



# Countryside Montessori School

## November Newsletter



Happy November! We have definitely entered into the Fall season! The leaves are changing color and falling to the ground. The children are enjoying running through the leaves and listening to the crunching sounds they make. Please remember to dress your child appropriately each day. Also, please make sure your child has an appropriate extra set of clothes here at Countryside.

October was fire prevention month and at Countryside, November is Pest Control Reminder month. As you are aware, the weather is getting colder which means our six and eight legged friends will be heading indoors. So, please take time to exterminate your house. Over the last year, there has been an increase in brown recluse spiders in our area. We have also had a couple families who have had children bitten by spiders at home during the late summer months. In one case, the spider was found under the sheet in the child's bed. Another family found the spider in a toy box. So, please don't forget to spray inside and outside of your house or call the exterminator.

With the weather getting colder, I would like to take this time to remind our parents and caregivers about our Car Safety Policy...There will be absolutely no toleration for cars left unattended with the engine running or keys left in the ignition. If your car is left unattended with the keys in the ignition, the administrator or any staff member have the right to remove the keys and take them to the office. For the sake of all the children at Countryside please uphold this policy. We understand parents may be in a hurry in the morning; however, it only takes a few seconds to remove your keys from the ignition.

In addition, please DO NOT leave children unattended in your vehicle. If you have an infant and have a child enrolled in either the Toddler or Preschool/Kindergarten program, and would like the staff to meet you at the door please call the classroom when you arrive. A staff member will bring your child to the door so you are in constant sight of your car.

Staff Development and Thanksgiving Break: We will be closed November 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. The staff will be in workshops and meetings on the 26<sup>th</sup> and then we will close for Thanksgiving the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope you are able to enjoy time with your family during this break.

Our annual Toy Drive to benefit a local charity will begin next week and will end on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please allow your child to pick out a \$5 toy and bring it to Countryside to donate to this wonderful cause. Toys will be delivered to a crisis nursery and given to children whose parents are unable to care for them do to extenuating circumstances. The Preschool children will be asked to talk about their donated toy during circle time.

### Reminders:

November 26-28	NO SCHOOL	
December 18	Toddler Room Mother's Holiday Party	10-11:15 a.m.
December 19	Preschoo/Kdg Mother's Holiday Party	10-11:15 a.m.
December 19	Classes end at 11:15 a.m. and Winter Break Begins	
January 5	Winter Break ends and Classes Resume	
January 19	Martin Luther King Day	NO SCHOOL

# Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



November is here! Not too much longer and 2014 will be over; 2015 is fast approaching. Can you believe how time flies around here at Countryside Montessori? It seems to go at the speed of light especially for our Infant Program friends. Parker just celebrated her first birthday on October 29th and has made her transition to Mom's Day Out. Good luck on your new adventures Parker! Sophia has graduated to table food and is enjoying every last bite. She has a particular fondness for peas. Nolan is off and walking everywhere. He is also learning to drink from a sippy cup. He is getting better at drinking from it each day. Sebastian has been introduced to baby food and really enjoys his carrots. He is also squirming around everywhere learning those necessary first crawling skills. Tummy time is super important in developing the skills needed to learn to crawl and walk. Gabriella has a new tooth working its way through. She has been chewing on teether's and a few toys to help the process along. Irene has a new trick she loves showing off for everyone to see. Give her a big smile, say "Touchdown!" and watch those little arms go way up over her head as she smiles from ear to ear! Too cute! Brooke has discovered her voice! Who would have ever thought such a little girl could have so much to say! She really is such a happy girl. Jule has been trying very hard to get up on her knees to crawl. She is pulling herself all over the place with those arms of hers. Getting stronger each day folks! November we will be welcoming a new friend to our room, Jack. He will be joining us 4 days a week and we look forward to getting to know our new friend.

Love singing songs to your baby? Try this little tune with your little one.

## I'm a little Scarecrow!

(to the tune of "I'm a little  
Teapot)  
I'm a little scarecrow,  
Raggedy and worn.  
I wear a hat  
And a shirt that's torn.  
When the crows come  
I wave and shout,  
"Away from my garden!  
Get on out!"



Looking for some family fun? Visit the Missouri Botanical Garden's Gardenland Express Flower & Train exhibit. Beautiful flowers and a massive model train exhibit for all to enjoy. The exhibit begins November 22 and runs through January 4, 2015, 9am - 4pm. \$5 a person & kids under 3 free. Visit [www.missouribotanicalgardens.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgardens.org) for more information. Ms Amanda went last year & loved it!

Have a safe & wonderful Thanksgiving and see you in December!

