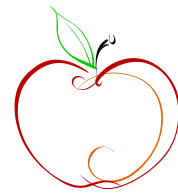


Countryside Montessori School

January 2015 Newsletter



Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you were able to enjoy some family time! Thank you to all who donated toys for the toy drive! It is always nice to give to others in need during the holiday season! The Preschool/Kindergarten children seemed to enjoy sharing the gift they brought for another child in need. Thank you for giving them the opportunity to have this experience.

Reminder: If Countryside will close due to inclement weather a phone message will be sent by 6 a.m. and you may also find this information on Channels KMOV and KSDK. A message will also be left on the school phone. And, you will receive a message via PreciouStatus. Reminder, the messages could say we are closed all day, opening two hours later or open only for children enrolled in our extended day program.

Fall and Summer enrollment information will be sent home soon. If you plan to enroll your child for summer or next fall please do so as soon as possible. For the Preschool Program, your child must enroll for a minimum of days as they are old. If they are three years old they can enroll for a minimum of three days but if they are four years old by September they must enroll for at least four days a week. In order for the school to meet the budget we must limit the amount of children enrolled in our three day program as it takes up a five day spot. There will be a slight increase in tuition; this information will be sent home with the enrollment information. We need ALL children to return the re-enrollment forms as soon as possible.

For our summer program, if your child is enrolled in our extended day program and will attend Countryside without a lapse in care you still need to fill out the registration forms for both summer and fall. Your tuition will remain the same as it was throughout the year and will not change during the summer. However, it is extremely important to fill out the forms. The new tuition rate will go into effect September 1st.

Cold and Flu season are definitely upon us! Please be considerate and keep your child home during the first couple days of a cold, even if they do not have a fever. We have a diagnosed case of RSV in our infant room. This child was here with a slight runny nose and then a very slight cough and over the weekend the cough worsened and now the child has been diagnosed with RSV. RSV in an infant is basically like the common cold in an older child or adult.

We have our next field trip scheduled on Wednesday, February 11th. We will not hold classes on this day. On the field trip day, Countryside will only be open to the children enrolled in our extended day program (7 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.). More information regarding this event will be sent home soon. Lunch at Countryside is served at 11:30 a.m. If you attend the field trip you will need to make sure your child has lunch before they return to school. Children that are enrolled in the Extended Day program who will return to school after the field trip need to be at school no later than 1 p.m. so they may have their rest time.

Upcoming Events:

January 19	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	NO SCHOOL
February 3	TODDLER CLASS FATHER'S NIGHT	6:30 P.M.
4	PRESCHOOL/KDG CLASS FATHER'S NIGHT	6:30 P.M.
11	FIELD TRIP (SCIENCE CENTER)	NO SCHOOL*
16	PRESIDENT'S DAY	NO SCHOOL

Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



Happy New Year everyone! It is so hard to believe the new year is already here and underway. We are looking forward to all the exciting new things that 2015 will bring for our Infant Program friends.

Sophia will be transitioning to Moms Day Out this month. She is ready for all the new and exciting adventures that await her. Nolan celebrated his first birthday in late December and will be transitioning as well. He is ready to go "be big" and experience all that Moms Day Out has to offer. We will miss them both very much and wish them both the best of luck on their new adventures in Moms Day Out! Irene will celebrate her first birthday this month and will be the "Big kid" of our program. She is pulling herself up to standing position and exploring more freely around the classroom. Gabriella has discovered our shape sorter treasure box to explore. We find her putting more than just the shapes in it. It is more like her personal treasure box to hide her favorite toys in. Jule has taken a liking to exploring books and trying to pull to kneeling position to get toys in and out of the different baskets on our shelves. Brooke is trying to get up into crawling position and is moving backwards for short distances. Sometimes this upsets her but it won't be long before she catches on and starts moving forward. Jack is growing up on us so quickly. He has started eating several new foods. He loves his cereal for sure! He is also rolling from his back to his belly. Sebastian is on the move! He is finally pulling himself across the floor using his arms. He likes to grab toys and feet so we are careful to watch out for him.

This month we welcome a new friend to our Infant Program, Everleigh will join us the first of January. We are very excited to meet her and look forward to having her with us this year. We always love when someone new joins us to learn and grow.

Looking for something new to do to start off your new year? Here an idea for you and your family...

Ever wonder what the zoo is like during winter? What do the animals do when it's cold outside? Head to the St. Louis Zoo for Delta Denta Winter Zoo Sundays, January 25th and February 1st and 8th for animal games, activities, crafts and more. For more information contact the St Louis Zoo at www.stlzoo.org for event info & times.

Welcome 2015! See everyone in February!



While the younger children take their morning nap, the older children are able to take advantage of the floor space and enjoy the ride-on toys. They appear to love this special time!

