

FROM MRS. JUDY'S DESK

Already December is here. It arrived in a flurry of snow and anticipation of the winter break. At this time of year many parents are looking for just the right gift for their child or children, and this extra job puts stress on the whole family. We all know when our care giver is stressed-everyone is stressed. So what are the gifts which are important? Your first gift for your child was life. A life full of opportunity, hopes, and expectations. The next gift-their name. Did you labor for as many hours choosing the perfect name? Did you research its' meaning, and how the beginning letters from the first, middle, and last name didn't spell something inappropriate? So as gift givers go-we have been giving gifts to our children from the very beginning. As our children get older and we get smarter about shopping we almost feel as though we are in control. But what are the best gifts of this season for your Montessori child? First of all-time. It is the only commodity we have which is truly limited. We don't know how much time we will have on this earth and each hour we share is a gift. The quality of this gift of time is affected by all the pieces of time we are already giving away-whether for a paycheck, a friendship, a feeling of giving within our service community, and family responsibilities. Time mopping the floor isn't necessarily quality time-but if they have a mop too, it can be. Small child-sized work tools (tools which really work) create opportunities to talk and work at the same time. Remember-the vacuum your child uses must actually work-making noise is not enough! Game night is a gift of time. The real reward of game night occurs in adolescence. It starts while a child is two or three, but the real rewards are reaped when your child is in their early teens. Put it in place now. Get an armful of age appropriate games and take time each week to play them with your child. You will benefit this week and for years to come. So playing together is a gift. Working together is a gift. Imaginary play with empty boxes is a gift. It's not

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES Oakridge Montessori

CHRISTMAS CONCERT EVENT: The Call school Christmas Concert for ages 18 months through eighth grade will be held at the West Valley Junior High. Festivities start at 5pm

Auction starts at 5 pm.

Pizza served at 5:15, 5:30 and 5:45pm. Don't forget to sign up. At each sign in binder there is a sign up sheet for the pizza.

Pictures with Santa starting at 5pm. The photo shoot will be \$5 per child with the funds going towards the school playgrounds. We have a committee to help with organizing the silent

auction and the collection of donated items. Now is a good time to ask those businesses which you do business with to donate to our silent auction. We do have the non-profit status as a vehicle for donations, so the business can use their donation as a tax write-off. Please check the email newsletter for contact people who are coordinating the phone calls so we don't inadvertently ask the same businesses over and over. See Charlie, Anne, Julie and Janalee. More info in text below.

just the box which is a gift, but the parent who allows their home to look a little less like Home and Garden and a little more like a preschool dumpster. The gift is permission. You giving yourself permission to foster a child's imaginary play. If all playing comes preestablished with costumes and sets, then you merely reinact what you have seen rather than create something new. Time, play, permission, and laughter. Believe it or not your child thinks you are funny. Your knock knock jokes are funny to them. All your jokes are funny to them and they love having you create an opportunity for them to laugh. Play, work, imagine, laugh... it's a good life if you can get it. And while you are at it you will create memories, which are the very arms which embrace us as we walk through the difficult times in our lives. Ask for help if the season is overwhelming. Teaching your child that it takes a team or a friend to help one get through the day is not a bad thing. So reach out. Make a friend. Help someone else. Play, work, imagine, laugh, reach out... and soon you will have raised a compassionate, talented, young adult who will advocate for you in the very manner you have taught them. Enjoy this very special snowy season. Make snow angels. Even if they look terrible. Be there with your child and celebrate the season. The snow will melt. Enjoy it while it is here. Make hot chocolate together. Measure the ingredients. Build in moments of time for this is truly the gift you are giving. These moments strung together raise your child. Deck your child with moments of colorful experiences. Right now as your child is small these moments are easy to create-the trips to Paris come later So enjoy this month of hustle and bustle with your child and family. It truly is a wonderful time of year.

I hope everyone takes the time that is needed to be good to each other and themselves. It is a busy time of year and the traffic makes it even harder to stay on top of a busy schedule. Deep breath and kind thoughts. Have a wonderful break and I will see you all in January.

THANK YOU!

Above and beyond awards to:

Patsy Evans-Grandmother of Patricia Evans in the 6th grade for all her hard work in getting the decorations and costumes for the concert! You are awesome!

