



# The Cougar Newsline

SEPTEMBER 23, 2011

## Countryside News

### Message from Principal Bergman

Dear Countryside Families,

Our first few weeks of this new school year have gone extremely well. Students and staff have settled into a nice routine with their learning. We have practiced fire safety drills and will soon be practicing our school safety (Stay Put and Lockdown) drills too. In addition, our end of the day routine is going well. Some adjustments have been made to the manner in which our buses come into the pick-up area and students are doing a nice job with these transitions. Please read through the following reminders regarding our end of the day routine, along with other updates from Countryside.

### End of the Day Pick-Up (East Side) – A few reminders

- Maintain a 5mph or less speed.
- Do not let your child into your vehicle until you are parallel to the sidewalk.
- Children will not be allowed to cross traffic to get into your vehicle on the inside lane.
  - Please do not wave your children through lanes of traffic.
- Maintain a four feet or less distance to the vehicle in front of you.
- If you wish to walk up and get your child from the sidewalk, please park in a marked parking space before getting out of your vehicle.
- Countryside staff members will be in the area to assist students and parents with the process. This is a thankless job for staff. Your courtesy to them and adherence to the process is so very much appreciated.

### Visitor Parking Area:

- Visitor parking is located on the north side of the building. Please use the crosswalk when approaching or leaving the building. The crosswalk has been extended to the north side of the visitor parking area.

### Edina Public Schools Referendum – November 8

Edina Public Schools is conducting a referendum on November 8. I want to make sure that each of our Countryside families has specific information about this upcoming referendum. Parents are strongly encouraged to become informed about this important vote.

Referendum information can be found in a variety of locations, which include:

- The Edina Public Schools website at [www.edina.k12.mn.us](http://www.edina.k12.mn.us)
- Our Countryside webpage at [www.edina.k12.mn.us/countryside/](http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/countryside/)
- Or at [levy-info@edina.k12.mn.us](mailto:levy-info@edina.k12.mn.us)

Again, I encourage everyone to become involved and informed in this referendum process. In addition to the information sessions that are planned (check out the Countryside webpage) I welcome questions and comments from our Countryside school community.

## **Healthy Snacks and “Soda Free” Zone**

Our building is working hard to ensure that our students continue to enjoy good health. As part of our efforts, I would like to remind everyone of our guidelines for students regarding healthy snacks. We feel strongly about the continued good health of our students and ask for your support. Please read the letter regarding our recommendations on the Countryside webpage.

Please take special note that we consider the building to be a “Soda Free” Zone for our students. Sodas are not allowed in classrooms or in our lunchroom and we would ask that parents not bring sodas with them on those occasions when they join their child for lunch here at school. Again, thank you for supporting our efforts to stay healthy!

## **Fall MAP Testing**

Students in grades 2-5 took their fall MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments this week for both reading and math. A parent letter regarding details of that testing will be coming out with the classroom updates this week. In addition, I have the letter linked under “Useful Links” on the Countryside webpage. It is called “Gr. 2-5 MAP Parent Letter 2011”. First grade students will be taking their MAP tests next week (September 26-29). A letter will be coming your way next week with information specific to the first graders. I will post that one as a link to the webpage also.

## **Frozen Yogurt Fridays**

It is my understanding that in the past Countryside students have been able to choose frozen yogurt as an extra option for lunch. By way of transition, I have made arrangements for this only to occur on Fridays. The frozen yogurt will be available on Fridays for \$1, with that amount being deducted from the student’s lunch account. If you prefer that your child not have this option, please call Judy or Jane in the kitchen office at 952-848-4737 and they will note that on the account.

## **Coats for Kids**

Our Countryside KIDS Club is participating in a community service project, and they are teaming up with Pilgrim Dry Cleaners in Edina for their “Coats for Kids” program. This is the 26<sup>th</sup> annual coat drive, and it is in conjunction with Subway, KFAN, KARE 11 and SUN Newspaper.

