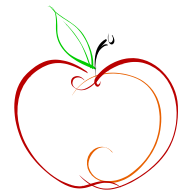




Countryside Montessori School

February 2019 Newsletter



Happy February!! February is a busy month at Countryside with our all school field trip and our father's night in our toddler, preschool and mom's day out classrooms. This is also a busy month for school tours. If you have not turned in your re-enrollment or summer registration, please do so as soon as possible. We have already accepted several new children for our summer and fall programs. Just a reminder, we do not celebrate Valentine's Day at Countryside. If you do celebrate this holiday in your home, we hope that you enjoy your celebration!

Our Infant and One Year Old Room received new floor mats last month. They are like big yoga mats and can be purchased at Buy Buy Baby if you are interested. They are great and they carry both child and adult friendly patterns. We chose the more adult friendly pattern since everything else in the rooms are child friendly, we wanted a balance. I highly recommend them!

We have our field trip to Myseum on Wednesday, February 27th. 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.). Countryside has reserved a room for lunch which will be served at 11:30 a.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 no later than 1 p.m.

Spring pictures will be taken a bit earlier than spring! We are scheduled for Wednesday, February 20th with a make-up day on Thursday, February 21st. If your child does not attend either day and you would like them to have their picture taken and to be included in their classroom composite you may bring them up on Thursday, February 21st at 9:30 a.m. We will have the portrait background posted on your child's classroom door the week prior to the photo shoot for those that wish to coordinate an outfit based on the background.

Reminder for our MDO, Toddler and Pre-K parents that Father's Night is this month. Any parent can attend, we just ask for one parent per child due to space limitations. Thank you for understanding.

Attention Toddler and Preschool Mom's, please mark your calendar for Muffins with Mom (the dates are listed below). Again, any parent can attend. This is a special time for you to share a light breakfast with your child in their classroom. This event is not like our Mother's Party in December where you stay for work time this is just a time to enjoy breakfast with your child and then leave and go about your normal day. If you are unable to attend, you may send someone in your place.

Upcoming Events:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|----------------|
| February | 5 | TODDLER CLASS FATHER'S NIGHT | 5:00 P.M. |
| | 12 | PRESCHOOL CLASS FATHER'S NIGHT | 5:00 P.M. |
| | 18 | PRESIDENT'S DAY | NO SCHOOL |
| | 20 | MOM'S DAY OUT FATHER'S NIGHT | 4:45-5:15 |
| | 20-21 | ALL SCHOOL PICTURE DAY (make ups only on 21 st) | 9 A.M. |
| | 27 | FIELD TRIP TO MYSEUM | NO SCHOOL* |
| | | | |
| March | 5 | MUFFINS WITH MOM-UPSTAIRS CLASS | 7:45-8:15 A.M. |
| | 7 | MUFFINS WITH MOM-DOWNSTAIRS CLASS | 7:45-8:15 A.M. |
| | 18-22 | SPRING BREAK | NO SCHOOL* |
| | 25 | SCHOOL RESUMES | |

*Care provided for children enrolled in extended day only

Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262



Happy February! We had an awesome start to the year with each child working and achieving some of their milestones. We will continue to work with each child's milestones daily.

With the new year comes new changes. Ms. Annie and Ms. Brittany have decided to change up the room a bit. You will notice Mickey and Minnie Mouse and friends soon appearing in the classroom as we have decided to redecorate the classroom!

This month we will be working on activities involving Ground Hogs, shadow paint and singing the song "My Little Ground Hog".

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We will be happy to help the best we can!

This month we will sadly goodbye to Rhett, as he goes to MDO. We will miss him dearly!

Bennett has been showing us more of his personality, he loves to "talk" and laugh with his teachers and friends.

Zoe continues to zoom (crawl) around the room, chasing and playing with friends.

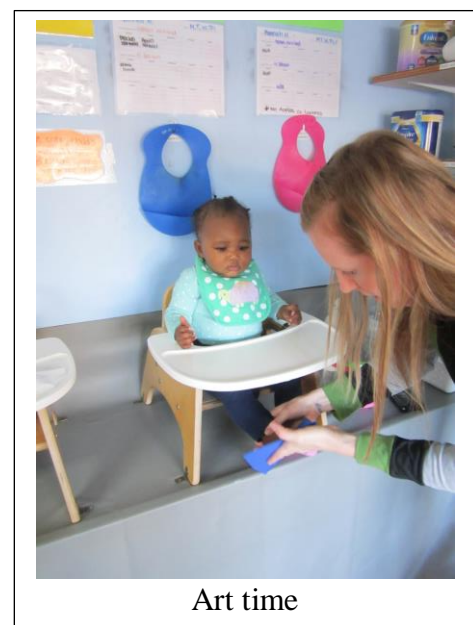
Noah likes to sit and play with his friends.

Kate has found her voice and has been very vocal. She has also started on baby food and is doing great!

Hannah has also found her voice and loves to laugh and talk with her friends.

