



January 20, 2012



Our mission is to educate the whole child; thus we endeavor to nurture every heart and challenge every mind through the experience of meaningful inquiry.



## LOOKING AHEAD... 2012-13

Reenrollment information for the 2012-13 school year will be mailed soon—take advantage of the early reenrollment discount available through February 24, 2012!

New enrollment contracts for outside families will be accepted beginning March 1st, giving our current families the first opportunity to enroll.

## THANK YOU!



- ◆ Thanks to **Vinh & Jennifer Phan** who donated a gift for our APPLE gift for the month of January. In case you're wondering, APPLE stands for **A**ppreciative **P**arents **P**raise **L**audable **E**ducators. Each month a different faculty member is given a gift courtesy of one of our parents.
- ◆ Thanks to **Chris & Tiffany Aller**, our faculty and staff were treated to lunch to celebrate the recent holidays. Everyone enjoyed a delicious home cooked meal prepared by Chris himself!
- ◆ Our school is blessed with generous, gracious families. We appreciate the gifts of appreciation given to our faculty and staff during the holidays.
- ◆ We appreciate the time and services of Roman Navarro who has worked on projects around the school during his personal time off from work (see related picture on back page).

## CALENDAR

<b>Fri., Jan. 27</b>	February lunch menus due
<b>February</b>	Missouri Assessments for Primary students headed to Kindergarten next year
<b>Mon., Feb. 6</b>	Mr. Bob from the Arlington Public Library visits
<b>Tues., Feb. 7</b>	Curriculum Night for Primary, Kindergarten & First Grade parents, 6:00 pm (childcare provided by reservation only)
<b>Wed., Feb. 8</b>	Move-up days
<b>Fri., Feb. 10</b>	Teacher luncheon
<b>Mon., Feb. 20</b>	President's Day holiday (Extended Day available)
<b>Fri., Feb. 24</b>	<b>EARLY REENROLLMENT DEADLINE</b>
<b>Tues., Feb. 28</b>	High Touch-High Tech visits 'Ssssnake Science'
<i>Looking ahead...</i>	
<b>March 9</b>	International Day
<b>March 12-16</b>	Spring Break ☺
<b>March 31</b>	Sweet Dreams! Gala event at Bob Duncan Community Center

## Bienvenido ~ Welcome ~ Piacere

Please join us in welcoming **Cooper M.** the newest member of the Toddler class. (Cooper's older brother Jacob is in Ms. Dunbar's class.)





**HELP  
CDSA  
RAISE  
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## Year At A Glance: February

### TODDLER & TRANSITIONAL STUDENTS:

- ◆ GEOGRAPHY: ASIA
- ◆ HISTORY: CHINESE NEW YEAR, PRESIDENTS OF USA
- ◆ SCIENCE: VERTEBRATES, NON-VERTEBRATES
- ◆ ART: VALENTINE'S DAY, MARDI GRAS
- ◆ MUSIC: FRIENDSHIP SONGS
- ◆ KINDNESS: EMPATHY

### PRIMARY-1ST GRADE STUDENTS:

- ◆ ASIA (GEOGRAPHY, BIOMES, ANIMALS, PEOPLE)
- ◆ OCEANS (OCEAN LIFE)
- ◆ FISH (CHARACTERISTICS, HABITATS, DIET, DEFENSES, LIFE CYCLE)
- ◆ U.S. PRESIDENTS AND FLAG



We recently received checks in the amounts of \$190 and \$43 from Box Tops for Education and Good Search proving that even small things like clipping box tops and using a specific search engine earn money for our school.

New collection bins for Box Tops have been placed in each classroom, in the gym and in the foyer—be sure to drop yours off!

## REMINDERS:

➔ **Please do not send your children to school if they are ill...**children who are sent home with fever may not return to school until they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

➔ Please label your child's belongings—everything—lunch boxes, jackets, sweaters.

➔ **Toddler & Transitional families:**

We strongly encourage you to purchase labels for your child's sippy cups; specifically, labels purchased through InchBug ([www.inchbug.com](http://www.inchbug.com))

*These dishwasher and microwave safe orbit labels are awesome! No more "permanent" markers that wash away in the dishwasher. No more sticky labels that fade, peel, or leave sticky residue.*

## Important Information for Primary & Kindergarten Parents:



### Kindergarten Screening

**All preschool primary students headed to kindergarten in 2012-13 will be completing the Missouri Screening for Kindergarten in February.**

This screening focuses on tasks appropriate for 4- and 5-year olds and is divided into six sections: Number Concepts, Auditory Skills, Paper/Pencil Skills, Language Concepts, Visual Skills, and Gross Motor Skills. The screening enables us to assess new applicants to kindergarten and our current students whom we know very well in the same way. It is most useful to us in planning for our kindergarten classes, as well as identifying areas in which students may need additional support in preparation for kindergarten. This tool is coupled with the evaluations of our Montessori teachers in determining kindergarten readiness. Thanks for making an effort to have your child at school daily. Contact Ms.Hunt-French if you have questions concerning this screening.

