

# KRISHNAMURTI FOUNDATION OF AMERICA & OAK GROVE SCHOOL

## Foundation Focus Fall 2010

Volume VIII Issue 1 of 2  
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*Our children will face a future that we can hardly imagine, one that will require them to adapt, change course, change jobs, make room for the new and hold multiple perspectives in play. A traditional education that simply requires students to take in information and retain it for testing just won't do. We are increasingly called upon to recognize ourselves as members of an inter-dependent world community with responsibilities to the whole, not just our small part. As Oak Grove School's founder J. Krishnamurti pointed out – we are the world.*



*“Our problem is how to bring about, through education, a human being who is creative, who is capable, who possesses that intelligence which is not burdened and which is not shaped in any particular direction but is total, who is not belonging to any particular society, caste, or religion, so that through that education and with that intelligence, he arrives at maturity and therefore is capable of making his life, not merely as a technician but as a human being.”*

J. Krishnamurti  
January 31, 1953

### This fall or winter, come to Ojai

Autumn brings the start of a new year at Oak Grove School, and new programs for adults at the Krishnamurti Education Center. Situated just a few miles apart on the east and west ends of the Ojai Valley in California, both locations are imbued with the tangible legacy of Krishnamurti. In Ojai's rural East End, the Pepper Tree Retreat hosts people year-round for short or long stays, to restore in solace, or to participate in a program at the Krishnamurti Education Center next door. At the Education Center, Krishnamurti's former home provides a peaceful and beautiful environment for groups large or small.

On the west side of the Valley, the 150-acre campus of Oak Grove School remains a jewel in the landscape. School life unfolds in the beauty of nature, and teachers, parents and staff provide the nurturing environment in which children from pre-K to grade 12 flourish and learn. Academic excellence is a hall mark of Oak Grove's students, along with mindfulness, understanding, and awareness of self, others, and the world.

The Krishnamurti Foundation and Oak Grove School invite you to visit, and discover for yourself the art of living and learning, in Ojai.



Oak Grove is a progressive co-educational day and boarding school serving pre-school through college preparatory high school students in beautiful Ojai, California.

## Inside Stories

### A new focus on outreach

Andy Gilman, Outreach Director

What does awakening intelligence look like on the ground, day to day in our teacher's classrooms? What do successful Oak Grove graduates do and say? What are they like? When Oak Grove's mission is manifested, what would we point to, show, and write about?



When reaching out to new students and their families we continue to ask ourselves these questions, and strive to craft narratives that reflect what we see on campus every day. This work is ongoing within our current community as well. A standing portion of our regular Parent Forum meeting is set aside to discuss **The Art of Living and Learning**, a framework for understanding the fabric of our school culture,

curriculum, classroom practices, and student expectations. (For more on The Art of Living and Learning please visit [www.oakgroveschool.com](http://www.oakgroveschool.com) and click on About Us /Our Mission /The Art of Living and Learning).

Oak Grove is a private school with a very public purpose, and therefore we address a third group: Those who want to positively affect our world and can contribute to Oak Grove's financial well-being. The school's mission is to help students develop the qualities of mind, heart, and body that will enable them to act with excellence, self-knowledge, and responsibility in the modern world. Oak Grove's unique community offers an environment of inquiry where whole, mindful, and intelligent approaches to life are investigated and perennial questions of humankind are explored. Students are encouraged within this climate of inquiry to question deeply what they

*"Intelligence is the capacity to perceive the essential, the what is; and to awaken this capacity, in oneself and in others, is education."*

*- Krishnamurti, Education and the Significance of Life.*

see and respond creatively and with a sense of personal integrity to whatever life may bring.

The attributes and outcomes described in Oak Grove's mission are made tangible through the students themselves – the inside story reflected in their actions and words particularly as they move out into the world as graduates. As we continue to hear back from our alumni, it is rewarding to see the enormous impact our students have upon their communities. As you will read in another article from Jodi Grass, Oak Grove's Director of Development, donors made it possible for 60 students to attend school this year who would otherwise not have been able to. The inside story is self-knowledge, harmony, compassion, beauty, engagement, and intelligence – qualities the world needs more than ever before.