Clare has discovered her hands and has begun reaching for toys on the activity gym.

Isabel loves to smile and sit in the swing watching her friends play.



Art time

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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

Welcome to February! It is hard to believe we are already a month down in a new year. Time flies when you're having fun! There is a lot happening this month so make sure and mark your calendars.

***February 20 (Wednesday) is Mom's Day Out Father's Music Night, from 4:45-5:15. All of the children enrolled in MDO and their fathers are invited to attend. You will get to see what a typical music time looks like in our classroom. Come ready to sit on the floor and enjoy singing songs with your child. We hope to see all of you there.

***February 27 (Wednesday) is our field trip to the Myseum. We hope everyone from our class will attend. It is a fun place for all ages!!!!

***February 18 (Monday) is President's Day. School will be closed. Enjoy your long weekend.

With the temperatures being so cold lately, we have not been able to go outside. When this happens we have to find other ways to use our gross motor skills. We will use the indoor climber and tunnel to work on our climbing, sliding and crawling skills. The children enjoy it when we set up pillows for them to walk on like stepping stones (a teacher is close by for safety). Using all of these simultaneously creates a fun and simple obstacle course for them to try. Make an obstacle course at home for your family to try together. We would love to know what you all use for your gross motor time.

This month we will talk about what it means to be a friend. We will continue learning how to say friends' and teachers' names as we use words like share and take turns. Our "friends" discussion will continue during art time, as we create a class mural. All of the children will get to add whatever they like to the mural.



Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Hello February! I think we can all happily say goodbye to January!

Unfortunately, we are still in the midst of cold/flu season. We are continuing to urge parents to keep their children home if they have a cough, runny nose, sore throat or any other viral symptoms. Coughs and runny noses this time of year are most likely not allergies, and more likely to be caused by various viruses. Handwashing and keeping sick children home is the best way to reduce the spread of these illnesses.

We still have a significant number of children in our class who suck their fingers/thumbs and hands and also put their fingers in their noses. Please continue to discourage this behavior any time you see it and have your child immediately wash their hands. Together we can break these habits! Thank you for your support and help with this.

We have been working hard mastering various skills. The children have been doing great with practical life skills. We practice wet and dry pouring every day. We also have been working hard on learning to scoop and use tongs. These skills are used daily in our class during mealtimes, and these kinds of skills can be practiced at home as well! Giving your toddler small cups to practice pouring and utensils for serving is a great way to strengthen their skills and help them become more independent!

We still have a lot of friends who are learning to take their shoes off and put them on. We ask that you have your children practice at home daily. You can even make it a game or race against a timer to see how fast they can get! If your child seems tired or frustrated, have them try at a different time. We want the experience to be fun and empowering! Once your child starts learning to do more and more things for themselves, they will want to become more independent and this is good news and helpful for moms and dads!

Thank you so much for your support and for the opportunity to teach your children!

Here are our new songs for February:

Dance like Snowflakes

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

Walking, walking
Walking, walking
Hop, hop, hop
Hop, hop, hop
Running, running, running
Running, running, running
Now we stop, now we stop



Calling all dads!
Please join us Tuesday,
February 5th from 5-6
p.m. for a fun evening
with your child!

Important Dates this month:

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 5 | TODDLER CLASS FATHER'S NIGHT | 5:00 P.M. |
| 18 | PRESIDENT'S DAY | NO SCHOOL |
| 20-21 | ALL SCHOOL PICTURE DAY | |
| 27 | FIELD TRIP TO MYSEUM | NO SCHOOL |

Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

February is here! We would like to remind everyone that our annual "Father's Night" is coming up on Tuesday, February 12th from 5:00-6:00pm. (if your child is enrolled in our extended day program, they need to be picked up or accompanied by an adult by 5:00pm on Feb 12th) Our Field Trip is Wednesday Feb. 27th. We also want to remind all our parents that we do not celebrate Valentine's Day, so please keep your candy and treats at home. We will be closed on Monday, Feb. 18th for Presidents Day. Show and tell is going great! We have had a lot of interesting and fun items brought in like copper pipes, sea shells, a baseball caught at a Cardinals game, a picture of their pet turtle, family photos, and books. We are excited to see what else the children come up with to show to our class. We have added a greeter to our morning jobs, and everyday a new child will greet their fellow peers with either a hand shake, a smile, a wave, a fist bump, a hug, a high five or if they do not want to be greeted that day, we have a no thanks too. The child being greeted gets to decide how they would like to be greeted. The kids are having so much fun with this new activity!

Lots of things are changing in our classroom. We are going to start talking about Africa. We will be making colorful art projects, coloring pyramids and African animals. We will also talk about the different cultures found in Africa. We will read books about the animals and also watch a short film about Africa too! We have one of a kind musical instruments from Africa we will get out to play for the children. February is Dental month too. We will be teaching the children proper hygiene and the proper way to brush their teeth. We will discuss why it is important to take good care of ourselves.

