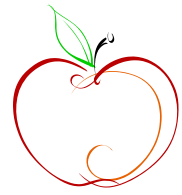


Countryside Montessori School

September 2014 Newsletter



As we are now in mid September we are happy to say that most of our children have settled in nicely and are enjoying being at school. We always have a few new children who need a little more time to adjust to the school environment but this is all normal. We have full confidence that October will be an awesome month for everyone! We will have a few children transitioning to new rooms in October but this should be a smooth transition.

We have our first field trip for the new school year coming up this week. We know it is a long drive to Eckert's Farm but this is one field trip that everyone enjoys!! I was very concerned the first time we decided to take the hike to Eckert's but everyone had a great time and the parents were all very happy they attended despite the drive. So, we are hoping for excellent weather and a safe field trip. Remember, when we are on field trips the children are brought by a guardian and in their care throughout the day. Please make sure you are always aware of where your child is at all times; and, that they are following the farm rules. Please remind them not to pick up apples from the ground as they may carry bacteria and are not safe to eat.

We have some big news here at Countryside. Thanks to one of our parents, Dolph and I took a trip out to where the Humane Society keeps their ranch animals, Long Meadow Ranch. We fell in love with a pony named Butterscotch. She is very friendly and was easily led with the lead rope. She has already been ridden by one of the staff at the ranch and the ranch director thinks she will be a good fit for the school. Unfortunately, Khemosabie is around thirty-five years old and is not doing well. The vet was here last week and is running some blood tests to see exactly what may be causing Khemosabie to lose weight. We have increased his feed in hopes that he will put some weight back on. Khemosabie was retired from his pony riding duties last fall and will remain here at Countryside but we will begin training Butterscotch once we have been approved to adopt her from the Humane Society. There seems to be quite a lengthy process when you adopt a farm animal. We have to submit photos and referrals from the vet and ferrier. We believe all will be approved and we will bring Butterscotch to Countryside in about two weeks.

Reminders: Please do not leave your car running when you bring your child into the classroom. This is a policy here at Countryside. If a staff member sees your car running they will remove your keys and bring them to the office. Thank you for helping us keep Countryside safe.

As many parents have heard there is a new respiratory virus in the Midwest. Please help us keep the children safe here at Countryside and keep your child home if they develop any new flu like symptoms. Please remember our sick policy: children must be symptom free, without the aid of medication, for 24 hours before returning to school. In addition, with the new virus in our area we have sent children home who appear to be sick but do not have a fever. If your child does not appear to feel well please keep them home. We understand that parents can only miss so much work but if your child cannot fully participate in all activities of the classroom then they should not be at school. Thank you for your help and understanding.

Upcoming Events:

SEPTEMBER	1 LABOR DAY	NO SCHOOL
	17 FARM FIELD TRIP	9:30 A.M. NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER	7 DONUTS WITH DAD-TODDLER CLASS	7:45-8:15 A.M.
	8 DONUTS WITH DAD-PRESCHOOL CLASS	7:45-8:15 A.M.

Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



My name is **Amanda Butler** and I have been teaching in a preschool setting for over 15 years. I attended Southeast Missouri State University as well as St Louis Community College at Forest Park and Florissant Valley studying Early Childhood Education. I have worked for several highly respected childcare facilities in the St. Louis area such as the Downtown Childrens Center & Nestle Purina Child Development Center before joining the staff at Countryside Montessori in January 2014. I have spent the last 8 years working exclusively with infants in a childcare setting.

I enjoy spending each day here at Countryside working with the infants. It's really rewarding to me to help them learn new skills & nurture their individual personalities throughout their first years. The staff is great & the family atmosphere is amazing!

My name is **Claire Walker** and I am currently attending Lindenwood University, where I am working towards my Masters degree in Criminal Justice Administration. My dream job is not in any specific field, but rather in any area where I can truly make a difference.

My daycare career started nearly 10 years ago in St. Louis. I have worked with children of all ages, and this experience has made me become more confident in my ability to be a good mother one day. I came to Countryside Montessori because I heard about how great of a place it was from a good friend/co-worker. The people here get along really well and there is a very peaceful atmosphere, and I feel like that is because it is not a huge corporation.

I'm glad I came here because not only am I learning a new method of teaching, but I am actually really happy and I feel appreciated.

Hi, my name is **Katie Null** and I am so excited to begin working at Countryside Montessori School! I have been working with kids for over a third of my life and have recently spent the last 2 years nannying some incredible children. I have gotten the joy to be able to be a part of my cousin's life by helping out with her 2 sons, and have worked with another family that has become a second family to me. My favorite part about working with children is the genuine excitement and joy on their faces when they learn something new. Being the one to impart that wisdom is one of the many reasons I'm excited to start this job. I can't wait to get started!

