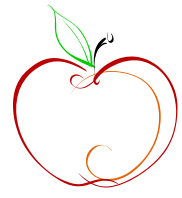


Countryside Montessori School

February 2013 Newsletter



Happy February!! February is a busy month here at Countryside with our all school field trip and father's night in our toddler and preschool classrooms. If your child is enrolled in the toddler or preschool program, we hope you will be able to join us for these events.

February is a month that some of our families celebrate Valentine's Day. We do not exactly celebrate this holiday here at Countryside; however, we do allow children to bring in valentines for their friends. If your child would like to bring in a treat for their friends we ask that you only bring age appropriate items and nothing that contains peanuts or nut products. Also, even though we do not celebrate this holiday by discussing the meaning of Valentine's Day with the children, the classrooms may have artwork or work related to hearts as well as the colors pink and red.

The website is up and running and we have a parent only section available where you will find the newsletter, field trip information, and important forms. The main section of the website will contain the school menu (currently located on the main home page), detailed information about all of our programs, calendar, tuition information and more! We are still tweaking a few things but I wanted to get the information out to you now. The website is www.montessori4children.com and the login password for the parent section is cms13. Beginning in March you will have an option on how you would like to receive our newsletter. You can continue to receive the newsletter in paper form or you can receive the newsletter via an email link to the website. Please fill out the attached form and return it to your child's classroom.

Clarification: If you have a child currently enrolled in our extended day program there will not be a lapse in care between our school year and summer program. Also, if you have a child enrolled in the one year old room and need extended day care during the summer we will have care available. The summer registration form did not include this option for our one year old children. However, we do offer the same care during the summer months.

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 2, 4 and 5. A message will also be left on the school phone.

We have our annual field trip to the St. Louis Science Center on Wednesday, February 13th. 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 is attached to this newsletter. Countryside has reserved the Discovery Room at both 10 and 11 a.m. Countryside will cover some of the cost of this event and will provide a pizza lunch at 12 p.m. If your child is enrolled in our extended day program you have the option of your child remaining at Countryside for the entire day or joining us on the field trip and bringing your child back to Countryside. Lunch at Countryside will be served at 11:30 so if you attend the field trip you will need to make sure your child either has lunch with the group at noon or feed them before they return to Countryside.

Upcoming Events:

February 5	PRESCHOOL CLASS FATHER'S NIGHT	6:30 P.M.
6	TODDLER CLASS FATHER'S NIGHT	6:30 P.M.
13	FIELD TRIP (SCIENCE CENTER)	NO SCHOOL*
18	PRESIDENT'S DAY	NO SCHOOL
March 5	MUFFINS WITH MOM-UPSTAIRS CLASS	7:45-8:15 A.M.
6	MUFFINS WITH MOM-DOWNSTAIRS CLASS	7:45-8:15 A.M.
15-22	SPRING BREAK	NO SCHOOL
25	SCHOOL RESUMES	

Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



We have kicked off the year with a great first month! Throughout January we have been introducing sign language to many of younger babies, as they are getting older. The key with teaching sign language (just as many other things with children) is patience. Even if at first we don't see much progress, we will hopefully start seeing some repeated signs within the next few months.

In more good news, we are planning on making more outside trips this month! While the weather does determine whether or not we can go outside, we are planning to take advantage of any warm days that come our way. Once the weather is more consistent, we will resume our set outside days- or possibly create daily outside time, depending on the age of our babies. We love giving our babies the opportunity to explore the outside world.

Another announcement that is definitely worth making is that our little Lyra is graduating this month. We are going to miss her SO much. It has been a joy watching her grow since this past summer. However, we know she is moving on to learn and grow in her new classroom, just as much as she has in ours. We also have a new little guy, Garron, joining our room this month. At almost 6 months old, I feel he will fit right in with our room. He has a lot of friends his age to play, grow, and learn with! We are looking forward to a great month!

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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

What's Happening in Mom's Day Out?

January brought a few changes to our room - we welcomed two little ones that moved over from the Infant room - Lyla and Hannah. They have made a wonderful transition and are enjoying the "big kids". In February, their friend Lyra, will join us from the Infant room and we will be saying good-bye to Oliver who has been in our room since he was 8 weeks old! He is turning 2 soon and will move over to the Toddler room. We will miss him a lot, but know that he's ready and will blossom with the new classroom. We've also had a few children add days in our classroom, extending their time with us. We'd like to wish a Happy Birthday to Noah, Miles, Blake, Hannah and Lyla and Lyra!

Red is our color of the month - we are decorating our walls with pink and red for Valentine's Day. We have been finger painting, roller painting, coloring with markers and using lots of stickers. We have also switched out some of the work in the Montessori room and will be spending even more time in there as the children get closer to 2 years old.

