

Countryside Trees



NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spring 2017

Letter from the Head



Stephanie Harman

Dear Friends,
Greetings from everyone here at Countryside School! It has been another fantastic year. As I walk the hallways each day, I see joyful children engaged in projects that pique their curiosity and

challenge their critical thinking skills. I know many of you enjoyed similar experiences as you walked these halls yourselves as students.

You may be interested to know that Countryside engaged in some great student-centered, passion-based learning this year. Our elementary students worked hard on their Passion Projects creating everything from stuffed animals to artwork, from a classroom newspaper to a remote control pig! The Middle School held its very first Maker Faire which was a huge success. If you would like to see a video of some of the truly amazing projects from that event, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/CSMakerFaire2017>

I recently had the pleasure of spending a couple of days in Chicago with our 8th grade students. We visited the Skydeck at the Willis Tower, saw Blue Man Group perform, and had a beautifully sunny architectural boat tour on the Chicago River. I truly enjoyed spending time with these wonderful children. I encourage you to come out and see them in action as they perform the play, **Circus Olympus** on **Tuesday, May 23** at 7 p.m. on the Cathie Webber Stage. The show is sure to be a hit!

I also invite and encourage anybody who is able to come to **Graduation**, which will be held on **Thursday, May 25** at 7 p.m. on the Cathie Webber Stage.

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

I look forward to seeing you all at our **25th Birthday Party Homecoming Picnic** in the fall. Be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 26** at 4 p.m.! Stay tuned for more details on that event--rumor has it there will be special alumni t-shirts and fun alumni activities scheduled.

As we bid goodbye to the 2016-2017 school year, we must also say goodbye to elementary teacher Maureen Beyt who will be relocating to Asheville, North Carolina. If you would like to say **goodbye to Mrs. Beyt** and wish her well on her new adventure, please join us on **Friday, May 19** from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Warm regards,
Stephanie Harman

Our 8th graders honored at **Graduation** on **Thursday, May 25** at 7 p.m.:

Anthony Carpenter	TBD
Andrew Chen	TBD
Cassie Colmenares	Academy High
Zoe Eichorn	Centennial
Teddy Sammons	TBD
Mirielle Shah	Lake Travis H.S. (Austin, Texas)
Holden Siena	Centennial
Jyoti Sundaram	Centennial
Colette Tichenor	Academy High

Students matriculating as subfreshmen at University Laboratory High School will be honored at our final all-school assembly on **Friday, May 26** at 11 a.m.:

Andy Brown	Henry Laufenburg
Ekam Ghotra	Lorenzo Pantano
Madeleine Keenan	Jake Regenwetter

Honors and Awards

- BOTH OF OUR ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS WILL COMPETE AT WORLD COMPETITION!
- TWO STUDENTS TO PLAY CARNEGIE HALL THIS SPRING
- FIFTH GRADER SELECTED AS INTERNATIONAL PEACE CAMP AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL

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Countryside Trees

Great News from the Past Year



Our middle school Latin class solved their Ides of March "Who killed Julius Caesar?" murder mystery. New-Gazette coverage:

<https://tinyurl.com/CSLatin>

Seventh grader Jared won 1st place for the *Most Innovative Bridge Design* at the UIUC Engineering Open House Middle School Design Contest. This year's challenge was to build a balsa wood bridge to hold as much weight as possible. (Last year Jared won *Most Unique Design* for his vertical access windmill!) Benjamin, Nate, Dan, and Kevin won this year's Enthusiasm Award.

Over 20 students participated in IESA's Solo and Ensemble Contest. Our performers received a first place in every event! In addition, sixth grader Ryan received the Best of Day award for piano solo!

Both of our Odyssey of the Mind teams took 1st place in their divisions at State and will compete at World Finals this month. This is the **12th consecutive year** we have competed at World Finals.

Countryside service projects benefitted the "Feeding our Kids" program in the public schools, Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Champaign County Humane Society, and Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, and Salt and Light.

Our middle school video-chatted with award-winning science fiction author, Ted Chiang. The Oscar-nominated movie *Arrival* is the film adaptation of his short story, "Story of Your Life." During the hour-long Q&A, the students were thrilled to discover that even well-known authors can take years to perfect a story!

Our K-5 Family Science Night featured students' Design Thinking projects. The K/1 students participated in hands-on activities based on their Arctic unit. Students in 2nd-5th grade displayed their designs for soccer stadiums, hamster habitats, library and classroom spaces, and playgrounds.

