

# Countryside Trees



NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spring 2014

## Letter from the Head



Cathie Webber

Dear Friends,

Greetings from all of us at Countryside! As always, we miss you and love any news we can get from and about you.

Sadly, this is my last official message to you as Head of Countryside School as I am retiring at the end of June. It's not easy leaving a place you love. But, even with the sadness each "last" brings, my heart is full of beautiful memories and gratitude for all of you who have so greatly enriched my life. I treasure these relationships. I hope you'll stay in touch with me through Facebook or email (caj713@gmail.com ) and plan to see you at many upcoming reunions!

As we bid goodbye to the 2013-2014 school year, we must also bid goodbye to three people who have so greatly enriched our lives at Countryside. In addition to the departure of **Gail McWilliams** to retirement, we will also be bidding farewell to **Natalya Zielnicki** who will be attending graduate school at Harvard and to **Kim File** who will be "traveling, writing, hatching entrepreneurial ideas with my kids and taking in lots of Krannert and community events." On **Thursday, May 29** from 5-6:30, we will honor these outstanding and beloved teachers for their years of service to and caring for our students. PLEASE make plans to stop by!

May means 8<sup>th</sup> grade musical (CLASSIC PEANUTS), the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip (St. Louis for the City Museum, Arch, and riverboat dinner cruise) and graduation! We invite and encourage anybody who is able to come to **Graduation**, which will be held on **Wednesday, May 28** at 7:00.

The following people will be joining your ranks as alumni/ae:

Sandeep Anil	Centennial
Toby Antonsen	Centennial
Elizabeth Guenther	Urbana
Dylan Gunn	Central
Ayaan Khan	Centennial
Caterina Kim	Centennial
Daniel Konicek	Centennial
Aditi Mehta	Centennial
Corinne Petruzzi	Central
Delaney Vallese	Centennial
Justin Wang	Centennial
Adam Woodard	Centennial

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

Raine Bernhard	Emma Hummel
Martin Dalling	Albert Lee
Dante Freund	Alex Swanson-Linville
Nina Galvez	Arjun Tangella

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 to visit our website ([www.countrysideschool.org](http://www.countrysideschool.org)) to get all kinds of information about the school now and in the past.

I will miss you all, and thank you for allowing me to live a dream.

Fondly,  
Cathie Webber

## Honors and Awards

- FIRST ALUM TO GRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL
- ALUM NAMED RISING STAR IN PRIVATE EQUITY BY FINANCIAL NEWS
- BOTH ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS TAKE 1ST AT STATE, ADVANCE TO WORLDS

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# Countryside Trees

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## Cathie Webber: Retiring After 40 Years in Education

Rain or shine, Mrs. Webber has been greeting children and opening car doors at drop off for twenty years. She has been conducting the countdown in the lobby to the opening second of each new school year, and she has inspired hundreds of area students. With Mrs. Webber retiring, we take a look back at how she changed Countryside School and her impact on the community.

Some families that are newer to the school may not remember its tiny storefront beginnings. When Mrs. Webber was hired in 1994, the school had only thirty-six students and four staff. Today enrollment is at capacity with nearly 150 students and two dozen staff members – with hundreds of alums across the country. Under Mrs. Webber's leadership, the school grew from a small, leased storefront space to a fully accredited school with a thirteen acre campus including a full-sized gym and stage - the school as it is today.

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### RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

SUNDAY,  
MAY 25  
2-4 P.M.  
AT THE  
SCHOOL

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Our beloved Mrs. Webber has always had a gift for both leadership and serving others. It is difficult to believe she has over forty years in education! After receiving her M. Ed. in Elementary Education (specializing in education of gifted and talented) from the University of Illinois, she taught several years in the public schools - including serving as a gifted teacher. She taught elementary and middle school performing arts where her passion for theater led her to direct and produce over 50 productions. In 1994 she became the founding Head of Countryside School.

In addition to receiving awards for her contributions to teaching, Mrs. Webber has been a conference presenter on several educational topics. She has both chaired and served as a member of the Independent Schools Association of Central States accreditation teams, which assist in accrediting other independent schools in the region.

Mrs. Webber has served on numerous local boards including the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation, The Reading Group, Red Cross of Champaign County, World Heritage Museum, and also served as the president of Junior League of Champaign-Urbana. In addition, Junior League awarded its annual *Community Impact Award* to Mrs. Webber this month!

