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Oakland Steiner School News October 31, 2011

Boo! Happy Halloween

Happy Halloween to you and your family. Have a fun and safe evening, either celebrating with fellow OSS Families at the OSS Halloween Celebration, or trick-or-treating in your neighborhood!

[Click to download the Halloween Celebration flier containing event details](#)

Committee Structure at OSS

It was Rudolf Steiner's vision that faculty - those who are closest to the children's education and who are the most knowledgeable about what the children need to learn - should be the ones who organize and lead the school out of this knowledge. Our faculty has the responsibility for all curriculum-related activities. Practical aspects of supporting the work of the school are carried by the various committees, whose functions are briefly described below. Committee membership is listed in the school directory.

Faculty Committees and Leadership

[College of Teachers](#) - carries the mission and vision of the school and works to improve the quality, depth and professionalism of the teaching and pedagogical program.

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This week:

Monday Oct. 31

[Halloween Parade](#)
Parents are welcome to come for the parade at 1:45 followed by the classroom celebrations

[Halloween Celebration](#)
In the gym and on the playground.
4:30-6:30PM

Wed. Nov. 2

Human Resources Committee - works with the College of Teachers to recruit and hire qualified faculty and staff; develops and implements effective human resources policies.

Enrollment Committee - plans, implements and evaluates efforts designed to increase enrollment and retention; reviews and revises effective enrollment procedures.

Festivals Committee - facilitates the celebration of festivals at OSS and is attentive to the rhythmical life of the school as it relates to the cycle of the year.

Board Committees

Buildings & Grounds Committee - provides coordination and direction for Oakland Steiner School's physical plant including day-to-day operation of necessary building systems, maintenance of building and grounds and prioritization of building and exterior improvements.

Development Committee - provides guidance and assistance in securing the long term sustainability of the school through fund development and fundraising.

Finance Committee - monitors and reports on the financial condition of the school; advises the Board on financial decisions; generates budget proposals.

Marketing Committee - provides marketing support for the school with an emphasis on supporting the work of the Enrollment and Development Committees; oversees the OSS website.

Administrative Council - brings together in conversation the faculty, board and administration, to ensure that communication between the bodies is regular and effective and helps move issues forward.

Sunday Dialogue: Using Technology to Teach

Last week we included in the newsletter a link to a New York Times article discussing the Waldorf Schools' computer-free environment, and the draw for parents at high-tech companies like Google to choose Waldorf schools for their own children. This week, we're including a link to the dialogue that resulted from that article. The dialogue includes a writer response, at the end.

[Link to the responses to last week's New York Times article - "Sunday Dialogue: Using Technology to Teach"](#)

The link to the original article is also included below, for those who

Intro Tour
9:00 - 11:00AM

Friday Nov. 4

Taco Dinner
7/8th grade pre-assembly taco dinner fundraiser.
Please order in advance. Order forms are available by the parent mailboxes and in the office.

Fall Grades Assembly
6:00 PM

Sunday Nov. 6

Reminder:
Daylight Savings time ends

Next week:

Thurs. Nov. 10

Parent Council Meeting
9AM

Friday Nov. 11

Children's Center Harvest Festival
4:30PM - 7:15PM

Saturday Nov. 12

Board Meeting
9:00AM - 12:00PM

Pictures STILL Needed

have not read it, or would like to read it again.

[Link to New York Times Article "A Silicon Valley School That Doesn't Compute"](#)

Beauty in Nature, Brought into the Classroom

classroom updates

Star class with Alyssa Kadlitz

"I painted a pumpkin today, with a face!" - she said with a huge smile across her face and a sparkle in her eye.

- Star Class Parent

Second grade with Marko Smith

"We got to play our flutes outside today!" he said eagerly as he pretended to play in the air with his fingers, humming the seasonal tune they were learning. My son carefully explained with delight: "We painted too - we drew a tree with crayon, soaked it in water, painted it yellow and then added blue for grass on top. Then we added falling leaves." As soon as we got home, he pulled out crayons and paper, and drew a beautiful autumn tree scene with swirling leaves, humming along as he created. So inspired by the work in class that day, he drew a scene then for each of the other seasons and bound them into a "seasons book." This is one of the reasons I cherish the Waldorf education.