Donations of gently used/new coats for children are very much appreciated. All coats donated will be cleaned by Pilgrim, and then donated to 8 local charities that include:

- Sharing and Caring Hands
- Ronald McDonald House
- Catholic Charities
- Lutheran Social Services
- STEP
- CEAP
- Hope for the City
- Sabathani Community Center

A donation box will be located in the Countryside office until October 7<sup>th</sup>. Further information is available at: <http://www.pilgrimdrycleaners.com/?p=99>. Thank you in advance for your donation!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Countryside students and staff,

Karen Bergman, Principal

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Orientation Meetings, 9:30 am or 6 pm

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> PTO meeting 7pm in the teachers lounge

Dr Dressen will discuss the November 8<sup>th</sup> Referendum at 7:30 pm

October 3<sup>rd</sup> Gift Wrap Fundraiser begins

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> Picture Day

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Elementary Cross Country Run at Pamela Park

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> All School Party (New Date)

**Young Scholars Program Grows!**

Edina Public Schools is excited to announce the successful piloting of the Young Scholars program last year and its implementation in additional elementary schools this year.

Last year, the Young Scholars (YS) program piloted at Cornelia and at Concord Elementary schools. This year, Countryside, Creek Valley, and Highlands Elementary schools are implementing the state-funded program in grades kindergarten to second grade.

Young Scholars are students from underserved populations with high potential who might not be selected for gifted services using traditional methods of identification, and who, without opportunity, are less likely to pursue advanced levels of learning on their own. Historically, these students have lacked access to gifted services, affirmation of their advanced abilities, and advocates who encourage them to reach their highest potential.

The Young Scholars model promotes the nurturing of continuous academic growth beginning in kindergarten. Early identification coupled with early intervention allows each Young Scholars school to provide learning experiences that strengthen basic skills and require students to think and apply knowledge on a higher, more complex level. Students are identified using multiple criteria including higher level thinking skills response lessons.

The long-term goal for schools using the YS model is for Young Scholars to participate and succeed in Advanced Placement courses in high school and continue on to higher education.

YS teachers at each school are: Cornelia/Countryside: Gina Felton; Concord: Karen McGinley; Creek Valley: Jolynn Gamble; Highlands: Erica Wattson.

## Parent/Student Information

### Countryside Kids' Council



**What:** Kids Council is a group of kids in grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> who are elected in their rooms to help make decisions about school projects and issues. Kids' Council gives kids a chance to learn and practice leadership skills while building school spirit and taking ownership in school issues.

**When:** Kids' Council typically meets one Thursday each month from 8:30-9:10 in the Media Center. A schedule will be sent home specifying the dates.

**Expectations:** Council Representatives will attend the meetings, offer input at meetings, take notes, take information back to their class to share with classmates, and take suggestions from their classmates to report back to the Kids' Council.

**Elections:** Each classroom will have an election in the fall. Two representatives will be elected to attend the monthly meetings.

### Elementary Cross Country Run

The annual Elementary Cross Country Run will be October 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-5:45 at Pamela Park in Edina. This is an event put on by the Varsity Cross Country coaches and their athletes. This event is for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades from V.V. and S.V. The Elementary PE teachers assist in putting together a team to represent their school at the races. To make a team from Countryside will need 10 boys from 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 10 girls for 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 10 girls from 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and 10 boys from 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who are not on the team, but want to participate in the Cross Country meet can enter in the ALL COMER'S RACE. There is no limit to how many ALL COMER'S can be in the race. The race will be 1 mile distance for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, ½ mile distance for 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and ½ mile for the ALL COMER'S RACE. Permission slips will be handed out in PE Class.

## SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM AND DISTRICT REFERENDUM INFORMATION

Wednesday, October 5, Edina City Hall, Council Chambers

[Edina School District #273 Levy Referendums](#)

6: 30pm Superintendent of Edina Public Schools, Ric Dressen, Ed.D

[Edina School Board Candidate Forum](#)

7: 15 pm Candidates: Jason Berger, Cathy Cella (incumbent), Sarah Patzloff, Leny K. Wallen-Friedman

Find more information at [lwwedina.org](http://lwwedina.org) or LWVE on [facebook](#).

# Mestler's Media Matters

Dear Countryside Family,

To try out the stories online that read the story aloud to your child, go to the Media Center Page and choose the following:

[Tumblebooks \(picture books\)](#)

The user is [countryside2](#) and the password is [login](#).