We are learning new vocabulary words every day, like igloos, Eskimos, and migration. Trying to fill their minds with as much as we can! We have a lot of children reading books every 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. We will talk about our next landform which is a strait. They will have an opportunity to draw one and make one with water.

In math the children are very busy with our hands-on activities and worksheets. They are starting to add and subtract in their heads! (And some using their fingers under the table, which is the cutest thing) Some children are writing the numbers in our sand box tray, and others like to trace numbers using the dots. We have brought out our big teen board for the children to practice their numbers 11-19. Some of the children had completed the short chains and are learning how to skip count. All the children love to come into math to explore our new material.

Songs:

Winter Winter Wonderland
Pockets full of mittens
Snowflakes, snowflakes
We all fall down.
(tune: ring around the rosie)

Growth is not merely a harmonious
increase in size, but a transformation.

—Maria Montessori



The extended day children enjoyed Super Hero Day they had during winter break.



Field Trip

Wednesday, February 27th

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

MYSEUM



Please join us for a fun field trip to MYSEUM!! Cost is \$10/child and includes admission and lunch (Papa John's Pizza, Greek Salad, Fruit, Water). Please fill out the form below to let us know if you will attend. NOTE: Countryside will be open for children enrolled in our Extended Day program that cannot attend the field trip.

How old are the Kids at Myseum?

Myseum™ is designed primarily for ages 2-12, but no matter how old they are, they will have fun at Myseum. There is a small area designed for children under 2.

Myseum's Rules

- Adults must supervise their children at all times.
- Adults are not allowed on the Big Blue Bounce inflatable.
- Everyone is encouraged to use caution. Particular caution should be taken on: stairs, ladders, slides, rock work, inflatables and in the Seaweed Swamp. Playing and learning is sometimes associated with risk; adults assume all risks while at Myseum.
- **Please remember your Socks! They are required to play on the slide and on the inflatables. Socks are available for \$2.00 a pair.**

We want everyone to have a safe visit – what's fun and appropriate for one child might be too risky for another. Please use your judgment when deciding which activities are right for your child.

Who can play in the Toddler Inflatable?

The Toddler Inflatable is restricted to children below 38 inches. Older brother and sisters can visit and play with their younger brother and sister in the toddler area, but are not allowed on the inflatable. Responsible adults can assist the kids on the inflatable.

For more information please check out their website at www.stlmyseum.com

Family Name _____

Number of children attending (ages 2 and up) _____ x \$10

Cheese Pizza ___ Adults ___ Children

Pepperoni Pizza ___ Adults ___ Children

Veggie Pizza ___ Adults ___ Children

EXTENDED DAY CHILDREN ONLY

_____ My child WILL NOT attend the field trip and will attend Countryside instead.

_____ My child WILL RETURN to Countryside after lunch but no later than 1 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Mouse & Friends Toddler Time- Sky Zone Fenton

Sky Zone Fenton

631 Gravois Rd

Fenton, MO, 63026

(636) 364-4444

Friday, February 22 and Sunday, February 24 from 9:30 - 11 AM.

Saturday, February 23 from 8:30 - 10 AM

Join us for a special toddler time for children 5 and under for 90 minutes of jump time, crafts, face-painting, and pictures with Doc & Hippo! Tickets are JUST \$11.99.

Parents do not need to purchase a ticket as only kids 5 & under will be permitted to jump during Toddler Time. Price does not include Sky Socks; Sky Socks can be purchased for \$2.99 per pair. Capacity is limited; purchase your tickets online to guarantee your spots.

Tangled-Enchanted Tales Film Series

Ronnie's Cinema + IMAX

5320 S Lindbergh Blvd

St. Louis, MO, 63126

Call (314) 756-9325 for dates and times

As a part of our Enchanted Tales Film Series, come see Tangled!

When the kingdom's most wanted -- and most charming -- bandit Flynn Rider hides out in a mysterious tower, he's taken hostage by Rapunzel, a beautiful and feisty tower-bound teen with 70 feet of magical, golden hair. Flynn's curious captor, who's looking for her ticket out of the tower where she's been locked away for years, strikes a deal with the handsome thief and the unlikely duo sets off on an action-packed escapade, complete with a super-cop horse, an over-protective chameleon and a gruff gang of pub thugs. "Tangled" is a story of adventure, heart, humor and hair -- lots of hair.

Horses & Hot Chocolate

Happy Hooves Equine Rescue

7026 State Route 140

Edwardsville, IL, 62025

618-977-5127

happyhooveevents@gmail.com

Sunday, February 17 at 4:00

In this hands-on, intimate event, you are paired 1:1 with a horse to feed, groom and watch the herd watch the herd canter to the pasture at twilight. Bonfire, hot chocolate, smores! **Only \$100 for up to a group of 5!** For an additional \$10, JB Photography will be offering a keepsake photo. This will be delivered by email within 48 hours of the event.

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 a staff member 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 (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



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