Ten of our current students received awards at the UIUC Insect Fear Film Festival Art Contest. Alumna **Lauren Lumetta** (2017) won Best in Show!

Our MATHCOUNTS team placed 3rd in chapter competition and qualified for State.

Countryside's choruses sang the National Anthem at an Illini women's basketball game at the State Farm Center and also at a Bloomington Thunder hockey game.

In honor of Chinese New Year, our Chinese classes created a video celebrating the Year of the Rooster. Xièxie!

<https://tinyurl.com/CSYearoftheRooster>

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Poster, Poetry & Prose Contest honored 5th graders for their posters: Annalise as a Top Award Winner, Sophia with Special Recognition, and Lin and Shawn with Honorable Mentions.



Celebrating March as "Music in our Schools" month, some of our faculty dressed as their favorite musicians: Pink, Adele, Dixie Chick (on St. Patrick's Day), Justin Bieber, and Sia!

(Also known as Katrina Widholm – art, Julia Hartman – music, Maureen Beyt – 3rd grade, Maya Payne – 2nd grade, and Stephanie Harman – Head of School.)

Great News from the Past Year

Seventh grader William and eighth grader Ted were honored by the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie. William's art "Oskar Schindler and the 1,200 Dots of Jews" and Teddy's poem "Three Perspectives" were top scoring entries in the 2017 Leo & Antonia Gershanov Memorial Student Arts & Writing Contest.

Our Kindergarten/1st grade class held their biennial community service Bakery Project. It is a bake sale where the children help bake and are the personal shoppers - even adding up the costs of the items and making change for their customers. This year's proceeds (over \$900) go to the "Feeding Our Kids" program in our local public schools.

Last year's Odyssey of the Mind team placed 16th at World Finals! More than 800 teams from around the world competed in this 4-day creative problem solving competition.

Two students will play at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Sixth grader Ryan will perform a piano piece in July and second grader DJ will perform a piano piece at the end of May - both through the American Protégé competitions. In addition, DJ won the gold medal in the AADGT International Young Musicians Festival and will play Carnegie in June too. That will be DJ's fourth time performing at Carnegie Hall!

Fifth grader Hadley will travel to Campinas, Brazil near São Paulo for a month this summer as a delegate to an international peace education camp. She was selected to participate with Children's International Summer Villages, a global leadership organization dedicated to inspiring peace through developing intercultural friendship and understanding. More than 50 students from a dozen countries will live together at a school and spend time in a homestay.

Five students won blue ribbons in the Champaign Park District "Town and Country Art Show" - second grader Kathryn, third grader Sofia, and sixth graders Grace, Dan, and Sanaiya are now all eligible to enter the State show in the fall.

Our New Corner Sign



Countryside has a new corner sign! The brick base with our official logo and an LED changeable panel has been a wonderful improvement. We love the ability to easily promote our school, congratulate our teams, and announce upcoming events. Thanks to our generous donors David Donnini & Karen Rudolph, Sanjay & Neha Mehta, and the Countryside School Association for making this sign possible.

Our Advanced Math class designed the landscaping as a class project. Read *The News-Gazette* student interviews:

<https://tinyurl.com/CSsign>

Countryside Is Turning 25

We will celebrate our 25th year throughout 2017-2018, starting with a Birthday Party Picnic on August 26, an Alumni Reunion at the school over winter break, and the first-ever Countryside Gala Prom on February 24.

We are looking for people interested in helping with any of these events. If you would like to assist with plans, please contact Judy Kaplan, our 25th Anniversary Committee Chair at kaplan@countrysideschool.org.

We are collecting historical information about the school, as well as any photos or stories you have about the early days. Please send this info to Kristin Feddersen, Director of Communications at feddersen@countrysideschool.org.

Countryside Trees

Homecoming 2016

We love seeing returning alums!

We had beautiful weather for our Homecoming Picnic 2016. Now join us for this year's Homecoming which will be celebrated at our big **25th Birthday Party Picnic** on **Saturday, August 26**. The event will offer food and games - including cotton candy and inflatables. This special event will also feature an Alumni Cornhole Tournament with prizes - so get your teams together! **Alumni Families welcome!**

Come back to see your former teachers and reunite with friends at this special event to celebrate 25 years of Countryside!

