



Countryside Montessori School

August/September Newsletter



Welcome new and returning families! We are so glad to have your children here at Countryside! We all enjoy watching your child learn and grow every day! This is our first newsletter of the new school year. Each month the newsletter contains information about the school and your child’s classroom. The online newsletter will offer some insight into what is going on within all our classrooms. We generally include information about upcoming events here at Countryside and within the community. We hope you take a few minutes each month to read the online newsletter and learn more about your child’s environment away from home.

Just a reminder, if you would like to bring in birthday treats on your child’s birthday you are welcome to do so. Please make sure it is peanut/nut free and is purchased from a store or bakery. Fruits and vegetables are also welcome! Check out our Policy Handbook for more information under Birthday Policy.

Please be aware of our Sick Policy. Please keep your child home if they have any new symptoms such as a runny nose, cough or just do not look 100% well. This is extremely important! Also, if they have had fever or have had 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!

Tuition is due on the first of each month. Tuition not received by the seventh of the month is considered late and a late fee will be applied. Reminder, Countryside does not send monthly invoices. If you need an invoice or receipt for your dependent care account, please let the office know and one will be prepared. Also, a reminder that the tuition increase took effect August 1st.

We will be completing the Ages and Stages Questionnaire in September. Some classes will send home the questionnaire for parents to complete and some will complete them at school. If you receive a questionnaire to complete please be as honest as possible, so that we can assess your child’s skills and set appropriate developmental goals.

We will notify you if we are missing any forms from your child’s file, including an updated immunization record. And, we are asking ALL our families to bring in a 4x6 (or smaller) family photo for our family tree.

Please remember that the front drive is a one-way drive. If there isn’t a parking spot on the lower lot and you need to drive around the building please exit onto Ladue Road and re-enter the school, please do not use the front drive as a turnaround lane. Also, if the gates are up please DO NOT take them down and drive down to the lower lot. Please park in the front and enter the main door, turn right and exit the side door, and walk around to the Preschool/Kdg classroom. For the safety of the children, the gates will be up from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

An additional Nest camera has been added to each room. The cameras do not have the audio feature turned on. The cameras will give us a clearer recorded visual on the entrance to each room. They are just added security on top of the cameras already in the room. The cameras will also allow the staff to temporarily move the camera, temporarily turn on the audio and record an activity or part of the day and then go back and view the footage. This will be a great teaching/learning tool for the staff and allow them to watch, learn and make sometimes the littlest change to create an even better environment for the children.

Don’t forget our first field trip will be on October 9th! More information will be sent home soon!

We are looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year with your family here at Countryside! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jenifer at 314-434-2821.

Reminders:

September 2nd	Labor Day – school closed	
September 17th	Toddler Class Donuts with Dad	7:45-8:15 a.m.
September 24th	Preschool/Kdg Donuts with Dad	7:45-8:15 a.m.
October 9 th	Field trip-TBD	9 a.m.
October 30 th	MDO/One Year Old Room Music Night	4:45-5:15

Infant Room

Classroom Phone: 314-873-2262

Happy August! It's hard to believe but summer camp is coming to an end and the new School year is about to start! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer! The Infant Room had a blast and our babies hit tons of milestones and had tons of laughs and smiles during the process.

Kate started eating table food and is constantly on the go. Her smile is contagious and will be missed when she moves over to MDO this month!

Isabel has started crawling and has started pulling herself up on the shelves and anything else she can grab onto!

Blake has started talking up a storm! She is rolling all over the classroom and is so eager to start crawling!

We have some old and new friends joining us this month! We would like to welcome Clare back and like to welcome Jay, Margaret and Reagan to the infant room! We cannot wait to watch our new friends learn and grow!

This month we will be doing activities involving the theme "All About Me!" We ask that you please bring in a family photo that we can keep in the classroom. We will have different days for favorite songs, books etc so please check precious status for updates on when that will be.

We recently had to remove our Rock 'N Play from the classroom due to a safety recall. It is very unfortunate when baby equipment is recalled due to improper usage. Please make sure that you are correctly and safely using your baby equipment. When using any type of equipment that has a seat belt or harness, please make sure your infant is properly buckled and the straps are snug enough so that if the baby were to try to twist around the seat belt or harness would keep them properly restrained and not allow for this type of movement. An infant should not be able to move their body forward or twist around in their swing, bouncer, car seat, or any type of infant seat. Also, please do not leave your infant unattended in a swing, bouncer, car seat, etc. It is recommended to only allow your infant to sleep on their back in their crib on a firm mattress without anything in the crib but the baby and a pacifier. No loose bedding or blankets. If you use a swaddle, please make sure that the swaddle is properly used and does not allow any material near the infant's face. Blanket sleepers and sleep sacks are great alternatives when an infant begins to move and roll over.