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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

We hope you all enjoyed your winter break. We had a great time with our families and got some rest. We are ready to see what is to come in 2015. WOW! Is it really 2015 already?!?!

This year, as many of our kiddos are learning to say more words, we will be focusing on learning to say: friends' and teacher's names, more please, hi/bye, help, and all done. We will also work on colors and counting to 5.

Modeling and repetition are key when it comes to teaching your little one to talk. You can encourage his or her language skills by giving them the words to say. For instance, if you want her to say please for the toy you are holding, get eye contact and tell her "say please." You might have to repeat the words a couple of times. She might just make a random sound in response. Give her lots of praise and say "yes, you said please. Good job." Then hand her the toy. She will begin to make the connection that spoken words and sounds have meaning.

Anderson is talking more each day. He is even giving appropriate verbal responses to questions that the teachers ask. Eli seems to really enjoy music time and sings to himself as he plays with his friends. Henry will celebrate his second birthday very soon. We will miss his sense of humor, as he moves up to the toddler room. Michael is working on standing up without holding on and practicing taking steps with some assistance. Molly is learning to say her friends' names and is verbalizing her wants to her teachers. Navya is understanding more of the English language each day and shows it by completing tasks requested of her by the staff. Parker is learning how to carry her work from the shelf to the table during Montessori time. She is also telling us when she is all done with a given task. Preston will be starting the new year at an in-home daycare. We will miss his big smile and happy personality. Quinn looks for her friend each day and calls him "Buddy." She will find him in photos around the room.

This month we will be welcoming three new friends into our class. Nolan and Sophia will be coming over from the baby room and Layla will be coming to Countryside for the first time. We are excited to get to know them this year.



Montessori Work Time



Outdoor Fun

Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Happy New Year!! We hope that everyone has enjoyed their holiday break and we are so excited for a New Year! We are so excited to welcome some new friends to our class, too! Quinn, Ethan, and Henry will be moving over from Mom's Day Out within the next week to join their friends in the Toddler Room.

This month, we will be focusing on using our fine motor skills by practicing lacing. This can sometimes be a little challenging at first but once your child gets the hang of it, they are so proud and want to keep going! We love to see the proud looks on their faces when completing their works.

Transportation is our topic of the month! All of our friends love trucks and school buses and all things that move. We will be painting with cars, making tractor tracks, and so much more. We will also be talking about how and what the different forms of transportation work.

Parents are more than welcome to be a classroom volunteer. We are always looking for people to make play dough, read to the class, and bring in flowers. We can have classroom readers weekly from 8:40-8:50am. You may choose books from school, your house, or the public library. Flowers can be brought in each week, and play dough will be every other week. The sign-up sheets are hung in the classroom. Please feel free to add your name to any of these volunteer sheets!

As a reminder, please make sure your child is dressed in layers and bringing the appropriate outerwear to school. We try to go outside every day, even if it is only for 5 minutes. I recommend getting a set of warm mittens and a hat that can stay at school. Please remember to label all of your child's outerwear to prevent lost or misplaced items.

Snowflake Poem

Snowflakes, snowflakes (make snowflakes with fingers falling down)
Falling down
All around, on the ground. (rub the floor)
Get your sled,
Climb up so high! (climb fingers up arm)
Down we go, (Brush hand down arm in fast movement)
Slippity Slide.



Snowball (Tune to "Are You Sleeping?")

Make a snowball, make a snowball. (pretend to make snowball)
Throw it now, throw it now. (Use throwing motion)
Make a snowball, make a snowball. (pretend to make a snowball)
Throw it now, throw it now. (use throwing motion)



Toddler Time with Chi Chi the Chinchilla

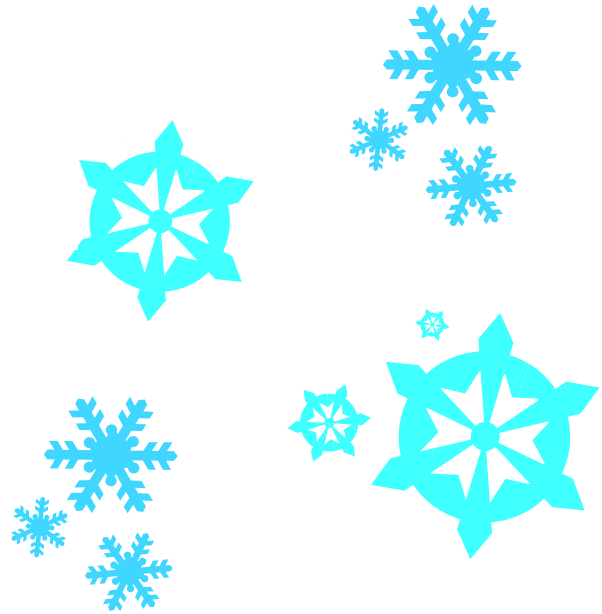
10 Little Snowflakes (Tune to "10 Little Indians")

