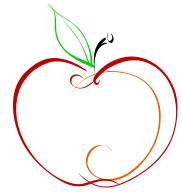


Countryside Montessori School

October Newsletter



Hello! I hope this newsletter finds all of our families happy and healthy! September was a rough month for the Hanser family. I apologize for not being available most of the month. We began September with my daughter, Morgan, in the hospital. Over the course of the month we spent 12 days in the hospital over three different stays and four ER visits. Now that she no longer has her gall bladder things are finally turning around, thank goodness! I am grateful for having a wonderful staff who could take over all of the roles at Countryside while I was absent. The children were well cared for and things appeared to run smoothly during this difficult time for my family.

I had planned to report that we have the washer and dryer installed and the laundry finally being washed here at Countryside. However, with Mr. Hanser having to take over the role of caring for our children, while I was with Morgan in the hospital, the installation has been put on hold. The appliance store has been trying to deliver the new washer and dryer for two weeks now but we are not ready for them to be delivered. There is quite a bit of remodeling that must take place before we will be able to have the washer and dryer delivered. I am hoping we will be using the new washer and dryer by mid October!

Thank you to all of the parents who turned in the policy agreement form along with any missing information regarding your child. We still have a few missing immunization records and Medical Forms that must be signed by the pediatrician. If you recently received a "Missing Information Form" please return the information requested as soon as possible. Our annual immunization report is due in October. Also, all children are required to have the chicken pox vaccine. If your child has not had this vaccine you will be receiving a letter from the department of health requesting that your child be immunized before returning to Countryside.

PARKING: We are aware of the parking issues here at Countryside and have been working on a solution. For parents parking and dropping off children in the Preschool/Kindergarten classroom, please make sure you park in a parking spot or wait on the side drive for a spot to open. Please do not park in front of the classroom gate or block another car. I have asked the staff to keep the back lot open, if possible, just for parent parking. We have relocated some of the staff cars to the front drive which may create an issue for upstairs/Annex 8:30 drop off in the morning. If you park in front of the school to drop off your child please be courteous to the other parents and do not linger in the classrooms longer than necessary. I am not asking parents to rush when dropping off their child, I do want the parents to be able to share information with the teachers; however, please remember another parent may be waiting for a parking spot. Thank you for understanding our parking situation.

FAMILY PHOTOS: Just in case you missed this information, each year we ask the parents to bring in a family photo. Each classroom places the family photos on the wall so the children can see their family and share the photo with their friends. In our Infant Room, we place the family photo next to the child's crib so the babies can see their family photo while they fall asleep and wake up. In our other classrooms we place the photos together on the wall. If you have not brought in a picture of your family, please bring one in as soon as possible.

Vision Screening: Every child, six months and older, attending Countryside will have a vision screening on either November 7th or 8th. 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. For more information, see the attached information and please return the consent form no later than October 15th.

FIELD TRIP: Don't forget our first field trip will be on October 10th! We will visit Eckert's Farm in Millstadt, Illinois. Please see the attached information and return the form no later than October 5th.

Please see the Re-Unification Information at the end of this newsletter just in case a disaster would occur you will be aware of our plan for your child.

Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



Wow! This past month has flown by! We've had many new friends join our classroom, which has been going great! We thank all of our parents that have helped us during this time of transition. If you haven't noticed, we have rearranged our room a bit, making room for new bouncers, swings, and toys. We have had a couple of younger babies join our room and are making accommodations for them as well. We are so excited to have our two new little boys, Tyler and Henry, with us- they have been so sweet! Our goal for this next month is trying to get back into doing art again (Yay!)- With all the transitions going on it's been a bit more difficult to fit this into our busy, busy days. We look forward to having all of our babies' hand and footprints around our room again- they make such great keepsakes! We would also like to encourage our parents to make sure they look over their child's daily sheet in case supplies are needed while they are here at school. We understand the excitement of seeing your baby after a full day of work may be distracting, so we will do our very best to remind you as well. We look forward to another month of learning, growing, and getting to know each baby individually as they get older (which tends to happen so quickly)! We would like to wish Telmuun all the best as he moves into the One Year Old Room! We know he will enjoy all of the new things his new room has to offer! We will miss him!!

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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

What's Happening in Mom's Day Out?

September has been a fun and busy month. Most of the children are becoming comfortable with their new environment and settling in very well. There are fewer tears and more smiles.

We have been able to spend a lot of time outside this last month. The children love swinging, playing in the sandbox, climbing the jungle gym and playing with the cars and ride on toys. It will be getting cooler outside so please make sure you send a jacket and proper shoes with your child each day.

The children have enjoyed doing artwork every day. Our walls are decorated with their coloring, sticker art, painting and texture art. Feel free to look around the classroom for your child's personal artwork! We also have a "family tree" up on one of the walls this year and are asking that each family bring in a photo to display. The children really enjoy looking at all of the family photos throughout the day.

