

Country Brook Montessori School

News – January / February 2012

Director's Message

Wow! Can you believe the second half of the school year is now upon us. The children have returned from their winter break and are eagerly jumping into work and projects here at school.

A huge and very heartfelt 'thank you' goes out to all for the very generous gifts and cards given to both teaching and administrative. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

While we have been reminding everyone that cold winter weather is expected, we have all been fortunate to have experienced a relatively mild winter so far. Of course we've had a few very cold spells, but they have been fairly short lived. That could all change at any time! Please remember to always have a jacket (and gloves) available in the car and at school for your child.

In addition to the day-to-day lessons that take place here at Country Brook, we have a number of special programs and functions all waiting in the wings.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is coming up January 16. The children in all of our classrooms will be learning about this great man, and of the wonderful work he did.

And we know everyone is looking forward to our International Night, one of the highlights of the year. This year's International Night is Friday, February 10. Please see the item in this newsletter for more information!

Group classroom photos will be taken in March, and SAT testing for age appropriate children takes place too.

This is also the time of year that the re-enrollment process is in full swing! Some of you have already completed your re-enrollment, and we are delighted to know you'll be returning in August. If you have not received your re-enrollment packet it is not too late to let us know, but quick action will be required if you wish to take advantage of our early bird discount and save \$75.00 per child on your registration fee. This discount will also be applied to siblings for any registration that is completed by 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 3.

Like last year, every early childhood class is currently full. We anticipate a full program again next school year, and early re-enrollment is the best way to ensure your space in our growing program. Outside enrollment will begin Monday, February 6, and we have already received applications from families wishing to join us this coming August.

And don't forget to refer friends. When friends enroll, you could be eligible for substantial tuition credits! Please stop by the office for all the details!



International Night

By now, everyone is aware that Friday evening, February 10 is a special day at Country Brook Montessori School. Join us from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. for our always incredibly popular International Night.

The children, their teachers, and generous parent volunteers are busy decorating the classrooms in the theme of the continent they will represent.



Take a Safari to Africa in Ms. Cheryl and Ms. Stephanie's classroom. The outback of Australia will be featured with special treats by our Food Services Manager Ms. Marquette. Ms. Jayasree and Ms. Jennifer put our home continent of North America on display, and the splendors of Asia will greet visitors to Ms. Faiza and Ms. Anita's room. In the toddler classroom, Ms. Snigdha and Ms. Vilma take you on a journey to South America and the rainforest. A stop in Ms. Bezi's elementary classroom opens the door to a stroll down Champs-Elysees and a visit to Europe.

We encourage everyone to participate in this fun evening. Dressing in the attire unique and special to your own cultural background or heritage is just one way you can add to the festivities.

Another is to provide a dish to share with others. We encourage you to provide food native to the continent your child's class is representing; or a menu item that is unique

to your own heritage. Either way, this evening gives everyone the opportunity to experience and celebrate this school's diversity that we are all so proud of.

A special reminder.....Parking for this event is ALWAYS a challenge. Please respect our business neighbors by not blocking driveways, doors, or other vehicles. Please park in clearly marked spaces only. Baker Audio (next door) and the Office Complex across the street have many spaces available for our use Friday evening. We would hate to see a towed or ticketed vehicle mar an otherwise fabulous and fun night!

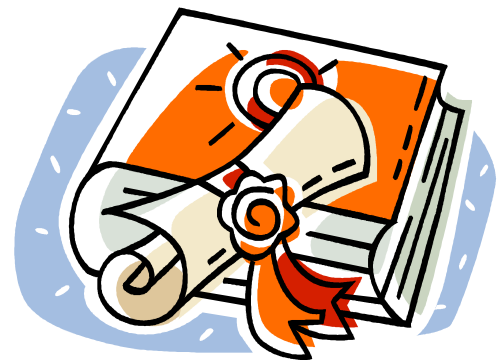
School Yearbooks

Watch your child's school mailbox for order forms for Country Brook Montessori's fifth annual yearbook.

The yearbooks were very popular last year, and we know everyone looks forward to having this cherished reminder of their children (and their children's friends) to look back on in the years to come.

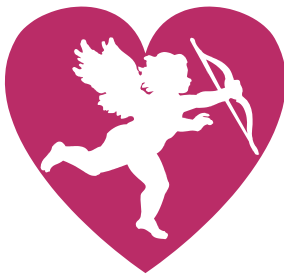
Cost of the Yearbook is \$20.00, and orders must be pre-paid by Friday, March 9. If you wish to see a sample of last year's book before you place an order, please stop by the office.

Please be aware too that the yearbook company only prints quantities based on the orders received. Additional Yearbooks are rarely available.



