

Countryside Trees



NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spring 2013

Letter from the Head



Cathie Webber

Dear Friends,

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

Speaking of good fun, we invite you all back for the **Hoops and Connections Reunion** on Saturday, **January 4, at 4:00** in our new gym. We will send more information later!

This past year we sadly bid farewell to **Michele O'Brien** who is now teaching at Harpeth Hall in Nashville and welcomed **Rich Morton** as the new middle school social studies teacher. Midyear we also lost Latin teach **Patrick Neff** to student teaching and Chinese teacher **Hsiao-Ching Chen** due to the birth of her son Henry. We welcomed **Whitney McComas** and **Holly Yan** to these positions.

We also are losing **Jamie Driver**, our Development Director, because her family is relocating to St. Louis. And we happily welcome our new Development Director, **Heidi Mulderink**. In addition to Development, Heidi will be in charge of Alumni Relations, so you will be hearing from her!

May means 8th grade musical ("Bugsy Malone" on May 22), the 8th grade trip (Chicago for the gangland tour and the speakeasy dinner theater) and graduation!

We invite and encourage anybody who is able to come to **Graduation** which will be held on **Thursday, May 30 at 7:00**. The following people will be joining your ranks as alumni/ae:

Katie Bostaph	St. Thomas More
Grace Delacruz	Centennial
Abbie Driver	MICDS (St. Louis)
Kolten Eickmeier	Centennial
Carl Guo	Centennial
Rebecca Jung	Centennial
Jacob Lo	Central
Aaditya Mehta	Urbana
Matthew Niehans	Urbana
Rainey Shah	Central
Serena Shah	Central
Gauri Shankar	St. Thomas More
Matthew Zhang	Centennial
Nick Zunich	Centennial

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

Vicente Aldunate	Austin Chen
Raya Gandhi	Christopher Heffley
Mallika Luthar	Roma Mehta
Anupam Sharma	Grace Qiu
Maanasa Narayanamoorthy	

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.

Please visit our website (www.countrysideschool.org) to get all kinds of information about the school now and in the past. We think of you fondly and often – please come see us! In the meantime, have a great summer!

Fondly,
Cathie Webber

Honors and Awards

- ALUM NAMED TOP U OF I ENGINEERING STUDENT
- 7TH GRADER SENDS EXPERIMENT INTO SPACE
- BOTH ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS TAKE 1ST AT STATE, ADVANCE TO WORLDS

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Countryside Trees

Grand Opening: Gym and Performing Arts Center



Cathie Webber cuts the ribbon with former board president Earle Heffley.



Alum Sam Hotchkiss composed the new school song which was performed by the students.

CHECK OUR
WEBSITE FOR
MORE
PHOTOS!

The Grand Opening celebration for the new Gym and Performing Arts Center was held on August 26, 2012. Current families and faculty joined alumni families and former teachers for this celebratory event.

Head of School Cathie Webber cut the ribbon and 400 attendees filed into the gym to see it for the first time. Following the dedication of the new "Cathie Webber Stage" by alum parent John Colombo, the

students debuted Countryside's new school song composed by alum Sam Hotchkiss.

Guests then toured the new facility and viewed exhibits highlighting Countryside's 20 year history.

Founding families also returned to celebrate the Grand Opening including the Treworgys, Becks and Smiths. Their children attended Countryside in 1992, our first year as a school!



Alum parents (left to right): Barclay and Becky Jones, Janis and Colin Treworgy, Paul Beck and Rod Burton

Spring 2013

Grand Opening: Gym and Performing Arts Center



Alumnae return (left to right): Nafisa Syed, Jordan Gunn, Natalie Bina, Morgan Standley, Ashley Thopiah, Ellie Zimmerman, Valerie Makri



Patrick Neff (Latin teacher) performs



Founding family Greg and Vicky Smith chuckle over Kali's biography.



