
E-Mail & Communication

For over a year now, Country Brook Montessori School has been utilizing e-mail for the majority of its communication with parents.

Everything from Newsletters (like this one), to event announcements, lunch menus, special classroom requests, health notifications and more will be sent by e-mail.

It is important that you take the time to read your e-mail, and equally important to make certain that the school is informed in the event of an e-mail address change. And if you would like to receive notices to more than one e-mail address, please let us know that too. We truly want to make it easy for everyone to receive this important information.

Country Brook Montessori School also has a special Parent's Page on its website. The parent's page is updated regularly with copies of this newsletter, menus and more. Please use this resource to access information that is readily available to all.

Children's Colds and Illnesses

Country Brook Montessori School continues to watch and look out for any news coming its way with regard to illnesses and conditions that affect the health of the children.

If (or when) we become aware of new developments, we will bring you up-to-date as well. No school, including ours, can guarantee that all of its children will remain free of any communicable disease. But we can take every step possible to reduce the risk of spreading illnesses.

One of the biggest and easiest steps to help reduce illness in children is frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water. This is also a step that can and should be encouraged at home.

Another important step is to limit the exposure of well children to children who are not well. Parents of children who exhibit illness symptoms will be called to pick up their children from school. While we know this is not always easy with parents' busy schedules, it is a necessary safeguard to help slow the spread of illness throughout the school.

A Parents' Guide on Sale

The school has purchased a number of copies of the booklet, *A Parents' Guide to the Montessori Classroom*, by Aline D. Wolf.

This booklet describes in detail the Montessori program for children between the ages of three and six. It is designed to help parents understand the long-range purpose of Montessori education, and also give parents a great description of the equipment (materials) that the children will be using in their classrooms.

With the thorough description of the Montessori materials and their use, you will be able to better understand and share in your child's joy and enthusiasm when they tell you about their experiences with the constructive triangles, metal insets, bank game, sandpaper letters, binomial cube, and more!

The books are available for sale (while supplies last) at the school office for only \$5.00. Stop in and get yours today.

The Peaceful Classroom

Our Montessori classrooms are peaceful, and we are fostering this principle among the children through many 'Grace and Courtesy' lessons such as how to walk slowly inside the classroom, how to speak using indoor voices, how to respect others and their environment, and how to greet our friends and teachers. These lessons help the children to flourish in their classroom society by making them more aware of their environment, and the needs of others. In addition, these lessons help in their socialization and the formation of good habits, which once internalized become a part of them for a lifetime.

Because children are learning to make their classroom peaceful, I would like to ask all of you to support us by applying the same rules outside the classroom door and at home. This gives consistency to the children both at home and at school. The teachers have also asked us to remind parents to please end their cell phone conversations (and mute phones) before entering the building. Thank you.

Meet the Classroom Staff

Classroom 1:

Ms. Faiza Huda: With over 18 years teaching experience, Ms. Faiza brings a wealth of knowledge and determination to our school. She received her Montessori Certification in London, England and her Child Development Education at Sequoia College in CA, USA. Her daily goal is to create a loving, caring, learning, nurturing Montessori environment for all the children in her care.

Ms. Anita Mithwani: Ms. Anita joined the CBMS family two years ago, and her return for the 2010/2011 school year helps provide the continuity that is so valuable in the Montessori program. She comes with Montessori practicum training from her home country of Pakistan. The children have already formed a strong bond with Ms. Anita, and we look forward to sharing in her experiences here at CBMS.

Classroom 2:

Ms. Jayasree Ramani: Ms. Jaysaree's two children attended CBMS. Inspired by that experience, she became a wonderful addition to our teaching faculty and has been with CBMS since 2001! A Lead Teacher in an Early Childhood class, she holds a degree in Mathematics. Ms. Jayasree is devoted to the children and her continued studies of Montessori education.

Ms. Jennifer Robinson: Ms. Jennifer joined us in 2004, and her dedication, love and respect of the children make her a valuable member of our team. Ms. Jennifer attended Georgia State University, and has many years experience in customer service. Her love of children shines through every day.

Classroom 3:

Ms. Cheryl Leaphart: A graduate of an AMS accredited training program in New York, Ms. Cheryl returns to CBMS to begin her third year of teaching in Atlanta. She holds a Bachelor's Degree and an MBA. Her youngest daughter is an elementary student at CBMS. Her loving, nurturing approach to teaching is enriching to our Montessori environment.

Ms. Stephanie Foxworth: Ms. Stephanie joins us this year as our new Classroom #3 Teacher's Assistant. A Master of Arts in Teaching and a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education have prepared Stephanie well for her new adventure here at Country Brook. Her enthusiasm for teaching and love of children make her a valued addition to our program.

