

# Countryside Trees



NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spring 2010

## Letter from the Head



Cathie Webber

Dear Friends,

Greetings from all of us at Countryside! I hope you have had a year full of joy and learning, good friendships and good fun!

Good fun for us includes visits from our alumni! At the end of April, many of our former students from five different high schools, some of their parents, and eight staff members gathered for a reunion at the school. (See photos on page 6.) We loved seeing you all again and were so happy to catch up on your news. Each of you leaves a lasting impression on the school and on us that we deeply cherish.

We are also thrilled to see those of you who drop by the school. Please do so if you get a chance. As I said, it means a great deal to us.

The month of May means the 8<sup>th</sup> grade musical (MACBETH the Musical Comedy), the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip (Chicago for Medieval Times and The Untouchables Tour of Chicago), and graduation which will be held on Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 at the school. The following people will be joining your ranks as alumni:

Margaret Arends  
Natalie Bina  
Amber Cape  
Jakia Hussain  
David Jin  
David Morrow  
Liam Nelson

Jason Omo-Osagie  
Colin Pitt  
Steve Shove  
Robby Welch

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

Darrian Boyd  
Brandon Cooke  
Maya Dutta  
Joy Jin  
Michelle Lu  
Ashley McFarquhar  
Cole Petruzzi  
Nafisa Syed  
Ailin Valdivia-McCarthy

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 have started a gallery in the hall of pennants from our alumni colleges and universities. We'd love to have yours to hang in our collection!

I hope you enjoy the following news from Countryside. We think of you fondly and often – please come see us! In the meantime, have a great summer!

Fondly,  
Cathie Webber



## Honors and Awards

- ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS TAKE 1ST AND 2ND AT STATE, ADVANCE TO WORLDS
- MATH COUNTS TAKES 1ST AT REGIONALS AND 7TH AT STATE
- CHESS CLUB PLACES 1ST AT CHESSFEST COMPETITION
- 4TH GRADER PLACES 1ST AT STATE CHESS TOURNAMENT TWO YEARS IN A ROW

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# Countryside Trees

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## Jonathan Kuck Wins Silver at Olympics



Jonathan Kuck (right) skates in Team Pursuit finals (AP photo/Matt Dunham)



Students parade down the hall to the rally for Jonathan skating in the 10,000m.

ALUMS:  
SHARE YOUR  
E-MAIL  
ADDRESS  
WITH US!

### Success in the Team Pursuit

Jonathan Kuck, Countryside alum, won silver in men's speed skating at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February.

The US team of Brian Hansen, Chad Hedrick, and Jonathan Kuck won silver in the men's team pursuit in speed skating at the Richmond Olympic Oval. Trevor Marsicano, who skated in the quarterfinals, was also on the team. The US team finished the race in 3:41:58, edged by Canada by only 0.21 seconds. Canada took gold, the US silver, and the Netherlands bronze.

In the team pursuit, three team members out of the four are selected to skate in a race. The three team members skate as a tight group against three skaters from another country on the opposite side of the speed skating oval. For eight laps the team stays as close as possible and alternates lead position. The finish is determined by when the third team member crosses the finish line. In the Olympics the teams skate in rounds - the quarter and semi finals determine which countries will battle for gold and silver. Jonathan raced in all three rounds.

### School Holds Rally for 10,000m

At the school all the students gathered to watch Jonathan race in his other event - the 10,000m. The students dressed in red, white and blue and waved American flags as they paraded into the multipurpose room while the 4/5 class played the Olympics theme on recorders.

Although the 10,000m was scheduled to be shown live on television, actual coverage did not include Jonathan's heat. The cheering students watched downhill skiing instead. Jonathan placed 8th overall in the competition.

### Kuck Returns for Founders' Day

Jonathan returned to Countryside as the guest speaker in honor of Founders' Day. Several grandparents and special guests gathered at an all-school assembly to hear Jonathan share the story of his Olympic experience.

Jonathan presented a slideshow and video of competing in Vancouver, answered questions and passed around his Olympic skin suit and his silver medal for the students to see.

Cathie Webber presented Jonathan with Countryside's first-ever Distinguished Alumni medal. In addition he was photographed with each grade wearing his Olympic medal.



Jonathan speaks about his Olympic experience.

## Staging a Bright Future

In January the entire Countryside community gathered to talk about a vision for the school's future. Based on the strategic plan, the Countryside Board of Directors introduced the idea of building a regulation-sized gym and performing arts center for the school.