Alumnae Ruthie Welch and Stephanie Beck



Champaign Mayor Don Gerard and parent Dorothy David



Former teachers Julie Miller Corley and Sharon Henson

Countryside Trees

Homecoming 2012



Above: Isaac Freund, Matthew Zhang, Andrew Piester, Mac Dressman, Tristan Antonsen, Jacob Lo, and James Vaughen

Below: Taylor Feddersen, Anna Benson, and Carolyn Cai



We love seeing returning alums!

Join us for next year's Homecoming - typically the first Friday after Labor Day at the school. Join our Homecoming/family picnic for fun, food and games - including cotton candy and inflatables.

Come back to see your former teachers, reunite with friends, and tour our gym and performing arts center.



Find us on
Facebook

We now have three ways of staying in contact!!

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

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

Alumni page on our website - 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

HOMEcoming
FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6
AT THE
SCHOOL

Alumni Basketball Game



Front row: Juliana Trach, Chas Newman, Casey Pride, Hannah Pride, Jason Pride, Mrs. Webber, Mrs. Zielnicki

Second row: Michelle Lu, Maddie Brown, Valerie Makri, John Walkington, Tristan Antonsen, Mrs. Eckstein, Mrs. Henson

Third row: Maddie Nelson, Omri Schwartz, Anna Benson, Taylor Feddersen, Carolyn Cai, Mrs. Wilken

Back row: Mr. Simpson, Liam Nelson, Lyle Regenwetter, Mrs. Brickey, Mr. Antonsen

Several alumni and alum parents returned for the second annual **Alumni Basketball Game - "Hoops and Connections"** - the first game played in our new gym! Current and former faculty enjoyed catching up with students.

The alums played a couple of scrimmages - sometimes pitting siblings and parents against the alums.

Improvements from last year's game in the "old multipurpose room" included popcorn from our new concessions area, the high-school sized court, large scoreboards, and real bleachers.

More photos of the festivities on our Countryside Facebook Alumni Association page! Next year's "Hoops & Connections" game is Sunday, January 4 at 4 p.m. Please join us!

Left to right: Jason Pride, Maddie Nelson, and Lyle Regenwetter



**ALUMNI
REUNION
"HOOPS &
CONNECTIONS"**
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 4,
2014

Countryside Trees

Alum Updates

Arthur Baker (1999*) is now a practicing corporate attorney in Orlando, FL at the firm of BakerHostetler. He received his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law, summa cum laude, in 2012 and prior to that his B.S. in Finance from the University of Illinois

Jonathon Baron (2002) is in graduate school in political science at Yale University.

Elena Bauer (2007) is taking a gap year before heading to college. She worked for a German company as the assistant to the marketing director and is now working as an assistant teacher in Clarksdale, MS - one of the poorest places in the United States. After spending the summer in Germany with her family, she will be off to Brown University.

Tuli Bera (2005) danced the lead role of Cinderella in CU Ballet's *Cinderella*. Tuli is a junior at the U of I pursuing a BFA in dance with a minor in molecular and cell biology.

Lisa Boyce (2005) is a junior at Princeton University. She recently won All-America honors swimming in the NCAA Championships and finishing 13th overall in the 100 Free. She set both the Ivy League and Princeton record in the 100 free, and is a seven-time individual Ivy League champion.

** dates indicate last year student attended CS*

Leslie Hodges (2004) is graduating from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania with her BA in psychology.

Sonya Kumpuckal (2009) was named Student of the Year at Danville's Schlarman Academy.

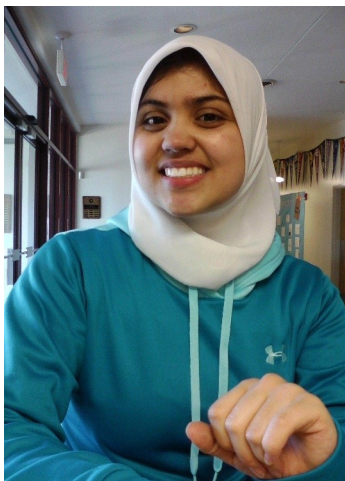
Brianna Lillyman (2008) and her mom Barb served as judges for Odyssey of the Mind State competition this year on behalf of Countryside. Brianna's team took 2nd at Worlds back when she was on our team!