A renewed focus on outreach is underway within our own community, the larger county and state, and internationally. This effort includes new ways of describing our mission through video, animation, imagery, narratives, and the Internet, as well as timeless vehicles such as hosting community gatherings on the campus and participating in local business and civic meetings. All of the early indications are very positive. In October, the school will launch a publication campaign framework centered on The Art of Living and Learning, with subsequent content published in newspapers, magazines, and website

blogs. Our overarching theme is to deeply and responsibly promote the school, and to describe the awakening, the engagement, and the larger consequences that unfold here. We hope you will visit our website and social media pages to see the inside story for yourself.



# The Art of Living & Learning

Oak Grove students learn to use their minds, their bodies, and their hearts well because the overarching themes expressed in the Art of Living and Learning are embedded in the school's culture, curriculum, classroom practice, and expectations of student learning.

## The Art of Inquiry

observation • questioning • fact-finding • research • self-reflection

## The Art of Communication

speaking • writing • listening • collaboration

## The Art of Academia

knowledge and application of academic standards, conventions, and disciplines in core subject areas

## The Art of Engagement

attention • self-direction • self-motivation • self-regulation metacognition or learning how one learns • examining one's own thinking

## The Art of Aesthetics

sensitivity and appreciation of beauty in all forms • finding the artist within • artistic expression

## The Art of Caring & Relationship

Self: self-understanding and awareness • making healthy choices

Others: self-reflection and awareness in relationship • non-violent communication service to the common good

Local & Global Communities: service and citizenship

The Environment: mindful stewardship



Oak Grove School is a living learning community and therefore these "arts" should not be perceived as fixed but dynamic in nature and in a constant state of review.

WWW.OAKGROVESCHOOL.COM

# In the classroom

## The Art of Observation

Meredy Benson Rice, Head of School

The art of observation is a sub-set of the art of inquiry, one of six "arts" that provide a framework for learning at Oak Grove School. These arts are embedded in everything we do at the school. They connect across subject areas, grade levels, and extracurricular activities.

The art of observation manifests itself at different areas of the school in slightly different ways according to the developmental stage of the child/student.



For example, in early childhood, the art of observation might take the form of a conversation between teacher and child over an emotional conflict. The teacher might acknowledge the facts: "You look angry. You were holding the doll and she/he took it away from you." By this means the teacher is helping the child to consider the facts without judgment and move from this observation toward understanding.

In elementary school the art of observation might focus on developing an awareness of the five senses and using these to observe the natural world. Students take

nature walks and "notice" plants animals and other natural phenomena. They begin to ask questions, share and document their findings. Older students begin to discuss the scientific method and ask: how do we know what is true and what is assumed? They begin to dig deeper into what it means to directly observe what is happening and start to look at underlying



assumptions and how these may distort the truth. In literature or social studies teachers and students begin to look at how a person's cultural conditioning might lead to assumptions that distort reality and feed conflict.

Gradually, students become aware of the impact of direct observation on human relationships. For example, we encourage

in our communication protocol "checking the facts" before making assumptions and going to the "source" of a problem to determine the truth of a situation before emotionally reacting to a situation.

Krishnamurti often expressed that the highest form of intelligence was the ability to observe, just observe, and state the facts, without judging, without opinion.

**"Oak Grove drew something from inside of me and brought it out to the world."  
"It's about the process of learning how to learn that has made all of the difference."  
"Going to Oak Grove has been one of the best decisions of my life."  
"I am learning to be the person I want to be, who I am."**

Reflections by Oak Grove Graduates

# Publications

Each year Krishnamurti Publications travels to the major bookfairs in the world of publishing, including the Beijing Bookfair, where interest in Krishnamurti's work is growing in leaps and bounds. This year, our Director of Publications, Derek Dodds, sent this story.

A priceless moment passed yesterday when a member of China's police force dropped by the Krishnamurti Publications booth at the Beijing Bookfair 2010 to peruse the quotes that we had translated into Chinese and scattered all over our booth walls.

Through my Chinese translator, a young volunteer who had attended the Krishnamurti Teacher's Training Academy in Ojai two years prior, I learned of the policeman's desire to break free of his own conditioning, and as he was showered by K's words a small part of him appeared to transform right in front of me.

He walked away from the booth 15 minutes later after we exchanged many thoughts and opinions about life and its deeper movements. He didn't go empty handed though; I gave him Krishnamurti's book *Freedom from the Known*, and a look of excited exploration came over his face as he silently read K's words while walking away. I had the feeling that my entire trip to China was of value in those moments, and the interaction gave me hope that our work at the Foundation was touching more lives than we could ever imagine.