We are excited to share the news that we are in the early planning phases for this important new addition for Countryside. We have recently hired an architect to provide preliminary plans and a cost estimate, and the Countryside Board has approved a timeline

that includes breaking ground in spring of 2011. In addition, Countryside has retained the services of a project feasibility consultant who is working closely with staff and Board members to help bring this project to fruition.

We look forward to sharing many more details with you about this significant project as it evolves! If you have questions, or would like additional information, please contact Cathie Webber or Jamie Driver, Development Director.



Vision for the Gym/Performing Arts Center

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## We Need Your Pennant:

Do we have your school pennant up in our halls yet? We would like to display pennants from all our alums' colleges and universities. Although we have over twenty-five on display, we are still missing several. Drop us an e-mail if you can provide us with a pennant! [countryside@countrysideschool.org](mailto:countryside@countrysideschool.org)

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# Countryside Trees

## Great News from the Past Year



BioBus visits Countryside to give a lesson on the energy cycle and food chain.

Countryside placed 1st at ChessFest – a competition of nearly 150 students representing more than twenty-five schools in the area. Second grader Harrison had the only perfect score!

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

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest honored fifth graders Matthew Z. and Zoë and fourth grader Sam.

Fourth grader Anshul took 1st place in the Illinois State All-Grade Chess Tournament for the second year in a row and is named Warren Junior Chess Scholar - an award given to only 35 chess players in Illinois.

Our MathCounts team took 1st place in the regional competition. Uni High's team (including Countryside alum Arch) placed 2nd. In individual competition, seventh grader Cole placed 1st, Countryside alum Arch placed 2nd, and seventh grader Masashi took 3rd. At State our team placed 7th overall.

Our band performed in the Krannert Center lobby prior to the Sinfonia da Camera concert in November.

Fourth grader Grace placed 3rd in the piano Youth B session at the 25th Annual Music Festival in Chicago. She also was selected as the state Gold Star Winner in the East District Auditions for the Illinois State Music Teacher Association Piano Competition.

Students' service projects benefitted: Eastern Illinois Food Bank, Operation Rainbow, Tropical Rainforest Coalition, International Fund for Animal Welfare, TIMES Center and of course, Countryside School.

Our Chinese classes performed at various community events including the Chinese New Year Celebration at the University of Illinois.

Countryside families participated in *Million Meals for Haiti* in April.

The Champaign-Urbana Optimist Club honored three fifth graders with Challenge Awards: Zoë in Humanities, Matthew N. in Science and James in Arts.

Sixth grader Arthur and fifth grader James both received "Best of Day" recognition in the St. Thomas More Solo and Ensemble Contest. Twelve Countryside students from 5th – 8th grade were 1st place medalists and four earned a 2nd place.

Our Odyssey of the Mind teams placed 1st and 2nd at State, and both teams advance to World competition. This is the fifth consecutive year we have competed at Worlds.

Eighth grader Natalie became a published author. Her book, *World of Chances*, is available on Amazon.

Countryside began an afterschool Science and Engineering Club for all grades. Topics included the physics of baseball, visits from the U of I's Physics Van and the BioBus (a mobile science lab that travels the country), and field trips to see how computer chips are made and how antennae are designed and tested.

Middle School Expedition Day had the students taking public transportation, visiting local businesses and dining at restaurants around Champaign-Urbana.

The All-School Music Show was *Global Playground* and included songs and dances from around the world. It was accompanied by an All-School Art Show.



*Global Playground:*  
Bollywood dance - middle school girls

## Alum Visits



**Lauri Feldman** visits at graduation last May. She had just graduated from Columbia University in New York City.



**Erin Beitel** is completing her third year of teaching high school physics in Oakland, CA where she has started a BioTech Academy.



**Abby and Lucy P.** visited from New York City where they now attend Chapin School.



**André Philipp** is graduating from the U of I with a Bachelors in Economics. He will work at The Claro Group, a boutique consulting firm in Chicago, as a consultant in supply chain management.

## CSA Happenings



Seventh grader Ellie with alumnae Valerie Makri, Jessica Goode, and Arielle Zimmerman at the Fall Picnic.

Countryside School Association sponsored several events for the school this year. They organized teacher appreciation lunches and book fairs. The highlights of the year's events were the Fall Picnic and the Winter Ice Skating Party.

Many alums came back for this year's picnic. The event was held at the school and featured a potluck dinner with many carnival activities including a bounce house, obstacle course inflatable, cotton candy and baseball.