Want information on library events? Subscribe to the RSS feed [here](#).

Ms. Mestler

# Children Who Read-Succeed!

## PTO News

Would you like to meet the new Countryside staff and Principal Bergman? Need more information on the Referendum in November? Then please join us at the PTO General Meeting on **Tuesday, September 27 at 7:00pm**. At 7:30, Superintendent Ric Dressen will be speaking about the Referendum and the [Vote Yes](#) Committee will also be joining us to provide further details. Please take the time to join us for this important meeting.

Our dedicated volunteers are working hard on the Countryside Student Directory but we need your help. If you wish to have your email address included in the directory, please "opt-in" before **September 30** by going to the [PTO website](#) and click on Directory Sign-Up Page. Thank you!

The PTO is an indispensable organization to the success of our children at Countryside and it relies on parent volunteers like you. Please consider learning more about various PTO positions available. If you have a particular area or position of interest, let us know - we would be happy to find the volunteer position that best fits your interest and passion. Contact Greta Golfis, PTO President at 952-926-3886 or e-mail her at [ggolfis01@gmail.com](mailto:ggolfis01@gmail.com).

### **Upcoming Hip Happenings Events**

Thursday, September 29 – Hot Mama Shopping Night

Saturday, October 8 – Sport Court Mini-Olympics

Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> – Yoga Sculpt and Social Gathering

Please click on the link below for additional information and to buy tickets to the events:

<http://sites.google.com/site/countrysideptosite/Home/fundraising/hip-happenings/list-of-upcoming-events-1>

### **September 29, 2011 Hot Mama: Shop for a Cause!**

Where: Hot Mama – Edina (50<sup>th</sup> & France)  
When: 7:00 pm  
What: Private shopping event to see Falls Hottest Trends  
Hosted by: Barb Bloom, Kristen Karpinsky & Sara McLenighan  
Price: \$20 per person (10%) of purchase proceeds go to Countryside)

## AND IN OCTOBER

### "Sport Court Mini-Olympics" -

First and second graders - join us for an afternoon of fun. Test your skills in the batting cage, shoot some hoops, master your slap shot and sink a few putts. We will also have lawn games, outdoor Wii games and more. Pizza and drinks will be served, plus a chance to win fun prizes.

Where: Sanderson Backyard - 6519 Interlachen Blvd., Edina MN 55436

When: Saturday, October 8th 3:30-6:00

What: Grades 1 and 2 graders Sport Court Mini-Olympics

Hosted by: Mary Jo & Jeff Sanderson and Kimberly & Tim Ritzer

Price per person: \$20

Max Participants: 40

All participants will be eligible for the prize drawings whether they attend or not.

Rain date: Sunday, October 9th

All ticket proceeds go to Countryside PTO to support Countryside School

### Yoga Sculpt and Social Gathering

Now that school is back in full swing, what could be a better way to spend an evening than enjoying a great workout with friends? Come join us for an hour of Yoga Sculpt with Courtney Reding followed by a social gathering. Courtney teaches at Core Power Yoga, runs a Bootcamp, and is Countryside Mom! Space is limited, so sign up fast.

Thursday, October 27th at 7pm

**Cost:** \$20

**Max Participants:** 15

**Location:** Powless Home - 1812 Dupont Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55403

**Hosts:** Maren Elze-Powless, Melissa Edlund, Deb Armstrong

### **Fall for special ways to enjoy your child's creativity. It's easy with Artsonia!**



Did you know? Each classroom art project created with Countryside Art Teacher George Lundgren will be loaded into your child's art gallery. Simply log in to [www.Artsonia.com](http://www.Artsonia.com) with your password and the unique code for your child. Why not take a peak and place an order! Create a custom gift box, coffee mug, T-shirts, special note cards, a set of coasters and more.

***A portion of all purchases is donated to Countryside!*** For questions contact: [geolundgren@edina.k12.mn.us](mailto:geolundgren@edina.k12.mn.us) or PTO Artsonia Chairs [elyse.cohen@comcast.net](mailto:elyse.cohen@comcast.net) or [lolenejones@comcast.net](mailto:lolenejones@comcast.net).