As some of you know, Ms. Brittany will be leaving for her Maternity leave. Her last day will be August 22nd. We will miss her so much and will get to see her and Baby Lucas when they return in October! While on maternity leave, Ms. Kandyce and Ms. Alli will fill in on Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 7:30-5:30. Ms. Annie's schedule is Mon-Thurs 7:00-5:00 and Ms. Karen will be joining us on Wednesdays 7:30-5:30 and Fridays 7:00-5:00. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.



**Getting
creative in
the Infant
Room**



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

Classroom Phone: 314-704-5255

What's Happening in Mom's Day Out?

Welcome to Mom's Day Out and a new school year. We are excited to be able to work with your child over the coming months. This will be a year of growth and exciting, new challenges. Your child will go from crawling to walking/running and babbling to talking. We are on this journey with you. We love to hear about the things your family likes to do and new skills your child is attempting or mastering at home. This will help us in getting to know your child, as well as making lesson plans. Please let us know if you have any questions. The classroom phone number is (314) 704-5255. Please feel free to text or call us. We may be busy with the children, so if you do not hear from us within 10 minutes, please try again.

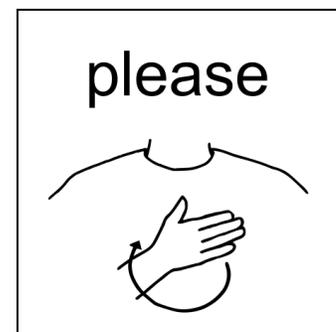
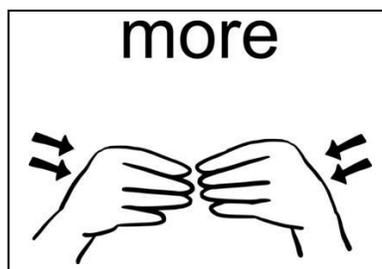
In the coming weeks we will spend time bonding with the children and helping them learn the routine. They will get to know their new friends and begin the hardest task of all, learning to share. The teachers will be modeling this behavior and helping the children navigate through the interactions they are experiencing, some for the first time. We will also start introducing simple signs to the children who are not yet speaking. We focus on More and Please at first. This will help the children learn to communicate their needs during mealtimes.

We start our school year with several painting projects. The children will paint the shapes and colors that will hang on the wall throughout the year. The children and teachers will point to these during play and work times to reinforce the names of each shape or color. This becomes a fun game for the children as they are learning to identify things in the world around them.

Our music time is so much fun. We have a music board that contains all of the nursery rhyme type songs we sing each day. The children come up one at a time and pick the song they would like the group to sing. We would be happy to show you the board so you can see what the children are using, and so you can see the list of songs. The kids might come home doing hand motions of their favorite songs. Let us know if we can help determine what song they are requesting.

OUR SONG LIST:

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
ABC's
Itsy, Bitsy Spider
The Wheels on the Bus
Row, Row, Row Your Boat
I'm A Little Teapot
10 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
5 Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree
Open, Shut Them
Five Little Ducks
Jump Up and Down
Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
Old MacDonald
If You're Happy and You Know It



Toddler Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3419

Welcome to the 19-20 school year! Perhaps your family is new to Countryside, or maybe your children have been attending for a few years now. Either way, we want to extend a warm welcome to our Toddler Room!

The direct phone number to our class is [314-704-3419](tel:314-704-3419). You are encouraged to text or call anytime you need, and if we are unable to answer/reply right away, please be patient with us and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Our #1 priority is safety and supervision of the children, so if we miss your text/call, we will be sure to reply as soon as we see it. We encourage and practice open communication, so please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or requests.

For your child's stay in our Toddler Room, we ask that the parents get their child a pair of inside shoes and a pair of outside shoes. We would prefer if their inside shoes could stay at school, in their cubby. Please choose a set of shoes that your child can easily learn to put on and take off by themselves. We also ask that parents work with their child at home as well, so that they master this skill. Shoes that slip on or have velcro tabs are appropriate.

