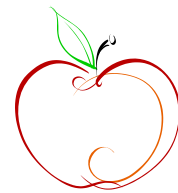


# Countryside Montessori School

## December Newsletter



If you have been at Countryside for at least a year, you have read this before. However, I feel it is so important for us, as parents, to be reminded to slow down in a world that seems to be rush, rush, rush! Things get so busy and hectic during the holiday season as we all begin to prepare for our family traditions. It is sometimes hard to just sit back and enjoy our children. Most parents are usually so busy from the time they get home until they go to bed that they don't make time for themselves let alone just sitting and playing a game with their child. However, our children are growing and changing so much each day and if we don't stop and take time to enjoy them, they are going to be all grown up before we know it. I hope that you will be able to take some time and enjoy your children during the holidays this year.

Thank you to all that were able to take time to enjoy the Mother's events last month. The teachers did a wonderful job and it seemed as though everyone had a great time! The Preschool/Kdg party has been rescheduled to Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. We hope we will have lots of moms in attendance! Due to the amount of siblings and the limited space we are asking that parents only bring their preschooler/kindergartener to the party. Thank you for understanding.

Please note the new time below for the Father's Night for both the Toddler and Preschool/Kdg classrooms.

After the news story aired about our relationship with Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care I received an email from Erin Kramer who runs an organization called "Gwendolyn's Gifts". They make Smile Bags for children on palliative care, hospice care, and/or children who have been in St Louis Children's Hospital for a long time. They include gifts, gift cards, and homemade cards in their Smile Bags. Their goal is to spread joy, hope, love, and smiles to children and their families who could really use a reason to smile. This year they donated 80 bags during the months of September/October as a means to celebrate Gwendolyn's 4th birthday! Countryside has been asked to join this wonderful cause. I will be creating and donating silicone bracelets and we will have the children create their art on puzzle boards so that the children who receive the gifts have a fun puzzle to make. We will also make something for the younger children too. If you missed the news story and how your child helps bring a smile to those who really need them, you can view it through this link <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/storytellers/preschool-artwork-cheers-up-hospice-patients/63-613902324> You can also view a news story about Gwendolyn's Gifts at <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/gwendolyns-gifts-bring-smiles-to-terminally-ill-children/63-605769609>

Thank you to those who brought in gifts for our annual toy drive. We will be delivering next weekend. If you still want to bring in a donation, we will accept gifts through Wednesday, December 5th. Thank you for your generosity and helping give a gift to a child in need.

I wish I had an update on the asphalt. However, as of right now we are waiting for the ground to be ready and the weather to be warm enough for the asphalt company to be open. The early snow storm impacted the construction and now the colder weather is delaying this process. Thank you for your continued understanding as we wait this out.

We have decided to make some changes to the newsletter. You can find the full newsletter on our website ([www.montessori4children.com](http://www.montessori4children.com)) in the parent's section. The online password is CMS1964. Please take time to view the newsletter and see what is happening in all of the classrooms at Countryside as well as activities around town!

### Reminders:

December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Preschool/Kdg Mom's Night	4:30-5:30 p.m.
December 24	Winter Break Begins	NO SCHOOL
January 7	School Resumes to normal schedule	
January 21	Martin Luther King Day	NO SCHOOL
February 5	Toddler Room Father's Night	4:30-5:30 p.m.
February 14	Preschool/KDG Father's Night	4:30-5:30 p.m.
February 18	President's Day	NO SCHOOL
February 20	MDO/One Year Old Room Father's Night	4:45-5:15 p.m.
February 27	Field Trip	



# Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



Welcome to December! It is a chilly time of year!

We have some busy babies that are learning new things every day...

Elouise is starting to take steps. She is preparing for her move to MDO.

Janie Mae is always so happy and loves to be silly.

Rhett loves to eat, especially puffs, and loves playing with his friends.

Bennett is doing great at sitting and enjoys chewing on teethers.

