Countryside Trees

Dear Friends,

Greetings from all

of us at Country-

side! I hope you

have had a year

full of joy and

learning, good



NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spring 2009

Letter from the Head



Cathie Webber

friendships and good fun!

This past year we welcomed a new LWW teacher, Mr. Nate Meyer, and a new 2nd grade primary contact teacher, Mrs. Maureen Beyt. Sadly, Mr. Matt Brown, Latin teacher, is leaving at the end of this year, to finish his third year of law school. Otherwise, faculty and staff remain the same as last year. All would be eager to be visited by our outstanding alumni/ae! These visits mean so much to us!

Please visit our new website

(www.countrysideschool.org) to get all kinds of information about the school now and in the past. We are very grateful to Kristin Feddersen, our Communications Director, for her hard work on this project.

Sports flash!!! This coming year Countryside School will be joining an athletic conference, Little East Central Illinois Conference, LECIC. This is a new conference that has been formed by and for smaller schools very similar to ours. We will compete in volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, and possibly track and field within the conference. Soccer is not a conference sport, but we will still have it. Athletic Director Josh Clark is very excited about the opportunities league membership will bring. Go Comets!

May means 8th grade musical (*THE BIG BAD MUSICAL*), the 8th grade trip (Chicago for Medieval Times and the Mayan Adventure Water Park) and graduation! We invite and encourage anybody who is able to come to Graduation which will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00. The following people will be joining your ranks as alumni:

Nora Buss Madelyn Gunn Sonya Kumpuckal Angelita Repetto Sidra Salman Wei-Wei Su Jenny Tian Ryan Uppal Joshua Zharnitsky Arielle Zimmerman St. Thomas More Central Danville St. Thomas More St. Thomas More St. Thomas More Centennial Centennial Centennial Centennial

Congratulations to these students who will be matriculating as subfreshmen at University Laboratory High School next year:

Aileen Chu	Peter Ivanov
Gloria Ha	Chas Newman
Valerie Makri	Arch Robison

Please look out for any who are attending your school. It always helps to see a familiar (and friendly!) face in the halls when you're starting out.

We'd like to put together a photo gallery of our alumni and invite (actually we BEG) you to send us a picture of you, perhaps in a shirt from your college or university, in front of some iconic campus building or location. Email them to me at:

webber@countrysideschool.org

We think of you fondly and often – please come see us! In the meantime, have a great summer!

Fondly,

Cathie Webber

Hon<mark>ors and Awards</mark>

- Odyssey of the Mind teams take 1st and 4th at State
- MATH COUNTS TAKES 2ND AT REGIONALS AND 20TH AT STATE
- CHESS TEAM BRINGS HOME TROPHIES AT STATE AND REGIONALS
- 6TH GRADER RECEIVES BRONZE IN NATIONAL FRENCH CONTEST

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Odyssey of the Mind (2008) Takes 2nd at World

THIS YEAR'S ODYSSESY TEAM WILL COMPETE AT WORLD ON MAY 27 — SEE PAGE 4. Countryside School placed 2nd at the 29th annual Odyssey of the Mind World Finals on June 3, 2008 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Countryside sent 13 middle schoolers on two teams, each team competing in a different problem.

The team competing in "The Eccentrics" problem was Julie Strauss and Nealay Kalita of Champaign, Alex Mestre of Urbana, Brianna Lillyman of Mahomet, Sonya Kumpuckal of Danville, and Hannah Piester of Ivesdale. After performing well in their long-term problem and style competitions, this team took 1st place in spontaneous competition, putting them in 2nd place and winning the silver medal for their problem and division.

Also competing were David Morrow, Will Theriac, Natalie Bina, Madelyn Gunn, Juliana Trach and Anna Kanfer of Champaign and Chas Newman of Savoy. These students competed in the classics problem, "The Wonderful Muses."

Odyssey of the Mind invited Countryside's teams to compete because they finished in 1st and 2nd places in their respective problems at state competition held in Belleville, Illinois on April 12th. This is the 3rd consecutive year that Countryside School has sent teams to the Odyssey World Finals.