Chas Newman (2009) helped prepare our Odyssey of the Mind teams for competition. He previously competed at Worlds on the Countryside team.

Ryan Kuck, Freddie Stavins and Edo Roth (all seniors at Uni) won the regional ExploraVision regional competition. Their project was an advanced smart phone that can assist the visually impaired by detecting navigational hazards and alerting users about dangerous situations.

The Uni boys' soccer team took 2nd place in their first-ever appearance at State. Nine CS alums were on the team including: **Chris Bauer, Issak Haberman, Peter Ivanov, Ryan Kuck, Alex Mestre, Lyle Regenwetter, Freddie Stavins, Robert Stavins, and Patrick Wong.**

**8TH GRADE
MUSICAL
"BUGSY
MALONE"
MAY 22,
7 P.M.**



Ayah Manasra (2008) visits.



James Vaughn (2012) returns to accompany our varsity chorus on trumpet at our first winter music concert in our performing arts center.



Masashi Azuma (2011) visits from the East Coast.

College Bound 2013

Congratulations to our alums headed to the following colleges and universities:

Nora Buss	Stephens College
Chelsea Edwards	MIT
Madelyn Gunn	Illinois
Leif Hague	Tufts
Nealay Kalita	Illinois
Sunjay Koshy	Cal Berkley
Ryan Kuck	Illinois
Sonya Kumpuckal	St. Louis University
Alex Mestre	Indiana
Liam Moersch	Ithaca College
Petra Rantanen	Notre Dame
Edo Roth	Columbia
George Ruan	Illinois
Freddie Stavins	Notre Dame
Wei-Wei Su	Michigan
Julianna Trach	Brown
Patrick Wong	Washington
Arielle Zimmerman	Northwestern

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@countrysideschool.org

Updates from May 2012

We often receive updates just after Trees has been published in May. Send us yours!

Nate Sokolski (2002) is a senior in American Studies at the University of Texas. He also just completed his Music minor after making the University of Texas Jazz Ensemble for the past two semesters.

He recently became an initiate of the Texas Cowboys, a distinguished honor organization from the University of Texas that began in 1922. Their primary focus as a Service, Spirit and Social organization on campus is to maintain "Smokey" The Cannon. Nate was one of only three non-Texans initiated in the last five years! Nate attended Countryside from K-5th grade (1997-2002).

Cubby Knox (2006) will be attending the private liberal arts college Denison University in Granville, Ohio this fall. He received a generous Alumni Scholarship from Denison and hopes to major in English Literature and minor in Photography.

Cubby graduated from Champaign Central where he received an Academic Letter each year, was head of photography for the Yearbook, and played in the snare line of the marching band for three years.

This spring he received a Gold Key for his photograph with an anti-bullying theme from the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. As a deaf individual, he is sensitive to the dangers of bullying in school.

IF YOU DID **NOT**
RECEIVE THIS BY
EMAIL, IT IS
BECAUSE WE
DO **NOT** HAVE
YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS.

Alum Honored as Top Engineering Student

Congratulations to alumni **Daniel Borup** (2004) who is this year's recipient of the Harvey H. Jordan Award as the top student in the University of Illinois College of Engineering.

Daniel is a senior with a 4.0 grade-point average in engineering mechanics with a minor in computer science. He is also the co-founder of HigherMed, Inc. — a company working to improve the design and operation of prescription bottle caps.

He and Countryside alumnus **Evan File** (2003) co-founded the company which received 2nd place in the most fundable category at the 2012 Cozad New Venture Competition. Daniel is also an undergraduate research assistant with the Mondal Research Group.

In addition to being the Illini Pride Student Athletic Board president this year, he has performed the National Anthem at Illini basketball games and other athletic events.

Countryside Trees

Great News from the Past Year



Cheering fans at the 1st game in the new gym!

**ALUMS &
ALUM
PARENTS:
SHARE YOUR
E-MAIL
ADDRESS
WITH US!**

We celebrated the Grand Opening of our new Gym and Performing Arts Center!

