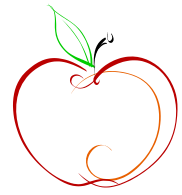


# Countryside Montessori School

## March 2013 Newsletter



Spring is almost here! However, we have just now been seeing winter with all of the snow we have received. I am hoping that with spring break coming next week that we will begin to see some warmer weather. Until then, it is lots of gross motor activities inside. The teachers try to get outside as much as possible even if it is just to march on the black top.

I apologize for the delay in this newsletter. There were many issues that created this delay and I am at fault. Here I was so proud of myself to have the newsletter finished before February first last month but this month too many issues arose. I hope you still find this information helpful!

### **Security Camera update....**

Good news! We now have the security cameras up in every classroom! The only classroom that is not "live" is the Mom's Day Out building. We have to safely run the wires from one building to the next so that has taken a little more time than anticipated. I will tell you that I truly enjoy watching all of the action from the office. Having the security cameras in the classrooms has given me a chance to "check in" on the classrooms a lot more than physically walking into the rooms. No worries, I will continue to make my presence known in each room but having the monitors in my office is wonderful. In addition, the cameras have definitely come in handy... they have allowed us to look back on the video recording and view different situations so that we can create the best program for your children. Due to confidentiality the cameras will never go live online for parents to view.

Parent Teacher conferences are officially moving to April this year. With spring break it is difficult for the staff to complete all of the necessary documentation and assessments necessary for each conference.

Pony rides will once again be part of our weekly schedule. I am hoping that the weather will cooperate and allow time for pony rides after Spring Break. Our pony ride policy was changed this year due to the insurance company; children may not ride the pony without a proper fitting helmet. Please make sure you have signed the policy and your child has a helmet at school.

It is very hard to believe that it is already mid-March! Looking at enrollment for the upcoming school year that will begin in September we are already full in our one year old room! All of our current infants will move over to the one year old room by September. And, this is the first time I can say that we have a roster in the infant room with only last names. Not one of the babies that will be in our infant room next fall have been born yet. As for the Toddler Room and Preschool/Kindergarten classrooms we still have space available. If you have not turned in your re-enrollment forms please do so as soon as possible.

### Upcoming Events:

#### **March**

15-22	SPRING BREAK	NO SCHOOL
25	SCHOOL RESUMES	

<b>April</b>	19	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	NO SCHOOL
		STAFF WILL RECEIVE THEIR FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING ON THIS DAY!	

# Infant Room

## Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



The “lovely” month of February has come to an end. It has been such an exciting month! Our new addition, Garron, fits right in. We are thrilled with how quickly everyone has adapted to the new atmosphere of our room. Along with adding Garron to the bunch, we have seen many of our babies enter into the beginning stages of crawling, as well as being introduced to baby food. From a little ‘hi’ or “hey” to “Dada” or “Mama”, we have also noticed that a few of our babies have started communicating with a little bit of verbal language and body language (waving, peek-a-boo, etc.). We have a little bunch of go-getters!

While we haven’t seen any of our younger babies pick up much sign language yet, we are still watching intently for it. The most common age for babies to start picking up sign language is between 8 and 12 months of age; however, this does vary from each individual child. So don’t worry! If we see your child start using a sign we will make sure to let you know.

We are looking forward to Spring and some warmer weather! Once spring arrives, our babies will be the perfect age to start enjoying more time outside. We look forward to many new and fun experiences that we will encounter out on the playground.

Please refer to the chart below to see any upcoming milestones that your child may be nearing. Remember, there IS a wide age range of time that these can be reached. If we have any concern about your child, we will be sure to let you know. Feel to ask questions about your child’s development. We looked forward to another great month!