It seems like each newsletter includes something about our weather and how we are enjoying the mild winter. Well, January was COLD! We missed our outside time often and that makes for a long morning in our classroom. On days we don't go outside, we like to do some extra dancing, marching, crawling, and jumping. Since our door leads right into the classroom we ask that you hurry in and shut the door behind you. Lingering with the door open makes our room very cold.

Unfortunately the winter months also bring a lot of germs. We do our best to keep our room clean and germ free and try to protect the children and staff from illness. Toys that are mouthed are taken away (once the child puts the toy down) and put in a bin to be washed; children and adult's hands are washed frequently throughout the day; and all toys (even the ones that don't go in to mouths) are sterilized once a week. We do need help from you, though, to keep our room as healthy as possible. Please do not bring your child to school if he/she has vomited or had diarrhea in the past 24 hours. If your child has a fever, s/he must be kept home for 24 hours past the time the fever broke *without the use of any fever reducing medication*. If your child has a bad cough, the first three days are the most contagious. While you shouldn't keep your child home due to the common cold, please keep the other children in mind when you are facing the symptoms listed above. If your child is not feeling well then it is best that they stay home. If your child is found to be ill during the school day, we will call and ask for you to pick up immediately. If you cannot make it to school within 30 minutes, we may have to move your child to the office, so as to not expose the other children any longer. We appreciate your diligence in making Countryside a healthy place to grow and learn! Please see the school handbook for more detailed information on the sick policy.

8 - 14 Months Stranger Anxiety and Separation Anxiety

Stranger anxiety is a fear of unfamiliar people indicating the baby's special awareness of who his/her parents are the security they represent. It surfaces in infancy, becomes most intense around the first birthday, and gradually diminishes by the age of 3. Parents should appreciate this stage of insecurity and fear, and act with support and caution. It helps babies understand that new people are safe people also. Encourage family and friends to give your baby time to warm up if s/he is going through this phase.

Separation anxiety occurs when a baby is old enough to form a mental image of a parent and feels it is a permanent loss when a parent is gone. The baby feels helpless and afraid. Since a baby of 8-14 months is also learning to explore the environment independently, s/he soon learns that this can be frustrating or a little frightening when a parent is not near. Babies become fearful when separated from a parent, especially in a new place, or with unfamiliar people when leaving your child, make your farewells loving, but brief and positive.

14 - 24 Months Social-Emotional Development

Your child's emerging independence may provide some very trying times for you and your child at this age. Your child thinks you are part of his life just for the purpose of taking care of his wishes and demands. He cannot yet understand the needs and feelings of others, so there will be times of indifference and unresponsiveness. This is a normal part of development.

Look for your child to:

Assert her independence and say "no" often

Have frequent temper tantrums

Relate to other people on when he wants to

Imitate adult behavior and activities

Enjoy and respond to affection

Recognize family members and friends as special people

Be interested in being around other children

Refuse to eat.

Give up the bottle and be able to hold and drink from a cup without a lid, use a small spoon, and do other simple tasks on her own.

Being able to take off some of their clothing.

Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

The toddler class has been very busy learning and exploring new things! We have put out many new works in our math, language, science, and practical life areas. One of the many favorite works on our language shelf is the candy work. This work looks like a heart-shaped box of candy. The chocolates inside are different shapes and can be opened up to reveal colors on the inside (like filling). The children match the tops of the candies with the same shaped bottom. We also have our nesting hearts work. This work requires the children to put the heart shaped cookie cutters in order from smallest to biggest. As always we continue our work with letters and letter sounds. Letters and numbers are always a part of our day. We count how many pieces there are in a work or talk about what sound our names start with. We have also been talking about and practicing being kind. We use our kind voices, words, and hands. If we hurt someone we say sorry and make sure they are all right.

In the event that we are unable to go outside we have a gross motor activity planned. These activities include; obstacle courses, small balance beam, ride on toys, a play tunnel, dancing with ribbons/shakers, and taking our gym mat out to do tumble saults. We try to do 30 minutes of gross motor activity each day.

We follow the temperature guidelines from Children's Hospital. These guidelines tell us how long we can go outside. Examples of these are if the temperature (including wind chill) is between 20-32 degrees than we can stay out for 10-15 minutes. This is why it is so important you bring in warm mittens and a hat that properly fit your child along with a warm coat. We will go outside whenever possible. If it too wet on the playground we will march around the school or do exercises. Thank you for your cooperation.

*There are opportunities to volunteer in our classroom by making play dough, bringing in fresh flowers, or reading stories. The signup sheet is posted in the classroom above the daily sheets; please feel free to sign up. The signup sheets are for the current month and the following month. *

As a reminder, please make sure you are checking your child's mailbox on a regular basis, as this is where important info and artwork will be to go home.