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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

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

Happy Autumn everyone! We hope you are enjoying the change of season as much as we are. The chill in the air, the beautiful colored leaves and the scent of hot chocolate and apple cider, all remind us that we are lucky to live in a state where we can experience each of the four seasons. Those cooler temperatures do not hinder us from going outdoors. Please keep the temperature in mind as you pick out the adorable outfits for your children each morning and what jackets they will wear. Some of the children will need to switch out their extra changes of clothes for long sleeves and pants.

Along with the cooler temperatures, colds and illnesses have made their way into our classroom. We are cleaning and sanitizing daily but we need your help in minimizing the spread of germs this season. Please review the sick policy in your handbook. We understand how hard you all work and your employers count on you, but if your child isn't feeling well please keep them at home. This will help in keeping the illnesses to a minimum.

The staff in Mom's Day Out work very well, as a team. This was no exception during Erika's time at home, recovering from surgery. The children made some art projects for their individual portfolios and some that they were excited to take home for mom and dad. They even made a special handprint sign for Erika, which she loved and appreciated. We switched out some of the toys in the front room. The children are enjoying the large vehicles (dump truck, fire engine, jeep and train). We hope you will be able to stay for a few minutes and enjoy some playtime with your child. They would love to show you their favorite toys.

We love working with the one year olds. They are constantly changing right before our eyes. Akshay is interacting with his friends and teachers more every day. Anderson is learning to say the color names. Eli enters with a smile and a hug for his teachers and quickly starts his school day routine. Ethan enjoys Montessori time, where he likes the stacking activities. Henry has learned to say all of his teachers' names and he surprised Katie by saying hers for the first time last week. Michael is doing great in MDO. He made the transition to finger food and a sippy cup with ease. Last week, Katie was counting out loud with the children and Molly said "3" before Katie could give the verbal prompt. Navya is adjusting to the classroom routine. Her favorite activity so far, is swinging on the playground. Preston has begun to crawl on all fours and is getting to be pretty fast. He also loves to take steps while holding onto the shelf. Quinn T. is walking everywhere now, so fast she almost runs. We have another Quinn that has joined our class. Quinn K is very sweet and we look forward to the time we will get to spend with him this year. And, Parker just moved over from the infant room and she is doing fantastic! One would never know she was new to the room as she began playing and interacting with her new friends on her first day.

Throughout October, we said good bye to several of our friends as they moved over to the Toddler Room. We will miss Cecilia, Eston, Ousuke, and Rush. However, we still get to see them when they are outside on the big playground! They seem to be adjusting well to their new room.

As we have now entered into the Fall season, we hope you will allow your child to experience the senses of Fall...the fun sounds the leaves make as they are crunching beneath their feet. The different textures the leaves have as they begin to change colors. And, it is also quite entertaining for young children to just watch a leaf as it floats to the ground.



# Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Our Toddler classroom continues to be a very active and busy room! A lot of our focus for the last couple weeks has been on helping your child develop consistent work habits as they "choose" work, "use" materials, and then "return" them when they are finished. This requires concentration, a sense of order, and lots and lots of patience.

One of the most important things we can do as teachers to help ensure your child's success is offer a "prepared environment".

Maria Montessori's concept of "prepared environment" is that the environment should be designed to facilitate maximum independent learning and exploration by the child. By having the "prepared environment", your child can work on activities of their own choice and their own pace. By doing so, they experience a blend of freedom and self-discipline and a place designed to meet all of their developmental needs.

Some work that your child will be working on this month will be cutting and tearing paper, water works, sorting, and simple hand transfer works.

**Cutting-** Your child will be learning how to hold safety scissors and make them open and shut to practice cutting paper. We will also be tearing paper to work their fine motor skills.

**Water works-** We love to practice pouring! In our wet room, we will be practicing pouring colored water and cleaning it up with sponges. This helps them during family style dining to pour their own milk or water and know when to stop without overflowing.

We will have lots of different art projects for this month, too! We will make turkeys with our hands, paint with corn, create corn out of construction paper and tissue paper, and so much more! Look for special art projects to come home!

As the temperatures start dropping, please make sure that your child has weather appropriate clothes in case an accident happens. Long sleeves, pants and an extra pair of socks for their bin will help us out greatly! We would not want to put them in shorts and a tank if it's freezing outside! :)

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask! We are more than willing to help you in any way you can!!

## Five Plump Turkeys

Five plump turkeys sitting on the ground,  
The first one said, "Oh, my we're getting round."  
The second one said, "I smell a pumpkin pie."  
The third one said, "But we won't cry."  
The fourth one said, "Let's trot, trot, trot."  
The fifth one said, "Quick, don't get caught."  
In came the farmer and he turned on the light,  
and five plump turkeys trotted out of sight!

