have a number of things going on at OFMS. Please be sure to review the important dates column and the important reminder section. We do not want you to miss out on anything!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Beth*



## IMPORTANT DATES

December 9: SANTA photos

December 11: January lunch order forms DUE

December 18: Kindergarten/Elementary Caroling

December 19: Christmas Parties

December 22- January 2: CLOSED-Winter Break

January 5: Spring semester begins

January 9: PTO Meeting 12:00 Room 1800

February 13: Class Valentine Parties

February 16: Parent Conferences

March 9-13: Spring Break

**Purpose:** To provide a carefully planned, stimulating environment with an enriched Montessori curriculum which will help the child develop within him/herself a foundation of habits, attitudes, skills and ideas which are essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and learning. To enable a child to become a compassionate, responsible contributing member of society who is respectful of others and the environment.

**Logo:** Our logo is the two hands reaching into the sky for two oak leaves. We chose the oak leaves because they symbolize the materials, tools and guidance that Oak Forest Montessori School provides. The hands reaching symbolize the child's learning potential and how there is no limit to what he/she can do.

### Mission Statement:

The Oak Forest Montessori School is consistent with the philosophy and mission of Dr. Maria Montessori and her work with children – to help each child reach their full potential in all areas of life.

# Policy Spotlight

## Lunch Orders

Why can't parents add/change lunch orders after the due date? We used to allow changes and additions; however, it created mass confusion for the vendors, the teachers and our administrative staff. Once lunch orders are submitted, each classroom gets a list of students that participate in the lunch delivery program and which days they receive the lunch. When revisions are made an entire set must be distributed to vendors, teachers and administration. We found that additions and changes led to confusion and children were not receiving lunches and/or receiving them late. As a result, we made a policy change that additions/changes will not be accepted after the order deadline. We will continue to send out reminders on facebook, in newsletters, in take home folders and through our messaging system. Thank you for your support and understanding of this policy.

## Other Important Reminders

**JANUARY LUNCH ORDERS:** January lunch order forms will go out Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. They are DUE Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**WINTER WEAR:** Parents, it is cold outside! Please be sure and send your child with a warm jacket, a hat and gloves. It is important for children to develop gross motor skills; therefore, students will continue to go outside unless the temperature is below 45 degrees (wind chill considered). Please label all clothing items. We do not want them to end up in Lost and Found.

**PICTURES WITH SANTA:** Santa will visit OFMS on Tuesday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> and Chris Pearce will be on campus to capture the event. Order forms for pictures will go out Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. All children will have a chance to visit with Santa! Photos are optional.

**CHRISTMAS PARTIES:** Class Christmas parties will be during snack on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. The PTO will be sending out information about this fun day.

**WINTER BREAK:** OFMS will be CLOSED December 22<sup>th</sup> - January 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions or need anything please feel free to call the school and leave a message. If you have an emergency and need to speak with someone immediately you can always reach Amy Dyer on her cell 512-619-5937.

**PTO MEETING:** Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm. We have had great turnouts at this year's PTO Meetings! If you haven't had a chance to come to one yet, please join us. Lunch is provided for those attending and it's a good opportunity to meet other parents, get involved and learn more about the OFMS.

# PTO Corner

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*Thank You to all of the 2014-2015 OFMS  
PTO SPONSORS!*

# PTO Corner

## Exciting Things the PTO is Working On

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### NOVEMBER RECAP

Fall Fest and the Thanksgiving Feast were a HUGE success. Thank you to all of the wonderful parents and teachers for your hard work. The children loved both events!

### CHRISTMAS PARTIES/POLAR EXPRESS

Classroom Christmas parties will occur during each classroom's scheduled snack time. A sign-up sheet will go out next week for your child's classroom. If you would like to provide a drink or a special snack, please complete the form and return to the office. After the children finish their special snack they will celebrate with the Polar Express! Students in Rooms 900, 1000, 1100, 1300, 1400, 1500 and 1700 will read the book and Rooms 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 and 1900 will watch the movie.

STUDENTS WEAR PAJAMAS FOR THIS SPECIAL DAY!

### BOOK FAIR/BREAKFAST WITH BOOKS

The Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for mid-March. Please keep an eye out for details. Instead of doing Muffins with Moms, Donuts with Dads and the Grandparent Breakfast we are changing things up and doing Breakfast with Books. Each classroom will have a scheduled day during the week of the Book Fair where parents, grandparents, special friends, etc. are invited to join the children for breakfast and visit the Book Fair. Details to come!

Thank You Brandy Brannan for chairing this event! We know it is A LOT of work. Parent Volunteers will be needed to work the Book Fair as well. If you are interested please let the office know and we will put you in touch with Brandy.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Thank you Angela Wright for graciously providing the delicious food at each PTO meeting. All of the attendees have raved about how tasty it is!

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\*\*Please contact Gina Mundt at [gmundt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gmundt@sbcglobal.net) or (903)806-0808 with any questions about the PTO. We still need volunteers for various events throughout the year!

**If everyone donates a SMALL amount of their time, we can accomplish BIG things for our OFMS children!**