One little, two little, three little snowflakes,
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes,
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes,
Ten little snowflakes on my tongue! (Stick tongue out)

One little, two little, three little snowflakes,
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes,
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes,
Ten little snowflakes on my hat! (pat head)

One little, two little, three little snowflakes,
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes,
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes,
Ten little snowflakes on my mittens! (wiggle hands)

One little, two little, three little snowflakes,
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes,
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes,
Ten little snowflakes on my boots! (point to feet)



Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

Welcome back everyone! We hope everyone had a nice winter break and happy 2015. We would like to remind everyone to make sure your child has a warm winter coat, gloves and a hat for outside play. We hope to go outside even if it is for just 5 min to get some of our energy out. Also, we would like to remind parents there is no school January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

As we continue our journey around the world our next stop is Antarctica. The children will be making igloos, penguins and learning about the animals and climate in Antarctica. New work is out throughout the classrooms. In the Language Room we have new activities regarding land, air and water, and plant and animal. We have new Antarctica activities, showing the animals that live there to the clothing people must wear to be warm. We have new simple association cards which the children will match the object to the correct picture (ex. A baby matches up with a crib and a car matches up with a stop light). We have an occupation activity that shows different men and women working in a variety of different jobs. This helps show the children diversity in the community. There is a lot happening this month and we can't wait to get started.

In the Practical Life room we have new material! The children will practice using small tweezers and get more practice with their chop sticks. The materials consist of smaller objects so the children will have to concentrate harder to complete it correctly. We will be working more with the dressing frames so the children can practice zipping and buttoning their own clothing.

In Sensorial and math we will continue counting our numbers and introduce money (coins). The objects they count with will change to keep them interested as they practice their numbers. The children love the smelling bottles we introduced last month, so we will change out the common smells to more difficult smells to challenge the children in a fun way.

Let's start the NEW YEAR 2015!!



Upcoming Events

The String Beans Family Concert

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum

Visit The Magic House for a live concert with The String Beans. On tour in 2015, The String Beans have been entertaining families for over 10 years with their wide variety of original songs and spontaneous hilarity. Their whacky on-stage antics and dance-tastic songs are perfect entertainment for preschool through elementary-aged audiences, as well as their parents and teachers. A String Beans show is full of music, comedy, crowd participation and lots and lots of fun. 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. <http://www.magichouse.org/>

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella (Dates Vary)

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 until Sunday, February 1, 2015

The Fox Theatre in Grand Center

This lush production features an incredible orchestra, jaw-dropping transformations and all the moments you love—the pumpkin, the glass slipper, the masked ball and more—plus some surprising new twists. Be transported back to your childhood as you rediscover some of Rodgers + Hammerstein's most beloved songs, including "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/It's Possible" and "Ten Minutes Ago." Performance times are Tuesday – Saturday at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday at 2:00 p.m.; Sunday at 1:00 p.m.; Sunday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m.; and Thursday, January 29 at 1:00 p.m. <http://www.fabulousfox.com/>, (314) 534-1111 or (314) 534-1678

Sesame Street LIVE: Let's Dance!

Thursday, January 22, 2015 until Sunday, January 25, 2015

Peabody Opera House

Hosted by two live performers, Sesame Street Live "Let's Dance!" offers an up-close, interactive experience that includes dance parties. Elmo uses his imagination to 'Do the Robot,' Cookie teaches all 'feets' to dance, and Ernie shares the fun of dance with the Sesame Street favorite "Shake Your Head One Time." Favorite friends join the audience on the floor – dancing with fans, not just for them. It's Sesame Street Live like you've never experienced it before! Performance times vary. www.peabodyoperahouse.com/

Mardi Gras STL - Family Winter Carnival

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Soulard Market Park in the Historic Soulard Neighborhood

A family friendly day of winter fun Mardi Gras style featuring activities like inflatables, arts & crafts, story time, face painting, interactive displays from the Science Center, Magic House, Arch, History Museum and more at the Bud Light Party Centre in Soulard Market Park. The day concludes at 4:00 p.m. with the Childrens' Parade through Soulard. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. <http://www.stlmardigras.org/>, (314) 771-5110

Ways to Volunteer at Countryside

Mom's Day Out (One Year Old Room) Parents

- ~Making play dough
- ~Donating fresh cut flowers

Toddler Parents: Please see the staff if you would like to volunteer for one of the following:

- ~Making play dough
- ~Donating fresh cut flowers for the tables in the classroom
- ~Story Time (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 (deadline for submission is the 25th of each month)

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

Happy New Year