

# In a Nutshell

Newsletter # 319

December 31, 2007

## Dates to Remember

*Please mark your calendar*

**December 22-Jan. 6**  
Winter Break  
**(SCHOOL CLOSED)**

**School lunch forms will be passed out on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Lunches will begin again on January 14<sup>th</sup>.**

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### Winter Weather & Holiday Information

- **Please remember**, January brings even colder weather, so please dress your child in warm clothing (**cap and jacket, labeled**). **We will go outside every dry day unless the temperature is below 40 degrees.** We will also consider the wind-chill factor. **Please send a note if your child is to stay inside due to health reasons.** Your child should have a jacket every day, in case it gets cold. Also check to see that your child has an extra change of clothing in the bin that is appropriate for the season.
- ***Bad weather if we should have bad weather over the next few months, please watch our area television stations or listen to local radio stations in case OFMS should close. We will not necessarily follow the Longview school districts for the closing of our school.***

## Celebrating 27 Years

### The Oak Forest Montessori School

We are so excited to be celebrating our 27<sup>th</sup> year here at The Oak Forest Montessori School. What a privilege it has been to work with so many wonderful children over the last 2 ½ decades!

### 27 characteristics for 27 years of Montessori Education

1. Respect for the child
2. Respect for one another
3. Cultural diversity
4. Universal adaptability
5. Cosmic education
6. Individuality
7. Independence
8. Freedom of choice
9. Hands-on learning
10. Love of work
11. Care of one's self
12. Spontaneous concentration
13. Self-discipline
14. Lessons of grace and courtesy
15. Intrinsic motivation
16. Initiative
17. Prepared environment
18. Didactic materials
19. Integrated curriculum
20. Sense of order
21. Heterogeneous grouping
22. Refinement of the senses
23. Movement
24. Auto education
25. Teacher as facilitator
26. Respect for the environment
27. The joy of children

## Information Corner

- **Toys:** Students want to share their new toys with friends at school, but it is important that the toys be kept at home. We do not want toys to take priority over our academic curriculum. Also, we do not want students to be disappointed if an object gets broken or lost.
- **Tax statements** will be given to you by January 31. If you need it earlier, please let us know.
- **Scholastic book orders** Book orders have not arrived yet, but they will be passed out when we return on January 7th. **They will be due Friday, January 11, 2008.**
- Please remember to send warm-ups in containers that can be placed in the microwave.
- **Medicine** should have written instructions that indicate the last time medication was given. The time and the dosage amount that is to be given should also be written in the note. Also, please remember that state law requires all children to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness.
- **Please label** everything including packages of diapers. We use Sharpie Markers.

## Kindergarten & Elementary

*The Kindergarten and Elementary students did a fantastic job singing for local nursing homes December. We understand that they want O.F.M.S. back next year due to their energizing performance. Hats off to **Miss. Audra Broughton** for her wonderful directing. She has a gift for allowing our students to be great entertainers. We want to also extend a special thank you to all of the parents, family and friends who came to the performances.*

*The elementary students also sang at The Truman Smith Children's Hospital. They sang to two different groups of children, and then read one-on-one to the children. They love to hear our students sing and read to them. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to share the true spirit of Christmas.*

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## Christmas Parties

Thank you for making our Christmas parties so enjoyable. The new Christmas Party plan seemed to work well again this year, and the children enjoyed the festivities. **Parents, we appreciate you!**