Zoe has started to pull up and is getting pretty fast at moving around the room.

Noah is doing great at sitting and also loves to eat.

Hannah is doing great at tummy time and likes to watch her friends while sitting in the excersaucer.

Kate enjoys smiling at her teachers and loves playing under the acitivity gym.

This month Elouise will make her big move to MDO. We will miss her sweet little smiles and silliness, but she will do wonderful next door!

We will be making Snowmen out of each child's foot print and also a few other wintery projects throughout the month. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns and we will be happy to help!

## "Chubby Little Snowman"

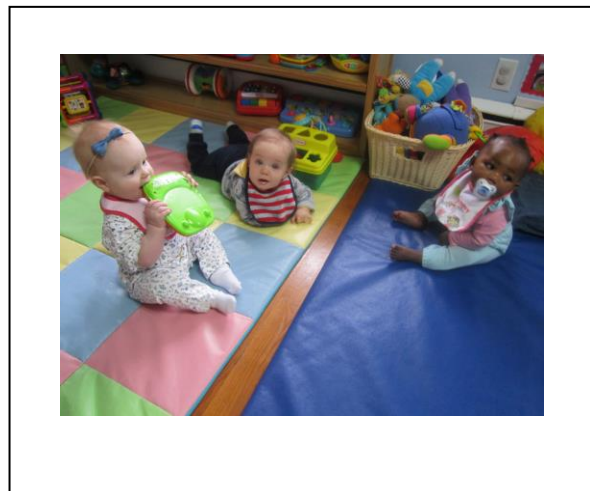
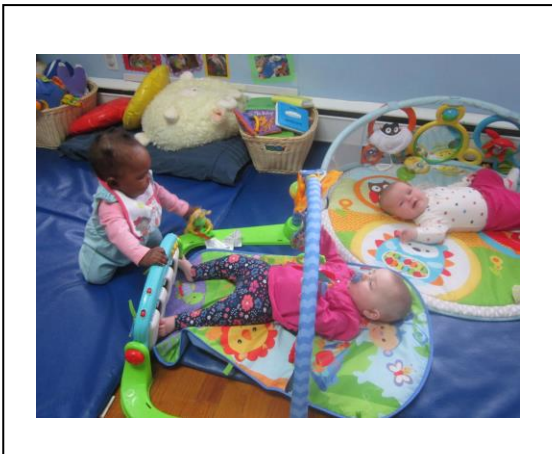
A chubby little snowman had a carrot for a nose.

Along came a bunny and what do you suppose?

That hungry little bunny was looking for his lunch...

And he ate that snowman's nose...

Cr....r....unch!!



# Mom's Day Out Program/One Year Old's

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

## What's Happening in Mom's Day Out?

It looks like we skipped over Autumn and leaped straight into winter. We can't remember the last time we had a snow day before Thanksgiving. With the winter temps comes the need for appropriate clothing and outdoor wear. We are asking everyone to please label each piece of your child's outdoor winter wear. The staff strive to make sure each child's items are returned to his or her Countryside bag after each outdoor play time. It can be difficult to keep everyone's items straight when you have 9 hats and coats and 18 mittens (Please send MITTENS rather than gloves). Please help us by putting your child's name on each piece, and if possible, send the same items each day rather than switching out items. Thank you for your help and sending your child ready for outdoor play each day. We will bundle the children up and take them outside as long as the play area is dry and the temp isn't too low, so please send them ready for recess each day.

This month we will start talking about winter weather. During outdoor play we will talk about the temperature, how cold it feels and wind if it is breezy. We will also continue talking about snow. During art time our discussion will continue as we make snowflakes, snowmen, decorate paper mittens, and paint with the color green.