The transition Interim Head, Bill Rowe, will lead Countryside for a year. During that time Countryside (with assistance from our hired "head search" firm) will conduct a national search for Mrs. Webber's replacement. Mr. Rowe spent eleven years as the head of an independent school in St. Louis and has visited Countryside several times already in preparation for next year.

**Cathie Webber recorded a farewell video message about her last wish as Head of School:**

[http://www.countrysideschool.org/our\\_community/family/videos/message\\_from\\_cathie\\_webber/index.aspx](http://www.countrysideschool.org/our_community/family/videos/message_from_cathie_webber/index.aspx)

If you do not have the Alumni username and password, contact Heidi Mulderink, Director of Donor and Alumni Relations at [mulderink@countrysideschool.org](mailto:mulderink@countrysideschool.org).

## Actor Mandy Patinkin Advises 7th and 8th Graders

Our 7th and 8th graders video chatted with television and film actor Mandy Patinkin. The students recently read *The Princess Bride*, and Patinkin is well-known for his portrayal of the beloved character Inigo Montoya in the film version of William Goldman's book. In addition the 7th graders performed *The Princess Bride* on stage this spring.

Students asked Mr. Patinkin about his experiences filming the movie; learning to sword fight with both his left and right hand; and about his favorite pizza.

Mr. Patinkin shared how to prepare for a role; how many hours he worked learning to fence with either hand; and insightful advice about life. He even pulled the actual sword from the movie down from his wall and delighted the students with his famous line, "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die."

Patinkin is known for his work in television (*Criminal Minds* and *Chicago Hope*), film and on Broadway (*Evita!*). He currently stars in the widely acclaimed television drama *Homeland*.



Actor Mandy Patinkin giving advice to 7th grader Arjun, who portrayed Inigo Montoya in Countryside's production of *The Princess Bride*.

### Farewell Reception

Join us to say farewell to:

Mrs. File (Music)

Señora McWilliams (Spanish)

Mrs. St. Clair Zielnicki (MS math)

**Thursday, May 29**

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

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CHECK OUR  
WEBSITE FOR  
A SPECIAL  
VIDEO  
MESSAGE  
FROM MRS.  
WEBBER!

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## In Memoriam

Colin Pitt, age 17, died on September 20, 2013 in Champaign. Colin graduated from Countryside School in 2010. He attended Centennial High School and then the Novak Academy.

He loved music, video games, Magic card games and pets. He loved talking, listening to and helping people. He had a strong sense of social justice, and was not afraid to stand up for what he believed in. He also had a mischievous sense of humor.

Colin is survived by his mother, Claire Barker; father, Lenny Pitt; brothers, Michael and Brian Pitt; uncle, Wil Barker; sister-in-law, Caitlin Pitt; and grandparents, Lois Kaplan, Ida Pitt and Hy Weisberg.

Contributions in Colin's memory may be made to the Juvenile Bipolar Research Foundation ([jbrf.org](http://jbrf.org)).



Colin Pitt giving his graduation speech from 8th grade at Countryside School.

# Countryside Trees

## Homecoming 2013



**Above left:** Anupam Sharma, Anshul Adve, and Aaditya Mehta

**Above right:** Joy Jin, David Jin, Ally Choi, Cole Petruzzi and Carolyn Cai

**Below:** Mallika Luthar, Roma Mehta, and current student Sandeep Anil

### HOMECOMING

FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 12  
AT THE  
SCHOOL



### We love seeing returning alums!

Join us for next year's Homecoming/family picnic for fun, food and games - including cotton candy and inflatables.

Come back to see your former teachers and reunite with friends!



Find us on  
**Facebook**

We now have three ways of staying in contact!!

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

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

**Alumni page on our website - [www.countrysideschool.org](http://www.countrysideschool.org)** - Visit our website to check out the Alumni page for news on past graduates and update your contact information. We have added an alumni login to view photos and videos of events. If you need the username and password, contact Heidi Mulderink, Director of Donor and Alumni Relations at [mulderink@countrysideschool.org](mailto:mulderink@countrysideschool.org).

## Alumni Reunion and Basketball

Several alumni and alum parents returned for the third annual “**Hoops and Connections**” **Alumni Reunion** in January. Current and former faculty enjoyed catching up with students. The alums played a couple of scrimmages - sometimes pitting siblings and parents against the alums.