Child's Age	Mastered Skills (most kids can do)	Emerging Skills (half of kids can do)	Advanced Skills (a few kids can do)
<a href="#">7 months</a>	<a href="#">Sits</a> without support <a href="#">Drags objects</a> toward herself	Lunges forward or <a href="#">starts crawling</a> <a href="#">Jabbers</a> or combines syllables Starts to experience <a href="#">stranger anxiety</a>	Waves goodbye <a href="#">Stands</a> while holding onto something Bangs objects together Begins to understand <a href="#">object permanence</a>
<a href="#">8 months</a>	Says "mama" or "dada" to parents (isn't specific) Passes objects <a href="#">from hand to hand</a>	<a href="#">Stands</a> while holding onto something <a href="#">Crawls</a> Points at objects Searches for <a href="#">hidden objects</a>	Pulls self to standing, <a href="#">cruises</a> Picks things up with thumb-finger <a href="#">pincer grasp</a> Indicates wants with gestures
<a href="#">9 months</a>	<a href="#">Stands</a> while holding onto something <a href="#">Jabbers</a> or combines syllables Understands <a href="#">object permanence</a>	<a href="#">Cruises</a> while holding onto furniture Drinks from a <a href="#">sippy cup</a> <a href="#">Eats with fingers</a> Bangs objects together	Plays patty-cake and peek-a-boo Says "mama" or "dada" to the correct parent
<a href="#">10 months</a>	Waves goodbye Picks things up with <a href="#">pincer grasp</a> <a href="#">Crawls</a> well, with belly off the ground	Says "mama" or "dada" to the correct parent Indicates wants with gestures	<a href="#">Stands</a> alone for a couple of seconds Puts objects into a container
<a href="#">11 months</a>	Says "mama" or "dada" to the correct parent Plays patty-cake and peek-a-boo <a href="#">Stands</a> alone for a couple of seconds <a href="#">Cruises</a>	<a href="#">Understands "no"</a> and simple instructions Puts objects into a container	Says one <a href="#">word</a> besides "mama" or "dada" Stoops from standing position
<a href="#">12 months</a>	<a href="#">Imitates</a> others' activities Indicates wants with gestures	Takes a few steps Says one <a href="#">word</a> besides "mama" or "dada"	<a href="#">Walks</a> alone <a href="#">Scribbles</a> with a crayon Says two <a href="#">words</a> besides "mama" or "dada"

# Mom's Day Out Program/One Year Old's Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

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

We had lots of fun with the color red in February. We painted and used stickers and markers. You will notice soon that the red art will come down, and green will be our focus in March.

Our Montessori time has increased as the weather has kept us inside. We work with the children to become aware of the Montessori Method of choosing work, taking it to the table, and then returning to the shelf when completed. This is very different from the "dump and play" method that all children start with. Therefore, we wait until the child is a little older before introducing him/her to Montessori. The readiness skills we are looking for are: being able to stay with an activity for a longer period of time, understanding and following simple verbal directions, and no longer putting things in his/ her mouth. On average, we notice readiness around 18 months, but it can be different for everyone.

We are saying goodbye to Blake this month, who is moving over to the Toddler classroom. We will miss him, but know he'll have fun playing with his buddies that have already moved over there. We would like to welcome Abhigna to our classroom.

Ms. Kim

### **Intellectual Development 8 - 14 Months**

Here are some examples of what your baby should be doing that shows how the wheels are turning in their little heads:

Explore his environment because he is very curious.

Closely examine small objects and details.

Experiment with objects and gadgets to discover the consequences of his actions.

Repeat acts which have previously produced interesting effects.

Remember the location of toys she has hidden, and look for objects that are taken from her.

Place a round shape into a shape sorter.

### **Intellectual Development 14 - 24 Months**

Use trial and error to figure out simple problems such as fitting a shape into a shape sorter.

Take things apart and try to put them back together again.

Overcome simple obstacles, such as reaching a high object by climbing on to a chair.

Stay with one activity for a short amount of time.

Know sounds that some animals make.

Continue to be curious about his surroundings.

Become more interested in exploring new environments.

Notice tiny, detailed objects.



# Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Wow! I can't believe it is already March! It seems our year is going by faster and faster! We have been very busy in our classroom exploring the many new works, and creating wonderful pieces of art to decorate our classroom. I am excited to say that about half of our class is potty trained or potty training! I know this can be a frustrating time for parents, especially when there are accidents. Please remember that accidents will happen and that it is okay. It is important for you to stay calm and support your child through this process, and try not to get discouraged when they make a mistake. Also, be prepared. This means packing extra clothes for school (including socks) and for in the car in case of accidents while you are out and about.