Our friends are doing a great job during Montessori time. They are learning how to show us what work they would like, and how to carry it to the table. Stacking works are a big hit for the young ones and those who are close to two years old seem to gravitate towards works that focus on shapes or colors. We hope you enjoy seeing the pictures each day of your child at work. If you have any questions about the work you see in the photos, don't hesitate to ask. Some of the "works" we have on the shelf could be recreated with things you may already have around the house. It may just need a little modifying and imagination. Let us know if you see something that you would like to know more about and any ideas we have of how you could make it for your child to use home.

Our class is changing as we have new little ones entering and older children moving up to the toddler class. In November, we welcomed Josie into the group and wished Lillian well as she moved up. This month we will say "see you soon" to Amos as he transitions to Toddlers and have Henry, Grace and Elouise join our group. We truly enjoy watching each child grow and learn during their time in Mom's Day Out.

MDO Mother's Night was a huge success!



# Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Hello December!

Thank you to our moms for making our Mother's Night such a lovely evening. It's really nice to get a chance to see you all interacting and getting to know each other! We hope you enjoyed yourself, and we know how busy moms are, so we truly appreciate you taking the extra time to participate in the event.

Our class has been doing well with our routine. The children are doing great with circle time, Montessori work and budding independence. We rotate new work each month and all our books are rotated each week. We love observing the children notice new work and books and their enthusiasm is awesome!

We continue to encourage independence with your child. We want the children to learn to master tasks by themselves and the best way to achieve this is to give them as many opportunities as we can, to do things on their own. Please continue to have your children change their shoes, put their coats on, use utensils to eat, etc. The more you encourage your child to do these things for themselves, the more you will notice how much they are growing!

With the cold and flu season in full swing, we have become aware that there are a lot of children putting their hands/fingers in their noses and mouths. We steadily discourage this behavior at school and follow with having them wash their hands. Please help us break these habits by discouraging them at home as well. Consistent handwashing is our first line of defense in preventing illnesses. We are working hard to teach the children to catch their coughs and sneezes in their elbows and we are making frequent trips to the handwashing sinks. We want everyone to stay as healthy as possible!

Thank you for your continued support and parent partnership and for the opportunity to teach your child!

## Mother's Night



### A Pudgie Little Snowman

A pudgie little snowman  
Had a carrot nose  
Along came a bunny  
And what do you suppose?  
That hungry little bunny  
Looking for his lunch  
Ate that snowman's carrot  
nose  
Nibble, nibble, crunch



### I'm a little snowman (sung to I'm a little teapot)

I'm a little snowman short and fat  
Here are my buttons, here is my hat.  
When the sun comes out I cannot play.  
Slowly, I just melt away.



# Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

December is here! This year is flying by quickly. We want to say thank you to those who donated toys for our annual toy drive this year. Our Mothers Night has been rescheduled to Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30! The weather is getting colder by the day and we will be going outside every day for at least five minutes if the “feel like” temp is above 15 degrees. We might be limited on the time we spend outside depending on the temp but we will still go out. Please bring in a winter jacket, hat and mittens for your child to wear outside. Some children leave a spare set of mittens and a hat in their cubby, so it’s never forgotten. We would like to remind everyone of our winter break this month. We will be closed (except children enrolled in our extended day program) December 24<sup>th</sup> -January 4<sup>th</sup>. School will resume on Monday, January 7<sup>h</sup>. If your child is enrolled in our extended day program, you will be receiving a form to fill out regarding the days you will need care for your child, so we can staff accordingly. NOTE: Staffing in our classroom will be different during these 2 weeks due to holiday vacations. We are continuing this month with our show and tell. The children have been excited to see what their peers have brought in and they are excited for their show and tell day to come. (Reminders will be passed out a week before your child’s show and tell day and NO TOYS PLEASE).

This month we will be moving south on our world map and talking about South America. We will discuss some of the countries in South America and make their native flags. We will have a discussion on the Amazon Rainforest and talk about the animals who live there. We will have frog matching, tropical bird matching and much more. The children will have a lesson on the layers of the rainforest and the animals who live in each layer. We will learn what an island is and they will have a chance to make one too. We will continue our plant and animal activities as well as our living and non-living work.