Seventh grader Raya is a Grand Prize winner in *Science World* magazine's contest "Send Your Experiment into Space" contest. Her experiment was sent 13 miles above the Earth's surface in a "PongSat" balloon and returned for her to study the effects of temperature, gravity and pressure.

Our choruses, band, ensemble groups and piano students performed their two concerts at our new performing arts center.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest honored fifth graders Sophia, Claire and Angela and fourth grader Jyoti. Sophia received "Top Winner".

Countryside welcomed new teachers: middle school social studies teacher Rich Morton, Chinese teacher Holly Yan, and Latin teacher Whitney McComas.

The Champaign-Urbana Optimist Club honored fifth graders with Challenge Awards: Sophia in Humanities and Ethan in Science.

Theme week celebrated "Smile" with random acts of kindness, a visit from three Paralympians who competed in the London games, class service projects, and an all-school stage performance in three languages.

Both our *Odyssey of the Mind* teams placed 1st at State in their problems and advance to World competition this month. This is the eighth consecutive year we have competed at Worlds!

Second grader Aaron placed 1st in Illinois and 2nd in the nation in the international Math Kangaroo competition.

Seventh grader Austin received his black belt in Tae Kwon Do and was named state champion in Creative Forms.

Second grader Sanaiya took 1st place in her division at the University of Illinois' Insect Fear Film Festival art contest for her watercolor and oil pastel entry.

The K/1 class Bakery project raised \$868 for the American Red Cross to help both locally and for Hurricane Sandy relief.

Our MathCounts club reached Gold Level Status as a MathCounts club again this year and two students, sixth graders Albert and Matthew, placed in the top 25 percent of competitors at State.

Sixth grader Alex S. took 1st in the 12 and under 50 yard butterfly at the 2013 ISI Winter Regional Swimming Championships.

Seventeen students and alums danced in "The Nutcracker" this season at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts with the CU Ballet!

The All-School Music Show, *Sing, Dance and Celebrate*, included songs and dances from the 40's through today. It even featured the faculty performing in a barbershop quartet, as The Beatles, and dancing to "Aquarius".



Mrs. Eckstein dances with the faculty to "Aquarius" in the All School Music Show.

Spring 2013

Several families took part in the Illinois 5k and youth races – both running and cheering on Team Countryside. Sixth grader Alex won his division in the Illinois 5k!

First grader Charlotte received her black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Award-winning children's author Alice McGinty spoke to the elementary students as part of the Youth Literature Festival. She has written over 40 books for children.

Countryside School placed 2nd at ChessFest Fall 2012 – a competition of over 90 students representing 23 schools in the area. Congratulations to our first place winners: 2nd grader Ryan and 8th grader Matthew!

Sixth grader Sarah sang the National Anthem with a Next Generation 6th grader before the girls' home basketball game between the two teams. Both girls play basketball for their respective schools.

Third grader Zach and 6th grader Alex competed in the National Junior Olympics Track & Field Championships in Baltimore, MD.

Service projects benefitted the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, American Red Cross, Times Center, Windsor of Savoy, Soles for Souls, and Samaritan's Purse World Medical Mission. For Samaritan's Purse the school purchased three cows for widows in Kenya where two CS students will spend their summer with their parents on this medical mission.

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

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

We hosted 37 home basketball and volleyball games in the new gym - complete with concessions, half-time music, and a large fan following!

Farewell Reception

Join us to say farewell to:

Mrs. Eckstein (5th grade)

Mrs. Lukeman (Performing Arts)

Mrs. Driver (Development Director)

Wednesday, May 29

5-6:30 p.m. at the school

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 International Dinner - featuring parents learning to Indian Dance!

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

GRADUATION

THURSDAY,

MAY 30,

7 P.M.

AT THE

SCHOOL

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

Featured Faculty Update

FACULTY:
SEND US
YOUR
UPDATES.
WE LOVE TO
HEAR FROM
YOU TOO.



Michele O'Brien (MS Social Studies) moved to Nashville and teaches at Harpeth Hall – an independent all-girls college prep school for 5th - 12th grade.