**25TH
BIRTHDAY
PARTY PICNIC**
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 26
AT THE
SCHOOL



Top left: Julian White, Eli Lo, David Kanfer, Adam Youssef

Top right: Rainey Shah, Jacob Lo

Bottom left: Serena Shah, Gauri Shankar

Bottom right: Ethan Muchnick, Dante Freund, Jenna Lee



Left: Alex Shilts, Raine Bernhard, Megan Bostaph, Lauren Feddersen, Sarah Windelborn, Sophie Brown

Right: Angela Xu, Ginny Kirby, Veronica Chistaya, Esha Mehta, Olivia Gunn, Jennifer Chen

Countryside is Turning 25!

Help Countryside celebrate 25 years of Joy in Learning!

25th Anniversary Kickoff Celebration was held as part of our Founders' Day Comet Fest on May 5. The event featured an historical slideshow (see it here: <https://tinyurl.com/CSKickoffSlideshow>) and comments by Cathie Webber. And of course, the birthday basket and cupcakes.

Saturday, August 26

25th Birthday Party Picnic

4-7 p.m. in the school's backyard

We want this to be our biggest picnic ever - so **all alumni and their families** should attend. The picnic will feature an Alumni Cornhole (Bags) Tournament with prizes.

Alumni Families welcome!

Rain date: Sunday, August 27, 4-7 p.m.

Friday, December 22

25th Year Alumni Reunion

4-6 p.m. at the school

A fun-filled event featuring a Breakout Room Challenge with time to chat with friends and former teachers.

We highly encourage any alumni - high school to college and beyond to attend.

Alumni Families welcome!



Saturday, February 24, 2018

Countryside Gala Prom

7 p.m. in the gym

This 90's Era prom is your chance to reconnect with old friends and teachers. Dance to the DJ, enjoy the photo booth, appetizers & desserts, and a cash bar.

Invitations will be sent closer to the event - be sure we have your email address. 90's Era prom attire is encouraged but *entirely optional*.

This event is for those *21 years and older*.

Friday, May 4, 2018

25th Anniversary Closing Ceremonies at

our Founders' Day Comet Fest - 11 a.m. in the gym - all are welcome

THIS
NEWSLETTER
IS IN COLOR
BY EMAIL &
ON OUR
WEBSITE!

Share with Our Students

Our students love to hear what our alumni are up to - your career, your passion, or your hobbies.

If you are planning to be back in Champaign-Urbana, contact us and we will set up time for you to visit a group of students here so you can share your interests and experiences with us. We can set up an informal roundtable discussion, a presentation, or chat with a specific class.

Contact Kristin Feddersen, Alumni Relations at feddersen@countrysideschool.org.



[Like us on Facebook](#) for updates and event info.



Follow us on Twitter
@CountrysideCU



Check out our **YouTube** channel:
tinyurl.com/CSsideYouTube



Alumni page on our website -
www.countrysideschool.org -
Check out alumni news & photos and update your contact info.

Countryside Trees

Former Faculty Updates

Janet Brickey - 4th grade

Haifa Dai, Countryside Friends,

Living in Saipan this year has been an amazing experience. I love teaching 5th grade and learning about the local Chamorro culture. Saipan is very near the Marianas Trench and surrounded by ocean life.

During our spring break, my husband and I traveled to Japan where we took the bullet train to visit Hiroshima where I rang the Peace Bell and saw the thousands of origami cranes that students had made for the children's Peace Memorial! I think of Countryside often and am so thankful that Mrs. Kyung has included my class in their Pen pal project.

Mrs. Brickey

Natalya St. Clair (Ms. Z) - MS Math -

finished her master's degree at Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2015. After graduating, Natalya moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where she has been working as a researcher at the Concord Consortium studying data science education.

She published a series of TED-Ed lessons about art and math, one of which has 5 million views on YouTube (<https://tinyurl.com/ArtMathLesson>), and she has taught at Berkeley Math Circles at UC Berkeley. Outside of work, Natalya and her husband, Rob, are house-hunting in El Cerrito, and they are expecting a baby girl this July. She thinks of Countryside School every day and misses her students a lot.

Lois Wilken - MS Math & Odyssey of the Mind

In my first year in retirement, I have spent time traveling to see family and friends. I enjoyed hiking among the redwoods in California and driving along the beautiful Pacific Coast Highway. It's fun to be the student and take classes at the Osher Life-Long Learning Institute. I still get an opportunity to teach as a volunteer at a local English as a Second Language program. I hope to travel internationally next year.

Mrs. Wilken



Janet Brickey rings the Peace Bell at Hiroshima, Japan.

Alum Featured in NY Mag



Kareem Sayegh
(photo: NYMag.com)

What happens when you think you will grow up to be a doctor and then later discover your passion is actually teaching?

