

Countryside Trees



NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spring 2019

Letter from the Head



Stephanie Harman

Dear Friends,
Greetings from Countryside! We have had another outstanding year filled with student-centered education fostering Joy in Learning and Excellence in Education.

A few of the many highlights from the elementary grades this year included the K/1 students exploring the oceans, Alaska, and Medieval England, our 2/3 students creating businesses, goods, and services for the Classroom City simulation, and our 4/5 students undergoing survival training at Homer Lake.

The Middle School students also had a great year. Highlights from the Middle School this year included an in-depth Pond Study at Porter Park, Deep Dive Week--a week where students chose only one special class to engage in all week long, and the Middle School Expedition.

As always, the World Language, Physical Education, and Fine Arts programs round out the whole-child education at Countryside for which we are well known.

I recently had the pleasure of spending a couple of days in St. Louis with our 8th-grade students. We stayed at the historic Union Station Hotel, visited the St. Louis Science Museum and Planetarium, saw the awe-inspiring *Cirque de Soleil: Corteo*, played hide-and-seek at The City Museum, and traveled down the mighty Mississippi River on an Arch Boat Tour. 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, *Mother*

Goose has Flown the Coop! on **Wednesday, May 15** at 6:45 p.m. on the Cathie Webber Stage. The students have been working hard and 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 **Tuesday, May 21** at 7 p.m. on the Cathie Webber Stage.

I look forward to seeing you all at our **Countryside Homecoming Picnic** in the fall. Be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 24** at 4 p.m.! Stay tuned for more details on that event.

Lastly, please look out for any Countryside alumni who are attending your school in the fall. It always helps to see a familiar, friendly face on campus when you're starting out.

Warm regards,
Stephanie Harman

Our 8th graders honored at **Graduation** on **Tuesday, May 21** at 7 p.m.:

Samuel Balogh	Central
Emily Chen	Uni
Sierra Freund	Academy
Caroline Hartmann	Central
Grafton Hoffmeister	Mahomet Seymour
Andrew Kim	Uni
Danny King	Homeschool
Forrest Robeson	Academy
Teo Sehitoglu	Academy
Shannon Weible	Academy
Ian Weible	Academy
Lola Wright	Centennial

Students matriculating as subfreshmen at University Laboratory High School will be honored at our final all-school assembly on **Friday, May 24** at 11:15 a.m.:

Noreen Adoni	Marco Lu
Coleman Clougherty	Shawn Syed
Priya Haran	Annalise Williams
William King	

Accolades

- OUR CHORUS SANG AT THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS GAME AT THE STATE FARM CENTER
- 7TH GRADERS'S ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY DEBUTED AT "PENS TO LENS"
- 7TH GRADER STARRED IN CUTC'S "ANNIE" AT THE VIRGINIA THEATRE

Inside this issue:

GREAT SCHOOL NEWS	2
HOMEcoming/FALL PICNIC	4
CLASS OF 2019 PHOTO OPS	5
ALUMNI UPDATES	8
ALUMNI SHOUT OUTS	13
FACULTY UPDATES	14
COLLEGE BOUND	15

Countryside Trees

Great News from the Past Year



The inaugural climb on our new Tommy Yan Adventure Wall

We dedicated our new Tommy Yan Adventure Wall at the Homecoming/Fall Picnic. Tommy, the younger brother of one of our 1st graders, died unexpectedly last December at the age of 5 months. Tommy's parents established a memorial fund in his name to support projects like these. Thank you Yans for enabling our students in all grades to celebrate the joy of childhood!

Our K/1st grade class raised over \$1,000 with their bakery community service project! They voted to divide the donation between families devastated from the tornadoes in Taylorville, Illinois (American Red Cross) and Children's Miracle Network, a non-profit organization that raises funds for children's hospitals and medical research.

Our chess team took 3rd place at Chessfest. Eighth grader Samu won 2nd, 5th grader Renee took 5th, 2nd grader Aiden took 6th, and Kindergartener Max placed 4th!

Our Reading Buddies program kicked off this fall with our 8th graders spending time reading to the Kindergarten and 1st grade students in their Family Groups.

Fourteen students competed in the IESA State Solo and Ensemble Contest with a special shout out to 5th grader Mona and Sierra who each received Best of Day Awards!

4th grader Juli performed in the chorus of *La Bohème* at Krannert Center with the Lyric Opera@Illinois. The production was directed by our own alumni parent, Nathan Gunn!

Dylan Jennings, a Bad River Tribal member of Lake Superior Ojibwe, shared the history and songs of the Ojibwe with our students. He explained traditional clothing, pow wows, and the meaning behind the songs and dances.

7th grader Max debuted his original screenplay at "Pens to Lens" at the Virginia Theatre. *A Star* is about a Jewish family living in Nazi Germany, based on his great-grandmother's experience.

tinyurl.com/PensToLens-Star

Our MathCounts team placed 3rd overall at the chapter competition with 6th grader Davis qualifying for State in individual competition!