### **5th Grade Recognition Meeting For All Who Are Interested -**

Please join us to learn more about 5th Grade Recognition ... we will share with you what the day looks like, we will brainstorm ideas and also develop committees to help in the planning of this great event.

**When:** Tuesday, October 11th, 7:00 p.m., Countryside's Staff Lounge

We hope to see you then -

Megan Stone

Molly Urbanski

Michelle Lohrding

Michele Gatien

5th Grade Recognition Chairs

## Community News

"Get connected with EPS Social Media. Stay up to date with the latest information coming into and going out of Edina Public Schools. "Like" us on Facebook, follow Superintendent Dressen on Twitter @EdinaSuper and read stories from The Mill Blog [www.edinamill.blogspot.com](http://www.edinamill.blogspot.com)"

### **PCN Forum**

WHAT: "Discovering the Power of Choice"; Paul Bernabei, TOP 20 Parent Training  
-Help kids discover how they are smart; living above the line; Guiding our children through life's challenges.

WHEN: Monday, October 10, 7-9 pm

WHERE: Cornelia Elementary Gym

### **\*SAVE THE DATE\***

**Monday, November 14th;** National Speaker, "John Rosemond; Parenting with Love & Leadership, building responsibility NOT entitlement."

### **October 2011 Adult classes just for YOU**

**Prenatal Yoga**- Prenatal yoga classes are more popular than ever. When paired with a cardiovascular exercise such as walking, yoga can be an ideal way to stay in shape during and after your pregnancy. Tuesdays Nov. 1st – Dec. 13th 6:35 – 7:35pm

**Dinner Doulas**– *One Week's worth of Healthy Dinners* with Kristin Klarkowski and Chika Griswold. We will help you create great, stress-free meals for your family - enough for one week's worth of dinners (new fall selections). Oct. 26th 6:30 – 8:30pm

**Healthy Eating Series: Family Food Fights** - One child won't eat vegetables, one won't eat fish, and another won't eat anything!

Come and learn from a registered dietitian how to feed your family without becoming a short order cook. Sat., Oct. 15th 9:30 – 11am

**Women on Weights W.O.W**– 4 week training program designed to introduce women to the world of weight training. Pump up your workout—it makes a difference! Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Oct. 4th from 1:00-2:00pm and Oct. 6th from 5:00-6:00pm.

**Friday Night Line Dance Workshops**– grab your girl-friends and dance, dance, dance on Friday nights! Country, Thriller, Hustle and Salsa! Friday nights in September, October, November and December. No dance experience necessary – it's line dance!

**Parent-Toddler Swim**- Parents and instructor work together to help children(12 months-4 years), become comfortable in the water as they develop a readiness to swim. Wednesdays, Oct. 5th – 26 6:30 – 7pm. Edinborough Park Pool.

Register online at: [www.edinacommunityed.org](http://www.edinacommunityed.org) or call 952 848 3952

Keep in touch with us on **Facebook and Twitter**, "like" Edina Center for Adult Education

and follow us on twitter @EdinaAdultEd.

**\*The following updates are provided by community groups and are added here in a format that closes matches their original. Please contact the sponsoring group for more information.**

## **WORLD LANGUAGES FROM EDINA COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

A series of community programs sponsored by the Edina Public Schools are available:

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/countryside/pdfs/WorldLang.pdf>

## **BARNYARD BOOGIE**

Sponsored by Edina Park and Recreation, the Barnyard Boogie event is for ages 7 and under. Enjoy a full size petting zoo, crafts, popcorn, animal crackers, lemonade and kid friendly D.J. music.

Register online at [www.EdinaParks.com](http://www.EdinaParks.com) or pay at the event. Questions: Call 952-826-0367.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
**10:00-11:30AM**  
**ROSLAND PARK, EDINA**  
**\$4/PERSON**

**EDINA RESOURCE CENTER**

Your connection to community information resources and services.

952-848-3936

We listen to your need and connect you to the resources that can help.

Our service is free and confidential. We are located at the Edina Community Center, 5701

Normandale Rd., Edina, 55424 [www.EdinaResourceCenter.com](http://www.EdinaResourceCenter.com)