Please be aware of the Late Policy here at Countryside. There is a charge a \$1.00 per minute if you arrive after your pick up time. This charge must be paid directly to the teacher. Please understand that when a parent is late this creates a delay in the staff members being able to begin their end of shift duties and leave at their designated time. Pick up times are at 12:30, 3:30, and 5:30. We have staff that leave at each of these times so please try your best to arrive on time to pick up your child. Also, please understand that at the end of the day there is a lot of cleaning that must be completed in order for the last staff member to go home. We do not have a cleaning service for the Annex, the staff are responsible cleaning the entire room each day.

It is so much fun to watch your child grow and learn new things. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's early development.

Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Wow! Can you believe the first month of school has passed? We are so pleased to have Miss. Katie, and Miss. Julie with us again this year! The children are beginning to settle into our new schedule nicely. During the month of September we have been learning some of the ground rules of our classroom along with how to treat and work with our works. Our ground rules are: we walk inside, we use our quiet/ indoor voice, and we are kind to one another. We talk about our rules everyday by giving reminders and praises throughout the day. We also talk about how to treat our works in our classroom. We use gentle hands and we always take the whole tray off of the shelf. We also encourage the children to clean up after themselves. Please feel free to talk with your children at home about these rules and expectations of them at school. In October we will be adding a new and exciting work; pumpkin scrubbing! The children will scrub the pumpkin clean using a small nail brush. We will also be working on shapes and colors along with numbers and letters. We teach the letter sounds before the letter names. We will also talk about the changing seasons.

October is Fire Prevention month! On Tuesday October 9th the Creve Coeur Fire Department will come with the Fire Truck and Ambulance around 10 a.m. They will talk to the children about Fire Safety. The fire fighters will show the children all of the equipment they wear to a fire including the face mask! It is important for children to see the fire fighters dressed like this so they are not scared if fire fighters ever have to come to their house. Everyone is welcome to join us for this visit even if your child does not attend on Tuesdays.

Parents are more than welcome to be a classroom volunteer. We are always looking for people to make play dough, read to the class, and bring in flowers. We can have classroom readers weekly from 8:40-8:50am. You may choose books from school, your house, or the public library. Flowers can be brought in each week, and play dough will be every other week. The sign-up sheets will be hung in the classroom. Please feel free to add your name any of these volunteer sheets!

Every child has a mailbox; please make sure you check your child's mailbox on a regular basis. The mailbox is where we place important items to be sent home such as artwork, important messages and the newsletter each month. Please make sure that you are taking your child's jacket/coat home every day since some of the children share coat hooks with children that come on opposite days.

Our weather has been very unpredictable these past few weeks, so please dress your child in layers. We are still reaching highs in the upper 70's to low 80's.

Important Dates:

October 9-Fire Department Demonstration

October 10-Field trip to the farm



Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

Fall is here! This month in our preschool classroom we will be discussing safety methods. We will be sending home a "Fire Escape Route" form for your families to fill out and practice their escape route at home. The children will return the form to school and show the class their escape route. We will also be getting a visit from the Creve Coeur fire department. They will show the children their equipment and their fire truck!

In October, we have our annual field trip to the farm, we do ask our parents/guardians to attend the field trip with their children. More information will be provided.

Since the weather will be getting colder we do ask our parent to bring in jackets/sweaters and place an appropriate change of clothes in their child's bin or backpack in case of accidents.

In the language room we will have work that relates to our discussions on safety. We will also do activities/work on emotions (sad, happy, angry etc...and how we deal with them. We will have fall colors and fall activities around our room, to get the children ready for the change in season.

The Montessori Materials in the classroom can be divided into three main groups: the Practical Life Exercises, which are the beginning activities for three and four year old children; the Sensorial Materials, which can be used by all ages in the class; and the Academic Materials (Math, Language), which await each child's moments of interest in reading, arithmetic, and geography.

The sensorial activities help prepare children with mathematics. Many sensorial materials have ten materials in each activity. The children learn about units of measurements, mathematical relationships, relative size, weight, and volume.

The Montessori sensorial materials help the children to distinguish, to categorize, and to relate new information to what the children already know. The sensorial materials we use in the class room help the children with their five senses: touching, seeing, smelling, tasting, and hearing.

The children are having fun with our music activities and they have been learning new songs. Please ask your child about the songs they have been learning at school!





Free Train Rides in Kircher Park with the ST. Louis Steamers

– diesel and steam engines

Where: Kircher Park located South of Highway 44 on Williams Road in Eureka.

