

IN A NUTSHELL

Oak Forest Montessori School (OFMS)

2000 Greenleaf Street
Longview, Texas 75605

A note from Ms. Beth:

Dear Parents,

OFMS was recently accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)/Advanc-Ed. This is a prestigious accreditation that was granted as a result of rigorous on and off-site evaluations which were conducted this past spring. Our accreditation certificate is now proudly displayed in the office.

Each month we will share information about one of our PTO Gold Level Sponsors; this month we are spotlighting **Service First Mortgage** in the separate sponsor highlight attachment. A huge THANK YOU to all of our PTO sponsors and all of our parents that are working so hard on behalf of our school.

Our Physical Education program is off to a great start. Feedback from teachers and students has been very positive! Thank You Mr. Caleb for all of your preparation and planning.

Beth



IMPORTANT DATES

October 13: Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 15: Hearing and Vision Screening

**October 16: PTO Fall Fest Planning Mtg
12-1pm Room 1800**

November 8: Fall Festival

November 25: Thanksgiving Feast

November 26-28: CLOSED-Thanksgiving

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

Why does Oak Forest Montessori School have a dress code and/or require uniforms?

The Montessori classroom is a prepared environment. The materials, furniture, the minimal pictures and posters, the books and music have all been selected to create a space, which is conducive to concentration, higher level thinking and creative expression. The uniform clothing, worn by the children, then becomes part of the environment and does not become a distraction.

Why does it matter what kind of shoes my child wears to school?

Our main priority is the safety of your child. As you know, our students go out on the playground once a day if enrolled in the morning program and 2 or 3 times a day if enrolled in the full or extended day program. Tennis shoes are the safest option and allow the students to move about freely on the playground equipment. Wood chips cover all of the areas surrounding the playground equipment to provide a cushion in the event of a fall. Remember, little ones are constantly developing their gross motor skills! Tennis shoes allow for freedom of movement. If a child goes out on the playground wearing open toe shoes or cowboy boots, etc. he/she does not have that same freedom of movement and if wearing sandals, could easily get a splinter from the wood chips. Another priority that we mentioned above is providing an environment conducive to learning. Think about when you buy your child a new pair of shoes. Maybe they are light up or even one of their favorite Disney characters. Your child LOVES those shoes and they want everyone to know about them and how fast they make them run! Children are proud and want to show off the wonderful things their parents have provided for them. Circle time/line time and group lessons are provided each day. The students sit in a circle on their classroom rug in "criss cross applesauce" style (their legs are crossed in front of them). This is a wonderful opportunity to show off those light up shoes and it often becomes a distraction to the learning process.

Other Important Reminders

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Please remember OFMS will be CLOSED Monday, October 13th for the Parent Teacher Conferences. Remember to check your child's take home folder for conference registration forms. Time slots go fast so please turn in promptly. We want to accommodate your requested time.

Hearing and Vision Screening:

We will offer hearing and vision screening on campus October 15th for children that are in need and have not already had the screening. Keep an eye out for registration forms!

Uniforms:

Winter uniform order forms will be going out on Monday, October 6th. The forms may be used to order long sleeve shirts as well as the OFMS navy blue zip up hoodie. We will have a few on reserve but each year we sell out quickly! Remember you may purchase long sleeve polo uniforms OR your child may continue to wear their short sleeve polo with a solid long sleeve shirt underneath. The shirt worn underneath must be a school color: white, navy, red, hunter green.

PTO Corner

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS:

**AC Pool and Spa Service, LLC
(ASP)-America's Swimming Pool Co.
Central Title**

**Paula Lopez-Premier Nationwide Lending
Service First Mortgage**

**Travis Group Southwest Funding
Wilson A/C**

SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS:

**Greg Williams-Texas Farm Bureau Insurance
Mundt Music**

Telco Plus Credit Union

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE 2014-
2015 OFMS PTO SPONSORS!**

PTO Corner

Exciting Things the PTO is Working On

OFMS Chick Fil A SPIRIT NIGHT.

The Spirit Night was a huge success! Together we raised \$675.00! Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come together as a community in support of our school! Congratulations to the Phillips family. Their receipt was drawn for the tuition credit! Mrs. Bonita Timmons (Room 1700) won a Chick Fil A gift card. Thank you again for your participation and continued support.

Classroom Fall Fest Silent Auction Projects

The PTO is working with the teachers and students on the Silent Auction Projects. For those of you that are new to OFMS, each classroom does a project and donates it the the Fall Fest Silent Auction. We have seen some awesome projects in the past including pottery, paintings, art work, aprons, tables, pictures and MUCH MORE!

FALL FEST

The OFMS Fall Fest will be Saturday, November 8th. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We are still in need of volunteers! Forms are available in the office.

As you know, this event is the biggest source of revenue for the PTO. Would you like to get involved? We always need volunteers and goods for our bake sale. We are also actively seeking donations to be included in our Silent Auction. Enjoy building things? We are in need of additional games. This is a fun thing to do as a family. As you can see, there are a number of ways to contribute!

How can YOU have your business promoted by OFMS?

Contribute through a Business or Family Sponsorship. In October we will begin promoting our sponsors on Facebook, in the monthly newsletter, at Fall Fest, and by posting signage on our campus throughout the year. If you or your business (or a business you know) would like to Sponsor the PTO, please see the attached form.

**Please contact Gina Mundt at 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!