Paul Brandt-father of Cami Brandt-8th grade-plowing at the Ranch, fixing the spraying faucet at the Preschool, putting the stand together for the Barn activity at the Preschool.



NEW WELCOMES

Morgan Herrud in Room 1- Miss Lisa's and Miss Monica's class

Isreal Mirelez in Miss Erin and Miss Gail's classroom and to his brother **Ely Brown** in the fifth grade with Miss Cotton. Welcome back! We got to know both boys during the summer and it is nice to have them make Oakridge their school.

HEADS UP

Remember to sign up for which days if any, your child will be attending over Christmas Break. The days are free of charge for studnets who will be attending July and August of 2011. They are available for an extra fee to everyone else and you can contact Judy to get your child's specific rates. I will staff based on responses received by Monday, Dec. 13th. After that point it will only be if space is available-even if you are a year round enrollee--so pay attention and fill out the forms!

We expect to see Maria Sophia Porter back in the Century House in January. She is recovering from

FUNDRAISING FOR OAKRIDGE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Fellow Parents,

Our children's Christmas Concert is just around the corner, and as busy as they have been preparing for their big event it is time for each of us to prepare as well.

This year there will be some new activities associated with the event. For me the evening of the concert has always been hectic trying to get everyone fed and to the event on time. To simply this, we are offering a **Pizza Dinner** for those families interested. It will be held in the cafeteria of West Valley Junior High beginning at 5pm. Be sure to watch for pizza sign-ups the week of the event so we know how much pizza to order. In addition we will be selling some desserts and beverages along with the pizza and during the intermission. Since your children will already be dressed up in their finest we are offering **Pictures with Santa**. All proceeds from pictures and food go directly to our Parent Teacher Organization Fundraising for our children.

The **Annual Silent Auction** will

be held this year as well. This will run from 5pm until 8.45pm. We have already received some great donations so please come ready to bid...and bid again.

If you yourself have not yet made a donation please do so now. If you need ideas just ask around, there are lots of options and your donation does not to have a large dollar value to be of value to the fundraising. We will accept dnations up until the event of course though it would be very helpful to at least have the information on all donations by this Saturday Dec 4th. you can drop off items at the school in the box or envelope labeled as such or you can arrange drop off at my house any evening this week or on Sat. Dec 4th prior to 4pm. Please label any donations clearly with who has made the donation and the value of the item. Tax receipts are available in the labeled envelope at school. Email is the best means to contact me for donations. For food donations please just email planned donation so I may make out a bid sheet and bring the item the evening of the event as early

in the festivities as possible. anneteerink@yvmh.org

We need some volunteers to help with these festivities. There is a sign-up sheet posted at both schools. We are planning on posting a donation item list early next week to give you a preview of items available. If there is any other way you want to help please let us know.

Sincerely,

The Silent Auction Committee

Anne Teerink (594-0338)
anneteerink@yvmh.org

Charlie Brooks (901-4995)
charlie.brooks@nbnproduction.com

Julie Deramo (480-0170)
alignbodyworks@gmail.com

Janalee Black (966-1106)

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Please do not park on the hillside to drop your child off at the Century House. Park in the parking lot and walk down. If your vehicle can't navigate the hillside, then park at the Harmon Senior Center parking lot and walk up.

Don't leave children or pets unattended in your car-running or not.

AT THE RANCH

Upper Elementary Students working on a country research which is very geographically oriented. Make sure your child is making progress, as this is not ab assignment which can be whipped out in a day.

a broken leg.

We are also expecting to see Ayyah Blevins back in the Century House in January. She has been fighting illness since July.

PTO MEETINGS

Meeting schedule: it is suggested that we meet monthly at the toddler/pre-school site for one hour from 5:30 p.m. on a weekday night, and a suggested schedule is:

Wed. Dec. 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Jan. 5, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Mar. 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Ap. 13, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
Wed. May 11, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
Wed. June 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Nominations for officers should be made of people capable and willing to serve. You may nominate yourself or someone else for Pres, VP, Secretary and

committee positions. We have a currently serving Treasurer: Bill Bosh. There will also be heads for the different committees as they are created.

Snacks will be available at the once-monthly PTO meetings with Jennifer Balch making cookies and Judy providing coffee. A sign-up sheet for other goodies may be available at the sign-in desk one week before the meeting.