Countryside's two teams competed against 70 and 56 other middle school teams respectively from around the United States and other countries including Singapore, South Korea, Poland, Germany, Canada, and Kazakhstan.

"Both teams have been working very hard practicing and perfecting the solutions to their problems. These students have spent time after school and given up lunch recesses to work on Odyssey of the Mind," says Lois Wilken, coach for Countryside's Odyssey of the Mind teams.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problemsolving program which encourages students to use creative thinking, utilize teamwork and stay within a budget to solve problems. The problems can be performance-based or technical. Teams are scored in 3 categories: long-term problem, style, and spontaneous competition. Solutions are judged on creativity and risk-taking.



Greetings from IMSA: Ben Taylor

A line in the admissions booklet pretty much sums up the kind of people you find at a place like this: "There are seven residence halls, addresses 1501, 1502....1507 (colloquially known as "01, 02, 03...07")." Creative bunch, aren't we?

Despite that somewhat bland initial impression, IMSA really is quite an amazing place. At any given time, August through December (if not even later in the year) and again after the weather gets nicer, there will be a game of Ultimate Frisbee going somewhere on campus, including the days with about 3 feet of snow on the ground, and semi-frozen rain coming down. People usually participate in shorts and a t-shirt, weather independent, as per crazy-teenage norm. When same said crazy teenagers are not busy throwing pieces of ellipsoidal plastic at each other, they can usually be found in one of the various halls working on a paper or just hanging out. After all, how many other schools can make the claim to a Blu-ray player and HDTV in every residence hall?

Greetings from IMSA: Ben Taylor (continued)

During the school day, things are a little more calm, but no less entertaining. Classes run far longer than an average high school on a class per class basis. To balance that out, you only have 4 class days every week. 90 minutes of chemistry a day, 2 days a week, anyone? Yes, that's right, 2 days. You will, in your sophomore year, take 3 years worth of high school science, as well as a class detailing how to write good scientific literature. They don't call it a mathematics and science academy for nothing.

On the note of mathematics, there is much emphasis on that as well. Almost any field of math you can think of is offered, usually with clearly stated prerequisites so you can easily schedule in the classes you want over your three years here.

Many of you are probably still getting over the words "residence hall" and "high school" in the same paragraph. Yes, IMSA is a boarding school. If you know that's not for you, then there are probably other places you would like better. But if you don't mind the thought of living away from home too much, picture this: Your sophomore year, you will be placed in a room with someone you've likely never met before. For the duration of the next 9 months, you will be living in an area about the size of a breakout room with that person. If you're still thinking this might be ok, IMSA is probably a good place for you. Overall, I only know 1 person who wasn't satisfied with his room arrangement, and the counselors were perfectly willing to accommodate. Surprisingly enough, you don't feel like you're "away from home" for long. After the first quarter, this place will become as much your home as your house is. The community is so tight knit, it makes Countryside look disparate with its whole 135 people.

On a more academic note again, some of you are wondering what the homework load is like by now. Comparison: think about what Uni would give if you never had to go home; that about sums it up. Living on campus means the teachers can feel free to give you as much work as they want. This means you will have some late nights, and you may occasionally wonder why you got yourself into this. On the other hand, on those occasions where you are really that overloaded, the teachers are quite understanding. If you have a valid reason to be behind, or if you just need help, most offices here have an open door policy. Stuck on a math problem? Ask an upperclassman. Still stuck? Walk over to the math office, pick a cubicle, and ask for help. The teachers are all incredibly friendly. You probably won't get a straight answer, but if you use what you're given, you can do well here.

Beyond that, the days where you're lucky enough not to have too much work are the time of your life. Living on campus also means you're next door to 650 of your new best friends. Chances are there's someone else who got off with little work as well, and is just dying for someone to go play around with, be it videogames, Frisbee, or just a game of cards. Oh, and of course, there's also always that Blu-ray player I mentioned before.

If you're really, really interested, check out https://www3.imsa.edu/about/visiting. There's a virtual tour. For those who want to apply, there's also information about visitation days or how to set up a day to shadow someone. --Ben Taylor



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IMSA, VISIT: WWW.IMSA.EDU

Great News from the Past Year



6th grader Pierre at the Grammy Awards

GRADUATION TUESDAY, MAY 26, 7 P.M AT THE SCHOOL Last spring 16 alums matriculated to Uni.