Follow the journey into teaching of our alumnus **Kareem Sayegh** (2005) in

this New York Magazine online feature:

<https://tinyurl.com/KareemNYM>

After Countryside, Kareem attended University Laboratory High School and then the University of Chicago to study physics. He is now a ninth grade math teacher at the Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy on the South Side of Chicago. Congratulations, Kareem, on selecting such a noble profession!

ALUMNI &
ALUMNI
PARENTS:
SHARE YOUR
E-MAIL
ADDRESS
WITH US!

Drop-In Days

We offer Drop-In Days on a day when our local high schools do not have school, but Countryside is in session. (typically in October). Alumni are invited to join their former faculty for lunch in the MPR and to have lunch recess with their friends. Be sure we have your email address so we can send you the Drop-In dates when they are set for this fall.



Centennial/Central above

David Kanfer, Olivia Gunn, Angela Xu, Eli Lo, Kayla Israel, Ginny Kirby, Adam Youssef, Jennifer Chen, Sarah Windelborn, Sophie Brown, Ryan McFarquhar

Uni below

Back row: Edward Kong, Maher Adoni, Emi Brown, Nabeel Bashir, Lucas Wood, Ethan Muchnick, Zach Donnini

Front row: Jenna Lee, Christina Wu, May Yang, Lauren Lumetta



GALA PROM
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 24
7 P.M.

Countryside Trees

Alumni Updates

ALUMNI:
PLEASE SEND US
YOUR UPDATES.
WE'D LOVE TO
FEATURE YOU.

Please note: Graduation year listed is "affiliated class year" - the year a student graduated 8th grade or would have graduated had he or she remained at Countryside.

Rodney Burton (1996) received his BS from Illinois, and then his Biochemistry PhD from Illinois in 2015. He married Gloria Severin of Champaign in 2010, has three children, and currently is a postdoc at Michigan State.

Allison Beck (1997) graduated from Illinois in 2004 with a BS in Accounting. She received an MPA accounting degree from Auburn University in 2006 and a PhD from the University of TN at Knoxville in Accounting in 2012. She is currently is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL.

Alice Burton (1999) graduated with a BA from Illinois in 2007 in Comparative Literature and is living and working in downtown Chicago.

Kyle Garton-Gundling (1999) is teaching rhetoric at the University of Illinois. He is writing a book on literary efforts to combine Buddhist and American ideas of freedom.

Elise Lauterbur (1999) is working on her dissertation at Stony Brook University studying how bamboo lemurs in Madagascar survive naturally-occurring cyanide in the bamboo they eat. Last year she led two groups of undergraduate students on study abroad trips to Madagascar. She has just accepted a fellowship from the American Association of University Women to complete her dissertation this year. Fingers crossed.

Byron Beck (2000) received his BS in Accountancy and Finance from Illinois in 2008. He is a finance manager with Arysta Lifescience in West Palm Beach, FL.

Sarah Jones (2001) began a new job as an Employee Engagement Transformation Manager at United Airlines where they help develop corporate decisions by giving voice to their many thousands of front-line employees. In addition, she is completing her Ph.D. dissertation in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Roosevelt University. She also got engaged in April!

Kimberly Redeker (2002) obtained her MBA from Florida Gulf Coast University in Spring 2016 and has been working at Gartner in Ft Myers, FL for the past year. She recently earned a promotion, and is very excited for a career with Gartner!

Stephanie Beck (2003) graduated from the University of Alabama in 2011 with a B.S. in Marketing. is a sales associate for WCIA Television in Champaign.

Michael Belmont (2003) will graduate from medical school in May 2017 and return from Boston to the Chicago area for his residency in internal medicine.

Rachel Kaplan (2003) will be finishing her residency in internal medicine in June and starting a cardiology fellowship on July 1st. She is thrilled to be staying at Northwestern in Chicago to continue her medical training.

Erika Belmont (2006) will return to the Chicago area to start medical school in fall of 2017. She has been doing cancer research in New York.

Cristina Gratton (2008) recently received her master's degree in the art of teaching from Washington University, and will be teaching high school biology and chemistry in a St. Louis high school starting in August.

Alex Gruebele (2008) is currently working on his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford.

Gabe Omo-Osagie (2008) is living in Uptown Dallas and is currently exploring numerous entrepreneurial opportunities. He partnered with a friend to start an auto repair company and has his real estate license.