*Derek, Beijing Bookfair 2010*



*Director of Publications Derek Dodds, with new friends at the Krishnamurti Publications booth at the Beijing Bookfair*

FACEBOOK

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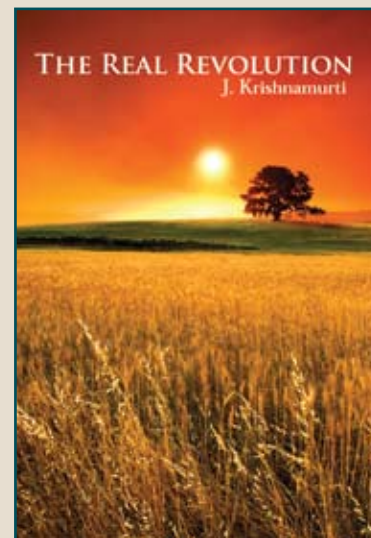
## Krishnamurti Bookstore

Order By Phone 805-485-0180 M-F 9-5 (PST)

Find us at [www.usa.krishnamurti.org](http://www.usa.krishnamurti.org)

Visit [www.jkrishnamurti.com](http://www.jkrishnamurti.com) . . .

*The authentic online source to explore Krishnamurti's lifetime work, searchable by word, date, or topic.*



It is with great appreciation that the board and staff of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America and Oak Grove School acknowledge the service of Mark Lee, recently retired, and his wife Asha. Mark began his involvement in the early 1960s, as a teacher at Rishi Valley in India, a sister school of Oak Grove School. He was appointed by Krishnamurti as the first head of Oak Grove School in 1974, and later served as head of Publications. Most recently Mark served as Executive Director of the KFA, a position he held for many years. Mark will continue his involvement as a trustee of the Foundation.

## The Pepper Tree Retreat & Education Center

The Education Center was formerly Krishnamurti's home, set among Ojai's tranquil East End orange groves just a few minutes drive from the center of town. The facility includes a large meeting room (up to 100) and several smaller break-out areas. The nearby Pepper Tree Retreat offer eight comfortable suites for visitors. **Both the Education Center and the Retreat are available for group bookings.** To explore further, call manager Elizabeth Arnold at 805-646-4773, or email her at [retreat@kfa.org](mailto:retreat@kfa.org)



[www.PepperTreeRetreat.com](http://www.PepperTreeRetreat.com)

# Making A Difference

## Saying "Yes" to Students and to Our World

Making the choice to attend Oak Grove School is only the beginning of the equation. Private school tuition, even with our lower-than-average cost, can be an insurmountable barrier for many families. Financial reasons alone prevent many deserving students from receiving an Oak Grove education. And while we are a private school, we have a uniquely public purpose... to develop those qualities of mind, heart, and body in our students that enable them to act with excellence, self-knowledge, and responsibility in the modern world. This is a mission we need to fulfill, and it affects us all.

This year, Oak Grove will provide more than \$366,106 in financial aid. We are sincerely grateful for our scholarship and financial aid donors - sixty students are able to attend this school year who would otherwise not be here, and it is because of you.

### Ensuring our Future

Every donation makes a difference. Monthly recurring donations and multi-year pledges allow us to prudently plan our future. A monthly donation of \$20 grows into a \$240 annual gift. If 300 donors gave a monthly donation of \$50, all capital improvements, maintenance, and deferred maintenance would be covered for an entire year. If 300 donors committed to a \$200 monthly donation our funding gap would be completely closed ... all of our programs, including Oak Grove School, would be supported at their current levels.

### Other Ways to Give

Split Gifts are one way to support the work of the Krishnamurti Foundation AND help Oak Grove School maintain its excellence through the highs and lows of the economy. You can designate your gift to the annual fund to either side of the organization, or both.

Likewise, if now is a good time to contemplate what your legacy will be, consider including the KFA and Oak Grove School in your will. A simple provision of an amount or a percentage of your estate will protect your assets from taxes, and nourish the well-being of future generations.

Imagine that, year after year after year, young people will graduate who have the tools to navigate life's challenges and opportunities with warmth, compassion and curiosity. Now that's a legacy.