Important Dates:

February 6th - Father's Night

February 13th – Field trip-Science Center

Dance Like Snowflakes (Sung to: Are You Sleeping)

Dance like snowflakes, dance like snowflakes

In the air, in the air

Whirling, twirling snowflakes

Whirling, twirling snowflakes

Here and there, here and there

The walking song (are you sleeping)

Walking, walking (children walk in place)

Walking, walking

Hop, hop, hop (children hop in place)

Hop, hop, hop

Running, running, running (children run in place)

Running, running, running

Now we stop (children stop)

Now we stop

Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

We are well on our way into February!! I'd like to take this time to remind parents to physically drop off their child inside the classroom. We are locking the doors here at Countryside and we do not want a child to be stuck outside. (It is for safety reasons we do not allow children to enter the school alone) Also, we want to make sure all our children are in good health here at Countryside. If you have to give your child medication at night or in the morning, then your child should not attend school that day. We have to ensure germs are not spread from child to child and for the health of the staff that work here. Thank you for your cooperation.

We would like to remind you that our annual "Father's Night" is coming up on Tuesday Feb. 5th @6:30pm, and our Field Trip to the Science Center Wed. Feb. 13th. This month the children will make Valentine's Day bags to put outside on Feb. 14th. If your child would like to bring in a Valentine's Day card/candy for their classmates they may. Parents will help their child put the treats (cards and/or candy) in each bag before entering the classroom. (Staff will not have the availability to assist the children in this activity so it will be up to the parents).

Lots of things are changing in our classroom. We are going to start talking about Africa. We will be making masks, coloring pyramids and Camels for art as we talk about the different cultures found in Africa. We have changed our easel painting to easel stamping this month. We are learning new vocabulary words every day and learning new sight words at least once a week and practicing the old ones every day. We have a lot of children reading books each day and lots of children learning their beginning sounds and are ready to start blending the sounds together to form words. We love to see our students grow and eager to learn new concepts and skills every day.

Dr. Montessori designed several sensorial exercises to make the children aware of this quality. Geometric Solids is a set of materials alike in color, texture and of approximately the same size, but differing from each other in shape. The set includes the cube, the sphere, the cone, the cylinder, the pyramid, the rectangular prism, ellipsoid, ovoid, the rectangular prism, and the triangular prism. The children learn to recognize these shapes by handling the solids, looking at them, and playing group games. They also learn to relate the solids to common things in the environment; the sphere is like a ball; the cylinder is like a drinking glass; the cone is like an ice cream cone.

The art of listening is very important to the children. We need to help the children with listening skills because the child ears are assaulted with many sounds. Listening attentively is vital preparation for reading. Montessori designed several sensorial games to help the child concentrate on particular sounds. In one exercise the child is blindfolded, and asked to identify particular sounds in the classroom; such as the noise of opening a window, closing a door, closing a book, or pouring water. In another exercise, the child can identify the voices of their classmates without looking at them.

To help children become more aware of the intensity of sound, Montessori designed a set of six cylinders in a wooden box. Each cylinder contains different substances. The sounds produce when the child shakes the cylinder vary in intensity from soft to loud. Each box in the first set has a mate in the second set that produces a similar sound. The child must find the pair that has similar sounds and then grade the cylinders from the loudest to the softest.

In the math area, to learn the "teen" numbers, the uses equipment known as Teen Boards (or Seguin Boards). The boards have numeral 10 printed nine times in a row. On separate cards are printed the numerals

1 through 9. The child forms the number eleven by sliding the figure lower the zero of the first 10. This shown him concretely that the number eleven is made up of 10 plus 1. Then he forms twelve by sliding the figure 2 over the zero of the second 10. The teacher helps him with the words eleven, twelve, thirteen, and so forth. Another set of Teen Board is available for learning the numerals 21 through 99. To build the corresponding quantities in this exercise, the child uses color bead bars. The children will be working on the Short Beads Chain activity.

We have been learning about music and movement. The children enjoy the music CD that demonstrated different speed of the slow and fast songs and body movement.

All I really Need

All I really need is a song in my heart
 Food in my belly and love in my family
 All I really need is a song in my heart
 And love in my family
 And I need the rain to fall
 And I need the sun to shine
 To give life to the seeds we sow
 To give the food we need to grow
 All I really need is a song in my heart
 And love in my family
 And I need some clean water for drinking
 And I need some clean air for breathing
 So that I can grow up strong
 And take my place where I belong
 All I really need is a song in my heart
 And love in my family

Song about slow and fast

This is song about slow
 How slowly can you go?
 As slow as the oak tree grows in the meadow,
 How slowly can you go?
 This is a song about fast,
 Soon it will be in the past.
 We're in an awful hurry to sing and get through
 There're so many other things that we want to do.
 This is a song about fast.
 It's almost over at last.
 We're so glad it's ending cause we got to fly.
 It's been great to know you, hello and goodbye!
 This is a song about slow.
 How slowly can you go?
 As slow as the oak tree grows in the meadow
 How slowly can you go?

