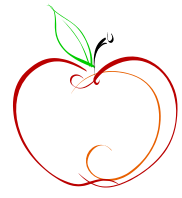


# Countryside Montessori School

## 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.

Good news! The washer and dryer were finally installed. We have created a laundry schedule and the staff are now successfully washing their classroom laundry. This has been helpful when we have those nap time accidents! The staff can wash the soiled sheets and blankets and they are ready for the next day.

Other improvements at Countryside include enlarging the area behind the swings on the Mom's Day Out playground and adding 6000 lbs. of rubber mulch to their existing playground. Rubber mulch is a safer ground covering option for our younger children.

Please be aware of our Sick Policy. Please keep your child home if they have very evident cold symptoms and just do not look 100% well. This is extremely important! Also, if they have had fever, 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! I know things get complicated when both parents are working and your child is sick. However, when you mask your child's symptoms with acetaminophen or ibuprofen, and bring them to school, you are exposing the other children and the staff. Therefore, we ask parents to please think of everyone involved when questioning whether or not to bring your child to school. If you have to question it they probably should stay home. However, if you are in doubt please call your child's teacher and ask her opinion.

I generally do not make this type of request, however, I am asking parents to either hire an exterminator or spray their homes themselves. We have had several children, and also a parent, bitten by spiders this past month and they have needed medical attention. The brown recluse spider is not uncommon in our area. Spiders can typically be found in shoes, inside dressers, in bed sheets of infrequently used beds, in clothes stacked or piled or left lying on the floor, inside work gloves, behind baseboards and pictures, in toilets, and near sources of warmth when ambient temperatures are lower than usual. Human-recluse contact often occurs when such isolated spaces are disturbed and the spider feels threatened. Prior to this last month I have only had one family with a spider bite in the past twelve months. I am not sure why there have been more bites this past month but I felt this was important information to share with our families. If you notice any type of bite on your child that is warm to the touch, inflamed and pink or if the bite becomes hard or different than a typical mosquito bite please call your child's doctor.

Don't Forget about our Vision Screening: Every child, six months and older, attending Countryside will have a vision screening on either November 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. If your child does not attend on those days and you would like them to participate please call the office to schedule an appointment. This program is funded by the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation and there is no cost to the parents. If you have not returned your form please do so ASAP! If we have not received a form for your child one is attached to this newsletter.

Staff Development and Thanksgiving Break: We will be closed November 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. The staff will be in workshops and meetings on the 21<sup>st</sup> and then we will close for Thanksgiving the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We hope you are able to enjoy time with your family during this break.

Toy Drive to benefit the St. Louis Crisis Nursery has begun and will end on Wednesday, December 13<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 the 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.

# Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



It's November and the end of the year is closing in. Wow how time flies! In the infant room we know this all too well as all of the babies are growing so fast! This month we would like to wish Joey good luck and many smiles as he advances to Mom's Day Out and the One Year Old Room. We will miss him! On another note we would like to welcome Declan and his family. They joined our room in mid October. Also, Oliver (from our One Year Old Room) will be bringing his new baby sister, Ellie, to school each day! Ellie will join us this month as well! We now have a total of seven babies which will give us five to six babies each day!

There are so many wonderful things happening in the infant room as we aim to get more art projects completed. Daily activities are always written on the daily sheets as well as special notes for supplies or extra clothes. As a quick reminder, our room is a shoe free zone. When you enter the classroom and do not wish to remove your shoes please remain on the blue rug. However, you are welcome to move off of the rug if you remove your shoes. Thank you for helping us to keep our classroom clean for the babies who crawl around on the floor every day.

Please remember the late pick up policy applies to all pick up times (12:30, 3:30 and 5:30). Please make sure you arrive on time to pick up your child. We love spending time with them but we also have other things we need to accomplish before we can leave for the day. If you are late please understand we must enforce the late policy. The late policy states that parents will be charged one dollar per minute and this is paid directly to the staff member who is with your child. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we make transitions throughout the room and please feel free to share any thoughts, ideas or concerns with us at any time!

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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

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

The Mother's Day Out Class has been one busy room! We now have 19 children coming weekly to our class. Each day we have between 6 and 9 children. Your kids get to spend the days they are in class with the same children each week so they are getting very familiar with each other and we have seen friendships blossom. They each have such a different personality and we love watching them interact with each other!

In November, our little friend Nolan will be leaving our room and moving to the Toddler Room with Miss Rebecca, Miss Katie and Miss Julie. He is such a sweet little guy and we are so sad to see him go! We will be getting a new little guy who is in the Infant Room right now. His name is Joey and he is just turning 1.