Photos are posted on our internal website. If you do not have the Alumni username and password, email Heidi Mulderink, Director of Donor and Alumni Relations at [mulderink@countysideschool.org](mailto:mulderink@countysideschool.org).

Next year’s “Hoops & Connections” reunion is Saturday, January 3 at 4 p.m. Please join us!



**ALUMNI  
REUNION  
“HOOPS &  
CONNECTIONS”  
SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 3,  
2015**



**Front row:** Maanasa Narayanamoorthy, Mrs. Webber, Sarah Jones, Kyle Knox, Tristan Antonsen, Sam Hotchkiss, Matthew Zhang  
**Second row:** Mrs. Eckstein, Mr. Simpson, Justin Wang, Maddie Brown, Michelle Lu, Anna Benson, Mallika Luthar, Valerie Makri, Ellie Zimmerman  
**Third row:** Aileen Chu, Ruth Kahn, Madeleine Nelson, Taylor Feddersen, Carolyn Cai, Ally Choi, Rainey Shah  
**Fourth row:** Daniel Borup, Zach Wilken, Jonathan File, Nick Zunich, Kolten Eickmeier, Gauri Shankar, Serena Shah, Grace Qiu  
**Back row:** Mr. Antonsen, Mrs. File, Mrs. Kirby, Mrs. Wilken, Señora McWilliams, Mrs. Lukeman, Mrs. Brickey, Mrs. Henson, Ms. Stambaugh

# Countryside Trees

## Alum Updates

**Allison Beck** (1996\*) is on the accounting faculty at Florida State University. She teaches an undergraduate auditing class.

**Zsolt Bognár** (1997), a classical pianist, released a CD entitled "Franz and Franz". The album was recorded in Berlin with Grammy-winning producer Philipp Nedel. Zsolt also donated a portion of the proceeds to Countryside School!

**Arthur Campello** (2011) moved to Ithaca, NY following 7th grade. He began a 3D printing based design startup with some friends ([www.formcorp.net](http://www.formcorp.net)). He is teaching himself web design and designed the Form Corp website himself. He continues singing and participating in annual recitals and was also the lead role in his new school's production of *Seussical*. Recently, he won an award for getting the highest score in his school on the AMC 10 ([www.maa.org/math-competitions](http://www.maa.org/math-competitions)). Arthur says, "I would be nowhere near where I am today had it not been for Countryside's support through most of my life."

**Jackie Hedeman** (2002) After three years working at the Carole Robertson Center for Learning in Chicago, she is moving on to fulfill a dream that started in Mrs. Breault's 6th grade LWW class: in the fall she will be starting the three-year Nonfiction MFA program at Ohio State University.



Alum and U.S. Naval officer **Meredith Albrecht Botnick** returned to teach STEM subjects to our K - 5th grade classes - including electricity, loop paper airplanes and Rubik's cubes.

\* dates indicate last year student attended CS



**Kali Smith Monma** (1998) is still pursuing acting and currently lives in Venice, CA. The big news is she had a baby in January!

**David Kaplan** (1998) was recently awarded his 6th patent by the U.S. government! As a Senior Member of Technical Staff at Advanced Micro Devices in Austin, TX, he is following his passion in Computer Engineering in the field of hardware architecture and design. And David has many more patent applications in the queue!

**Kate Love** (2009) attended Countryside for 1st - 7th grade. She is now a senior at Monticello High School. After graduating this month, she will spend her summer traveling and learning. This fall she will attend the University of Illinois starting work on a bioengineering degree. Kate says, "Even though I live in Monticello now, I still go into Champaign often, and it brings back memories when I drive by Countryside. It's certainly a lot bigger now than it was when I was a student!"

**Sameer Manchanda** (2008), a high school senior in Carmel, IN, won the Indiana State Chess Tournament for the 2nd year in a row.

**Alex Mestre** (2008) is a freshman at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, the #8 ranked undergraduate business school in the nation. Alex says, "This semester, I was asked to speak to 2,000 prospective Kelley students in the Indiana University Auditorium. It was an amazing experience!"

