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Have a great Summer!

See you in August!

In a Nutshell



On Tuesday, May 12th, I was replaced as Head of School (for the day) by Evan Morris. Evan "won" the opportunity to be Head of School for the day at the auction. He balanced budgets, answered teacher inquiries, engaged in meaningful conversations with teachers, and much, much more! It truly was a fun experience for both him and me.

[Read More](#)

Talking Tech

What a wonderful year in Technology! Thinking back, it's hard to remember what technology was like prior to the tornado and to realize how far we have come this year. So many exciting things happened – new data infrastructure, updated servers, new computers for staff and students, phones in every classroom, more digital cameras. And not to mention what our students accomplished – adept use of Office Suite 2007 (no small feat), use of laptops compared to desktops, more integration with homeroom curriculum, website creation, SWAT, video production, music editing, digital camera use, the list goes on.

For most Oakhill teachers, the school year is officially over and they are relishing some well-deserved R and R. In the area of technology, summer is an opportunity to expand. During the summer, Oakhill will receive newer student laptops, more digital cameras, a digital video camera, a new sound system and projector in the Commons Area, a second state-of-the-art Middle School classroom, complete with projector, sound system and wireless slate, 18 new laptops in the Library/Media Center, which will be utilized for Early Childhood and Kindergarten technology classes, updated software, and additional projector screens for classrooms. It most certainly will be a busy summer!

So students, be sure to take some time this summer to stay on top of those technology skills. On those rainy days or too-hot-to-be-outside days, get on the Oakhill website and check out some of the games and activities for your past and future grade levels. I will be adding more links throughout the summer, so check back often. And when August rolls around again, be

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I had been brainstorming what to tell Evan about my job – what did I actually do in a given day? My own children have no idea...they just know I talk to people all day long! I explained to Evan that my job has three facets – students, teachers, and parents/school community. I am here for the students...to create an environment where they can learn and thrive. I am here for the teachers...to support them and provide them with what they need to be the best teachers they can be. I am here for the parents and entire school community to listen, partner, and build the important relationships to create open communication necessary for true success. Therefore, everything I do in a given day: emails, phone calls, conversations, events, programs, lunch, etc... focuses on those three areas. I have a wonderful “job”! I am very lucky!

I asked Evan to capture his day in words for the ACORN. Here is what he had to say about the Head of School experience:

Have your child be Head of School for a day. Full access to the teachers’ lounge is included and access to teacher only places. Deliver papers – add extra recess and much, much more available by auction purchase. And, get a nametag!

Enjoy your summer! Have fun, play outside, enjoy one another, make time and take time for the small things!

Here’s to sleeping in (a little),



Suzanne McCanles
Head of School



Supporting Oakhill

Thank you to all of the hardworking Oakhill mom's and dad's that helped make this year's Treasure Sale a success. Over \$7000 was raised and many of customers said they cannot wait for next year's sale!

Now that the last big fundraising event of the year has ended, the end of the annual fund drive for the 2008-2009 school year is quickly approaching. Thank you again to everyone who has already participated in the fund. If you have not yet had a chance, there is still plenty of time! Through the annual fund, we have to date raised \$36,187 (with outstanding pledged gifts) in funds that go directly towards the betterment of every Oakhill student. Don't forget that **the annual fund drive does not end until June 30th!** So there is still plenty of time for you to make a pledge or donation. Thank you for your participation in this year's annual fund and for your commitment to the success of Oakhill.

Summer Spotlights—See What's to Come!

Volleyball – Girls



The lady panther's volleyball team was undefeated in their first regular season and finished third in their tournament. Now is your chance to learn from the coach who led this team to a successful first season. This camp will focus on strengthening the basic skills of volleyball such as volleys, passing, serving and spiking. Game play and scrimmages will also be set up, and you will learn different offensive and defensive plays for the team. You will have to dig deep to come out on top!

Funky Furniture Factory

Do you wish you had furniture in your room that was full of color and cool designs? Find that smaller side table, chair or even a clothes hanger and get ready to make it styling and hip! We will learn new techniques for painting, upholstering and refinishing old furniture to make it look like it should be in a gallery! You will be able to add your own artistic flair and take home a piece of furniture that will accent your room!