We are asking that each family please send an extra outfit for your child to keep at school...long pants and a long sleeve shirt would be perfect. Please also make sure your child comes with appropriate outerwear for the playground. Please send a hat and mittens for very cold mornings. Also, if you haven't sent in a family picture, please do so. We have a "family tree" up on the wall and are attaching the pictures to the tree. The children like to look at the photos and see their mom, dad and siblings.

Thanks so much for sending your children to Countryside....we very much love to help your children discover new things every day!

# Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Happy November! I hope everyone has been enjoying the beautiful autumn colors, and falling leaves! This month we will be continuing our work on shapes and numbers. We have also been slowly introducing letter sounds using the beginning sounds in their names. The children really seem to enjoy this. We have been practicing different water transfer works. We can transfer water with a sponge, by pouring, or with a spoon. These are very popular works as most of the children love water. We continue to work on hand washing, making sure the children are rubbing their hands for at least 20 seconds and that they are washing the backs of their hands as well as their palms. They can then rinse all of the soap off and thoroughly dry their hands.

This month we will offer Parent/ Teacher conferences.. We will have more information soon and a sign up sheet will be posted in the classroom. Each year we do assessments on every child at the end of October and again in the spring. The assessments are based on the child's age. In our classroom we do 24, 30, 33, and 36 month assessments. The assessments allow us to assess the different developmental stages of each child.

Our weather has been pretty unpredictable lately and the cold weather will be here before you know it. Please make sure you are dressing your child in layers and that they have the appropriate outerwear for the day. I recommend keeping a set of mittens and a hat here at school so you do not have to remember them each morning. We try to go outside every day, even if it is only for 5 minutes. Remember to label all of your child's outerwear to prevent lost or misplaced items. Please make sure your child has the appropriate extra clothes in case they need them, this includes socks.

Every child has a mailbox; please make sure you are checking them on a regular basis as this is where your child's artwork is placed to be sent home along with important messages and the newsletter each month. Also make sure that you are taking your child's jacket/coat home everyday since some of the children share coat hooks with children that come on opposite days. If you wish to keep a jacket here at Countryside please place it in a Ziploc bag and place it in their shoe bin.

Important Dates this month:

13<sup>th</sup> Doughnuts with Dad 7:45-8:15

21<sup>rd</sup> Staff Development day (no school)

22<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving break (no school)

Thank you,

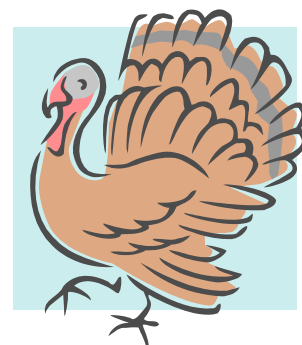
Rebecca, Katie, and Julie

## Turkeys All around (twinkle, twinkle)

Turkeys, turkeys all around  
On the fence, on the ground  
On the haystack, on the chair  
All around, everywhere  
Turkeys, turkeys all around  
Gobble, gobble what a sound

## Funny Turkey

The turkey is a funny bird  
Its head goes wobble, wobble  
All it know is just one word  
And that is gobble, gobble



# Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

November has come!! We will be doing a lot of things this month. One will be our Fall Harvest Feast. This will take place on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. We will hand out more information on this event when it gets closer. This month we will also conduct Parent/Teacher conferences. Sign-up sheets will be located on the shelf by the Daily Sheets. If you are unable to attend a conference due to your schedule, please talk with Mrs. Karen or Mrs. Kim to schedule a time that fits your schedule. This month we have “**Donuts with Dad**” which will take place on November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:45-8:15am. Dads will accompany their child for breakfast here at Countryside.

Show and Tell will start this month and every child has a special day to bring in an item from their home to share with their classmates. Parents will be given a reminder card for their date. (Please do not bring in dolls or superheroes). The last thing for the month is our Thanksgiving break. We do NOT have school on November 21, 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup> and school will resume on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

We will soon begin our journey around the world! We will begin with North America and talk about where it is located on the map, the food, the language, and monuments. The children will get to prick out the continents and glue them on a map and make their own world map!

Some material added to the Practical Life room include mirror polishing, still life sketching and bubble making. These activities require them to practice their concentration and their hand eye coordination; the children's skills are improving every day. In art, we will be making turkey mosaics, turkey hand prints and the children will make pilgrim and Indian hats for our Fall Harvest Feast!