William Theriac (2008) graduated Macalester College in 2016, and works as a Project Manager for Epic Systems, a healthcare IT company which contains the information of about 61% of Americans.

Alex Mestre (2009) is graduating from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business with highest distinction. Post-graduation, he will backpack Southeast Asia for three weeks before he begins his career as a management consultant at Bain & Company in Chicago.

Alumni Updates

Arielle Zimmerman (2009) is graduating with honors in June from Northwestern University, where she has been named the Class Marshal for the sociology major at commencement. Arielle was recently invited to present a poster at the 2017 National LGBTQ Health Conference and hopes to pursue a career in LGBTQ women's health.

Natalie Bina (2010) is currently a junior at Wesleyan University, where she is studying sociology, data analysis, and writing. Over the summer she will be working as an analyst intern for Analysis Group, an economic consulting firm in Boston.

Jason Omo-Osagie (2010) is a junior in Mechanical Engineering at University of Kentucky and will divide his time between Kentucky, Illinois and Texas this summer. He currently works as an academic tutor specializing in calculus, physics, and chemistry.

Valerie Makri (2011) is a junior in Civil Engineering at Illinois and gearing up for a summer internship in Chicago.

Ellie Zimmerman (2011) is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis, where she has recently been selected as the Undergraduate Teaching Fellow in Sociology. She is majoring in Sociology and minoring in Environmental Studies.

Mac Dressman (2012) is completing his freshman year at Georgetown where he delved into international relations in the Walsh School of Foreign Service. He has been writing articles for the school newspaper, *The Hoya*, specializing in music reviews. This summer he will travel to Morocco before doing a 7-week internship in Saint-Omer, France where he will be translating work from French to English, preparing for a historical exhibition, and improving his conversational French by living with a family.

Taylor Feddersen (2012) finished her freshman year at the University of Michigan where she will major in electrical engineering or computer science. Continuing to dance, she performed for her 14th season in *The Nutcracker* - this time in Ann Arbor and will study abroad this summer in Spain.

Kate Ferreira (2012) is finishing her freshman year in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Illinois.

Abby Potesman (2012) is completing her freshman year at the University of Pennsylvania. She is considering majoring in physics and minoring in computer science. At Penn, she also joined the business analytics team at *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, the student-run campus newspaper. She received an Undergraduate Summer Research grant this summer to stay in Philadelphia and to work with Penn Engineering Professor Danielle Basset on a research project in network neuroscience.

Ailin Valdivia-McCarthy (2012) changed her major to Environmental Science this past fall, and this summer she will be at Columbia University's Earth Institute for a summer research internship. She will be conducting geochemical research and testing for carbon and oxygen isotope levels in fossil leaves (from 23 million years ago!) and modeling our past climate based on that information.

Katie Bostaph (2013) is looking forward to a family trip to Sweden and Russia this summer, then she heads to Arizona State University majoring in psychology.

GRADUATION
THURSDAY,
MAY 25,
7 P.M.



Alumna **Abbie Driver** (2013) stopped by last fall. She will be graduating from MICDS in St. Louis and plans to study theater at Indiana University.

Countryside Trees

Alumni Updates

Bliss Chapman (2013) is a sophomore studying Statistics and Computer Science at Illinois. Last summer he interned as a Mobile Application Developer at Agrible, Inc. in the UIUC Research Park, and this summer he will be working at Apple in Cupertino, California as a Software Engineering Intern.

Isaac Freund (2013) hopes to attend college in Germany next year and will be applying to schools this summer when their application process begins. He will be spending June in Hamburg, working on his language skills, and he plans to major in computer science.

James Vaughn (2013) will be taking a gap year in Clarksdale, MS interning at an after-school program and hopefully adding some music aspects to the program. After that he will be going to Northwestern University to major in music performance

Nicholas Zunich (2013) will be studying computer science at Ohio State University and has been given the opportunity to walk on to the men's gymnastics team as well.

Sam Hotchkiss (2014) spent his senior year at the University School of Nashville. He still plays the piano and remains musical (*"Countryside, Countryside, we sing the name with pride"*), and he is considering majoring in biology.

Megan Bostaph (2015) is keeping busy with stage crew, track and field, piano and chorus. She is looking forward to a family trip to Sweden and Russia this summer.

Agustina Flores Pitton (2015) is preparing to move from Sydney, Australia to Victoria, Canada in early August. She cannot wait to live again in North America and move forward with her college plans in the U.S.