We are also going to learn about the HUMAN BODY! We will have finger prints for the children to look at under a magnified glass. We will have 3-part cards of the human body and they will have an opportunity to put together a book of the human body as well. The children will get to look at x-rays on our light table in the language room. We will conduct a science experiment which will show the children how their stomach breaks down food they eat. We will talk about our 5 senses during this month. The children will get to participate in a tasting activity, a feeling box, a sound game, a smelling activity and an ink blot test. This will be an excited new subject that we hope everyone will love.

As our seasons change, so does our work in the practical life area. The children will have a hand washing station and learn the Montessori process of washing hands. The children will have an opportunity to make an igloo mosaic and mitten pricking. The pouring work, scooping work and tweezing work have become more difficult to improve/master their concentration and hand eye coordination. The children will be introduced to chopsticks this month and some children will be introduced to our tying dressing frame. We are looking forward to this month and all the new adventures that will come!

## December Poem (Pet snowball)

I made myself a snowball, just as perfect as can be  
I thought I’d keep it as a pet, and let it sleep with me  
I gave it some pajamas and a pillow for its head, but  
then last night it ran away, but first it wet the bed.

The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, “The children are now working as if I did not exist.”

-Maria Montessori



Thanksgiving Feast



## Upcoming Events

### Early Bird Specials at Kokomo Joe's

4105 N. Cloverleaf

St. Peters, MO, 63376

(636) 447-5656

SATURDAYS 10AM-1PM & SUNDAY 11AM-1PM

Receive 3 Activities + \$10 Game Card for only \$20. Activities available include Go Karts, Bounce Beach, Laser Tag, Bumper Cars and Mini golf. Standard height restrictions apply.

### Keeper Talks

Wild Bird Sanctuary

125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road

Valley Park, MO, 63088

(636) 225-4390

Meet outside the Wildlife Hospital at 9 am and join our keepers as they feed and water our birds. Learn what they are, how they got here, and what they all eat. Have you ever wondered? What do the birds eat? Where does the food come from? Where did these birds come from? Join one of our keepers as they do the morning feeding on our exhibit line, and learn about what we feed the birds, where they come from, and a lit bit about the individual birds that you will meet! Meet opposite the wildlife hospital or catch up with the walk on your own.

**When: Every Saturday & Sunday | 9am**

**Cost: FREE!**

### Miniature Train Rides at the National Museum of Transportation

The Museum of Transportation

3015 Barrett Station Road

St. Louis, MO, 63122

314-965-6212

Come to the National Museum of Transportation and take a ride on the C.P. Huntington Miniature Train. Fit for all ages, our experienced conductors and engineers give the **"All Aboard"** signal and off you go on a seven-minute excursion!

Ages 12 months or older need a \$5 wristband for the miniature train ride and handcars. Enjoy unlimited rides for the day of your visit. Museum admission additional and required.

Train operates on the hour & :20 & :40 minutes past.

The Crew Captain reserves the right to cancel the ride operation due to unfavorable weather or mechanical conditions.

# Ways to Volunteer at Countryside

## Mom's Day Out Parents

- ~Making play dough
- ~Donating fresh cut flowers

## Toddler Parents: Sign-up sheets are located in the classroom

- ~Making play dough
- ~Donating fresh cut flowers for the tables in the classroom
- ~Storytime (time and day will vary)
- ~Sharing a special talent

## Preschool/Kindergarten Parents: Sign-up sheets are located in the classroom

- ~Making play dough
- ~Donating fresh cut flowers
- ~Wednesday morning story time (8:30 a.m.)
- ~Sharing information about your Culture/Country
- ~Help the staff in the classroom when a teacher is absent

## Newsletter: Send information to [JMHanser@aol.com](mailto:JMHanser@aol.com) (deadline for submission is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month)

- ~monthly community events
- ~child friendly recipes
- ~any idea or information you think other families might enjoy







