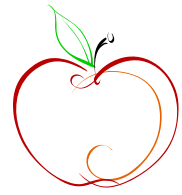




Countryside Montessori School

April 2013 Newsletter



Well, we definitely are not seeing the spring weather just yet! Please continue to send hats and mittens with your child each day, just in case. Also, please make sure they have the appropriate jacket for the weather. We will continue to go outside as long as the weather cooperates with our schedule!

Security Camera update....All classrooms are live in my office! It is wonderful to have a visual of each classroom from my office! I am very happy we took this extra step which has added a new level of security.

On my way back from Sunny Florida I purchased some bamboo wind chimes which will be hung on the playground to create a music area for the children. We know the children will enjoy making fun sounds; however, we are hoping our next door neighbor does not mind too much! ☺

Important Note: When calling or texting the classroom phone please remember the staff are working with the children. It may take up to fifteen minutes for a staff member to reply to a text or return a phone call. At certain times of the day the classroom can be unusually loud (music time or an upset child) so the staff may not hear the phone. If you have not received a response after fifteen or twenty minutes please feel free to contact them again.

Parent Teacher conference sign-up sheets are in the Toddler and the Preschool-Kindergarten Classrooms. If you would like to speak with the teacher about your child's development please sign up for a conference.

REMINDER: We will be closed on April 19th so that the staff can attend our annual CPR-FIRST AID Training. Please make other arrangements for your child on that day. We recommend TLC if you need to find care for that day. Their number is 314-725-5660.

PLEASE NOTE: Parents it is important to remind everyone that if your child is going to bring in breakfast they need to arrive before 8:15 a.m. I know how rushed it can be in the morning to get the children ready, feed them and get out the door. However, here is an example from our Toddler Room of why we need to stick to the 8:15 a.m. breakfast time... A child arrives at 7:05 with breakfast, he eats and we clean the table and floor. A child arrives at 7:30 with breakfast, he eats and we clean the table and floor. At 8:00 another child comes in with breakfast, he begins to eat and another child comes in and eats. They finish eating; we clean the table and floor. So far, not an issue. At 8:15 someone comes in with breakfast, they eat we clean the table and floor. At 8:35 another child comes in with breakfast, they eat and we clean the table and floor. At 8:50 and 9:00 children come in with breakfast, they are eating at the table and it is now work time. Children are trying to work and we are trying to give lessons but we have to watch the crumbs so that other children do not take a "taste" of the breakfast on the table or floor. Once that child is finished we clean the table and floor. It is important to remember that children do not mean to be messy eaters it is just the nature of the age level. In order to create the best environment for the children we must stick to our 8:15 a.m. breakfast time. I didn't really see what the big deal was about the breakfast time until I saw it in action and the issues it causes. This is why I thought it was important to explain the reasoning behind the 8:15 breakfast cut off time. I really hope you understand.

Upcoming Events:

April	19	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY STAFF WILL RECEIVE THEIR FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING ON THIS DAY!	NO SCHOOL
May	8	Field Trip-NO SCHOOL Location TBD by majority vote!	9:00 a.m.
	19	Annual Family Picnic	4:30-6:00 p.m.
	24	Last day of school/Pre-K/K Graduation/Pizza Party	11:00 a.m.

Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



April showers bring May flowers, and in the infant room growing babies and a few changes. This month we hope to see warmer weather for some outdoor time, so we are asking parents to check their child's extra clothes bin for jackets and clothes that match the weather. We will also be doing a few fun spring time art activities with the babies so look out for some crafty collectibles. Also, we are starting a new system of sign in/out sheets in our room to keep up with attendance. We would like for parents to try their best to remember to sign their child in and out each day.

On another note we would like to wish Ayan good luck as he is turning one and will be graduating from the baby room. Ayan has been here since he was four months old and he has made so much progress since starting in the baby room and we are so proud and will miss him so much.

All the babies have accomplished sitting up on their own with little or no help. Many are learning to crawl or are scooting across the floor. "Hi" is a word we are hearing quite often in our room as several babies social skills are developing at a rapid pace. We are so happy to see the progression of the babies in the infant room and strive to do our best to assist them in their development. Fine motor skills seem to be getting the exercise they need most as arts and crafts such as finger painting and hand art are created often and the babies love paint!



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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

What's Happening in Mom's Day Out?

We are busy getting ready for spring in our classroom! The weather is warming up a bit after our record snowfall last week so Kim, Destiny, Charity and Lisa have been busy spring cleaning our room. We are moving around many of the toys – putting away toys that everybody has loved playing with the last few months and getting out different, never-seen-before toys...very exciting for the children! We have been reconfiguring the room to help give us more floor space and keep the children interested and moving.

The kids have been having fun working on their art projects. They love when Miss Kim calls them into the kitchen to do their artwork. They all want to be the first one to the gate and some can get upset when they have to wait, but it has been great to see them learn to take turns! We will be working on a few springtime art projects in April. Please always feel free to come inside the classroom and take a look on the walls to see what your children have been creating!

