

Countryside Trees



NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spring 2012

Letter from the Head



Cathie Webber

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Countryside! This has been quite a year for us as we have watched the building of our beautiful new gym

and performing arts facility. We hope you'll join us for the **grand opening on Sunday, August 26** from 3-5 p.m. That day is the 20th anniversary of the very first day of school for Countryside!

We also invite you to "**Homecoming**" at the school fall picnic, **September 7**. We always hope to see our most recent graduates there, but would also love to see our older alumni.

Speaking of homecoming, it was wonderful to see so many of our alumni/ae at the reunion basketball game in December – the last in the old gym. We invite you to come back next December for the first alumni game in the new gym.

Every year we cherish the visits of those who return to say "hi," some of whom are pictured here. I also look forward to updates from families and friends about your whereabouts and activities. These connections mean a great deal to us!

May means the 8th grade trip (Indianapolis) and the **8th grade musical** (THE PHANTOM

TOLLBOOTH) which will be on **Tuesday, May 22** at 7 p.m. And, of course, May means **graduation!** It will be held on **Wednesday, May 30** at 7 p.m. Again, we'd love to see you for the alumni picture taken afterwards!

The following people will be joining your ranks as alumni:

Anna Benson	Central
Carolyn Cai	Centennial
Ally Choi	Cranbrook School (MI)
Mac Dressman	Central
Taylor Feddersen	Centennial
David Ko	Centennial
Arad Mor	Centennial
Carl Newmark	Urbana
Andrew Piester	Monticello
Omri Schwartz	Central
Trevor Vallese	Centennial
Sushrut Vani	Centennial

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

Anshul Adve	Sam Hotchkiss
Isaac Freund	Miriam Ross
Zoe Goldenfeld	Ella Roth
Martin Grosman	James Vaughan

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.

Don't forget our gallery of pennants from our alumni colleges and universities! We'd love to have yours hanging 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 TEAM TAKES 1ST AT STATE, ADVANCES TO WORLDS
- MATH COUNTS TEAM TAKES 2ND AT REGIONALS
- 6TH GRADER RECEIVES CHESS AWARDS
- 3RD GRADER PLACES 5TH IN THE NATION IN MATH CONTEST

Inside this issue:

GRAND OPENING - GYM/ PERFORMING ARTS CENTER	2
ALUM BASKETBALL GAME	3
GREAT SCHOOL NEWS	4
MARK YOUR CALENDARS	5
HOMECOMING	6
ALUM UPDATES	7
COLLEGE BOUND	8



Countryside Trees

Grand Opening: Gym and Performing Arts Center



What exciting things spring is bringing to Countryside! In addition to the glorious weather, our new Gymnasium and Performing Arts Center addition is getting closer to completion every day. We are close, but we are not quite there yet! To date we have raised \$2.2 million on a \$3 million fundraising goal.

To help our school finish this important addition for our children, I am pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has pledged to make a \$50,000 matching donation to our new Gym and Performing Arts Center. What this means is that every new dollar that is pledged to support our new facility will be matched by the anonymous donor on a one-to-one basis up to \$50,000! In other words, a new gift of \$1,000 from one of our families or friends would actually be worth \$2,000 through this generous match!

The purpose of this match is to encourage each Countryside family and all donors to participate in the building of our new facility at the highest level possible. Regardless of amount, every gift is important and each new gift will be doubled.

In addition, we are delighted to announce that we are offering granite "brick" pavers for sale to anyone who would like to have a permanent, highly visible tribute outside of the front entrance of the new facility. The brick pavers may be engraved with your family name, children's names or in honor of a beloved teacher, friend, or family member. The choice is yours.

For every commitment of \$1,000 or more, not only will your gift be matched on a dollar for dollar basis by our anonymous donor, but you will also receive one brick paver to engrave. For donations less than \$1,000, your donation will still be matched, but you will not receive a brick.