**Gloria Ha** (2009) and **Arch Robinson** (2009) have been named National Merit scholars.

## College Bound 2014

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

Natalie Bina	Wesleyan University (CT)
Aileen Chu	Grinnell College
Gloria Ha	Caltech - bioengineering
David Jin	Illinois
Ruth Kahn	Reed College (OR)
Anna Kanfer	Illinois - ag & consumer econ
Kate Love	Illinois - bioengineering
Valerie Makri	Illinois - civil engineering
Sameer Manchanda	Purdue
David Morrow	St. Louis University
Liam Nelson	Rochester Institute of Technology
Chas Newman	Georgetown
Jason Omo-Osagie	Kentucky
Arch Robison	Harvey Mudd College
Morgan Standley	Illinois - biology
Robby Welch	Colorado College

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](mailto:countryside@countrysideschool.org)

## CSA Happenings

Countryside School Association sponsored several events for the school including teacher appreciation lunches and book fairs. Highlights of the year's events included Homecoming/Fall Picnic, the Winter Ice Skating Party, and the wonderfully entertaining Parent Trivia Night.

In addition CSA coordinated Countryside gear sales, box top collection, all-school pizza party, and end of the year gathering in the park. Thank you CSA volunteers!

## Alum Named Rising Star

### John Flynn (1997)

London's *Financial News* named Countryside alum John Flynn to its *40 under 40 Rising Stars in Private Equity*. This award recognizes the most promising people in the investment industry in Europe. John is a principal at Silver Lake, a global leader in technology investing in London. Investments he has worked on include the €1 billion buyout of travel payment business Global Blue and the \$8.5 billion sale of video-calling business Skype to Microsoft.

John graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.S.E. from The Wharton School and a B.A.S. from the School of Engineering & Applied Science. He has also worked in the mergers and acquisitions group at Evercore Partners.

## Countryside's First Doctor

### Rachel Kaplan (2001)

Rachel will receive her Doctorate of Medicine from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine this month. She is the first Countryside alum (that we know of) to graduate from medical school. This summer she will begin her residency in internal medicine at Northwestern, and plans to pursue a career in cardiology.

Outside of the hospital, when she is not studying, she can likely be found practicing and performing one of her two passions, ballet and clarinet. Rachel started ballet at age 5 here with the Champaign Urbana Ballet, and now takes classes in Chicago at the Joffrey Ballet. She has also enjoyed playing the clarinet and is in a musical group with other medical students at Northwestern called "[Musicians in Medicine](#)". They perform regularly for patients at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

When asked about Countryside, Rachel is excited to talk about the fourth grade teacher here who truly inspired her love of science - Mrs. Henson!

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

# Countryside Trees

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## Great News from the Past Year

Countryside held its first “Family Engineering Night”. Engineering activities included mirror silvering, 3D printing with optical sensors, middle school catapult contest, Rube Goldberg machines and more.

Countryside welcomed new Director of Donor and Alumni Relations, Heidi Mulderink and new Performing Arts/Creative Dramatics teacher Jennifer Goran.

Natalya St. Clair Zielnicki, our middle school math teacher, co-authored the book *The Art of Mental Calculation: Addition and Subtraction*.

Theme week celebrated “Give” with 4th grader Ned and 5th grader Mary speaking on their family’s medical mission trip to Kenya where they presented three cows donated by their class to the neediest residents.

Seventh grader Albert qualified to take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). He scored in the top 2.5 percentile among grades 10 and below on the American Mathematics Competition 10A.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest honored 5th grader Joey and 4th grader Andy for their posters, and 4th graders Henry and Jake for their poetry and prose entries. Fifth grader Jyoti’s poster received a Top Winner Award.

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

The entire middle school spent the day at the UIUC Engineering Open House touring clean rooms, exploring the engineering campus, and learning about engineering.

Third grader Sanaiya won 3rd place with her watercolor and ink painting of bees in the Insect Fear Film Festival art contest.

The All-School Music Show featured a *Prairie Home Companion* style theme - complete with musical puns. The concurrent All-School Art Show featured student art filling the hallways and multipurpose room.

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

Countryside “hosted” its first non-school function in the new gym – the I-Power Classic gymnastics meet. Competing on “home turf”, 7th grader Sarah took 2nd on beam and 4th grader Jordan won 3rd all around.

Service projects benefitted the United Way (tornado relief in Gifford, IL); Eastern Illinois Foodbank; Linus Project; TIMES Center; and the Leilani Farm Sanctuary in Hawaii and more.

Alum 7th grader Matthew placed 8th in the State at MathCounts and 7th grader Albert placed 14th.