We will be spending a lot more time outside as the weather gets nicer, so please send your child to school with a jacket that is appropriate for the temperature each day. We have spent a lot of time indoors this month so it will be great to get some fresh air come April!

8 – 14 Months Old - Motor Development

Look for your child to:

Crawl on hands and knees

Pull up to standing and walk around furniture, holding on

Lower him/herself to a sitting position

Walk with assistance, then alone

Make smoother body movements by practicing new skills

Climb up and down stairs and other low objects

Throw a ball without control

Use index finger to point

Pick up tiny objects with thumb and index finger (pincer grasp)

Make marks with crayons

Build a tower using two to three blocks

Turn pages in a stiff book

Your child's brain 8 – 14 months: makes connections to control your child's balance, muscle coordination, needs nutrients from formula or breast milk during your child's first year to function efficiently.

**Safety is a major concern at this age. Expect your child to test limits while exploring areas, some that are not safe. Plenty of room to explore helps develop motor skills, but babies should be supervised closely and continuously.

14 – 24 Months Old - Motor Development

Look for your child to:

Gain more control of the large muscles in his/ her body.

Walk forward and backwards

Kick, aim, throw, and roll a ball

Carry a large object while walking

Walk up stairs holding onto a rail

Enjoy climbing

Run

Straddle and ride a 4-wheeled riding toy

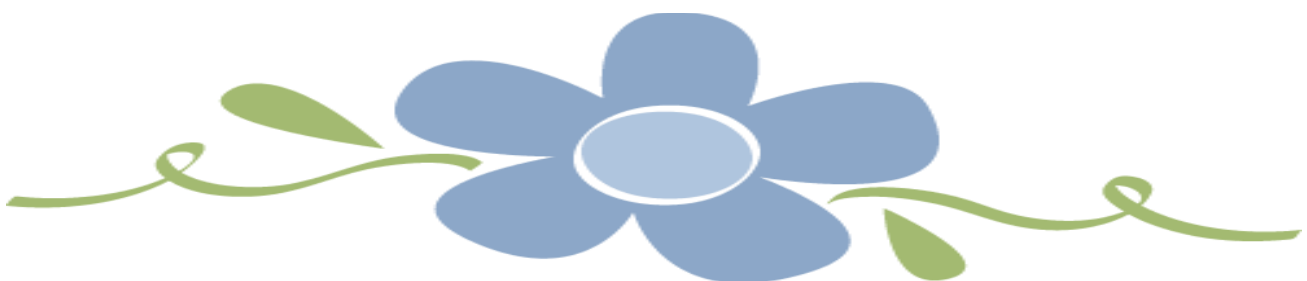
Scribble

Take things apart

Nest objects

Stack

Your child's brain 14-24 months; is better able to control body movements the more you help your child practice them; needs quiet time to rest and organize information it has received; may not work well when your child is overtired, anxious, afraid, feels pressured, or is over-stimulated.



Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Spring is here and our toddler class had been learning many new things! We have put out many new works in our math, language, science, and practical life areas. On our math are we the kite work. Each kite has a number (1-10) on it and the children must find the kite tail that has the corresponding number of bows. This helps them gain organizational skills as they must lay out all of the kites and kite tails neatly, so they can begin matching. On our language shelf we have a matching work where the children match the colored object (orange fish) with the color word (orange, which is written in orange).

Spring is here and so is our unpredictable weather. Please dress your child in layers so they may take off a layer as the day gets warmer. Also, make sure your child has extra clothes that are the appropriate size. Parents are more than welcome to check their child's supplies at school to make sure they have an adequate supply of diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream, and extra clothes.

Reminder: we are currently enrolling in our summer and fall programs! Please make sure you have enrolled your child (handing in the enrollment papers to Jenifer) in these programs if you want them to attend.

Please note that Countryside will be closed Friday April 19th for a state required staff development day. We will have a Field Trip on May 8th. The location is to be determined and field trip forms will be sent out within two weeks of our field trip.

Also, we would really appreciate it if you could please not bring in breakfast for your child after 8:15 a.m.

Thank you,
Toddler room Teachers

Rain

Rain on the rooftops
Rain on the trees
Rain in the green grass
But not on me!

Rain is coming down

Rain is coming down.
Rain is coming down
Do you hear the sound
Do you hear the sound
Does it drip, drip, drip
Or does it pound, pound, pound.
Rain is coming down
Rain is coming down.

Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

Spring is here! We are going to plant our garden! The children will plant the seeds in small pods in our small greenhouse which is located inside the classroom. The children will get to see the plants grow, and then we will transfer the pods into our garden boxes outside. The children will water and take care of the garden for the rest of the school year and into the summer.

Since the weather is getting warmer we ask the parents to pack "summer" clothing in their backpacks in case of an accident. Our Vet office is up and running and we are still accepting photos of your pet at home to display on our wall.