Hunter Omo-Osagie (2015) is finishing his sophomore year at Hebron High School. He is currently working at Sonic Drive In and is looking forward to spending time with his brother, Jason, in Kentucky and his grandparents in Illinois later in the summer.

Lucy Poteshman (2015) is completing her sophomore year in the upper school of the

Chapin School in New York City. At Chapin, she is a food columnist for the upper school newspaper, a member of the upper school chamber music group, and a member of the math club. She continues to study the violin at the Manhattan School of Music Pre-college Division. This summer, Lucy will be attending the 6-week Young Artists Orchestra program at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute in the Berkshires.

Alex Shilts (2015) and **Lauren Feddersen** (2015) both swam at IHSA State during their respective high school seasons for Centennial. They both also swam at YMCA Nationals in Greensboro, NC in April.

Kat Omo-Osagie (2018) is completing 7th grade and is still active in Competitive Tumbling & Trampoline (Level 9). She has competed in meets in Dallas, Las Vegas, Missouri, and Louisiana. She will be participating in Nationals held in Milwaukee this June. Earlier this year, she qualified for enrollment in the Duke TIP program and will be attending Austin College taking a Debate and Persuasive Thinking course this July.

**ALUMNI
REUNION**
FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 22
4-6 P.M.

CSA Happenings

Countryside School Association sponsored several events for the school including teacher lunches during conferences, teacher appreciation week, (massages, henna painting, breakfast, the teacher appreciation lunch and gifts), family work day with new family tours, and book fairs.

Highlights of the year's events included Homecoming/Fall Picnic; the Winter Ice Skating Party; and a Kids' Social at I-Power Gymnastics while Countryside hosted a viewing and discussion of the documentary *SCREENAGERS: Growing Up in the Digital Age*.

CSA also coordinated Countryside gear sales and the end of the year gathering in the park.

Thank you, CSA volunteers!

Celebrating 25 Years: Sharing Memories and Photos

Stacy Kirby - CS teacher since 1993 - What an absolute privilege it has been for me to be a part of the evolution of Countryside School. For a young teacher, it was the stuff dreams are made of - being such an integral part of starting a brand new school. I still can't believe how lucky I was to have been asked to be a part of this project.

From sitting around Vicky Smith's dining room table with the founders of the school to help them plan and bring to life the vision of the school, to planning curriculum and working with all our early families who were as passionate about education as I was, I can't help but reflect on how brave everyone was in the first few years of our school. My favorite memory, however, was helping to hire Cathie Webber, whom I had known since my grade school years, and would become my lifetime mentor.

Do you have memories to share?

We are collecting stories and photos to use throughout our celebrations. Send to: feddersen@countrysideschool.org.

Alumni Memories

My very first day starting in 6th grade, as soon as I arrived, I was warmly welcomed by the other 6th graders – some of whom are still very close friends.

Mr. A reading us the entirety of *The Princess Bride* - and then getting to FaceTime with Mandy Patinkin (Inigo Montoya).

The Kindergarten building projects

Singing "Light One Candle" in music class

The Ellis Island simulation

Middle school camping trips – and a raccoon sneaking into one of the tents!

Returning to do the space unit with the K/1's in 1996

Like us on Facebook to see Throw Back photos of the past 25 years. Do you remember Mrs. Henson dressed as a cockroach riding a scooter? See this and more on Thursdays during our year-long celebration on Facebook.

25 YEARS:
SEND US YOUR
STORIES AND
PHOTOS



Throwback Photo: Countryside Faculty Wizard of Oz

Back row: Stacy Kirby, Marty Stambaugh, Bill Fallon, Mary Breault, Kosta Dussias, Susan Richardson, Sharon Henson, Chris Lukeman

Front row: Cathie Webber, Doey Gordon, Julie Miller, Ali Lewis, Jan Harper

Countryside Trees

Winter Alumni Reunion

Over winter break over 25 alumni, faculty, and former faculty attended the Winter Alumni Reunion at the school. The reunion included a Breakout Room Challenge, writing messages to faculty and former faculty on their whiteboards, perusing old yearbooks, chatting with friends, and of course, seeing Cathie Webber!

More photos:

<https://tinyurl.com/CSWinterReunion2016>



Brianna Hajek, Chelsea Edwards, Petra Rantanen, and Kyle Garton-Grundling - one of several groups working to solve the Breakout Room Challenge. Using teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving skills, it was "Joy in Learning" in action!