At Fall Chessfest 4th grader Jake took 4th place and 3rd grader Benjamin took 3rd. At Spring Chessfest, 3rd grader Benjamin took 3rd and 8th grader Justin took 2nd.

Sixth graders Sohan and Adam Y. won 2nd place in the Superman category at the UIUC Engineering Open House catapult design contest.

Over fifty students, alums and parents competed in the Illinois Marathon races in April. Go Team Countryside!

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



Mrs. Webber and her gnomes (Mrs. Goran, Mrs. Eckstein and Señora McWilliams) in the All School Music Show, “Countryside Home Companion”.

## Donor & Alumni Relations

Dear Countryside Alumni and Alumni Families,  
Hello and almost Happy Summer! (and happy graduation to many of you!) If you have not heard already, you are officially invited to a celebration of gratitude for Cathie Webber later this month. Please note the reception will be held from 2 - 4 p.m., and the program will start at 2:30 p.m.

Join us for a *Celebration of Gratitude* honoring Cathie Webber and her contributions to the school.

Sunday, May 25 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
(short program at 2:30)  
Countryside School Gymnasium

Also - keep your eyes on our website for CSide news! We have recently put up our first video message of CSide, hopefully with more to come soon! Here's the link to Cathie Webber's message, in case you missed it: [http://www.countrysideschool.org/our\\_community/family/videos/message\\_from\\_cathie\\_webber/index.aspx](http://www.countrysideschool.org/our_community/family/videos/message_from_cathie_webber/index.aspx) If you do NOT have the Alumni username and password, contact me.

Finally, how do you want to reconnect with Countryside? Will you be in town and want

to pop by and visit your old teachers? Or maybe come and teach some students a new skill, or see an athletic event, play or concert? [Email](mailto:mulderink@countrysideschool.org) me (Heidi), and I would be glad to help coordinate your visit so you do not miss anything!

Thanks and take care,

Heidi Mulderink

Donor & Alumni Relations

[mulderink@countrysideschool.org](mailto:mulderink@countrysideschool.org)

P.S. What impact can you make with one cup of coffee (\$1.66) per month (19.92/year)? Become a founding member of *The 1992 Society* and support the Excellence Fund in its goal to help achieve Excellence in Education and Joy in Learning at Countryside! Email me if you'd like to know more, or you can go to [www.countrysideschool.org](http://www.countrysideschool.org) and click *Donate!* to set up a multiple or one time payment.

P.P.S. Do you know someone who is graduating or reaching a milestone? Do you want to honor a favorite teacher or mentor? Commemorate his or her achievements, or say thanks in a special way, by purchasing an engraved brick for him or her at Countryside. The order form is available on our website (under Support Countryside, Gym and Performing Arts Center), and all proceeds go towards our Gym and Performing Arts Center.

**GRADUATION**  
WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 28,  
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 58 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](mailto:countryside@countrysideschool.org)



**Thank you, Leslie Hodges and Daniel Borup, for our most recent pennant additions - Gettysburg College and Stanford University!**

# Countryside Trees

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## Featured Faculty Updates

In addition to Mrs. Webber, we say goodbye to three of our beloved faculty this year. Two are retiring and one is moving on to a tremendous graduate school opportunity....



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

### **Natalya St. Clair Zielnicki (MS Math)**

#### **What did you learn as a teacher here that you will carry with you?**

I got a lot more from teaching at Countryside than I gave. I started my career teaching at Countryside and plan to carry out our mission of "Joy in Learning, Excellence in Education" in a larger setting at Harvard Graduate School of Education. My broad goal is to help students to not just learn math, but to love it. Thanks to the amazing support of parents, colleagues, and students over the years, I learned how to spread my love of math through teaching, and I hope to carry that with me in the future.

#### **How have the students inspired you?**

Countryside students have always been a constant source of inspiration for me, and I will always carry that in my heart. I am very thrilled and proud to learn that a large number of our alumni are using math after graduating Countryside. I think a number of our students look for beauty and meaning in math, and I suppose in that way I find inspiration in teaching math.

#### **Where will you be going?**

I am enrolling at Harvard Graduate School of Education for a master's degree in Technology, Innovation, and Education. I have dreams of combining my passions for art, math, and education to work as an online curriculum developer in math education. Specifically, next year I will be taking coursework in informal learning for children, growing up in a media world, and advanced design studio. Much of the program is internship-based, and I hope to gain a lot of experience through project and field work in the Boston area. I'm sure the program will be very stimulating, and I look forward to the many opportunities I will find at Harvard.