Valentine's Day

Tuesday, February 14 all of our classrooms will be celebrating Valentine's Day. This is a special day that the children love!



Children who wish to bring a Valentine for each of their classmates are encouraged to do so. When preparing your Valentines, please have your child write their own name on them, but please do not write the name of each of the children to receive the Valentine.

The children will be handing out the Valentines themselves, and it is much easier (and faster) to give a card to each person without having to read the name and 'find' the recipient.

The teachers are also planning special snacks for the children on this day. If you would like to volunteer to bring a treat, please see your child's teacher to find out what the snack plans are for their specific classroom.

Summer Programs

During the past several weeks, many of you have been asking about our summer program. Summer school information was included in everyone's re-registration packets, and additional copies are available at the office.

From Tuesday, May 22 through Thursday, August 2, Country Brook Montessori School will offer six individual summer sessions. You may enroll your child for all sessions, or just for the sessions you need to meet your busy summer schedules. Brochures outlining the schedules, session topics, and

tuition costs will be sent home with every child again in early February.

In reviewing the summer enrollment and registration information, there are several important items to remember. Enrollment and registration are for complete sessions only and no discount or refund will be made for partial attendance or absences.

Many families do not participate in the summer program. For this reason it is extremely important that those who do wish to participate register as soon as possible. We need your registration information in order to properly budget and schedule the teachers, support staff, and classroom space.

During summer sessions not every classroom will be used, however a Montessori teacher and (if needed) an assistant will be in each scheduled classroom. Please understand that summer classroom teacher assignments are unique. In order to accommodate vacations, Montessori teachers rotate sessions. This means that the teacher and/or classroom that your child will have during the summer may or may not be the same as they have during the school year.

Most importantly, it is our desire to accommodate the needs of every Country Brook Montessori School family during the summer months, but knowing that we will have fewer teachers available at any given time means that there is the possibility that some sessions will be full! Space may be limited and you must pre-register to guarantee your spot.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!



Another Registration Reminder !

Re-enrollment/registration packets for 2012/2013 were recently mailed to all currently enrolled families.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all of you who have been returning your completed re-enrollments for the 2012/2013 school year. The deadline to receive your early-bird re-enrollment discount is 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 3.

We are seeing parents almost every day who wish to enroll new students for the coming year. Classes will fill up quickly and we anticipate all available spaces will be confirmed.

If you have not yet re-enrolled, this would be a great time to register and ensure your space at Country Brook Montessori School for 2012/2013.

And have you taken advantage of our special Referral **Bonus** promotion?

Currently enrolled families can earn \$250 in tuition credit simply by referring a new family to Country Brook Montessori School.

This is a great opportunity for you to help friends, neighbors, co-workers, family and more find a quality program for their young children. And you could earn a substantial discount toward your own tuition.

If you would like more information about this limited time incentive offer, please stop by the office.

Publix Partners

Are you using your Publix Partners cards?

We recently distributed Partners cards to all of our enrolled families and hope that if you are shopping at Publix, you are presenting your card at check out time!

Publix generously contributes a small percentage of purchases to participating schools. Country Brook Montessori School will be earmarking funds raised for classroom enrichment programs.

If you have not received your Publix Partners card, or would like additional cards, please stop by the office.

Elementary Open House

Do you have a child turning six-years-old before September 1, 2012?

If so, they are eligible to take advantage of Country Brook Montessori School's fabulous Elementary program.

Parents are invited to a special Open House in the elementary classroom tomorrow, January 12, 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.

This is your opportunity to speak with current elementary class parents and students, ask questions of Ms. Bezi - our elementary teacher, and tour the exciting environment our students enjoy.

Light refreshments will be available, and staff will be available to supervise your children.



Winter/Spring School Calendar

Thursday	January 12	Elementary Open-House	3:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Monday	January 16	Dr. MLK Jr. Holiday	School closed
Wednesday	January 18	100 Day Celebration	Classroom Activities
Friday	Feb. 3 (4:00 p.m.)	Last day to receive early re-registration discount.	
Monday	February 6	Open enrollment for 2012/2013 begins.	
Friday	February 10	International Night	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	February 14	Valentine's Day	Classroom Festivities
Monday	February 20	President's Day Holiday	School closed
Mon. - Fri.	Feb. 27 - Mar. 2	Montessori Week	Classroom Activities
Thursday	March 22	Spring Speech Hearing Screening - New Students	
Mon. - Fri.	April 2 - 6	Spring Break	School Closed
Mon. - Fri.	April 16 - 20	SAT Testing - <u>Age Appropriate</u> Children	
Mon. - Fri.	Apr. 30 - May 4	Parent Teacher Conferences	
Thursday	May 17	Last Day of School - School Picnic	
Tuesday	May 22	First Day of Summer School Program	