Toddler Classroom:

Ms. Snigdha Singh: Ms. Snigdha completed her Montessori teacher training (AMTE) course two years ago.

As a returning lead teacher in the Toddler classroom. Ms. Snigdha gained valuable classroom experience last year - giving lessons and practicing the fine art of working with the youngest of our students. Her goal is to focus on every child as an individual, helping them to develop socially & academically, and preparing them for the educational adventure that awaits.

Ms. Vilma Cervantes: Ms. Vilma has been with CBMS in a variety of capacities since 1998. She has worked in after-school, been a substitute, assisted in the Early Childhood classroom, and taught Spanish. As a full time assistant in the Toddler program, Ms. Vilma continues to nurture, love and support the children in her own special way. And once again, Ms. Vilma will be teaching Spanish to our Early Childhood & Elementary students.

Elementary Classroom:

Ms. Bezi Demissie-Jones: Ms. Bezi is the Lead Teacher in our Elementary classroom and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Math & Computer Science. She has taught in Montessori classrooms for over five years. She holds AMS Montessori certification at the Elementary level. Her experience in working with families, children and other teachers make her a particularly integral part to the overall excellence of Country Brook's Elementary program.

After School Teachers

After School Coordinator – Ms. Atalaya Martin: Ms. Atalaya joined us two years ago, and has the very unique perspective of having been a long-time Montessori student, graduating from a Montessori High School program. She continues to research fresh ideas and present interesting themes and projects to the students enrolled in our After-School program. The increased unity and continuity in this important program have enriched all of those who participate.

Ms. Sonya Bell, Ms. Jessica Wheeler and Ms. Teresa Brady: Sonya, Jessica and Teresa are very special and very important members of our team. While relatively new to Country Brook, they all bring a wealth of experience in caring for young children. They join us each day after 2:45 p.m. and make certain that the children staying with us after 3:00 p.m. have fun and challenging opportunities and experiences as part of the after-school program.

***and watch this space next month, when we introduce to you our Administrative staff; Mr. Jim Parsons, Ms. Beverley Weatherill, Ms. Marquette Riley, and Ms. Barbara Culp.

Helpful Information

Lunches

If your child brings his or her lunch to school...PLEASE take a few minutes to read the information titled Meals in your parent handbook. Remember too, the USDA and the Georgia Dept. of Early Care and Learning have guidelines for all children who have lunch in school/day care facilities that must be met. Please understand this is not just Country Brook Montessori School's policy. It is a state and federal requirement and failure to comply puts the school's license in jeopardy. Additional information is in the Parent Handbook.



Students bringing lunches that are not in compliance with state regulations will have their lunches supplemented by the school and parents will be charged for these provisions.

Clothing

Country Brook Montessori School has had a student dress code in place for a number of years. The dress code itself does allow for a variety of clothing choices for the children with some restrictions in regard to color and design. The specifics of the dress code can be found in the parent handbook recently distributed to all families.

All clothing brought to school should be clearly labeled with your child's name. The weather will begin getting cooler (we hope) in the near future. Please check your child's spare clothing regularly to make sure their clothing is appropriate for the weather.



Country Brook Montessori School is in the process of ordering a new selection of school logoed t-shirts. The blue and white shirts will be available in a variety of sizes, and you will be notified when they arrive.

Backpacks

With the small amount of space available to hang jackets, we respectfully request that early childhood students do not bring backpacks to school. Backpacks are fun and colorful, but are not needed by the early childhood students. We will all need the hook space very soon for jackets and sweaters!



Sign-In & Sign-Out Procedure

The ability of everyone to take hold of the new sign-in process in such a positive manner last year was extraordinary. Please give yourselves a big pat-on-the-back and a resounding WELL DONE!

Remember, sign-in and sign-out sheets are required by the State of Georgia, and are a condition for licensing. Please help us stay in compliance.

THANK YOU! We appreciate you and your support.

Carpool - Dropping Off / Picking Up Children

Our carpool lane is a help for many, but we all must try and remember basic carpool courtesy. If you arrive before the children have been released to the playground, please park in the nearest parking space. Cars lining up in the carpool lane prior to children being available for pick up creates a backup in the parking lot and prevents others from being able to park.



This is one of the busiest times of day for our staff and it is important to remember that their #1 priority is the safety of the children. To safely and successfully accomplish dismissal in an efficient manner, the teachers CANNOT use this time for even the briefest of one-on-one conferences with parents. Please do not park your cars and approach the teachers to talk about your child's day while they are dismissing other children at carpool. Their class groups require their undivided attention. THANK YOU!

Arrival and dismissal time also mean there are many children crossing the parking lot after exiting or before entering their vehicles. PLEASE remember to DRIVE SLOWLY. We thank you, and the children thank you!