We need to receive all brick orders no later than June 15 in order to have them ready for installation prior to our August 26 grand opening. If you would like a brick order form, contact Jamie Driver, Development Director at Jamie.driver@att.net.

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 26 at 3 p.m.** when we will have the **Grand Opening** of our new Gym and Performing Arts Center, including the Cathie Webber Stage! This is a momentous occasion in the history of Countryside, and we would love to welcome as many of our alums and alum families as possible. The new facility is truly jaw dropping! We hope to see you there!!

Jamie Driver
Development Director

CHECK OUR
WEBSITE FOR
PROJECT
PHOTOS!



Spring 2012

Alumni Basketball Game



Front Row: Maddie Brown, Madeleine Nelson, Tristan Antonsen, Justin Wang, Robert Stavins, Peter Ivanov, Pierre Viallant

Back Row: Liam Nelson, Michael Wagner, Patrick Wagner, Costa Cangellaris, Justin Lumetta, Freddie Stavins, Jonathan File, Ruthie Welch, Daniel Borup, Robby Welch, Evan File, Gabe Omo-Osagie

Many alumni and alum parents returned for the first annual Alumni Basketball Game - the last chance to play in our "old gym". While many additional alums watched and cheered, the "team" is pictured above.

The alums were divided into two teams, each with a college squad and a high school squad. The college squads played each other and the high school squads played each

other - in alternating 3 minute quarters. Everyone played and with the format of the game, the subfreshman did not have to play against the "big guys" who could dunk!

The game was complete with concessions and tours of the "new gym" under construction. More photos of the festivities on our Countryside Facebook page!

**ALUMNI
BASKETBALL
GAME -
DECEMBER
IN THE NEW
GYM**



Countryside Trees

Great News from the Past Year

We watched the construction of our new Gym and Performing Arts Center opening in August!

Our choruses, band, and ensemble groups performed their two concerts at Faith United Methodist Church with a DVD produced of the winter concert.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest honored fifth graders Dante and Mary Ann and fourth graders Ethan and Sophia.

Sixth grader Anshul was named Warren Junior Chess Scholar again - an award given to only 25 K-8th grade chess players in Illinois. In addition he won the state championship for his grade for the fourth year in a row at the Illinois State All Grade Chess Championship.

Countryside welcomed new teachers: third grade teacher Marci Warren, fifth grade teacher Maya Enriques, Chinese teacher Hsiao-Ching Chen, Latin teacher Patrick Neff and PE/Athletic Director Chad Simpson.

The Champaign-Urbana Optimist Club honored fifth graders with Challenge Awards: Alex in Science and Mary Ann in Arts.

Eighth grader Taylor and alum Ben Chapman danced the roles of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince in *The Nutcracker* at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts with the CU Ballet. Seven other Countryside students performed in the production!

Our MathCounts team took 3rd place in regional competition and reached Gold Level Status as a MathCounts club. Sixth grader Anshul took 3rd in individual competition and 2nd in the Countdown Round.

Our *Odyssey of the Mind* team placed 1st at State and advances to World competition at the end of May. This is the seventh consecutive year we have competed at Worlds!

Third grader Colette placed 7th in the state in Level 4 gymnastics on balance beam.

Sixth grader James competed in the National Trumpet Competition held in Washington, DC. He also earned a scholarship to Interlochen Summer Arts Camp.



Illinois 5k - Marathon weekend

Current students with alums Maddie Brown and Kate Ferreira (far right) at the finish line.

At least 25 families took part in the Illinois 5k and youth races – both running and cheering on Team Countryside!

Our Chinese classes performed at the Chinese New Year Celebration at Lincoln Square.

Seventh grader Katie earned her black belt in Tae Kwon Do!

Our all-school world service project benefitted *help2read* – providing books to establish libraries in South Africa. We raised over \$1,100 – enough to provide 2,278 new books!

The All-School Music Show, *Camp Countryside*, included songs and dances about summer camp!

Service projects benefitted *learn2read*, Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Anita Purves Nature Center, Times Center, Windsor of Savoy, Clark-Lindsey Village, an orphanage in Guadalajara, Mexico, and Countryside School.