When: Friday October 5, 2012 from 7-10pm

Cost: Rides are free but a small donation is appreciated. www.stlouislivesteamers.org

Big Truck Day at The Magic House

“Spend a constructive day getting up close and personal with some big trucks...a cement mixer, crane, fire truck and more!” www.magichouse.org

When: Saturday October 13, 2012 10:30-2:30

Where: Magic House

Cost: \$12 for Members and \$15 for nonmembers Reservations are required Reservations can be made online at www.magichouse.org Free Admission and parking but some activities cost.

Fall Festival in Town and Country

“Kids can enjoy pumpkins, face painting, clowns, balloon animals and more”

When: October 13, 2012 11 a.m-1pm

Where: At 1100 Town and Country Crossing in the Target/ Whole Goods Shopping Center

Cost: Free

Fall Festival and Great Pumpkin Race at Des Peres Park

“Enjoy hayrides, blue grass music, pumpkins races, a costume contest and a family movie under the stars.”

When: October 20, 2012 5-9 at Des Peres Park at 1235 Manchester Road, Des Peres, MO

Where: The Missouri Botanical Garden www.desperesmo.org

Cost: Free but Registration for Pumpkin car races is necessary.



Countryside Montessori School
Emergency Re-Unification Information

In the event of an emergency situation Countryside Montessori School has outlined the below response plan. Please know that Countryside will make every attempt to notify you so it is vital that you keep your emergency contact information up-to-date. Keep this letter with you so that you will know how to contact us in the event of an emergency.

If the emergency is confined to the immediate area at Countryside Montessori School, e.g. fire, and the children cannot stay on the premises, the children will be taken to taken Pentecostal Church located at 12323 Ladue Road. The children and staff will remain at this location while you or your emergency contact is notified of the situation.

If the emergency is more wide spread and encompasses a larger area such as the neighborhood due to an environmental threat, e.g., flood, and the children cannot remain in the immediate area, they will be transported to Mercy Hospital, located at 615 North New Ballas Road. The children and staff will remain at this location while you or your emergency contact is notified of the situation.

Every effort will be made to contact you as soon as the children and staff are safe. If we cannot reach you, we will contact your alternate emergency contact. Children will only be released to you or your alternate emergency contact during times of emergency.

The Countryside staff will remain with and care for the children at all times during an emergency to ensure the children's safety. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Eckert's Farm Field Trip

Wednesday, October 10th

9:30 a.m.



Countryside will be going to Eckert's Millstadt Farm on Wednesday, October 10th. We will meet at the entrance to the farm at 9:20 a.m. Please plan to arrive **no later than 9:30 a.m.** so that we may all take the wagon ride to the orchard together at 9:30 a.m. We will not be able to wait for any late arrivals. Please allow extra time in the morning so that you can arrive on time. The cost for children is \$8 each and parents are free. **Children attending Countryside who return their form by Friday, October 5th can attend for \$5 (Countryside will cover the other \$3) and siblings are \$8 each. Anyone not returning this form by Friday, and those waiting to pay at the farm, will be charged \$8 per child.** The children will each be able to pick a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. Adults can pick a pumpkin for \$.49/lb. The children will experience Billy Bob's Pig Races, Mine Shaft Slide, Aubrey's Fun House, Fort Eckert and more! While at Eckert's they will see an educational show about pumpkins, and sample apple cider and enjoy the petting farm. Please make plans to attend this fun event! Eckert's has a concession stand for those that choose to have lunch while at the farm. There will not be any classes held at Countryside on the day of the field trip. The staff will meet you at the entrance to the farm. If you have any questions please call the office, 314-434-2821. Please return this form no later than Friday, October 5th.

Directions:

Millstadt Farm : 2719 Eckert Orchard Lane Millstadt, IL 62260

From J.B. Bridge (Hwy 255): Turn right on Route 3 and continue for approximately 3 miles. Then take the 158 Belleville exit and stay on 158 to the center of Millstadt. Turn left at the four-way Stop (Route 163) and continue for approximately 3 miles. Turn left on Forest Hill Road and watch for the Orchard signs.

From Poplar Street Bridge: Take Interstate 255 South to exit 17A. Go east (to Belleville) on Route 15 to Frank Scott Parkway, exit right and turn left onto Frank Scott Parkway, continue 2 miles to four way stop. Turn right onto Concordia Church Rd. Turn right onto Rt. 163. Then turn left onto Forest Hill School Rd at Eckert's signs. Follow road to farm entrance.

Eckert's Farm Field Trip

Family Name _____

_____ Yes, we will attend

_____ No, we will not attend

_____ x \$5.00 per child (if turned in by Friday, Oct 5th)

_____ x \$8.00 per child (if turned in after 10/5 and siblings)

_____ Total Amount Enclosed (cash or check)



Please return this form no later than Friday, October 5th!!!!



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.



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

Child's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Phone Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

