



Countryside Montessori School

September Newsletter



Welcome!!!!!!!!!! Welcome new and returning families! We are so glad to have your children here at Countryside! We all enjoy watching your child grow and learn every day! This is our first newsletter of the new school year. Each month you will receive a newsletter full of information about the school and your child's classroom. This newsletter will offer some insight into what is going on within all of our classrooms. We generally include reminders about upcoming events here at Countryside and within the community. We hope you take a few minutes each month to read the newsletter and learn more about your child's environment away from home.

Just a reminder, if you would like to bring in birthday treats on your child's birthday you are welcome to do so. Please make sure it is peanut/nut free and is purchased from a store or bakery. Fruits and vegetables are also welcome!

We are continuing to make improvements to our program. At this time, we are doing some behind the scenes improvements. First, we are purchasing a washer and dryer to help with the weekly laundry from our four classrooms. This will be a tremendous help for the staff! Especially when they do not get back the correct items in their laundry bag after it was laundered by the Hanser children. This past week the Mom's Day Out classroom was missing the fish pillowcases they sent for cleaning. They were finally found in the Infant laundry bag. We will also be installing a much needed dishwasher in the kitchen. Countryside was given a family style dining package from ARCHS. ARCHS is a non-profit organization that provided us with a grant so that we could reach our NAEYC accreditation status earlier this year. The family style dining set we received included reusable plates, cups and silverware for each student as well as serving bowls/platters, utensils and small pitchers. We also received several educational items as well. This was a great gift that will help the children (even the two year olds) to serve themselves at meal time. The food will be placed in the serving bowls/platters on the table and the children will be responsible for serving themselves their entrée, vegetable, fruit and milk. There are also child size serving tongs and spoons to help them at mealtime.

Please be aware of our Sick Policy. Please keep your child home if they have any new symptoms such as a runny nose, cough or just do not look 100% well. This is extremely important! Also, if they have had diarrhea or vomited more than once they must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. If we are aware that your child had a fever, diarrhea or vomited the day before they arrive at school we will ask that you take them back home. This is one of our most important policies, especially this time of year!

Tuition is due on the first of each month. Tuition not received by the seventh of the month is considered late and a late fee will be applied. Reminder, Countryside does not send monthly invoices.

Please make sure you have read through the policies and have returned the updated 2012-2013 Policy Agreement Form and the Pony Riding Headgear Form no later than Wednesday. Children cannot ride the ponies until after we have received the Headgear form. Also, we are asking ALL of our families to bring in a 4x6 (or smaller) family photo for our family tree. And, don't forget to send in your child's immunization record! Our Immunization report must be updated and sent to the Department of Health by October 1st!!

Please remember that the front circular drive is a one-way drive. If there isn't a parking spot in the lower lot and you need to drive around the building please exit onto Ladue Road and re-enter the school, please do not use the front circular drive as a turnaround lane.

Don't forget our first field trip will be on October 10th! More information will be sent home soon!

We are looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year with your family here at Countryside! If you have any questions or concern please contact Jenifer at 314-434-2821. If you have an urgent matter you may call Jenifer on her cell at 314-704-0847.

Welcome! My name is **Jenifer Hanser** and I am the Administrator/Owner and cook here at Countryside! I originally came to Countryside as a parent of two toddlers in September 1999. However, in June 2000 my husband and I became the owners of Countryside. I very much enjoy coming to Countryside each day and watching all the children learn and grow. I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to watch so many children learn new things each day! It is truly an honor to have your children here at Countryside! I know how difficult it is to leave your child in the hands of someone else and I feel very honored that you trust our staff with your children. We have made many changes since we took over the school twelve years ago. There just seems to always be something more I want the children to have here Countryside. I look forward to spending the year with your family.

Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



Hello parents! We have enjoyed your precious little ones being in our class this past summer! We love them all so much! We do have some exciting new changes taking place this month. We've had a couple of our babies turn one, so they graduated, and moved on to Mom's Day Out. We are so proud, but will miss them! We have had a couple of new friends join us within the past few weeks and also have two new babies joining our little family this month. Getting to know our two new little boys, Telmuun and Ayan, has been great! We also have a new friend, Tyler, starting very soon and another sweet little boy, named Henry, joining us at the end of this month! We understand that change can be hard for both baby and parents, and are really focused on making these transitions flow as smoothly as possible. If your children have any type of comfort item that may help with this, please feel free to bring it. Due to our small friends' eagles eyes and little fingers that are learning to grab everything they can- we do not allow shoes in our room in order to help keep it clean. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter! We are looking forward to a great school year!