The preschool staff has been collaborating on how to make our preschool/Kindergarten program more efficient. We have come up with a new schedule to make our work time longer, from 1 hour to an hour and a half. We believe the increase in their work period will provide a better length of time for the children to practice and learn new skills. This new schedule will be starting Monday, February 4th. When the students arrive in our classroom at 8:30 they will change their shoes, wash their hands and go straight into work time. A staff member will direct the students into their starting rooms. We are very excited about this new schedule!

- 7:00-8:25 Dramatic play/Block Play (Montessori is also available)
- 8:25-8:30 Clean up
- 8:30-10:00 Work time
- 10:05-10:20 Circle time
- 10:20-11:00 Snack/Music/Change Shoes
- 11:00-11:30 Outside/Gross Motor
- 11:30: Morning Pick up time
- 11:30-11:45 Cleaning up time/prepare for lunch
- 11:45-12:15 Lunch
- 12:25 After lunch Pick up time
- 12:15-2:25 Nap time (If they are not sleeping within 30min they will get up and work until 2:25 p.m.)
- 2:25-2:30 Clean up
- 2:30-2:55 Snack
- 3:00-3:30 Outside/Gross motor
- 3:30-5:30 Dramatic play/Block Play (Montessori is also available)



Upcoming Events

Family Film Days

"Families can watch Tangled and enjoy a light snack and kids can enter to win a prize from Radio Disney"
www.mohistory.org

Where: Missouri History Museum at Lindell and Debaliviere in Forest Park
When: Saturday February 2, 2013 12:30pm
Cost: Free

Storytelling at the Museum

"Enjoy hands on crafts, storytelling with puppets, fun, free activities for all ages"

When: Saturday February 23, 2013 10 am-12:30 pm
Where: Missouri History Museum in the classroom turned kids zone www.mohistory.org
Cost: Free

Guess How Much I love you and I love my little Storybook

"Award winning classic story about love between parent and child through a energetic bunny is made into a show" www.cocastl.org

When: February 1, 2013 at 7pm
Where: At COCA- 524 Trinity Ave
Cost: Tickets are \$14-\$18 and are available online at COCA box office

Owl Prowl

"Come over to the dark side and meet the amazing birds that exist in the moonlight" www.worldbirdsanctuary.org

When: Friday February 8, 2013 7-9pm
Where: 125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road, Valley Park
Cost: \$9 /adult and \$7/children

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 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



Please don't forget to send a hat and mittens each day!!!

Thank You!
The Countryside Staff

Science Center Field Trip

Wednesday, February 13th

9:30 a.m.

Countryside will be going to the St. Louis Science Center on Wednesday, February 13th. We will meet inside the entrance to the Science Center at 9:30 a.m. We have reserved the Discovery Room again this year. The Mom's Day Out, Infant/Toddler Room and the Toddler Class will need to arrive at the Discovery Room at 10:00 a.m. and the Preschool/Kindergarten Class will visit other areas of the Science Center and then arrive at the Discovery Room at 11:00 a.m. We will all meet for lunch at 12:00 p.m. The location for lunch will be determined when we arrive at the Science Center (please select cheese or pepperoni pizza below). We will have bottled water available for parents and children. There will not be any classes held at Countryside on the day of this field trip. If you have any questions please call the office, 314-434-2821.

Science Center Field Trip

Family Name _____

_____ Yes, we will attend

_____ No, we will not attend

Mom's Day Out and Toddler Programs: \$6/person (children under one are free)

_____ amount of children and adults attending (do not include infants under 12 months of age) x \$6.00

_____ Total Amount Enclosed (cash or check) _____ Infant attending

Preschool/ Kindergarten Program: \$6/person (children under one are free)

_____ amount of children and adults attending (do not include infants under 12 months of age) x \$6.00

_____ Total Amount Enclosed (cash or check) _____ Infant attending

Please indicate the kind of pizza preferred and if it is for a child or adult

_____ Child Cheese Pizza _____ Child Pepperoni Pizza

_____ Adult Cheese Pizza _____ Adult Pepperoni Pizza

Please send cash or make checks payable to Countryside Montessori School

This form MUST be returned no later than Friday, February 8th!

Countryside Newsletter and Important Announcements

Family Name _____

I would like to receive the newsletter, field trip forms and important announcements via

_____ paper handout, as I currently receive them

_____ email link to the website at the following email address (s): _____
