



October 2026 Newsletter

Mark your calendar:

SEPTEMBER 11

International Family Night

Classes end at 4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 18

School Picture Day

OCTOBER 5-13

Fall Parent-Teacher Conference

OCTOBER 23

Centennial Farms Field Trip

8 a.m.-12 p.m.

No childcare will be provided after the field trip.

Infant care is provided 7a.m.-12p.m.

A Note from Svetlana

I want to welcome all the new families who have joined our community this month. Our new friends are settling into their classrooms. I know it's hard to leave your child when they seem unsure or upset. But keep modeling confidence and trust during morning drop-off. Your signals are so important. Before you know it, they will confidently walk in, ready to start their day!

The monthly newsletter is an important way to communicate monthly events and announcements. Please look for it in your inbox the first week of each month. Also, please check your "promotions" and "junk" folders, as my newsletters and messages sometimes end up there.

SAVE THE DATE for our most loved and highly anticipated International Family Night this Friday, September 11th!

Warmly,

Svetlana

Montessori Prepared Environment

"The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences."

"The child should live in an environment of beauty."

-Maria Montessori

There is so much beauty in a Montessori environment. Every shelf, every hook, every material is placed with care. The thoughtful layout and the quiet order- all of it intentional, all of it designed to support independence and joy. They are more than classrooms- they're invitations for children to explore, to care for themselves, and to grow in community. It refines the child's appreciation for harmony, order, and care - planting seeds for a lifelong respect for beauty and the world around them.

Here is to all our Montessori guides and the supportive staff who poured their hearts and energy last week and on the weekend to create this beautiful environment for our children.

"We must give the child an environment which will enable him to develop freely."
Maria Montessori







International Family Night

Friday,

September 11th

4 p.m.- 6 p.m.

Our most loved event of this year, International Family Night, is fast approaching. It will take place this Friday, September 11th, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This is a fantastic opportunity for our multicultural and diverse community to share their heritage and culture. Is there a better way to do it than by sharing unique dishes from your country, your parents' country, or your grandparents' country? You can invite your extended family, friends, and your children's siblings. If you are willing to bring a dish to share, please sign your name, the dish name, and the country on the sign-up board in the lobby.

Be mindful - we are a nut-free environment.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. Tables will be set up in the Common Room. When you bring your dish, please find the place on the table marked with a national flag and your country's name. If you need help finding your country, please don't hesitate to ask Angela or me. After making a plate, please proceed to the Big Playground (ask for directions if you are unfamiliar with it). You are welcome to bring picnic blankets or lawn chairs. I can't wait to celebrate this day with all of you!!!

Please note—childcare will not be provided after 4 p.m. Please pick up your children by 4 p.m., even if you don't attend the event.



School Picture Day

September 18

On this day, *Images 4 Kids* comes to take individual and classroom photographs of our children. The children love keeping their class pictures handy and seeing their friends.

The school provides a photo package.

The package is 1-5x7, 2-4x5s, 4-wallets, 1-5x7 group picture.

Additional information will be posted on the *Image 4 Kids* website so you can see the complimentary package and select your favorite pose.

If you want your child to wear a "special" outfit, please bring it in a labeled bag that morning. The teachers will help the children change beforehand.

The infant's photo shoot will start at 8 a.m., and the toddler classes will begin at 9 a.m.



Centennial Farms Field Trip

Friday, October 23

8:00-Noon

You and your child will have the most authentic farm experience in Augusta, Missouri. Our school is typically the only one on the farm, giving children an excellent opportunity to explore the pumpkin patch safely. A tractor-drawn trailer will take families into the pumpkin fields to cut a pumpkin off the vine. The school will cover the cost of admission, activities, and one child-selected pumpkin. The school will not cover any additional family purchases.

Families and children will have a community snack. We will provide apple cider, water for children, and coffee for adults. The real treat for everyone is the homemade pumpkin muffins we will bring to the farm.

Important Note: Parents' Attendance is required.