- Second Grade Parent

5th Grade with ElizaBeth Wildemaan

The fifth grade has been learning about different plant families during their study of botany. They have been going outside to look for various types of plants, as well as studying and making observations of plants in the classroom. The students have been working on writing well-organized informational paragraphs about the plants that they are learning about. The fifth grade has also been working on rounding numbers and doing a review of measurement, including converting measurements from inches to feet to yards. This requires some flexibility in thinking as well as being able to understand exactly what is being asked in the problem.

- Elizabeth Wildemaan

We love to hear about the amazing things our children are doing in the classrooms, but need to first be told about these things from parents and faculty. If you have something to share, please send

Thank you so much to the parents who have already sent or dropped off pictures for use in our outreach materials! We are still in need of pictures for the new display that is being produced. In particular, pictures are needed that demonstrate the following words:

"Inspire" (perhaps playing musical instruments or doing woodworking)

"Nurture" (a wonderful picture from Parent Child classes would be great)

"Challenge" (maybe something in the science lab or from the bike block)

Please drop the pictures off at school on a disc or flash drive - they will be returned, so be sure to put your name on whatever you drop off. Or you may e-mail the pictures to Mary Chris Foxworthy - Outreach and Development Coordinator. marychrisf@oaklandsteiner.org

Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to submit content for the newsletter, please send it via e-mail to noelleferichs@gmail.com or to newsletter@oaklandsteiner.org

Newsletters are sent out on Mondays. The weekly deadline for submissions is Saturday at 5pm. If you send a flier or form to be attached, it is very helpful if you convert it to a .pdf file (although not necessary).

your tidbit of information to Laura Uhlianuk (Parent Council) at leeuhlianuk@aol.com.

Thank you for your wonderful contributions!
- Noelle Frerichs

Volunteer Opportunities

Winter Markt

Oakland Steiner School is participating in the Winter Markt in Birmingham again this year. The dates are December 2-4. For more information about this wonderful event please visit [Birmingham Winter Markt](#).

This festive event is a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase our school. We will have items from the Gnome Home and the Handwork Group available for purchase. Outreach information will be available. Some of our amazing faculty members will be doing storytelling. The jump rope machine will be at the booth for visitors to make and purchase jump ropes - this was HIGHLY popular last year!

Families who joined us in the booth last year enjoyed their time. Please visit the "Winter Markt" page on the school web site to fill out a volunteer form for the time you would like to work in the booth. (click on "News and Events" on the top bar of the home page. The Winter Markt page will appear in the white side bar on the left). A sign up sheet will be on the wall in the hall after the Holiday Bazaar.

Please submit volunteer opportunities and comments of appreciation to newsletter@oaklandsteiner.org to be included in next week's newsletter!

Click on the links below for the volunteer opportunities list and a downloadable volunteer log sheet.

[Volunteer Opportunities \(service handbook\)](#)

[Volunteer Log Sheet](#)

Parent Education

Lecture Series at Oakland Steiner School

Friday Dec 2 - 9AM - 10:30AM

Choleric or no clue?

by the Anthroposophical Society

Location: OSS Fellowship Hall

Questions?

If you have a question that you'd like to submit to the **NEWSLETTER**, please send an e-mail to newsletter@oaklandsteiner.org

For general questions, see your **CLASS TEACHER** or the **OFFICE**.

For questions, comments or concerns directed through the **PARENT COUNCIL**, please put a note in the parent council mailbox (wooden box on top of the parent mailboxes, on the right side).

For questions that don't have an apparent home or procedure, or if you need to utilize our concern process, contact the **FACULTY CHAIR**, Martina Preczewski, through her faculty mailbox, or by e-mail at martinap@oaklandsteiner.org

Parent to Parent

Earthy Women evenings at Skyline: an evening of connections to this sacred earth, the fullness of the moon, and vitality of one other. Come to a peaceful place among the trees, gather with women and strengthen the light within. We'll make "Stone Soup," dine, share songs & poems, walk the candlelit Labyrinth, drum, listen to silence, watch the moon & fire burn and rejoice.

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Saturday, December 10, 2011

6pm-10pm (flexible times ...)

Skyline Camp and Retreat Center

5650 Sandhill Road

Almont, MI 48003

To register call Shana Henry at 248 830 5655 or email

shana@campskyline.org For more details see

<http://www.campskyline.org/2011EarthyWomen.jpg>

November's gathering will begin at my house, the camp farmhouse, 6476 Hough Road, but we will spend some time outside if it is not raining, so dress warmly!

Bring an open heart, any songs, poems or stories that inspire your female consciousness, and a vegetable to add to the "Stone Soup" for dinner. Suggested donation is \$15.

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