In April we will be moving into Asia and talking about India, Japan, South Korea and China. We will talk about famous monuments and the culture of each one of these countries. The children will have an opportunity to make flags and see different artifacts from these countries. In the Language room we will have new works including; complex association cards, matching flags to their countries, silhouette matching and other new activities.

During the month of April we will be conducting science experiments with the children during circle time, and they will have an opportunity to make some of the experiments to take home.

In the Montessori classroom, puzzles are not only used to help children learn to manipulate objects and assemble a complex whole from several parts they are used to introduce children to a tremendous range of concepts and vocabulary, from geometric shapes to the countries of the world and the parts of a flower.

The Binominal and Trinomial Cubes are two of the most fascinating materials in the Montessori Curriculum. At one level, they are simply a complex puzzle in which the child is challenged to rebuild the cubes and rectangular prisms contained in the box back into the form of a larger cube. Color-coding on the outside of the box and the sides of certain pieces helps the child detect the pattern. The material is also an exercise in algebra and geometry, representing in concert form the cube of a binominal $(a + b)^3$ and a trinomial $(a + b + c)^3$ where $a=3$ cm. $b=4$ cm. and $c=5$ cm. These materials are used in the sensorial area.

In the math area, the Hundred Board challenges the young child. The child can count aloud from one to one hundred and lay out the numerals in the same sequence. The board is a square divided into ten rows with ten small squares along each row. The children work with a set of one hundred wooden tiles that are labeled from one through one hundred. The children spread the tiles out on the rug or table, arrange them in numerical order, and place them, one tile at a time, on the Hundred Board, working from the upper left-hand corner along each row to the right, down to next row, and so on until complete. When they are comfortable with this, they attempt the same exercise by filling in the squares on a blank chart drawn to duplicate the surface of the Hundred Board.

Springtime Outing

Lily, lily golden bell,
Pluck it, put it in your bill
Bunch of chicks hop, hop, hop!
Springtime outing, off they go.

Pom Na Tu Ri

Na Ri Na Ri Gae Na Ri
Yip-e Ta Da Mul Go Yo
Byung Ah Ri Tae Chong Chong Chong
Pom Na Tu Ri Gab Ni Da

봄나들이

나리 나리 개나리
입에 따다 물고요
병아리떼 종종종
봄나들이 갑니다



Storytime: I Like Myself

Apr 11, 2013 10:00 AM

Location: Barnes & Noble Booksellers
West County
Des Peres. MO 63131
314-835-9980

Fairy Tale Tea

Apr 20, 2013

11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Location: The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum
Saint Louis, MO

Description

Aspiring princes and princesses will have the opportunity to sip tea or apple juice, dine on assorted pastries provided, 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.

<http://www.magichouse.org>, (314) 822-8900

Earth Day: Party for the Planet

Apr 21, 2013 at Start Time NA

The Saint Louis Zoo
1 Government Drive
Saint Louis, MO
63110

Description

Celebrate "Earth Day in Forest Park" with Earth-related activities and games, entertainment and animal enrichment at the Zoo. 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. <http://www.stlzoo.org/>, (314) 781-0900



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 Ms. Rebecca 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 JM Hanser@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

A MESSAGE TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO VOLUNTEER...



I was searching for a parenting poem on the internet when I came across something that I thought was more important. I have added quite a few things to this list that I also thought were important for parents to read. As you read the list below, read them as if they were written by your child. Sometimes we get so busy with life that we forget how things may appear to the little ones we love so much.

1. Don't spoil me, I know quite well that I should not have all that I ask for, I'm only testing you.
2. Don't be afraid to be firm with me, I prefer it. It makes me feel more secure.
3. Don't let me form bad habits; I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.
4. Don't get frustrated with me when I am learning something new, I may need extra time to learn it.
5. Don't correct me in front of people if you can help it. Instead, nicely correct me when we are alone.
6. Don't make me feel that my mistakes are wrong; I need to learn from them.
7. Don't be upset when I say "I hate you", it's not you I hate, but your power to hinder.
8. Don't protect me from consequences; sometimes I need to learn the painful way.
9. Don't nag; if you do I will need to protect myself by appearing like I cannot hear you.
10. Don't make rash promises, I feel let down when promises are broken and I lose my trust in you.
11. Don't tax my honesty too much; I am easily frightened into telling lies.
12. Don't be inconsistent, that completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.
13. Don't tell me my fears are silly, they are terribly real to me and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.
14. Don't forget that I can't thrive without lots of love and understanding, but I don't need to tell you that do I?
15. Don't bribe me to be good, give me a chance to be good on my own.
16. Don't forget to say please and thank you when talking to me if you want me to learn my manners; I learn best from you.
17. Don't shush me often; I may have something important to say. I know you are busy but I need you to listen to me too.
18. Don't instill your fears in me; just because you are afraid does not mean I will be. Let me learn this on my own.
19. Don't raise your voice at me; I can understand better when you are calm.
20. Don't tell me not to hit and then hit me when I do something wrong.
21. Do give me lots of hugs and tell me you love me even when I do something wrong. Show me how to do the right thing by your actions and words. For I long to be like you!