The children have been working with the sensorial materials: Size in three dimensions is introduced to the child by the Pink Tower. All the same color, shape, and texture. To perform the exercise, the child must recognize the gradation in size and build the tower beginning with the largest cube and finally placing the smallest cube on top. The exercise is self-correcting because a block placed in the improper order will be immediately noticeable and may cause the tower to fall.

The Brown Stairs introduce the child to difference in size in two dimensions. This is a set of ten prisms. The child must place the blocks in proper gradation forming a stair-like structure. The teacher introduces the concepts of thickness and thinness, using the terms thick, thicker, thickest and thin, thinner, thinnest, with the corresponding blocks as concrete examples.

The child can learn basic concepts of mathematics in either of two ways. He can learn by using concrete materials during the years when he enjoys manipulating equipment or he can learn by abstract methods. The children have been learning about numbers by using Montessori materials, such as the spindle box, red and blue rods, number puzzle, sand paper numbers with a sand tray, hanging beads, and teen board, etc.

Dr. Montessori demonstrated that if a child has access to mathematical equipment in his early years, he can easily and joyfully assimilate many facts and skills of arithmetic. Dr. Maria Montessori believed that no human being is educated by another person. He must do it himself or it will never be done. The children in the classroom are very eager to learn!





## Upcoming Events

### **Wagon Days at Longmeadow Rescue Ranch**

"fun, free activities for all ages" [www.longmeadowrescueranch.org](http://www.longmeadowrescueranch.org)

When: Saturday November 3, 2012 11 am-3 pm-2:30

Where: Longmeadow Rescue Ranch 480 Joseph Road Union Mo 63084

Cost: Free

### **Stroller Tours at the Contemporary Art Museum**

Wed, 11/07/2012

Moms, dads and caregivers are invited to bring the little ones for a private tour of the exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Museum.

Start with a complimentary light breakfast, then join other contemporary art-loving adults and infants to learn about different aspects of the exhibition each month.

9 to 10 a.m. Best for infants up to 24 months. Free and up to the public.

Contemporary Art Museum, 3750 Washington Blvd

More information: [camstl.org](http://camstl.org) or (314) 535-4660

### **Wednesday Morning Play Dates at the Contemporary Art Museum**

Wed, 11/07/2012

Visitors have fun creating artwork together and meeting other families with an interest in contemporary art. Where do hip kids and their cool parents go for culture? To CAM Play Dates on the first Wednesday of each month. Visitors have fun creating artwork together and meeting other families with an interest in contemporary art.

### **Fairy Tale Tea 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 guest and sign autographs." [www.magichouse.org](http://www.magichouse.org)

When: November 10 and 11, 2012

Where: At Magic House 516 Kirkwood Rd Kirkwood

Cost: \$15 (members) 18 (non members) Reservations are required and can be made online

### **Storytelling at the Museum: Gobble Gobble**

Fri, 11/16/2012

Toddlers and preschoolers can enjoy stories geared just to them and then make a craft to take home. Bring your little ones to hear stories about turkeys.

Stories are geared to ages 2-5 and are designed to introduce the museum's youngest visitors to historic objects and museum settings. Children will also enjoy a hands-on craft.

Free. 10:30 a.m. At the Missouri History Museum, Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park.

More information: [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org)

# Ways to Volunteer at Countryside

## Mom's Day Out 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
- ~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



## FREE CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING

### *What Happens During a Screening?*

The vision screening requires no physical contact with your child, and poses no risk to their health. A trained technician will conduct the vision screen and you will be notified of the results.

If the screening detects any possible vision disorder, you will receive a packet of information including a follow-up questionnaire to be filled out and returned to us after your child's eye exam.

Many parents may not know a vision condition exists because young children are unaware of or cannot yet verbalize their "fuzzy vision." Through the Children's Vision Screening Program, the Foundation is able to communicate vision abnormalities to parents when their children are too young to do so themselves.

The information collected here is specifically for vision screening purposes. You will only be contacted if your child is referred and all information is kept strictly confidential.

This is to be considered a preliminary procedure, and does not constitute a diagnosis of vision problems. The costs of this program are being covered by the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation. More information about the Foundation can be obtained through our website at [www.mlerf.org](http://www.mlerf.org).



**Screening Detects; nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, anisocoria, anisometropia, and allows the screener to observe for strabismus or a possible cataract.**

### **(Please Print Child's Information and Sign Below)**

Cut off at dotted line and keep top portion for your records

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Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