During your child's day, we will do a variety of Montessori work to enrich their learning. In the beginning, (and many of our friends are still working on this) your child will simply be learning to take the work tray off the shelf, do the work, and return the work to the shelf when finished before choosing new work/activities. We have Practical Life, Language, Math, Science, and Sensory shelves, as well as an Art wet room and Dramatic Play area and Library. The work is rotated out monthly and varies in difficulty. Books are rotated weekly. Each child is allowed and encouraged to work and learn at their own pace. Our mornings are structured with a schedule, and while our afternoons still follow a schedule, the atmosphere is more relaxed and more free choices are allowed.

Our class is very focused on manners and kindness, as well. We work very hard every day to encourage polite words and gentleness towards our friends and others. We ask that parents please work on table manners with their children at home. This would include eating off a plate and using forks, spoons and an open cup during mealtimes. It is very important that we encourage the children to eat with utensils, instead of their hands. Eating all foods with their hands is a very messy, very difficult habit to break. We ask that parents please support their child's learning at home by having them practice with utensils at every mealtime. Practicing at home and at school is the key to mastering many skills!

For drop off and pick up, we ask that parents refrain from letting their child bring toys into our classroom. This often creates a distraction and sets the stage for tantrums. If your child brings personal toys into the school, please have them place the items in their canvas bag before entering the classroom. Thank you so much for your understanding with this, and if you have any concerns, please let us know.

We also request that parents take a few extra minutes with their child at drop off and pick up. As part of your child's daily routine, we ask that you help put their bag away, change their shoes and have them wash their hands each morning when entering the classroom. This helps create a routine and gives your child more confidence about their drop off.

We realize and appreciate that our parents are very busy and often rushed between drop off, pick up and work, however, slowing down and giving your child a few extra minutes of your attention can really make a difference in how smooth the process goes. If you have any questions or concerns about streamlining this process, please let us know so that we can create a plan together! We thank you for the opportunity to teach, learn and grow with your child. It's going to be a great year!

Good Morning To You

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!



Let's Be Thankful (Sang before meals)

Let's be thankful for this day
For our friends and for our play
Let's be thankful, let's be glad
For our food and things we have
Let's give thanks for you and me
And our home and family

Preschool/Kindergarten Program

Classroom Phone: 314-704-3401

School is back! We are excited to welcome our new families and see our returning families this year! Here are some things we need from you: 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 their family, so we can hang it up on our wall for the year. If you brought us one last year we will use that one unless you would like to bring in an updated photo. We are also continuing the "All About Me" book. We will bind all the forms together to make a book. This book will go home with a new student every Friday and must be brought back to school their next day back. In the back of the book there will be a place for your child to write down their favorite thing about the book. We hope this book will help our students and parents get to know each other a little better. In your welcome packet you will receive or have already received a "strength and weakness" form for you to fill out about your child and return to school. This helps the teachers get to know your child a little better, and also for the parents to let us know if they have concerns we need to address before or during the conferences in November. In your welcome packet there will be a flyer for a FREE child base screening. We recommend all parents take advantage of this opportunity because the screening is done by specialists and it is a great opportunity for parents to learn about their child's development. We have many opportunities for parents to help out in the classroom such as bringing in fresh flowers, guest reader, science experiments and cultural lessons. These cultural lessons can be a lesson on a specific topic such as your occupation, a city you are from, a holiday you celebrate and so on. Sign-up sheets will be in the classroom all year round. We love when parents are able to be involved in our classroom. It would be great if we could have the photo and forms brought to us no later than **August 30th**.

We have put together a list of age appropriate goals for our classroom and some recommended goals for your home environment. We ask that you look these over so you have an idea of our goals for your child this year, and hopefully get your children more involved at home.

Every month we will focus on new topics and skills. I will briefly talk about these topics here in our monthly newsletter, so parents have an idea of what their child is learning throughout the year. Once a month we will have the following activities paired with our curriculum; a 30min or less educational movie, cultural food tasting, a science experiment, two charts voicing their opinion on a topic, and look at antique gadgets and see how they have modernize throughout the years. If your child does not come 5 days a week I cannot guarantee they will be able to participate in all of these activities every month, however each activity will be presented on a different day each month. (For example, if we have food tasting on a Monday in Sept. the next food tasting will be presented on a different day of the week in Oct.)

The first 2 weeks of school, we will be teaching the students the ground rules of our preschool classroom and getting them familiar with our routine. We will also be giving lessons on how to use the material that surrounds their classroom environment. The children will also have an opportunity to learn about birds. The parts of a bird, kinds of birds, different eggs and migration patterns. In addition, we will be talking about apples too. The different kinds of apples, parts of an apple and even juicing apples to taste. We will learn about our Solar System starting in September. The children will be looking at the stars and planets every week and talking about things we might see on these planets. We will be tasting astronaut ice cream and moon cheese during this time. We will have a solar eclipse science experiment to show the children and also watch a 30 min video about outer space. The children will have an opportunity to make constellations, count with stars and match solar system flash cards.

