

Dear Toddler Parents,

This week we added two new friends to our class: Mypsy and Gypsy. They are sister guinea pigs who were generously donated to our classroom by one of our junior high students. Your toddlers have taken quite an interest in them. The children enjoy feeling their fur, observing them eat and wondering what they are doing. Your toddlers help prepare their meals each day by tearing apart lettuce leaves and chopping peppers.

Grace and Courtesy are lessons given throughout your toddler's time here at Mountain Laurel. When they need help we encourage them to ask for it. We model for them saying "Help me, please." We can tell through our observations and their words they need assistance however encouraging them to ask for help when needed is a lesson they can carry with them throughout their lives. You can practice this lesson with them at home.

Everything we are teaching your toddler at school can be reinforced in the home environment. Your toddlers clear their dishes after meals and scrape their unwanted food from their plates into a food bucket. They pour water or milk into their cups from a creamer pitcher. Being able to do small tasks empowers your child and provides them an abundance of self-confidence. If you are interested or would like to more about our classrooms lessons, I am more than happy to share them with you and your families.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day is next Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Your toddler's grandparents and special friends are invited to visit our classroom. Grandparents and special friends should arrive at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Craft and I are planning a couple "fun" Montessori activities for everyone to enjoy. Often times toddlers can become upset when their loved ones leave without them. We ask if you do have someone accompanying your child to consider bringing your toddler with them when they leave. To ensure your toddlers safety, please let me know if your child has someone visiting the school on that day and what their plans for the rest of the day will be.

Many of my parents have not received previous weekly updates. I will be sending them to you this evening as well. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached either by email at [dfritts@mlm-school.org](mailto:dfritts@mlm-school.org) or on my cell phone at 540-551-2383.

Mrs. Craft and I enjoy seeing your children each day and cherish the moments we spend with them. Here is a few pictures from the last week.