Hi, my name is Kyla Thompson. I have a beautiful little girl named Kymiah (3), who is currently enrolled in our Preschool program (which she loves!). This past December we moved back from Florida, where we had lived for the past 3 years. At the beginning of the summer, I transferred from my position as an infant teacher at another daycare to Countryside Montessori School for the new opening of our Infant Room. I have absolutely loved working with all the babies that have joined our little "family" this far! Working with infants is something that I have always done. I am the oldest girl, of my 7 siblings, and played a big part in their lives as we were growing up. I volunteered at a few daycares throughout my middle and high school years to gain experience to obtain a job in child care, while attending college. I am currently in the process of obtaining two degrees- one in business and the other in photography. I am excited for the new school year and all the new little ones I get to meet! - Ms. Kyla

I'm Ariel, I am a student at Columbia College studying Human Services with a focus in child care. I am currently an infant teacher here at Countryside but I have been in the child care field for over four years. Most of my experience comes from doing both classroom and administrative duties as well as working for the U.S. Navy in Guam. I love caring for children and watching them learn and grow. For children, every day is a new challenge and each day offers new experiences. This is what I love most about working with children. I am so happy to be a part of the happy Countryside team and I look forward to getting to know all the children and their families.

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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

What's Happening in Mom's Day Out?

We will be welcoming 12 new faces to our classroom this week because most of our children from last year moved over to the 2s room during the summer. In October and November, a few children will be moving over from the infant room after they have their first birthdays. This is the first full year the infant room will be open, so we're not used to having little ones move IN to our room - how exciting! The first month of school will be spent helping the children become comfortable in the new setting. For some children, this is their first time away from mom and dad, so it can be hard (on parents too!). We expect a lot of tears the first week of school, but you'll be surprised at how quickly those turn to smiles. We will spend a lot of time helping the children adjust, learn the routine, and give lots of extra cuddles. Please send in any comfort items your child may need during this transition - a pacifier or blanket, or favorite stuffed animal. Please do NOT send toys, though. We will also spend time outside, so please make sure they all have shoes! When choosing shoes for school, we prefer tennis shoes or other sturdy closed-toed shoes.

I am excited to be starting my 4th year in the Mom's Day Out room at Countryside. Here is a little information about myself. I am married and have three children. Kyle is 12 and in 7th grade, Katelyn is 11 and in 5th grade, and Karissa is 8 and in 3rd grade. Kyle and Katelyn used to come to Countryside 10 years ago! I started off my career as an elementary school teacher and taught for 8 years before deciding to stay home with my little ones. When I returned to work, I decided to try something different and became a Parent Educator with Parents as Teachers. I enjoyed working with young children so much that I moved to the preschool setting and eventually to the one year old classroom here, at Countryside.

Looking forward to a fabulous year!
Kim Matzdorf

We do have an additional staff member, Ms. Charity, who will join us in October. This will be Ms. Charity's second school year with us and she will be here on Tuesday's and Friday's.

Hi, my name is Lisa Sanders. I am one of the teachers for the Mother's Day Out and One Year Old program this year. This is my second year at Countryside. I live here in Creve Coeur with my husband, Jeff, and our three kids, a 20 year old daughter and two sons, ages 15 and 16. I am really looking forward to teaching the children who will be coming back to our class (many have moved on up to the toddlers class) and I am also excited about all the new children we will have coming to our program this year. Thank you so much for the opportunity for us to teach and love on your children while they are in our care.

Hello, my name is Ms. Destiny. This is my first year at Countryside. I've spent many seasons of my life working with children and it's truly an enjoyment for me to have another opportunity. I am 28 years old and grew up in St. Louis. Recently I returned from a Ceramic Internship in Springfield, Mo and prior to that a ministry Internship in Lincoln, California. Fine Art and Ministry are some of my greatest passions. Currently, I sing and play piano with my church worship team and volunteer with youth group. I'm working on showing my pottery and getting into stores. Thank you for taking time to read about me. I look forward to meeting all of the children and getting to know their families.



Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Hello my name is Rebecca. I have had the pleasure of working in child care for 12 years, seven of which were Montessori. This month will be filled with exploration of both our classroom and our playground. The first few weeks of school we will be learning our ground rules for the classroom, using a rug, along with how to take out and put away work. We will be making an "All About Me" book which will contain information about each child such as favorite color, favorite food, etc. Each child will have their own special page in our book and as our class grows, so will our book. The all about me page is included in your welcome packet. Please try to bring in your family photo and All About Me page during the first or second week of school. I have listed the songs/poems we will be doing at circle time this month along with the words.

My name is Miss Katie and I am the assistant teacher here in the toddler room. I've been teaching for 12 yrs with preschool aged children and I became Montessori certified to teach in 2004. In 2011 of last year, I joined Countryside. I really enjoy helping the children to learn and grow. We look forward to a fun and exciting new year!

Hi, my name is Julie Sulewski. I will be one of the three teachers in the two and three year old classroom. This will be my second year at Countryside. I am married and have two daughters, Lauren 19, and Emily who is 15. My oldest is a college student and attending Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. Emily, my youngest, is a sophomore at Westminster Christian Academy here in St. Louis. I have two dogs. Bailey is a Golden retriever and Nala is a Golden doodle. Over the labor day weekend we adopted a rescue cat named Cleo. I am looking forward to sharing a part in your child's growth and development. I appreciate the opportunity to be with your child at this very special time in their life.



The Good Morning Song

Good morning to you, good morning to you.
We're all in our places, with sun shiny faces.
Oh this is the way, we start our new day!