We have changed our works on our shelves, which is always an exciting time for the children. They really enjoy discovering new things! One of the many favorite works on our practical life shelf is vegetable cutting. The children are able to "cut" different vegetables with a knife. The vegetables are put together with Velcro and when the child uses the knife they can "cut" through the Velcro separating the parts of the vegetables. Another work is the Community worker matching. In this work, the child must match the community worker with the appropriate tool. The firefighter matches with the firefighter hat, and the mail carrier matches with the mailbox. We have also been practicing our counting skills. We frequently count to 20 or higher!

We are so excited to be able to use our playground and enjoy the fresh air! Although we have had some very mild days, please continue to keep a set of mittens and a hat at school for your child. We try to go outside as much as possible. When we go outside, we like to say a poem before crossing the parking lot. You may have heard your child saying this when you are crossing the parking lot or street. It goes as follows:

Look left, look right  
No cars in sight  
Safe to walk.

We also stress walking in the parking lot instead of running.

Here are the songs we will be learning this month during circle time:

## **Wind.Wind (row, row, row your boat)**

Wind, wind, blow the clouds  
Fast across the sky.  
Blow the branches back and forth  
In the trees so high



## **Colors in the Air**

Once I hung some ribbons, high up in a tree.  
I hung them on the branches, for everyone to see.  
They were so very pretty, with colors everywhere.  
Now when it is windy, there are colors in the air.

## **Important Dates:**

15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> – Spring Break- No School

Thank you,  
Rebecca, Essha, & Julie

# Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

March is here! Thank you to all of the mom's who joined us for Muffins With Mom! Also, don't forget Spring Break is from March 15<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>rd</sup> (school will resume on March 25<sup>th</sup>).

We are missing a lot of our spare clothes that were given out to children who had accidents and needed to borrow our clothes. If you have any of our clothing at home, it would be greatly appreciated if they were returned as soon as possible. They are marked CMS on the tags. Also, we are running low on girl and boy pants, if you have any that you would like to donate to the school that would help us out a lot!

I would like to remind parents of our pick up times at 11:30, 12:30, 3:30 and 5:30. (Please be on time) If you would like to speak with a teacher about any information, please arrive a little earlier so it gives the staff time to talk with you. It is important to know that we have staff that are "off the clock" at 12:30, 3:30 and 5:30 who sometimes have an appointment to get to and would like to leave on time. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

In March we will be moving into Europe. The children will be learning about some of the countries in Europe, as well as their culture, monuments, food and the animals that live there. The children will have an opportunity to prick out the continent of Europe to add to their world map. The children will make some flags and visually see artifacts brought back from places in Europe. In language we will also learn more sight words and work with simple association.

In the practical life room, the children will be pricking out shamrocks and coloring them too. The material is getting harder as the year goes on, and the children are practicing with the material very nicely. The easel will change back to painting from the chalk board. We have shamrock mosaics the children can make during work time, along with shamrock cookie cutters for play dough.

In the sensorial area, the children love to touch. The child learns what an object is with the use of their hands. A child can be blind fold and this eliminates of visual recognition, this will challenge child to recognize something with their fingers.

In the Montessori classroom the child is given tactile activities with the objects bag. This bag will contain a collection of objects such as a cup, dice, pencil, string, eraser, spoon, bell, and ball. The child will grasp the objects and names it without looking at it.

A parallel exercise for educating the tactile sense is a box containing many pairs of swatches of different materials such as wool, flannel, silk, cotton, velvet, canvas, lace, etc. In the exercise the child mixes all the swatches, puts on a blindfold and then identifies the pairs by feeling them. The child can correct the exercise himself by removing the blindfold and looking to see if the pairs match. During this exercise the child learns correct names of the materials, thus giving the child an opportunity to increase their vocabulary during the years when the child is especially sensitive to language development.

