

October 2023 Parent Circle Agenda

Admin: Beth/Sam will share updates and information

- Festival Updates: Martínmas & Enchanted Forest
 - **Martinmas (11/7 & 11/10)** – festival will look a little different this year and more details will be coming soon.
 - Information for volunteers will be going out soon.
 - **Enchanted Forest (10/31)** – ***Weather permitting:** Due to our ever-growing EC classes this festival will only take place if the weather allows (if raining other arrangements have been made)
 - **If weather allows:** Parents are welcome to join their child's class for a walk through the Enchanted Forest (more details to come on this from your child's teacher)
 - **If bad weather:** The students will not walk through the Enchanted Forest but will still receive their gifts from the older students during the normal school day (parents not attending)
 - If parent volunteers are needed your child's teacher will send out a request in their class email regarding the festival details.

- Fundraising Updates: Annual Giving & Gala
 - **Annual Giving** – An email went out school-wide earlier this week detailing this financial goal and the various ways to give this year.
 - **What does it cover:** Annual Giving and Gala are two fundraising events that we utilize as a non-profit to help keep tuition low. Donations help us provide specialized teacher trainings, tuition assistance, and facility maintenance and improvements.
 - **How to donate:** We are trying out a website called GroupFund this year, where you can create a donation page for your child(ren) to have people donate on.
 - **Details on ways to give** are included in the original Annual Giving email, please let Beth or Sam know if you did not receive this email.
 - **Gala** – 1st meeting will be held this Friday (10/20).
 - **Volunteers:** Many spots still open if you are interested in volunteering reach out to Beth, there are many different committees to chose from.
(beth@greatoakschool.org or outreach@greatoakschool.org).
 - **Outreach Goals this year:** Focusing on local, including small businesses in Tomball. Trying to bring our presence into our local community.

- General Admin Business

- **Listening Council (LC)** – The Listening Council serves an ombudsman function, handling topics of concern brought by any party in the school for consideration, providing unified and timely responses to inquiries that involve joint faculty-administrative collaboration, action plans, oversight, and/or follow up. LC consists of 1 or more representative from Administration, 1 from EC faculty, and 2 from grades faculty. Please do not be afraid to reach out with concerns or positive comments as well. LC discussions are completely confidential.
- **New AWSNA Affiliation Name Change** – While our name is still the Great Oak School, we now have a new level of membership within AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools North America) that allows us to officially call ourselves a Waldorf school (clap, clap, clap).
 - **What Does this Mean?** – This means we will re-brand if you will our social media and information handouts to say we are a Waldorf school (previously we could only say we were a Waldorf inspired school), this is a big win.
 - **Website, Social Media and Content Updates** – Last year new fonts and colors were approved and will be rolled out soon across platforms and on paper materials.
- **Annual Ladies Retreat 2024** – This year it is being coordinated by a group of parents who should have more information coming out soon. As of now the retreat will take place towards the end of January.
 - **Location & Duration:** More info to come on the location, in previous years it was at the White Eagle Lodge in Montgomery, TX. The retreat is an overnight generally but you can choose to come for just the day. All meals included.

Calendar of Events:

****Tuesday, October 24th - PICTURE DAY!!!! –**

- We ask you do not send kids in their very best (unless a course they want to), we cannot promise the clothes will not get dirty. These pictures capture the true essence of our school, and they are generally taken outside in a casual environment. These are not posed studio pictures. Don't worry they always turn out great!
- If you cannot make pictures this day there will be a make up day on November 9th.

****Tuesday, October 31st - Enchanted Forest (more details to come) – see notes above**

****Thursday, November 2nd and Friday, November 3rd - NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher Conferences –**

- Links for the Signup Genius have gone out in the Great Oak News Letter, teacher weekly emails as well are available on our Facebook page. **If you have not signed up please do so.**

**Tuesday, November 7th - SCHOOL SIDE MORNING CARLINE

**Thursday, November 9th - Make-up Picture Day

**Wednesday, November 15th at 9:00am - Open House for Prospective Parents

- o If you know someone interested, please have them sign up to attend. Signing up is strongly encouraged due to the size of the meeting room.

**Monday, November 20th - Friday, November 24th - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

Upcoming Festivals:

Enchanted Forest (10/31)

Martinmas (EC-11/7 & Grades-11/10)