Stacy Kirby, Casey Pride, Cathie Webber, Jason Pride

WANT THIS
NEWSLETTER
SOONER?
SEND US
YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS



Top row: Stephanie Bond, Stacy Kirby (1st grade), Casey Pride, Jason Pride, Meredith Albrecht Botnick, Kyle Garton-Grundling, Brianna Hajek, Chelsea Edwards, Petra Rantanen

Middle row: Katrina Widholm (art), Taylor Feddersen, Anna Benson, Kat Omo-Osagie, Jason Omo-Osagie, Hunter Omo-Osagie, Ryan McFarquhar

Bottom row: Gail McWilliams (former Spanish), Lauren Feddersen, Cathie Webber (former Head of School), Kyle Knox, Justin Wang, Robert Stavins, Martin Grosman, Maddie Brown

Retiring Faculty

Maureen Beyt 3rd Grade (formerly 2nd grade)



Halloween with Mrs. Kyung with Mrs. Beyt (right) when they were co-teachers in the 2/3 room.

Mrs. Beyt and her family are relocating to North Carolina:

My babies. All 157 of you over my years at Countryside. Even though some of you are able to drive and babysit my own children, you will always be about 7-8 years old in my mind. All of you have left footprints on my heart in your own unique way.

One of the very best things about teaching second grade for eight years was that I didn't ever have to let go right away. I watched you grow and learn in second, then I could still be with you and watch from a tiny

distance as you grew and learned in third grade. Goodbyes are really hard for me, and this one is especially hard.

Thank you to the parents for entrusting me with your babies (yes, I know they are yours, too!). Thank you to my very first classes for welcoming me with open arms. Thank you to my middle groups for continuing to enlighten and challenge me to constantly push myself to explore new and creative ways of helping you as learners.

And to my final group of babies... Some of you I've had for two years now. Others, this is our first year together. I can't tell you how comforting it was to have every one of you with me as I made the move up to third grade.

Thank you to Cathie, Bill, and Stephanie for supporting me as I continued to try new things and improve both professionally and personally. Thank you to the other teachers who've all supported and challenged me. You made my time here the best experience on faculty that I've had. Thank you to my co-teachers over the years: Dawn for taking a chance on a Louisiana girl, Caren for the heart you brought to our class, Marci for way too many memories to name, and to Maya for challenging me to step out of my comfort zone.

Thank you to the Countryside community for the many years of absolutely treasured memories. You will be in my heart forever.

Hugs,
Mrs. Beyt

**MRS. BEYT
FAREWELL
RECEPTION**
FRIDAY,
MAY 19
3:30-5:30 P.M.



Director of Alumni Relations

Kristin Feddersen is your Director of Alumni Relations. She also has been Countryside's Director of Communications for the past ten years and is the parent of two alumnae - Taylor (2012) and Lauren (2015).

Please email her with updates about what you are doing or go to our website (under the Alumni tab) to submit an "Update My Information" form.

Contact Kristin at feddersen@countrysideschool.org.

Countryside Trees

Maker Faire

Remember Invention Fair and Science Fair? This year, our middle school took on something new - Maker Faire.

Our middle schoolers spent several weeks building any hands-on, creative project they have always wanted to do – woodcarving, making pointe shoes, building architectural models, baking cakes and decorating with rolled fondant, sewing, knitting, building a submarine for a mouse, and constructing a

working K-9 unit from *Doctor Who* – to name just a few.

Students were provided with in-school time three times a week to work on their projects. Several students documented the process using time-lapse video which was presented on iPads along with their project at the Maker Faire.

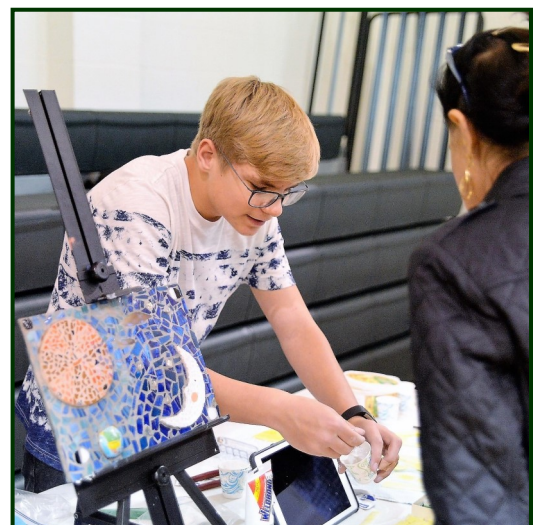
More photos and video:

<http://tinyurl.com/CSMakerFaire2017>

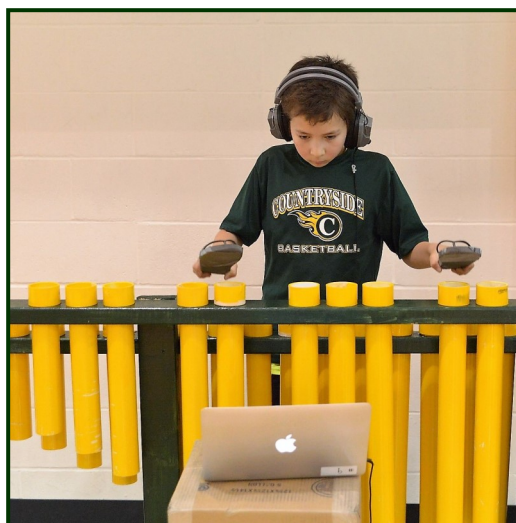
8TH GRADE
PLAY
CIRCUS
OLYMPUS
TUESDAY,
MAY 23
7 P.M.



8th grader Zoe sands the jump she is constructing for hunt seat horseback riding.



7th grader Maddox explains the process of making mosaics at the Maker Faire.



7th grader James plays the Blue Man Group-style PVC instrument he built.

<https://tinyurl.com/JamesPVCinstrument>



6th grader Grace demonstrates her working pottery wheel built from a ceiling fan motor.

College Bound 2017

Congratulations to our alumni headed to the following universities and post high school plans:

Anshul Adve	UCLA - math
Katie Bostaph	Arizona State University - psychology
Bliss Chapman	University of Illinois - statistics and computer science
Abbie Driver	Indiana University - theater
Kolten Eickmeier	Illinois Wesleyan University - biology
Isaac Freund	Germany - computer science
Zoe Goldenfeld	University of Illinois - biology
Martin Grosman	University of Michigan - engineering
Carl Guo	University of Illinois - computer science
Sam Hotchkiss	Vanderbilt University - biology
Rebecca Jung	University of Illinois Chicago - Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions - medicine
Jacob Lo	Miami University - sports management
Naveed Malekafzali	Emerson College - journalism
Aaditya Mehta	New York University - quantitative economics
Miriam Ross	Yale University - biology
Ella Roth	University of Pennsylvania - undeclared
Rainey Shah	University of Texas Austin
Serena Shah	University of Texas Austin
Gauri Shankar	University of Missouri Kansas City - 6 year B.A./M.D. program
James Vaughen	Northwestern University - music performance, following gap year
Nicholas Zurich	Ohio State University - computer science

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

If you are headed to college and are NOT listed, we have not been notified where you are going to school.

Please let us know! alumni@countrysideschool.org

Alumni Association

We are forming an Alumni Association and have the Executive Board in place. To contact the Executive Board:

Meredith (Albrecht) Botnik (1996) - meredith@wx5ab.net

Jenny Bartlett (1997) - jennifera.bartlett@gmail.com

Hilary Phillips (2001) - email her through alumni@countrysideschool.org

Devin Richardson (2002) - devinirene17@gmail.com

Would you like to get involved? Volunteer to be a **Class Representative!** In this position you will help us in the vital role of finding alumni in your class, sending important school news their way, and having input on Alumni Association discussions. We still need reps for several classes.

If you are interested, contact Kristin Feddersen at feddersen@countrysideschool.org.



Countryside School

Joy in Learning, Excellence in Education

NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Countryside School
4301 W. Kirby Avenue
Champaign, IL 61822
217.355.1253
E-mail: alumni@countrysideschool.org

We don't want to lose contact!

Please send us your email address:
alumni@countrysideschool.org

We Need Your Pennant

We LOVE displaying pennants from all our alums' colleges and universities. Although we have about 71 on display, we are still missing several. Drop us an e-mail if you can provide us with a pennant (12" x 30") or to ask if we already have it!
alumni@countrysideschool.org Thanks to our alumni for the new U.S. Naval Academy, Johns Hopkins, and Georgia Tech pennants!



Mark your calendars:

Farewell Reception Maureen Beyt
8th grade play *Circus Olympus*
Graduation (and alumni photos)
25th Birthday Party Picnic
25th Year Alumni Reunion
Countryside Gala Prom

Friday, May 19	3:30-5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 23	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 25	7 p.m.
Saturday, August 26	4-6 p.m.
Friday, December 22	4-6 p.m.
Saturday, February 24	7 p.m.