Contact Jodi Grass, Director of Development, at 805-646-8236, X. 110, or email [jodigrass@oakgroveschool.com](mailto:jodigrass@oakgroveschool.com)

## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER 6

#### Oak Grove School Open House, Saturday, November 6th, from 1 to 4 pm

If you are considering Oak Grove School for your child, come and take a first hand look. Students proudly show their beloved campus to visitors and display their special projects. Faculty and staff are on hand to answer questions. Experience the special magic of this beautiful campus and see for yourself the environment that nourishes superb young graduates. **Call/email Joy Maguire-Parsons at 805-646-8236, Ext. 109; email: [enroll@oakgroveschool.com](mailto:enroll@oakgroveschool.com)**

### NOVEMBER 24

#### Day of Reading at Oak Grove School

Parents, Grandparents & Special Friends are invited to join students and staff in our day-long pajama party. Older secondary school students team up with the young ones to read them a favorite book in a cozy nook or under the oak trees. Students ask family and friends to sponsor their reading. Funds raised go towards very special extras that the students have selected for their "wish list." Whether you come in your PJ's or not, we invite you to visit and help cultivate the life-long delight of reading. **Visit [www.oakgroveschool.com](http://www.oakgroveschool.com)**

### DECEMBER 3

#### High School Showcase, Friday, December 3rd from 7 to 9 pm

Students, parents, and friends are invited to attend this wonderful evening of art and music. High school classrooms will be transformed into galleries displaying painting, sculpture, photography, digital art and ceramics created by our talented high school artists and high school musicians will give live musical performances in the Student Center.

### JANUARY 9 TO 16

#### 2011 Winter Study-Intensive and Retreat Program

#### A rare opportunity to study and retreat in Krishnamurti's home in the beautiful Ojai Valley

The Birth of a New Intelligence and a Movement Toward Freedom and the Unknown: Stepping Out of Psychological Time into the Creative Present.

A group retreat, financial aid available for college students. Visit [www.kfa.org](http://www.kfa.org) for a downloadable brochure, or call/email Richard Waxberg at 805-640-0532, email: [richard@kfa.org](mailto:richard@kfa.org)



### Krishnamurti Library & Visitor Center

1098 McAndrew Road,  
Ojai, CA 9023

The Library & Visitor Center is now located at Pine Cottage, the former home of Krishnamurti. For the first time, Krishnamurti's private resi-

dence is open to the general public. The Pepper Tree Retreat is next door. Thursday - Friday: 1-5 pm; Saturday & Sunday: 10am - 5pm. Ph: 805-646-2390

**Visit [www.PepperTreeRetreat.com](http://www.PepperTreeRetreat.com)**



**Krishnamurti Foundation of America**  
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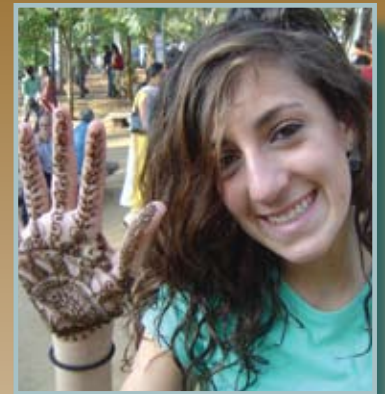
**OAK GROVE SCHOOL**

is accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)  
 For information on admissions, contact Joy Maguire-Parsons at:  
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 Ph 805-646-8236, Ext. 109 Fx 805-646-6509  
 Email: [enroll@oakgroveschool.com](mailto:enroll@oakgroveschool.com)  
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# Boarding at Oak Grove School

Oak Grove’s residential program brings The Art of Living and Learning to a student’s home away from home. Set in the peaceful and beautiful Ojai Valley, just 75 minutes from Los Angeles, Oak Grove offers 7-day boarding to developmentally ready 7th and 8th grade students and domestic and international students in 9th through 12th grades. Our family-style boarding facility, Besant House, provides a warm and friendly home for 15 - 20 American and International students. A dedicated residential staff lives on the premises offering support, guidance, great food, good conversation, and abundant opportunities to explore Southern California, as well as the local town of Ojai, home to many famous writers, actors and artists.



*“I was looking for a school that would challenge me academically while also allowing me to pursue my extracurricular passions. Moreover, I was searching for a place where I could learn about myself and discover what I had to offer the world. I found all of this at Oak Grove School.”*

**- Nikolette OGS '06, Northeastern '11**

Oak Grove School is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Western Boarding Schools Association (WBSA) and The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS). Visit [WWW.OAKGROVESCHOOL.COM](http://WWW.OAKGROVESCHOOL.COM)