November (tune to "Do you know the Muffin Man")

Do you know November's here, November's here, and November's here?  
Do you know November's here? A great time of the year!

## Hello Mr. Turkey (Tune to "If You're Happy and You Know It")

Hello Mr. Turkey,  
How are you? (clap, clap)

Hello Mr. Turkey,  
How are you? (clap, clap)

With a wobble, wobble, wobble  
And a gobble, gobble, gobble

Hello Mr. Turkey,  
How are you? (clap, clap)

# Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

November has come!! We will be doing a lot of things this month. We will be having a Fall Harvest Feast. This will take place on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. We will hand out more information on this event when it gets closer. This month we will finish up Parent/Teacher conferences. If you did not meet with Ms. Karen regarding your child's assessment last month, the sign-up sheets will be located on the shelf by the shoe bins. Show and Tell will start this month and every child has a special day to bring in an item from their home to share it with their classmates. Parents will be given a reminder card for their date. (Please do not bring in dolls or superheroes, please encourage your child to bring in things that are educational and things that have a purpose). The last thing for the month is our Thanksgiving break. We do NOT have school on November 26, 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>; school will resume on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

We will begin our journey around the world! We will start with North America and talk about where it is located on a map and we will discuss the food, the language, and monuments found in North America. The children will get to prick out the continents and glue them on a map and make their own world map! By the end of the year your child should have all the continents glued to their world map. We will also begin talking about islands and gulfs in the geography area this month. In our sensorial area, the children will have an opportunity to work with our smelling bottles and pressure cylinders. The children always enjoy matching the scents and pressure cylinders. The children also continue to master the binomial cube and the red rods.

We have added some new activities to the Practical Life room which include mirror polishing and bubble making. These activities require the child to practice their concentration and their hand eye coordination. The children's skills are improving everyday and we are pleased with their progression. The children will have an opportunity to make pilgrim and Native American hats for our Fall Harvest Feast!

In music, we have introduced instruments to the children and we will be continuing to play them and learn their names and listen to the sound they make for the next few weeks. We put together a marching band last month and played for the toddler classroom and marched around the parking lot out back, the kids loved performing with their instruments.

We look forward to this new month and everything it brings us!





## Upcoming Events

### **Fairy Tale Tea with Cinderella**

Saturday, November 8, 2014 until Sunday, November 9, 2014  
The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum

Aspiring princes and princesses will have the opportunity to sip tea or apple juice, dine on assorted pastries, make a bejeweled crown to take home and enjoy a short, live production of Cinderella inside the Whitaker Theater at The Magic House. Following the play, kids can see their favorite characters up close as Cinderella, Prince Charming and the Fairy Godmother visit with guests and sign autographs. Guests are encouraged to dress in their storybook best. At least one shoe required! Reservations required. 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. <http://www.magichouse.org/>, (314) 822-8900

### **Kids Can Help**

Saturday, November 15, 2014 until Sunday, November 16, 2014  
The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum

Children can help those less fortunate and get into The Magic House for FREE during the Museum's annual canned food drive on Saturday, November 15 and Sunday, November 16. Children under the age of 12 who bring in three canned goods per person will be admitted to the Museum free of charge. The collected food will be donated to the St. Louis Area Foodbank to help families in need. Helping others can be a magical experience.

### **Magic Tree House™**

Saturday, October 4, 2014 until Sunday, February 1, 2015  
The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum

Based on the best-selling children's book series written by Mary Pope Osborne and published by Random House, this novel exhibit allows visitors to branch out through history via a magical, time-traveling tree house. Join Jack and Annie, two ordinary siblings from Frog Creek, Pennsylvania, as they are whisked away in time to experience three important periods in American history including a visit to Plymouth Bay at the time of the first Thanksgiving, a trip to a field hospital to help Clara Barton during the time of the Civil War, and a visit to a one-room school house to experience life as a pioneer. Children choose their own adventure by selecting from three passageways inside the tree house, each leading them on an exciting, historical journey back in time. Let the adventure begin!

### **YO GABBA GABBA! LIVE! Music Is Awesome!**

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2014  
The Fox Theatre in Grand Center

This state-of-the-art live show production features music, singing, dancing and animation. Fan favorite Leslie Hall will join the cast on stage along with hip-hop legend Biz Markie who will teach kids how to beat box with "Biz's Beat of the Day." Special guests are invited to join the party on stage in each city for the "Dancey Dance" and "Super Music Friends Show" segments. Children under 1 year are free when seated on an adult's lap. All children age 1+ must have a ticket. 6:00 p.m. <http://www.fabulousfox.com/>, (314) 534-1111 or (314) 534-1678

# 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 [JM Hanser@aol.com](mailto:JM Hanser@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