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GRADUATION  
TUESDAY,  
MAY 25,  
7 P.M.  
AT THE  
SCHOOL

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# Countryside Trees

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## Alum Reunion 2010

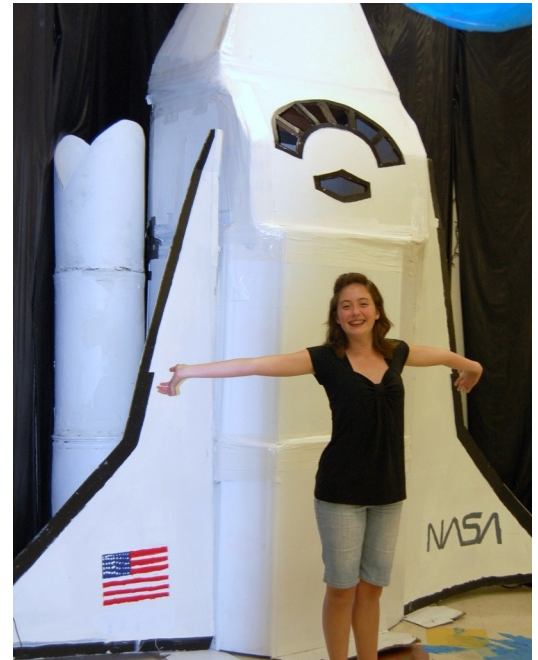
THIS YEAR'S  
ALUM  
REUNION WAS  
HELD AT THE  
SCHOOL.



Madelyn Gunn, Arielle Zimmerman and Sidra Salman



Mary Cimakasky and Ben Taylor



Bri Chapman



**Right:** Ms. O'Brien, Tim Colombo, Liam Moersch, and Luis Tian



Brianna Lillyman, Hannah Piester, Angelita Repetto, Sidra Salman, Julie Strauss, and Kelsey Gallivan

## Photo Updates



Former second grade teacher **Ana Dillman** with alum **Chas Newman** (now at Uni). Ana is currently working as a nanny in California.



**Lisa Boyce** and friend at a swim training camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Not only do we have a redesigned website, but we now have an official page on Facebook. Become a fan and be notified when alumni updates or photos are posted and when alumni events are planned.

Also visit our website where you can check out the Alumni page for news on past graduates and can update your contact information. We'd love to keep in contact with you!

[www.countrysideschool.org](http://www.countrysideschool.org)

## Alum Updates

**Arthur Baker** graduated from the University of Illinois last May in Business/Finance. He is now in law school at the University of Miami.

**Puja Batura** is still with J.P. Morgan in Chicago but also started the MBA program at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

**Lisa Boyce** was named Uni High's Prom Queen. This fall she will major in English at Princeton and compete on varsity swim team.

**Laura Carter-Stone** is now attending Grinnell College and plans to become a writer. She graduated last May from Lexington Catholic High School in Kentucky.

**Madelyn Gunn** made her second national stage appearance - this time in *Grapes of Wrath* at Carnegie Hall in New York City in March.

**Rachel Kaplan** graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Molecular and Cellular Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She will attend Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in the fall. She has been an Emergency Medical Technician with the U of I's volunteer emergency medical services and their director of education.

**Jonathan Kuck** won the silver medal in the Winter Olympics at Vancouver in the Men's Speed Skating Team Pursuit and placed 8th in the Men's 10,000m.

**Carl Pearson** finished his freshman year at Harvey Mudd and will work for tech support there this summer.

**Lilli Pearson** is a junior at Uni, is still busy with her horse and will be working in a special internship with CERL this summer.

**Casey Pride's** band, Shark Bandit, took 3rd place in the Illinois Teen Battle of the Bands competition last August. He is finishing his freshman year at St. Louis University.

**Ben Suslick** was named Intel Talent Search semifinalist for his research project on coffee aroma. He is graduating from Uni and will attend California Institute of Technology this fall.

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

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# Countryside School

Joy in Learning, Excellence in Education

NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

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## Many students are NOT listed here...

If you are headed to college and are NOT listed, it is because we have not been notified where you are going to school. Please let us know!  
[countryside@countrysidesschool.org](mailto:countryside@countrysidesschool.org)



Visit us at:

[www.countrysidesschool.org](http://www.countrysidesschool.org)

## College Bound 2010

Umesh Batura - Illinois State University  
Erika Belmont - Washington University  
Tuli Bera - University of Illinois  
Lisa Boyce - Princeton University  
Costas Cangellaris - University of Illinois  
Tim Colombo - University of Illinois  
Neil Pearson - Harvey Mudd College  
Tayler Plathe - George Mason University  
Ben Suslick - California Institute of Technology  
Hashim Zaghloul - University of Illinois