Oh my goodness! Where has Summer gone? Welcome Fall! It's September already and we have many exciting things to share! This month, our friend Quinn made her transition to Moms Day Out the first week of September. We wish her much luck as she begins her new adventures. We also welcomed a new friend, Sebastian, to our classroom. He is adjusting well to our schedule and classroom environment. Sophia has really taken to crawling. One day she got up onto her knees and was off to the races! Parker has been working on drinking from a sippy cup and has pretty well mastered it. Michael is on the move as well. He is always scooting into our sleeping area to explore the sun spots on the floor from our patio door window. Gabriella has discovered her voice. She has been serenading us with her lovely squeals and giggles. Brooke has been spending more time sitting up in the bumbo-saucer exploring & strengthening her core muscles. Her friends come to visit her and she smiles very big when they crawl over by her and explore. Nolan has been practicing pulling up onto the shelves in our room. He hasn't yet been brave enough to let go and balance himself but it won't be long before he does. Irene has learned to sit up unassisted. She can even go from sitting position to on her belly with ease. Jule has been spending more time in the exersaucer, bouncing and practicing standing for short periods of time. And, it seems like every one of our friends have some teeth coming in! We will have a room full of pearly white smiles before too long!

Parents don't forget to check out our information board for updated lesson plans and our photo gallery for pictures of our friends in action! Also, Ms. Katie will be joining our team and working on Thursday's and Friday's beginning this week! She had a working interview with us on Monday and she fits in perfectly! The children really took to her!

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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

Hi my name is **Ms. Erika** and I am the lead teacher in Mom's Day Out. I have a degree in early childhood education and have a background in public school education as well as a being a nanny with TLC for Kids. I enjoy guiding the children during art time and exploring with different tools and supplies. I love the kids and find so much joy in watching them grow and learn.

Hi, my name is **Lisa Sanders**. I have worked at CMS for three years now. I love working with the one and two year olds. I look forward to seeing their sweet little faces each day. I have three wonderful kids of my own...Meg 22, Bryan 18 and Nathan 17. My life is busy and rewarding and I wouldn't trade it for anything!

My name is **Lauren Bean** and I love kids! I think one of the main reasons I decided to join Countryside is because it's not a daycare. It's a place where we really get to interact with the kids and help them learn life skills. My favorite part about my job is watching the children grow and progress, knowing that I got to be a part of a special time in their lives. The kids are such an inspiration to me and they keep me smiling everyday! I'm so blessed to be a part of what Countryside has to offer and I'm looking forward to the new school year!

Hi, my name is **Katie Null** and I am so excited to begin working at Countryside Montessori School! I have been working with kids for over a third of my life and have recently spent the last 2 years nannying some incredible children. I have gotten the joy to be able to be a part of my cousin's life by helping out with her 2 sons, and have worked with another family that has become a second family to me. My favorite part about working with children is the genuine excitement and joy on their faces when they learn something new. Being the one to impart that wisdom is one of the many reasons I'm excited to start this job. I can't wait to get started!

What's Happening in Mom's Day Out?

We have had a great start to the school year. We have several new little faces that have immediately become friends with everyone. Over the coming weeks we will have some kiddos celebrating their second birthday and will be transitioning to the toddler class. We are sad to see them move up but excited to see how they flourish in their new class. That means that we will have new friends coming in from the baby room. We have visited them periodically and can't wait to get to work with them on a daily basis.

The children have really enjoyed looking at the photos we have displayed in the classroom. They are learning to identify their friends. In our reading corner there is a photo display that shows the areas of instruction and learning that takes place daily. They will be updated monthly, so please come in and take a look.

In the Montessori room, we have a new work for them to try. There are two habitat posters (farm and ocean) on the wall. The kids take animal pictures and attach them with Velcro to the correct habitat. This helps them to identify where certain animals live, and uses their eye hand coordination as they have to line up the Velcro pieces.

We are happy to announce that Ms. Katie will be joining our team on Wednesdays. She will also work in the Infant room Thursday and Friday. She is excited to meet the children and can't wait to join our team next week.



Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Hi! I am **Lisa Morrison** and I have been at Countryside for 7 months. I went to school for Early Childhood Development and have had 2 years of Montessori training through a Montessori school in Michigan. I love coming to work and watching your child grow. My husband and I moved here a year and a half ago from Michigan with our 3 dogs, cat, 2 snakes and lizard.