In the math area, the Gold bead Material, designed by Dr. Montessori, is used to demonstrate the decimal system. The single bead on the right represents a Unit. The bar made up of 10 units in a row represents a Ten. Ten of the Ten Bars fastened tighter to form a square represent a Hundred, and a pile of 10 Hundred Squares forms the cube on the left which represents a Thousand. The children already know the terms square and cube from their work with the geometric materials.

The teacher explains to the children that to count large quantities of units is awkward and time consuming. Therefore, whenever they have 10 Units they change them for a Ten Bar. When they have 10 Ten Bars they replace them with a Hundred Square, and whenever they have 10 Hundred squares they change them for a Thousand Cube. The numeral cards are printed in different colors to indicate the columns of the decimal system. The Units are printed in green, the Tens in blue, the Hundreds in red, and the Thousands in green again.

Baa Baa Black Sheep have you any wool?  
Yes sir, Yes sir, three bags full.  
One for my master, one for my dame,  
One for the little boy who lives down the lane,  
Baa baa black sheep have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.  
Baa baa white sheep have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.  
One for my master, one for my dame,  
One for the little girl who lives down the lane  
Baa baa white sheep have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.  
An old favorite with a twist; change the colors,  
or the people involved



Oh Mr. Sun, sun, Mr. golden sun  
Please shine down on me  
Oh Mr. Sun, sun, Mr. golden sun  
Hiding behind a tree  
These little children are asking you  
To please come out so we can play with  
you Oh Mr. Sun, sun Mr. golden sun  
Please shine down on, please shine  
down on Please shine down on me



### **AKC Museum of the Dog Guest Dog of the Week**

Saturday, Mar 16 and 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

[AKC Museum of the Dog](#)

1721 S. Mason Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63131

(314) 821-3647

The AKC Museum of the Dog located off of Mason Road in beautiful Queeny Park presents Guest Dogs to meet the public on weekends from March to November.

On Saturday, March 16th, Kymberli Higgins will present the Australian Cattle Dog, along with her puppy, Charlene. The ACD is a breed of herding dog developed in Australia for driving cattle over long distances across rough terrain in the 19th century.

Nancy Little & Bob Colie will present the Eurasier on Saturday, March 23rd. The Eurasier is a breed of dog of Spitz type that originated in Germany. They are calm, even-tempered dogs. Eurasiers form a strong link to their families. The AKC Museum of the Dog maintains the country's largest collection of canine art.

### **Night at the Museum (at the Gateway Arch)**

Saturday, Mar 23 6:00p to 9:00p

[Gateway Arch](#)

Memorial Dr and Walnut St

St Louis, MO 63169

Kids of all ages & their families are invited to Night at the Museum at the Arch. Meet characters from the past & hear tales of the American West. Experience interactive programs in the museum, a ride to the top of the Arch, and a hot dog dinner-(participants with food allergies are welcome to bring a sack dinner.) Sat., March 23, 2013 from 6-9 p.m. at the Gateway Arch. Questions: 314 655-1614. Reservations required, phone 877-982-1410 or visit [www.gatewayarch.com](http://www.gatewayarch.com). Tickets are \$15 each.

### **The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum**

516 S. Kirkwood Rd. St. Louis, MO 63122

314.822.8900

### **Emerson FREE Family Nights at The Magic House**

Some of the best things in life are free! The Magic Households Emerson Free Family Nights every third Friday of the month from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. These special nights enable a family (no more than two adults and four of their own children) to enjoy more than 100 hands-on exhibits in the Museum at no charge through the generosity of Emerson. Reservations are not required.

March 15, 2013

April 19, 2013

May 17, 2013

## ***The Magic School Bus® Kicks Up A Storm at The Magic House***

**February 9, 2013 – May 27, 2013**

Seatbelts everyone! Get ready to blast off with ***The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm***. This electrifying exhibit features three interactive and hands-on Magic School Bus environments, in which parents and children will have a great time learning about different types of weather and weather prediction. Visitors will get an in-depth and behind the scenes look at scientific weather measurements, weather tools, maps, graphs and the various natural indicators we can use to understand and predict weather patterns.

More powerful than a hurricane, more packed than a snowball and more refreshing as a spring breeze, ***The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm*** is one bus you won't want to miss.

# **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](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