American Girl

Is your American Girl doll your best friend? Do you wish you could spend the whole day with her? In this class you will be able to bring your American Girl doll, Magic Attic, or other 18-inch doll to class everyday! Each class will have a special theme that you will work on with your doll and new friends. You might create cool clothes and accessories for your doll, read stories about your dolls, make cool crafts to share with your doll and make some yummy American Girl recipes!



This column is designed to offer parents and teachers learning strategies to help their students reach their maximum potential. If you have any specific areas you would like me to address, please feel free to email me at Brenda.Bock@oakhilldayschool.org

Physical Activity and Learning Go Hand in Hand

According to Neurokinesiologist Jean Madigan, “Our kids need to be physically active to help their brains function better”. Madigan suggests that as many as 85 percent of children learn kinesthetically. Many of these learners may retain more information when kinesthetic learning is paired with their preference of visual or auditory learning style. Movement enhances focus and attention, spatial awareness, and motor skills that lay the framework for reading. When children experience literacy concepts through action, they are moving toward becoming capable listeners, speakers, readers, and writers!

The following reasons promote literacy through movement and active learning:

1. Children learn best through being active – prepositions such as over, under, around, beside, and can be taught under the monkey bars, through the tunnel, and in other settings in and outside of the classroom
2. Spatial orientation – having children form letters with their bodies, and moving up/down, right/left enhances directionality. Spatial orientation and directionality are necessary when understanding difference between the formation of a “b” and “d” and writing left to right and top to bottom on a page.
3. Experiencing rhythm – Clapping, tapping, and moving to the rhythm of a poem or song encourages comprehension, fluency, and expression when reading.
4. Demonstrating word meanings – Depicting action words such as stomp, float, or slither- or such descriptive words as enormous, strong, or gentle- enable words to have more relevance than when handed out on a weekly spelling list. Adverbs and adjectives come to life and are less abstract as the description of a “slow walk” is demonstrated.
5. Playing/planning with peers – Inventing a new game and rules, a skit, or working with others to plan a demonstration offers opportunities for students to talk about experiences and depict them with actions. These activities promote essential connections among cognitive, social/emotional, and physical domains.
6. Crossing the midline – Movement activities provide opportunities for a student to cross the body’s midline. Crossing the midline requires the left and right hemispheres of the brain to communicate across the corpus callosum. This skill is essential in reading and writing across the page and in carrying out many daily physical activities.

As you encourage your child to learn remember, Confucius said it best, “What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I know.”

More ideas or information on the topic can be found from www.movingandlearning.com or www.actionbasedlearning.com.

Two Weeks Until Summer...Where Will You Be?

Do you need programming from the time your child's school is out until Oakhill Summer Days begins? AND in August from the time Oakhill Summer Days ends until your regular school year begins? We have what you need AND what your child wants...

Summer Start Line

Now - June 5th
7:00 am -6:00 pm
For ages 2-13

AND...

The Final Lap

August 3rd - August 19
7:00 am -6:00 pm
For ages 2-13

Activities offered during this time will include arts and crafts projects, sports, water play, gym play, and more! *Please Note: We will NOT provide hot lunch during Summer Start Line and The Final Lap.* Field trips will be offered on Wednesdays and Fridays during Summer Start Line and Final Lap for an additional charge. This years trips include (trips are subject to change): Air Zone, Gladstone Bowl, Kids Fun Run, and Boomerang Bouncers (on site)! Fees for full day care without field trips are \$38.00 per day. Field Trip Add-ons are \$40.00 per day extra or your child can join us for only the trip! Sorry, we currently do not offer half-day pricing.

Questions?

If you have additional questions, please call Sharon Phillips at 816-436-6228 or [e-mail](#).

Registration forms can be found in the [Summer Day's Catalog](#)!

Be sure to save your Box Tops over the summer!

An activity sheet came home in your backpack...

Be sure to use the sheet to keep track of your Box Tops this summer!