Sixth grader Valerie received a bronze medal in the National French Contest.

Sixth grader Pierre attended the Grammy Music Awards escorting his aunt, whose Pacifica Quartet won *Best Chamber Music Performance*.

The K/1 class Candy Land bake sale raised \$889 for the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, enabling the bank to purchase \$9,000 in food.

Our MathCounts team placed 2nd in Regionals and 20th in State (out of 52 teams). Most teams were entirely 8th graders, but our team was mostly 6th graders!

Our Chinese language students performed at Krannert Center as part of the Martin Luther King Celebration.

Our chorus performed their winter concert at the U of I's Smith Music Hall Memorial Room. A wonderful CD was produced of this concert.

In celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday, the school participated in the nationwide simultaneous reading of the Gettysburg Address.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest honored 5th graders Christopher and Maddie and 4th grader Katie.

Third grader Anshul was named Warren Junior Chess Scholar—an award given to only 35 chess players (grades 1-12) in Illinois. Seventh grader Madelyn made her national stage debut in Show Boat at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Our All-School "Malaria No More" service project raised more than \$1,250 to provide 125 mosquito nets to Africa.

Fifth graders Taylor and Arthur were honored by the CU Optimist Awards in science and arts respectively.

Fifth grader Andrew placed 2nd in the Youth Literature Writing Festival sponsored by WILL and the U of I College of Education.

Our World Languages Show featured skits and songs in Chinese, Spanish, Latin and French.

Sixth grader Pierre won or placed at several cello competitions: Music Teachers National Association Junior Strings Division Competition, Danville Young Artists Concerto Competition, Baroque Young Artists Competition and St. Thomas More Solo Competition.

Sixth grader Nafisa was named a Top Ten Poet in the Creative Communications poetry contest.

Harlem Globetrotter Moo Moo Evans visited Countryside to promote responsibility and character and to show off basketball tricks.

American Girl illustrator Melodye Benson Rosales visited the school and taught the 2nd through 5th graders how to draw.



Our "Teach Yer Creature" team takes 1st at State. © Larry Kanfer

Odyssey of the Mind (2009) Advances to World

Countryside School placed 1st at the Odyssey of the Mind State Competition on March 21 in Belleville. Countryside sent 13 middle schoolers on two teams.

The team competing in the "Teach Yer Creature" problem was Chas, David, Wei-Wei, Kate, Natalie, Gloria, and Anna who took 1st in their problem and division to advance to World Competition at the end of May.

The "Superstition" team of Sonya, Nafisa, Sidra, Nora, Ruth, and Madelyn took 4th. This is the 4th consecutive year that Countryside School has sent teams to the Odyssey World Finals.

In "Teach Yer Creature" teams create an amusing performance about a mechanical animal that acts like a real mammal or bird and learns lessons.

In "Superstition" the problem is to create and present a performance that includes two real superstitions and an original superstition created by the team.

Spring 2009

Alum Visits



Jackie Hedeman visits from Princeton—where she is studying with FOUR other CS alums!



Arora family visits. In November Rishi addressed 20,000 people at an Obama rally in Florida. HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE COUNTRYSIDE.



Gabe Omo-Osagie with Mr. Clark. Currently a freshman at Centennial High School, Gabe will be a varsity quarterback next fall.

Alums in college and beyond:

Send us a photo of yourself in front of your college's landmark or place of work. Take a group photo with other CS grads attending your college or university. We'd love to see where you are now!

Send to: countryside@countrysideschool.org



Casey Pride, 2002 graduate, visits. He plans to study secondary education at St. Louis University or Illinois State University.



Keven Wyld stopped by to give us advice on upgrading our sound system.

ALUMS: SHARE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WITH US!