Sixth grader Grace competed in the ISI Winter Classic National ice skating competition winning 2nd place in Solo Character Spotlight, 3rd place in Freestyle 3, and 3rd place in Interpretive FS3.

Sixth graders Katie, Grace Q, and Delaney, 8th grader Omri, and alumna Natalie will appear in Champaign Urbana Theatre Company's "Thoroughly Modern Millie" this summer.

ALUMS:
SHARE YOUR
E-MAIL
ADDRESS
WITH US!

Former Teacher Update

Fifth grader Lauren took 2nd place in her division in the Land of Lincoln Short Track Championships in speedskating.

Third grader Ethan placed 2nd in the state and 5th in the nation in the Math Kangaroo contest!

The 2/3 class bake sale raised \$1,367 for an orphanage in Guadalajara, Mexico. The family of one of our 2nd graders is living in Guadalajara this year and volunteers at the orphanage.

The K/1 class Toss and Flip Pizza Parlor project raised \$568 for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank – which can purchase over \$5,000 worth of food with the money.

Grandparents/Special Guest Day featured alumna and board member Jenny Bartlett speaking on our first 20 years!

Former 2nd grade teacher Ana Dillman and her husband, Japheth, welcomed their first child, Apollo. They now live in San Francisco.

CSA Happenings

Countryside School Association sponsored several events for the school including teacher appreciation lunches and three book fairs.

The highlights of the year's events included Homecoming/Fall Picnic, the Winter Ice Skating Party, and the Countryside Comedy Café - a wonderful adult night out.

In addition CSA coordinated Countryside gear sales, our e-shopping portal, box top collection, and the pizza party. Thank you CSA volunteers!

GRADUATION
WEDNESDAY,
MAY 30,
7 P.M.
AT THE
SCHOOL

Mark your calendars:

(all events to be held at the school)

8th Grade Musical "Phantom Tollbooth"	Tuesday, May 22 7 p.m.
Farewell Reception for Michele O'Brien	Tuesday, May 29 3 - 4:30 p.m.
Graduation (and alumni photo)	Wednesday, May 30 7 p.m.
Grand Opening/20th Anniversary Celebration Gym and Performing Arts Center	Sunday, August 26 3-5 p.m.
Homecoming 2012/Fall Picnic	Friday, September 7 5-7 p.m.
Alumni Basketball Game - in the NEW gym	TBA in December

We Need Your Pennant

We LOVE displaying pennants from all our alums' colleges and universities. Although we have over 35 on display, we are still missing several. Drop us an e-mail if you can provide us with a pennant or to ask if we have it already! countryside@countrysideschool.org



Countryside Trees

Homecoming 2011



Above: front row - Maddie Brown and Madeline Nelson
back row - John Walkington, Andrew, Tristan Antonsen, Mac, Carl, Trevor and Lyle Regenwetter
Below: Omri, Valerie Makri, Ellie Zimmerman

ATTEND
HOMECOMING
2012
FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7
AT THE
SCHOOL