Open, Shut Them

Open, shut them.
Open, shut them.
Give them a little clap, clap, clap.
Open, shut them.
Open, shut them.
Place them in your lap, lap, lap.

The more we get together

The more we get together, together, together.
The more we get together, the happier we'll be.
'cause your friends are my friends
and my friends are your friends.
The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

Please make sure to help your child help themselves. If your child is in the process of potty training please send them in clothes that they can easily pull down all by themselves. Please do not send them in onesie's which are difficult for them to unsnap. Dresses are sometimes a challenge because the child has to remember to pull the dress up high enough behind them when sitting on the toilet. Also, please make sure to replenish any clothes that are sent home when soiled. Thank you!!

Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

We would like to welcome everyone to the new school year and share some interesting things that happened at Countryside over the summer. Our wonderful squirrel friends decided to relocate some of our tomato plants. As we are sure you have seen, our tomato plants are taking over our outdoor classroom. Once the tomatoes turn red, the children can pick them and have them for snack. We also had two wonderful sunflowers that grew in our garden this summer. However, we did not plant them! We are assuming this was a special gift from our squirrel friends because they are often found eating the sunflower seeds from our bird feeder. We have attached a picture of the sunflowers below. What a special surprise they were!!

This month we will be going over our ground rules with the children. They will learn how to sit in circle, how to take care of their classroom, and how to respect one another. It is important for them to learn these rules so that everyone can have a peaceful and productive time while at school. In the last two weeks of September we will take the children on a journey through our Solar System. We will learn about our sun, the eight planets and our moon. The children will have an opportunity to make our eight planets out of clay and bring them home to show you!

We have opened up our Ice cream shop this month (dramatic play area). The children will have an opportunity to be a cashier and/or a customer. They will be making ice cream pictures to display in the ice cream shop, and we will teach them how to make "real" ice cream also. We look forward to the wonderful month ahead of us!

Please look for the volunteer opportunities within our classroom; they are on the shelf near the main entrance.



Morning Song

Hello, Hello, Hello and how are you?
I'm fine, I'm fine
I hope that you are too.
The day of the week is _____ day
The day of the week is _____ day
The day of the week is _____ day
I hope you have a wonderful day.

Our song we sing before we eat

Let's be thankful for this day,
For our friends and for our play,
Let's be thankful, let's be glad,
For our food and things we have,
Let's give thanks for you and me,
And our home and family.

The Preschool/Kindergarten Staff:

My name is Mrs. Young Mi Kim. The 2012-2013 school year will be my sixth year of teaching at Countryside Montessori School. I have also taught preschool at Chesterfield Day School while I was an Intern. I am originally from South Korea. I have a strong sense of responsibility. I think I am very patient. One of my strong points is that I am very careful. I always believe in looking at the bright side of things. I have always dreamed of becoming a teacher since I was a young child. I was stimulated by a teacher. At that time I thought the teacher knew everything and she can do whatever she wants too. When I was living in South Korea, I was a high school teacher for ten years. I taught Korean geography in high school. My major was in geography when I went to a university in South Korea. I was married in Korea about ten years ago. My husband's name is Daniel and he is a police officer in the City of St. Louis. I have two wonderful sons named Andrew and Matthew. Andrew is nine years old and Matthew is six years old. My two sons used to attend Countryside Montessori School. Andrew is in the fourth grade at Concord Elementary School. Matthew attended Countryside Montessori School since he was two years old. Matthew is in the first grade this year.

I am happy to be working at Countryside Montessori School. Please do not hesitate to send a note or call me with any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,
Young Mi Kim



Hello, my name is Karen Appel, I am one of the lead Montessori teachers. This year will be my 5th year working here at Countryside Montessori School. I have worked with children since I was 16 years old and I have always known this is what I wanted to do with my life. After working for a Montessori school I soon realized what a great philosophy Montessori was and perused my dream. I received my certification in Montessori a year ago. I am thrilled to practice the Montessori philosophy every day.

I am married to my wonderful husband of one year. We have 2 dogs named Peaches and Harley. In my free time I like to travel to the Lake of the Ozarks and I also enjoy crafts and home decorating.

I look forward to this new year and having the opportunity to work with your children and pass on the knowledge and skills I have gained through Montessori to your children.

Hi parents and families! Welcome back to those returning and welcome to the many new faces. I am very excited to both teach and learn from your child this school year. My name is Alison and it has always been one of my dreams to be a Montessori teacher. I have two degrees; one is a Bachelor in Liberal Studies from Maryville University in St. Louis. My second degree is in Montessori Education. I completed my training in 2010 at Chesterfield Day School and did my internship here at Countryside Montessori. Since then, I have been continuing my education and working alongside children at Countryside, planning and constructing exciting new lessons for the children. I've worked with some of your children upstairs in the Toddler Class and downstairs in the Preschool alongside Mrs. Karen and Mrs. Kim. I am excited about this upcoming school year. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have so we can learn more about you and your family! Happy School Year!!!!!! Love, Ms. Alison