Countryside Trees

Alum Reunion 2009



Hannah Piester, Jessica Goode and Brianna Lillyman



Jacob Druker and Brian Pitt

<image>

Back row: Alex Grubele, Miles Ross, Jay Kasen, Allen Miller, and Michael Meyer Front Row: Jenny Cooke, Mary Cimakasky, and Jannika Newen

CSA Happenings



Freddie Stavins and Edo Roth returned for the Winter Ice Skating Party. Also pictured are current students Anna and Gloria.



Patrick and Michael Wagner returned for the Annual Fall Picnic held at the school. Also pictured are current students Nolan and Robby. The picnic featured a bounce house, obstacle course inflatable, cotton candy and baseball.

TO SEE THIS NEWSLETTER IN COLOR, CHECK OUT THE ALUMNI SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE.

Former Faculty Updates



Sharon Henson and Julie Miller at the Alumni Reunion in April. Sharon Henson is enjoying retirement, and Julie Miller works for the dentists, Drs. Trautman & Madura.

Visit Our New Website

Our website has a whole new look! Alums can check out the Alumni page for news on past graduates and can update their contact information.

Our current families can log in to see photo galleries of events, get middle school homework assignments or download newsletters and forms.

Please visit us for the latest news and to share your e-mail address. We'd love to keep in contact with you!

www.countrysideschool.org



Our redesigned website

Alum Updates

Erin Beitel is completing her second year of *Teach for America* at Oakland Tech High School where she teaches physics and has started a BioTech Academy. She is also the girls' soccer coach and her team won the Bay Area League Championship last year!

Sarah Jones graduated from the U of I with a double degree: BS in Psychology and a BA in Communications.

David Kaplan is a computer engineer at Advanced Micro Devices in Austin, TX. He helps develop new computer chips.

Jonathan Kuck took silver overall at the International Skating Union's World Junior Speed Skating Championships in Zakopane, Poland in February. In individual events Jonathan took the silver in the 1000m, the bronze in the 3000m, and bronze in the 5000m.

Hannah Pride has finished her sophomore year at St. Louis University. Next year her brother Jason will join her there and possibly brother Casey!

Christina Radi, soprano, received a Young Artists Scholarship from The Chorale.

Edo Roth and Chelsea Edwards were on our winning MathCounts Team last year and now compete for Uni. Their team took 1st place at the MathCounts Regionals and 4th at State. Edo placed ninth in the state in individual competition!

Gordon Ruan (team captain) led Uni High's chess team to win the IHSA state chess championship! Alum **Michael Meyer** was also on the team.

Kareem Sayegh received third place in the Poetry Out Loud National Finals.

Kali Smith married Jason Monma in October.

Aliyah Warwick received her BA in Vedic Science from Maharishi University last December.

Ruth Welch spent a Rotary Exchange year attending high school in Guadalajara, Mexico and will start at Darthmouth this fall. TRIVIA: HOW MANY CS ALUMS ARE CURRENTLY AT PRINCETON?



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Visit us at: www.countrysideschool.org

If you headed to college one of these years and are NOT listed, it is because we have not been notified where you are going to school. Please let us know! countryside@countrysideschool.org

College Bound 2008

Emily Chu — U of Illinois Alex Hosier — Valpariso Anne Kingston — Parkland Annie Kramer — U of Wisconsin Annie Liang — MIT Maria Nelson — NYU Andrea Park — Amherst Komal Patel — U of Illinois Dylan Ray — ISU Melanie Thopiah — Lake Forest Kyle Tolliver — U of Iowa Ali Webber — Migmi of Ohio Lauren Weisbaum — Missouri Ruth Welch — Dartmouth

Amy Wiltzius — Oberlin

College Bound 2009

Katie Bauer — Illinois Wesleyan Daniel Borup — U of Illinois Jacob Druker — Beloit Jonathan File — Illinois Wesleyan Erin Gelke — Millikin Charles Korban — Parkland Deren Kudeki — U of Illinois Sierra Marcum — Bennington Paul Miller — Carnegie Mellon Carl Pearson — Harvey Mudd Brian Pitt — U of Illinois Jason Pride — St. Louis University Gordon Ruan — Washington U Kareem Sayegh — U of Chicago



College Bound 2008 Note: At publication time last year, many of our alums had not yet confirmed where they were going to college and are included here.