What to Know...from PTO

Dear Oakhill Family and Friends,

It's hard to believe another year has flown by and it's so amazing to see how far we've come in one year. This is a testimony to our school community and our leadership. This place truly is unique with the high parent involvement and commitment. Each of you has worked in various ways to make our school a better place and to invest in the lives of our students so thank you. Suzanne and our amazing faculty and staff have done a fantastic job of leading well and casting vision. Oakhill is a great place to be and I am certain will continue to be for years and years to come.

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you for the opportunity to serve as PTO President for the past two years. I have enjoyed getting to meet and work with so many of you. I have full confidence in your incoming PTO Board. These are 5 hard working women who love

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Another great school year. I can't believe that it is the end of May, summer has started and construction is going on. As the Library and additional classrooms are being added on throughout the summer, I hope to be adding children to the Oakhill community. I will give tours over the next few months, telling our story of who we are and what a day looks like for the students, teachers, staff and the parent community at Oakhill. I will tell of the events that happen, like the New Family BBQ, Ice Cream Social, Parents' Night, Carnival, Parades, Grandparents' Days, Musicals, Holiday Parties, Field Day, Tuesday Town Meetings, Buddy Families, Planting in the Garden, students working with technology, middle school trips and so many more things that make us special. Programs and events that bring the community together are just a portion of who we are. These are the events that I look back on and think, "what a great school year". These are the things that I am looking forward to planning during the summer days.

Enjoy the couple of months off that you have with your children. Send them to our Summer Days when you can! There are some great camps and the kids will get to be with their Oakhill friends!

Thank you for a great year. Thank you for everything each of you do to make Oakhill so great.

Leah Schembri

Student Spotlight—Oakhill Student Featured on Google



Matthew Cuzner, 3rd grade, was a winner for the Doodle 4 Google logo contest. Matthew was one of two winners for the state of Missouri in the Kindergarten-Grade 3 category. He will receive a certificate of recognition from Google.

Doodle 4 Google is a competition where K-12 students are invited to reinvent Google's homepage logo. This year, Google invited students to doodle around the theme "What I Wish for the World". Approximately 400 doodles from across the country were chosen by a panel of independent judges and Google employees based on which doodles they feel best represent the "What I Wish for the World" theme. In each state, two doodles were selected in each grade group, meaning that each grade group and each state were equally represented.

Congratulations to Matthew for his prize winning doodle!

It's Tee Time! - 2009 Golf Tournament

The annual Oakhill Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, September 12th at 9:00 AM. This year's event will be held at Hodge Park Golf Course just off of 152 Highway and North Shoal Creek Parkway. For more information on Hodge Park Golf Course, please use the following link: <http://www.hodgeparkgolf.com>.

This year's format will be a shotgun start with a four person scramble. We are asking that all teams register and pay to play in advance this year.

\$85 per player before June 30th

\$95 per player between July 1 and August 30th

\$105 per player between September 1 plus walk-on's



The player fees will cover: Green Fee, Cart, Range Balls, and a boxed lunch.

Extra costs:

Mulligan's: 4 for \$20

Tiger Wood's Hole: \$20 – On the longest par 5 the team will get to move 150 yards out from the green and lying 1, hitting 2.

Hole Sponsorships: \$100

Registration forms are available via the Oakhill web site or by sending and e-mail to davidconkling@kc.rr.com or michelle.mcDaniel@oakhilldayschool.org.

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this school and want what's best for our children. They will be working hard to continue to build on and improve our PTO and our school community. With that said, I want to officially announce your officers for 2009-2010...Jackie Conkling, President; Kendra Burge-Schneider and Lori Melton, Vice Presidents; Renee Bay, Treasurer; and Haley Eisler, Secretary.

I am also very excited to report that at this time all chair positions are full. Thank you to all our committee chairs who worked so diligently this year. I appreciate your willingness to lead and all the energy you poured into your events and committees. Thank you!

Thanks again for a great year!

Signing off as your president,
Shannon
Shannon Horn



Oakhill Alumni,

We're looking for you! We want to know where our students go after Oakhill and we need your help. There are many ways to reconnect with Oakhill, so spread the word!