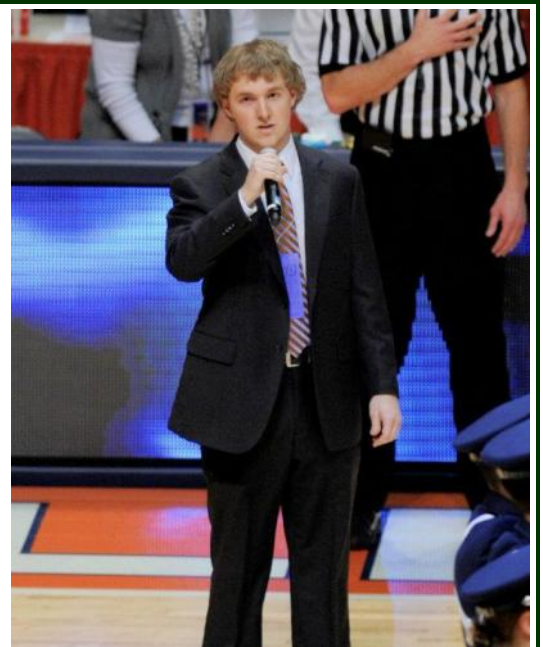


We love seeing returning alums! We have replaced the Alum Pizza Party with Homecoming - typically the first Friday after Labor Day at the school. We hope this is a less hectic time of year. Join our Homecoming/family picnic for fun, food and games. Come back to see your former teachers and the new Gym and Performing Arts Center!

Alum Spotlight

Daniel Borup sang the National Anthem at the Illini v. Iowa mens' basketball game at the UIUC Assembly Hall in February. Daniel is a junior in Engineering Mechanics at the University of Illinois. He is also an Orange Krush member and will serve as the president of Illini Pride (which includes Orange Krush and Block I) next year.

He and alum Evan File received 2nd place Most Fundable Venture in the Cozad New Venture Competition which included a \$5,000 prize. Their company, HigherMed, plans to design and market a pill-dispensing prescription bottle cap, primarily for use by persons with poor dexterity.



Alum Photos



Zsolt Bognar and **Eric Smith** with **Meredith (Albrecht) Botnick** at her wedding in Florida. Zsolt, a concert pianist, performed throughout. (For the wedding recessional, he began with a traditional melody and erupted into the *Star Wars Theme!*)



Martin Hoppe is finishing his senior year in mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois. After graduation he plans to work with laser crystals at Northrop Grumman.



David Marshak is a training specialist with Integrated Oncology in Westborough, MA. He studied biological sciences at Cornell. **Emma Marshak** is a paralegal at Morrison & Foerster in Washington DC.

Alum Updates

Pierre Viallant (Central) played at New York City's Carnegie Hall as a finalist in the Honors Orchestra for American High School Honors Performance Series.

Nafisa Syed (Uni) received first place in the National Spanish Exam 2011 in Level 1 and received the gold medal.

Our alums won the Young Baroque Artists Competition:

1st place - **Joshua** and **Daniel Meling** - double violins

2nd place - **Jordan Gunn** (Central) – cello

3rd place - **Chelsea Edwards** (Uni) – violin

Lyle Regenwetter (Uni) took 1st place at MathCounts regional competition.

Gloria Ha (Uni) and her Exploravision science competition team won regionals and placed in the top six at nationals. Their project was a robotic repair technology to perform cleft lip repair on babies in utero.

Arielle Zimmerman's (Centennial) photograph won the Champaign County Camera Club's Best in Show Youth Division Award.



Brian Eckstein with his mom, 5th grade teacher **Kathy Eckstein**. Brian received his B.A. in Economics from the U of I and is now a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He is working on his Ph.D. in Chemistry. Brian's area of research is developing new materials for organic photovoltaics and organic field-effect transistors. He also learned to curl with the Northwestern curling club last winter!

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



Countryside School

Joy in Learning, Excellence in Education

NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Countryside School
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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



Find us on
Facebook

We now have two pages!

Countryside School Alumni Association - alumni, alumni parents, faculty and staff are invited to join this group. Stay in contact with the school and other alums.

Countryside School - become a fan! We post photos, updates and events about the school.

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.countrysidesschool.org

College Bound 2012

Elena Bauer	Brown University
Ethan Gelke	Illinois Wesleyan
Kelsey Gallivan	University of Wisconsin
Jessica Goode	Parkland College
Sarah Heffley	University of Wisconsin
Brianna Lillyman	Loyola University - Chicago
Sydney Muchnik	Illinois Wesleyan
Millie Nelson	Vassar College
Gabe Omo-Osagie	University of Kentucky
Hannah Piester	Purdue University
Hoda Sayegh	University of Chicago
Julie Strauss	University of Illinois
Will Theriac	Macalester College
Michael Wagner	Illinois State
Patrick Wagner	Millikin University