This summer I will also be teaching at MathZoom Academy for seven weeks, located in UC Berkeley and Boston College. At MathZoom, I will be preparing accelerated learners for MATHCOUNTS and AMC contests. I know several of our alumni have attended MathZoom Academy, and I am very excited to work there and experience this outstanding program myself. In addition, I will be collaborating on a few pet projects, including a TED-Ed talk about art and math, figures for a new recreational math book being published next fall, and developing materials for a new MATHCOUNTS book on problem-solving.

### **Kim File (Music)**



Goodbyes are bittersweet, and now I know what all of you have felt as you graduated or moved on from Countryside. In our recent all school program, Countryside Home Companion (a spin off of the Prairie Home Companion), I wrote in the program that I chose that title because Countryside has

## Featured Faculty Updates

always felt like a second home to me, a warm and companionable place where we have found friends, fun, and wonderful memories. I hope all of you can recall a song, game or dance that we experienced together or perhaps a special part you had in a program. Maybe your memories include goofy (creatively inspired) activities or images I may have drawn on the board.

Most of all I hope that music is an important, nourishing part of your lives, and that the communal singing, drumming, or dancing you did as Countryside students connected you to others in a special way that you will seek and duplicate as adults.

Let's plan to visit at Alumni gatherings and keep in touch. In the meantime I'll be hatching entrepreneurial ideas with my own three alums...Anna, Evan, and Jonathan...traveling, writing, and going to lots of Krannert and community musical events. Yesh, yesh....yesh yesh yesh!

### Gail McWilliams (Spanish)

My eight years at Countryside have been amazing and rewarding. I could not have asked for better students. One of the joys of being a specialty teacher is that I have been

able to have many of my students for several years. To see them grow both in their language skills and as people is a wonderful opportunity and an honor. My heartfelt thanks go to all of my students, their parents, and my incredible colleagues.

As I prepare to leave, I find it particularly difficult to say good-bye, but actually I'll still be around for awhile. I will be teaching a Beadwork and Jewelry-Making summer camp with Mrs. Bush and plan to return to substitute teach next year. I also plan to spend a good bit of time traveling and spending time with my husband on our sailboat.



Señora with 7th graders Sophie, Emma and Raine - students she taught since kindergarten

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THIS  
NEWSLETTER  
IS IN COLOR  
ON OUR  
WEBSITE!

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## Faculty Updates

### Sharon Henson (4th grade)

I have just spent 2 1/2 months in sunny Florida walking and riding my trike each and every day on the Withlacoochee State Trail and working out at the Fitness Center using my Silver Sneakers privileges. This summer my husband and I will be packing up all of our belongings in preparation for our move to our new condo in my hometown of Central City, IA. There is also a bicycle/hiking trail there along the Wapsipinicon River as well as a trail that runs all the way from Cedar Rapids to Cedar Falls! In August we will take our travel trailer to Great Falls, MT where we will spend six weeks visiting Seth, Christy and the

grandchildren and riding the bicycle/hiking trail that runs along both sides of the Missouri River for many miles. Retirement is wonderful!

### Adrielle Stapleton (Latin)

Hello, Countryside! My spouse and I are moving to Bonn, Germany for next year with my spouse's next post-doc, and also have a trip planned to Thailand. I'm really excited to do lots of sight-seeing and biking around Europe. I'm taking a German class where we started speaking in the target language right away, and I have to say that knowing Latin is helping me navigate some of the crazy syntax.



# Countryside School

Joy in Learning, Excellence in Education

NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Countryside School  
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**We don't want to lose contact!**  
We may switch to electronic  
distribution only.  
Please send us your email address:  
[countryside@countrysideschool.org](mailto:countryside@countrysideschool.org)



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

Cathie Webber Celebration of Gratitude	Sunday, May 25	2 - 4 p.m.
Graduation (and alumni photo)	Wednesday, May 28	7 p.m.
Farewell Reception for Mrs. File, Señora McWilliams and Mrs. St. Clair Zielnicki	Thursday, May 29	5 - 6:30 p.m.
Homecoming 2014/Fall Picnic	Friday, September 12	5 - 7 p.m.
"Hoops and Connections" Alumni Reunion	Saturday, January 3	4 p.m.