### Kindergarten & First Grade Information Opportunities

**Please join us for a parent informational meeting as we share with you the Kindergarten/First Grade program at Country Day!**

This informational session is available to *anyone interested* in learning more about our Kindergarten and First Grade Program. Feel free to join us in **Suite #150** from **6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**. The Kindergarten scope and sequence along with the First grade is compared in a way that we feel will answer questions you may have on how we implement state standards through our Montessori pedagogical approach.

Additionally, we have a supply of DVD's that cover the curricular areas in our Montessori program. We know that it is not always possible to attend meetings and this is another way for you to familiarize yourself more with the Montessori approach to learning at a time that works best for you.

We have several DVD's that we highly recommend and are available for parent check out. Montessori Curricular Manuals are also always available for your perusal here at school that comprehensively illustrate all areas of the curriculum!

*Additionally, feel free to join us one afternoon during the 12:30 – 3:00 work cycle held in Suite #150 to see this part of our program in action.*

# Notes From The Head of School

## Accountability

One of the strengths of Montessori instruction is that each child is personally accountable for his own learning in many ways. In **Montessori**, students learn primarily as individuals rather than as a class. This is a major difference in the systems of learning. In a traditional school, the class does an assessment all together, and the class moves along. If a child has not learned the concept because of the difficulty or complexity, they move on with the group anyway. The accountability for that lesson is lost because they are all lumped together as a group. There is a big difference in accountability when you individually work with a child until they “master” the concept before moving to the next. This kind of direct accountability fosters a lifetime of personal responsibility.

You can learn math skills, science facts or language skills without building character but you cannot build character in school without also accomplishing all of the challenges of learning. A significant educational difference of the Montessori philosophy is:

## Learning is the constant and time is the variable

Most of us grew up in systems where time was the constant we had a week to learn something and then we were assessed. No matter what our level of accomplishment was – we moved on. Some things we never got to learn; some things we never had to learn because we moved on. The weakness in the traditional system is we never had to confront the consequence of our actions – poor choices or failing to finish. Learning to finish is learning to handle all the small details of life. When you are in an environment where you are expected to finish what you start, you begin to develop the foundation of real character

## Extended Day

The Extended Day program is very popular at Country Day and the staff makes every effort to have engaging stimulating activities for those that attend daily as well as during the holiday breaks. This Sunday the staff saluted Ms. Ashley with a luncheon at Pappasitos as she recently shared she has accepted a full time secretarial position in Fort Worth. Ms. Ashley has been a part of this program for the past six years and recently completed her studies at UTA! While we are proud of her accomplishment and wish her the absolute best in this new endeavor, we will indeed miss her cheerful spirit and involvement here! We know she will continue to connect and participate in as many of our events as she can. Ms. Kelsey and Ms. Kathryn will continue serving the students in the afternoon program while we welcome Ms. Weslyn, (Ms. Kathryn’s mom, Ms Alyssa (PE instructor) and Ms. Sarah (Spanish teacher) to this team. Ms. Sangeeta and Ms. Farhana will continue to open in the mornings promptly @ 7:00 a.m. We are very fortunate to have such a competent and flexible team.

It is a great pleasure to work with this entire team daily and observe their dedication and commitment to excellence as they deliver an incredible educational environment for the very fortunate students at Country Day!



Please save the date for our 20th Annual Gala

## Sweet Dreams

Join us March 31, 2012 for an evening full of candy cane wishes and sugarplum dreams. Event treats include student performances, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and sweets.

To be held at the Bob Duncan Community Center in Arlington.

Sweet dreams to all!

Invitation and ticket information to follow.

# CDSA Students At Work & Play



The end of 2011 was a very busy time for CDSA students! In November, Kindergarten and First Grade students loaded, delivered and unloaded numerous bags of groceries in support of Mission Arlington's Thanksgiving food drive.



In December, firefighters from the Arlington Fire Department visited the school and spoke with students about fire safety.



The 'dance girls' wowed their families with a performance at The Dance Company's studio located in Arlington. Miss Jillian has done a wonderful job with our little ballerinas!



It was back to work in 2012... our Toddler students started the New Year off hard at work!



Pictured on the left is Primary parent Roman N. He recently restored our old playground bench—on his own time—by sanding and repainting it. It looks beautiful and we sincerely appreciate the time and effort he put into this project!