My name is **Julie Sulewski** aka "Miss Julie" this will be my third year at Countryside and my second in the toddler room. I recently celebrated my 25th anniversary with my husband Paul. We have two daughters, Lauren who attends college in Nashville, and Emily who attends high school at Westminster Christian Academy, both are seniors! Our family pets are a sweet golden doodle named Nala and a not so sweet cat named Kurt! I am looking forward to this school year with the new and familiar faces. *It is an exciting time of growth and learning in your child's life and I am thrilled to be a part of it.*

Welcome to the new school year! We are so excited to have our friends back and welcome new friends to our classroom.

This month, we will be talking about the start of fall...Leaves, pumpkins, apples and so much more! We are so excited for our field trip to Eckert's Farm on September 17.

Your child will be learning how to take a rug out for their work, take the work off the shelves, and practice their Montessori work. We will be working on scooping, pouring, and lacing a lot this month. We are so excited for this new school year and can't wait to watch your child grow.

We have a student volunteer from Westminster with us this Fall. Her name is Ms. Amanda. She is with us on Thursday's and helps with some behind the scenes work as well as helping with the children.

The Good Morning Song

Good morning to you, good morning to you.
We're all in our places, with sun shiny faces.
Oh this is the way, we start our new day!

Open, Shut Them

Open, shut them.
Open, shut them.
Give them a little clap, clap, clap.
Open, shut them.
Open, shut them.
Place them in your lap, lap, lap.

The more we get together

The more we get together, together, together.
The more we get together, the happier we'll be.
'cause your friends are my friends
and my friends are your friends.
The more we get together, the happier we'll be.



Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

Hello, my name is **Karen Appel**, the children refer to me as Mrs. Karen. I have been working at Countryside Montessori School for six years, three years as an assistant and three years as a lead teacher. I have been happily married to my husband Keith for three years, and we just had our first son (Nolan) on December 21st 2013. In my free time I love to take Nolan for walks in the park and play with my two dogs. I am excited to start this new school year and meet all of our new families and welcome back our returning families.

Hi my name is **Miss Gracie** and I will be working alongside Mrs. Karen as the teacher's aide in the Preschool classroom. This will be my eighth year working as an aide and I'm excited to welcome new faces as well as familiar ones! I love all furry animals, plants and my favorite color in green! I'm looking forward to starting the 2014 school year at Countryside!

Some things you will notice in our classroom this year will be our Kindness chain. This is when a teacher witnesses a student doing something nice for another student or for their environment we will put a link on our chain for their good deed. The goal of this activity is to promote kindness and peace throughout the classroom. At the end of the year the students get to take the chain outside and see how long it has become, and they get to see how many kind acts they have done throughout the year. Children also have an opportunity to receive "helping hand stickers" everyday as well. This also encourages the children to help one another and their surroundings which is instant positive feedback. Every year we have a family tree/wall, which displays all the student's family photos. In order for our tree to be complete we ask the parents to send in a photo of your family, so we can hang it up on our wall for the year. We are also continuing the "All About Me" book. Attached to this newsletter is a form for you and your child to fill out and bring back to school by September 20th. We will bind all the forms together, to make a book. This book will be out all year round for the students to look through. We hope this book will help our students get to know each other a little better. We have many opportunities for parents to help out in the classroom such as making play dough, bringing in fresh flowers, guest reader and culture lessons. Sign-up sheets will be in the classroom all year round.

This month we will be teaching the students the ground rules of our preschool classroom and getting them use to the routine. We will also be giving lessons on how to use the material that surrounds their classroom environment. We will learn about our Solar System, and we will be looking at the stars and planets every week and talking about things we might see on the different planets. The students will also be learning about birds and the parts of a bird and we they live. Throughout the year the students will work with living and nonliving activities, plant and animal activities and much more. The students will practice their fine motor skills in the Practical Life area and learn about their senses in our Sensorial area as well. We have many activities to help your child learn numbers and practice their math skills. We will have parent/teacher conferences twice a year. Once in the fall and once in the spring, so parents will always know how their child developing in our classroom.

We have a student volunteer from Westminster this Fall. His name is Mr. Caleb and he helps us with some behind the scenes work as well as reading to the children. Our volunteers are never left alone with a child and are not allowed to help them in the bathroom. They are only there to assist where needed. Mr. Caleb is with us for two hours on Thursday mornings.

We are very excited about this upcoming year, and I am looking forward to meeting everyone!

Morning Song

Hello, Hello, Hello and how are you?
I'm fine, I'm fine
I hope that you are too.
The day of the week is _____ day
The day of the week is _____ day
The day of the week is _____ day
I hope you have a wonderful day.