Year round, the students will work with living and nonliving, plant and animal activities, land forms and writing skills in our language area. The students will practice their fine motor skills in the Practical Life area which involve; pouring, tweezing, scooping and working with the dressing frames. We will present material to help recognize and use our senses in our Sensorial area. We have many activities to help your child learn numbers and practice their math skills in our math area as well.

We are very excited about this upcoming school year and hope that you are too.

Reminders: If you need to talk to a teacher about the progress of your child or you have a concern please come 10 min early to talk to a teacher or call between 7-8 a.m. to speak to Mrs. Karen directly. We may respond quicker to a text message rather than phone calls during school hours (8:30-3:30) due to the volume in the class. Our number is (314) 704-3401. Our weekly menu, calendar events, newsletter and monthly articles are posted on the bulletin board right outside our classroom. We have a \$1 per min late fee policy that goes directly to the staff who stayed late with your child, so please make sure you are on time. (Extended Day enrollment is 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., half day enrollment is 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Half day enrollment with lunch is 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and full day enrollment is 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) If you borrow school clothing, please wash them and return them within a timely manner. We will send you a text if your child has to borrow school clothing. Thank you!

Let the fun begin!

September Song

Solar System in Motion

The Earth turns around
The Earth turns around
Once a day, every day
The Earth turns around.

The moon goes round the Earth
The moon goes round the Earth
Once a month, every month
The moon goes round the Earth.

The Earth goes round the sun
The Earth goes round the sun
Once a year, every year
The Earth goes round the sun.

“While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about.”

-Angela Schwindt



Summer Fun At Countryside!



Our song we sing before we eat

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



Ways to Volunteer at Countryside

Mom's Day Out (One Year Old Room) Parents: Please see a staff member if you would like to volunteer for one of the following:

- ~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



Events Around St. Louis

Disney On Ice presents Worlds of Enchantment

Chaifetz Arena

#1 South Compton Avenue

St. Louis, MO, 63103

September 6-8, 2019 various show times

Rev up for non-stop fun with four of your favorite Disney stories at Disney On Ice presents Worlds of Enchantment. Thrill to high-speed stunts as Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney•Pixar's Cars race across the ice! Dive into adventure with Ariel and The Little Mermaid's undersea kingdom. The toys are back in town with heroic action when Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie and the Toy Story gang escape from Sunnyside Daycare and race for home in their most daring adventure! Plus, enter the wintry world of Arendelle with sisters Anna and Elsa and pals Olaf and Kristoff from Disney's Frozen as they learn that true love comes from within. From wheels to waves, icy wonderlands to infinity and beyond, your family's favorite Disney moments come to life at Disney On Ice presents Worlds of Enchantment.

COCAplay: Jungle Jammin'

COCA-Center of Creative Arts

524 Trinity Avenue

St. Louis, MO, 63130

Contact Beth McClure at (314) 725-6555 for more information

08/24/2019 9:00-10:30 AM

Price: FREE

Children create music from found and created objects and instruments while they dance like lions, birds, gorillas, and hippopotamuses as they "Jungle Jam." Along the way, they launch an interest in rhythm, song, and movement. COCAPlay is a free program designed to help your little ones stretch their creative muscles. Stay for a few minutes or stay the whole time—COCAplay is the perfect way to introduce your child to the arts and activate their imagination. Activities are best for ages 2–6, but the whole family is welcome! All materials provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Summer Buggin' at the Butterfly House

15193 Olive Boulevard

Chesterfield, MO, 63017

08/31/2018 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m

Visit during "Summer Buggin'" to uncover the secrets of nature's smallest creatures at the Butterfly House! With the help of special decoder glasses, you will learn fun facts about moths, butterflies and other bugs of summer! Don't miss our daily Animal Encounters at 11:00 a.m., Plant Outpost at 1:00 p.m. & Live Butterfly Releases at 2:00 p.m.

Free Entrance Days at the Gateway Arch

707 North First Street

St. Louis, MO, 63102

Come experience the national parks! On five days in 2019, all National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee will offer free admission to everyone. The last two remaining days for 2019 are Saturday, September 28 and Monday, November 11.