“My move to Nashville, and to the Harpeth Hall School has been a happy one. I am enjoying the challenges and the adventures that come with my new life in my new city. And that does include the adventure of driving a short school bus through downtown Nashville in the rain.”

“My students, all girls and all in the eighth grade, fill my days with the same joy and wonder I felt at Countryside School. After our busy school year is done, I will be joining a group of 30 teachers at a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute in New York. Norman will be joining me there.”



Ms. O'Brien now teaches at Harpeth Hall

Faculty Updates

Donna Battershell (Art) is no longer teaching but still enjoying art. A few years back she took a fabric dyeing class and loved it. Now she is dyeing fabric and silk scarves and creating small art quilts and other mixed media pieces which she sells locally.

Faculty Updates

Hsiao-Ching Chen (Chinese) is currently staying at home with baby Henry, born in February, and his adoring older sisters.



Ms. Chen and baby Henry

Ana Dillman (2nd grade) is living in San Francisco with her husband Japheth and their 1-year-old son Apollo. She works as a nanny (Apollo goes with her), and teaches religious school at their synagogue. Her favorite thing to do since moving there is to go on walks exploring the neighborhoods and nature of her beautiful city.

Doey Gordon (Kindergarten) is in her sixth year at Carle Hospital, working as a Child Life Specialist and the coordinator of the program. Her days are filled with helping kids cope when they have come into the hospital unexpectedly and need emergent care for all kinds of reasons. She is also privileged to help care for families who have a very hurt or sick child in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. And sometimes, she just gets to make a kid who is in the hospital for a while a little happier by bringing out the paints and letting them know it is okay to get a little messy! When that happens, her thoughts always turn back to Countryside where she says, "In my eyes, we had the time of our lives!"

Karen Kovacs (MS Science) is the Clinical Director for a privately owned physical therapy practice in Gloucester, VA. She treats adults and children with mainly orthopedic injuries. She and Bob live about 10 minutes from her mom and have enjoyed being close to both of their families. They have a Labrador retriever named Sally, still enjoy running and biking and have recently started doing triathlons.

Ali Lewis (2nd grade) lives here in Champaign and is married to Mike. They have 4 children: Oscar (9), Leo (7), Daisy (4), and Belle (2). She is the director of University Primary School and teaches soon-to-be teachers at the College of Education at the University of Illinois. Since leaving Countryside, she: consumed 45,000 gallons of diet Coke, made her children climb to the top of Cahokia Mounds and listen to her sing the Illinois State Song, stayed in touch with Ms. Miller, and has continued to cherish all of her Countryside memories!

Patrick Neff (Latin) is completing his student teaching at Lyons Township High School near Chicago and is seeking employment as a Latin teacher at several schools in and outside of Illinois. Magister Neff fondly remembers his first teaching job and his students at Countryside and is grateful for all he learned from them.

Dawn Richman (3rd grade) is finally in her own classroom again after working as a substitute teacher for two years. For the past year, she has been working at All Saints Episcopal School in Lubbock, TX. She is teaching 2nd grade math and science to 34 children and loves being back in her own classroom.

Adrielle Stapleton (Latin) is in her second year in Boston with Nat. She works at MIT Medical in the Community Wellness department, helping with the getfit@mit and [MIT spouses@partners](mailto:MIT_spouses@partners) programs. She gets to meet a lot of interesting people and has been dabbling in a little Italian to keep expanding her language skills.

THIS
NEWSLETTER
IS IN COLOR
ON OUR
WEBSITE!



Countryside School

Joy in Learning, Excellence in Education

NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

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Mark your calendars: (all events to be held at the school)

8th Grade Musical "Bugsy Malone"	Wednesday, May 22	7 p.m.
Farewell Reception for Mrs. Eckstein, Mrs. Lukeman and Mrs. Driver	Wednesday, May 29	5 - 6:30 p.m.
Graduation (and alumni photo)	Thursday, May 30	7 p.m.
Homecoming 2013/Fall Picnic	Friday, September 6	5 - 7 p.m.
Alumni "Hoops and Connections" Reunion	Sunday, January 4	4 p.m.