Our song we sing before we eat

Lets be thankful for this day,
For our friends and for our play,
Lets be thankful, lets be glad,
For our food and things we have,
Lets give thanks for you and me,
And our home and family.

Hi Friends and Families! I am **Miss Bekah Duncan**. I have been at Countryside for about a year now and adore my job! I grew up in the St. Louis area, graduated from Hazelwood Central High and received my Bachelors in Communications from a small Christian school in Hannibal, Missouri. I am currently pursuing my Masters in Teaching at Lindenwood University. I have been working with children in church and various pre-schools since I was in high school.

I have various roles here at Countryside; I help in each classroom throughout the week as well as prepare all the meals for the children. I have a great passion for children and enjoy serving them and the staff daily.

Welcome! My name is **Jenifer Hanser** and I am the Administrator/Owner here at Countryside! I originally came to Countryside as a parent of two toddlers in September 1999. However, in June 2000 my husband and I became the owners of Countryside. We now officially have six teenagers! Hunter and Morgan are our twin girls and are 17 years old; they are seniors this year! Morgan works in both the Toddler and Preschool classrooms several days a week. She loves children and animals. Hunter has just started working at Countryside in the Toddler room. She loves taking care of our pet hedgehog and chinchilla. Parker, Courtney and Lauren are almost 15 (one more week) and are freshman this year. They all love soccer! Peyton just turned 13 and is the avid soccer player of the family! If she could take her soccer ball with her everywhere I think she would be in heaven! She is constantly juggling and training for soccer. We also have two dogs and two cats, a pond full of fish and a saltwater aquarium in need of some fish!

I very much enjoy coming to Countryside each day and watching all the children learn and grow. I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to watch so many children learn new things each day! It is truly an honor to have your children here at Countryside! I know how difficult it is to leave your child in the hands of someone else and I feel very honored that you trust our staff with your children. We have made many changes since we took over the school fourteen years ago. There just seems to always be something more I want the children to have here Countryside. I look forward to spending the year with your family.

Ways to Volunteer at Countryside

Mom's Day Out (One Year Old Room) Parents

- ~Making play dough
- ~Donating fresh cut flowers

Toddler Parents: Sign-up sheets are located in the classroom

- ~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

Upcoming Events Around Town

10th Annual Budweiser Taste of St. Louis

Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 until Sunday, September 21, 2014

Venue: Chesterfield Amphitheater

The Budweiser Taste of St. Louis is an award-winning celebration of the best food, art, music and culture our great city has to offer. A Grand Tasting Event, 30+ Restaurants, Culinary Competitions, an Art & Wine Walk, the Chef Battle Royale, Amphitheatre Shows (ticketed attraction), Kid City and so much more. 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (19); 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. (20); 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (21) <http://tastestl.com/>

The Great Forest Park Balloon Glow and Balloon Race

Date: Friday, September 19, 2014 until Saturday, September 20, 2014

Venue: Central Field in Forest Park (between the Jewel Box and Steinberg Rink)

Festivities begin with a balloon glow on September 19 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. followed by fireworks. Race day activities include a children's entertainment area, skydivers, and a photo contest prior to the launch of the hare and hound balloons at 4:30-4:45 p.m. on September 20. Rain date is September 21.

<http://www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com/>, (314) 993-2901

Faust Heritage Festival

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014 until Sunday, September 21, 2014

Venue: Faust Park

Faust Historic Village goes back to its roots for an old fashioned Folk Festival held exclusively in the Historic Village. The 19th century homes will be abuzz with period dressed staff and traditional arts and crafts such as blacksmithing, rope making, pottery firing, and other historical arts and crafts demonstrated and available for purchase. There will also be food vendors and hands on activities for children, including rope making, historic games and butter churning. Hay wagons carry visitors around the parking lots from the main entrance. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. www.stlouisco.com/parks/faust, (314) 615-8328

Old Webster Jazz & Blues Festival

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014

Venue: Webster Groves Historic District, Gore & Lockwood

Non-stop jazz and blues music from two stages showcasing St. Louis' most talented performers plus food and drink from area restaurants. There will also be street entertainers with face-painting, juggling and balloons.

12:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. <http://www.oldwebsterjazzfestival.com/>, (314) 961-4656

Soulard Art Fair

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014 until Sunday, September 21, 2014

Venue: Soulard Market Park in the Historic Soulard Neighborhood

This cultural event with Soulard flair will feature street performers, live music, magicians, sketch artists, Taste of Soulard foods from local restaurants available for sampling and a wine garden. <http://soulardartfair.com/>