The [alumni section](#) on Oakhill's web site is not the only place where you can go to reconnect with Oakhill. You can also now see us on our [Facebook](#) Fan Page!

The Development Office wants your help identifying the types of outreach programs that you would like to see for alumni, as well as special events and volunteer work days.

If you are a current parent or student, we want your input too! Please contact Michelle McDaniel @ 816.436.6228 or by [E-mail](#).

The Parent Partnership

School may be out and summer is officially here but your child can still learn. Life skills are an important part of development in your child. During the summer is a great time to learn a few key life skills. There may be some time in your day that you didn't have during the school year. Listed below are some good life skills to work on with your child.

1. Money Skills- Helping your child look after their finances is important and a good starting place is with their pocket money. Encourage your kids to save 25% of their pocket money. This will help to develop the savings habit early on and when they start getting interest it can be exciting.
2. Cooking Skills- Going to the grocery store and picking out ingredients
*Putting groceries away *Measure ingredients *Follow a recipe *Setting the table *Serving the food
3. Managing Conflict- How to handle and react to problems
4. Public Speaking- Encourage to look up and speak with confidence *Discuss their day or have them recite a poem *Practice speaking to people
5. Chores- There are household chores that can be done by any age of child. Through chores children can learn that they are important contributing members of the family.

For additional information see www.selfgrowth.com

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ready for some new and exciting things taking place at each and every grade level. I'm excited for what's to come and can't wait for you all to experience it too!

Bernadette Roche'

Don't forget to Vote... There's still time!



Oakhill is Nickelodeon's 2009 Parents' Pick Nominee for Best Preschool in Kansas City!

Parents like you have been posting great comments about Oakhill on www.parentsconnect.com, giving us high ratings and resulting in Oakhill being nominated for the 2009 Parents' Pick Award. Between now and July 15th you can go to www.parentsconnect.com/parentspicks, click on Kansas City and then Preschool to find Oakhill.

Vote for Oakhill Day School every day until July 15th to help us win!

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Garage Band

Do you play the guitar? Drums? How about the trash can? This is not your ordinary band! As long as you like music, you can be a part of this band. If you have a guitar, feel free to bring it and play in the band. If you don't have an instrument, now is the time to get creative and find something in the garage to turn into your instrument. You will form a band, design your look and prepare to put on a performance on Friday for family and other campers. Get ready to rock!

Be sure to check the summer catalog for course fees, times, and call for availability! See you this summer!

Click to see more Summer Classes or to [Enroll Now Online](#) ! Click [here](#) to request a catalog.

[See What's Coming Up at ODS...](#)

Coming Up at ODS...

Monday, June 8

First Day of Oakhill Summer Days

9:00 AM, Oakhill Day School

Come join us for another great summer of fun and sun! Contact: [Lauren Plapp](#)

Thursday, July 2

Oakhill Summer Days 2nd of July Bash

TBD, Oakhill Day School

Oakhill Summer Days offers the 2nd of July Pre-Party for campers that are signed up during the week of June 29 - July 2. If you are plan on allowing your child to stay and play, please let us know 2 weeks in advance by emailing sharon.phillips@oakhilldayschool.org or noting that your child will be attending on the enrollment form. Contact: [Lauren Plapp](#)

Monday, August 3

First Day of Final Lap

7:00 AM, Oakhill Day School

Where will you spend your days after Summer Days end and School begins? Final Lap is full-day care offered to students age 2-13. For more information, please contact 816.436.6228.

Contact: [Lauren Plapp](#)

Practice and after school activity schedules can be found on the [web site](#). Times and events will be updated as changes occur. If you would like to add an event to the school calendar, please contact [Sharon](#) in the central office. Thank You!

If you have friends that are interested in Oakhill, invite them to one of our Open Houses or host a neighborhood mixer!

If you are interested in submitting to future editions of the ACORN, please [e-mail](#) Michelle McDaniel, Director of Communications and Development at michelle.mcdaniel@oakhilldayschool.org. Thank You!

Our mission is to provide excellence in education through child-centered learning in a supportive, challenging, and rewarding environment that provides students with self-confidence, values, knowledge, and the foundation for leadership through emotional, physical, and social development.