No childcare will be provided after the field trip.

Infant care will be provided from 7 a.m. until 12 p.m. Infants are also invited to attend the field trip.

The school will close at noon for an All Staff Professional Development Day.

Wednesday Coffee and Scones

Let's be honest: being a working parent can be challenging. Whether you have one child or seven, caring for tiny humans while trying to maintain and balance your work/home life is a lot to juggle. For many of you, including myself, it feels like there's never enough time in the day to get everything done.

Let us help you and make your morning a bit less stressful by offering a cup of coffee and scones on Wednesday morning. So, step into the Parent Room and get coffee and a scone.

Additionally, you can fix yourself some coffee any day of the week using our Nespresso Machine. There are coffee pods with various flavors, coffee syrups, and creamers.

Separation in Infants & Toddlers

No one wants to see their child sad, especially not at those transition moments when you're leaving for work or saying goodbye at the classroom door. And even when you trust your child's classroom and know that your little one will be cared for and nurtured in your absence, it's heart-wrenching to hear that cry and know it's because you're leaving.

Separation usually appears in infants at about eight months or so, when their cognitive development has advanced enough to understand that their parents are separate from them and can leave. Earlier, your infant has little awareness that you are a different person, so the idea that you might not be available to them is a never-thought-thought. You might notice a sudden awareness, seemingly overnight, when your infant can move among adults with ease, become tearful to leave your arms. Many infants experience this for a few weeks or months, as they learn that, while you can leave, you can also come back. Until then, if your child behaves as though they're afraid you're leaving forever, that's because they may believe you are.

In this window, you can support your child by offering nurturing opportunities for them to be held and cared for by other loving adults, to practice being with other people, and to experience you coming and going. At school transitions, offer a quick, predictable "goodbye," and be sure to go when you say you're going to go. If you have things to communicate with the teachers, do so before you say goodbye to your child, so you're not turning back to the room to ask for "just one more thing," once you've made the transition. Make sure you present a confident demeanor to your child, too. A warm smile, a loving

wave, and a cheerful exit convey your confidence and help your child to know that you feel fine with who you're leaving them with. Avoid, though, sneaking out of the classroom when your child isn't looking. Your child needs to know that goodbye-for-now is not the same as goodbye-for-good. As they develop that confidence, they need to trust that you are where they think you are.

Growing toddlers often demonstrate a different kind of separation, as their development now includes a strong attachment to particular people. While younger infants can be anxious about the idea of a separate person leaving, older infants and young toddlers may demonstrate stress at the absence of a particular person. These are often more intense than you may have seen earlier, a change that reflects your child's growing understanding that their behavior can influence their environment. (Like other cognitive developments, your child's developing mind is a good thing, even when that growth may present itself in ways that make you wobbly.)

You can use this new phase of development to help ease the transition. Because children can now form more complex memories, consider specific routines for saying goodbye to create order, predictability, and a sense of control for your child. You might practice a two-kisses-and-a-nose-wiggle to say goodbye, or ask your child to be in charge of some part of the goodbye, like handing you your keys. While your child will not understand the passage of time, they will understand cues to indicate when you're returning. "I will be back after lunchtime," or "I'll be back after your second time outside," can help to give your child some security about your return. If your child is more verbal, you can ask them, "When will I be back?" to let them articulate your return.

Throughout these transitions, your child's teacher is likely to keep you abreast of how long the separation lasts after you leave and whether it's within the norms that we often see for children at this point of development. Remember: your child does not have the expansive vocabulary for articulating complicated emotions just yet. They're not going to be able to say, "Mommy, I like school very much, and I enjoy the company of my peers, but I prefer being with you, and I'd like to discuss ways in which we can make that happen more often." They're going to cry, or wince, or reach for you. Offer them language. Offer them comfort and routine. Offer them your confidence, and stay in touch with their teachers. You're teaching your child that you will return, that you're reliable, and that their relationship with you is secure. The more predictable and confident you can be in that process, the more quickly your child will feel safe in it, too.