Students' artwork won awards at the UIUC Insect Fear Film Festival. Honorable Mentions went to 2nd grader Tim, 5th grader Sofia, and 7th grader Charlotte. The C. Scott Clem Choice Award, given for art that is creative & fun, was awarded to 6th grader Peter.

Sixth grader Noor won a blue ribbon at the Town and Country amateur art show! This fall her painting will compete at the state level!

7th grader Marco was published in two issues of "Stone Soup", a national literary magazine written and illustrated by students through age 13. Marco's non-fiction science piece on the saguaro cactus debuted in September 2018, and his drawing "Tick Tock" was published in the January 2019 issue.

Our family caroling party caroled at houses on the street behind the school and included singing "Happy Birthday" to a 4 year old and singing our Countryside school song at a house that had a CS alumna on FaceTime.

Our Chinese classes performed at the Champaign Public Library as part of the Lunar New Year Celebration.

Our family caroling party caroled at houses on the street behind the school and included singing "Happy Birthday" to a 4 year old and singing our Countryside school song at a house that had a CS alumna on FaceTime.

Spotlight on a Classroom - 2/3 Class

Welcome to the 2/3 classroom! Ms. Heckman (2nd grade) and Ms. Saleem (3rd grade) have introduced several new items into the 2/3 classroom in the past couple of years.

Flexible seating is an option for students including laundry baskets, chairs that rock, standing desks, and adjustable height tables. Each day begins with Morning Meeting, which is facilitated by pairs of students. The classroom also has a Mood Meter where students can indicate how they are feeling each morning and work toward getting into the "Green Zone" where they can best learn.

New activities include a Lewis & Clark simulation created by Ms. Heckman, Measurement Olympics in 2nd grade math, and an Egg Drop Challenge during the forces unit in science.

Of course, some old stand-bys remain. Remember Classroom City, the economic simulation? The Lincoln Museum field trip to Springfield? Or the Revolutionary War musical? (That was updated last year with the script being written by the students! It is now a bit more "Hamiltonesque".)

In addition, Mr. Heckman is working toward her Orton-Gillingham certification. Orton-Gillingham is a highly structured multi-sensory approach to teaching reading and is considered extremely effective for teaching students with dyslexia, but works well with any student. Way to go, 2/3 room!



Above: Ms. Heckman introduces flexible seating to the class on the first day of school

Below: Practicing fractions with Hungry, Hungry Hippos



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

Great News from the Past Year

Several afterschool clubs and classes held fundraisers selling tamales, hand-made Guatemalan souvenirs, art, used books, and bubble tea. They donated to the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Mayan Families, and Hospice Hearts (a local animal rescue).

Our new cross country team competed in its first cross country meet with 8th grader Ian taking 9th out of over 150+ runners. (And it was 95 degrees!)

7th graders Ezra and Coleman organized a community service opportunity - picking up trash at Scott Park.

CUTC's production of "Annie" featured 7th grader Noreen as Annie and alumna Andrea as an orphan! See them on WICA-TV here: tinyurl.com/CUTC-Annie

Our varsity chorus performed on the Quad with Centennial High School's Expressions choir (which includes Countryside alumnae) as part of Illini Fridays.

Our 4th graders took their show "Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock" on the road to the residents at Evergreen Place Assisted Living. They also performed it for our Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day celebration.

Countryside Trees

Homecoming/Fall Picnic Photos

We love seeing returning alums! This year's celebration featured an alumni bags (corn hole) tournament along with the usual food, inflatables, and cotton candy. For more alumni event photos: tinyurl.com/CSalumniphotos2018-19



**HOMECOMING
FALL PICNIC**
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 24
AT THE
SCHOOL

Top left: Sophie Zerrouki, Jordan White, Maddox Dempsey, Max Harman, Morgan Lee

Top right: 8th grader Emily, Emma Donnini

Middle left: Sam Laufenberg, Lauren Feddersen

Middle right: 8th grader Caroline, Clara Wood, Sophie Zerrouki, Andrea Torelli, Aditi Adve

Bottom (back row): Maher Adoni, Ekam Ghotra, May Yang, Joey Kim

Bottom (front row): Cassie Colmenares, Colette Tichenor, Andrew Chen, Henry Laufenberg, Anthony Carpenter



Class of 2019 College Gear Photo Day



We will run "Congratulations to our Class of 2019" from **May 18 to June 1** rotating with our other signs. **On May 25, it will run all day - photographer there at 1 p.m.**

What: Class of 2019 photos

When: Saturday, May 25 - 1 p.m.

Gather alumni friends in your college gear and take your photo at our corner sign or our sign by the flagpole!

Send it to alumni@countrysideschool.org



Nick Zunich (2013) and **Kolten Eickmeier** (2013) began a tradition! Take your photo wearing your college gear in front of our corner sign and our school sign.

**COLLEGE
GEAR
PHOTO DAY**

**SATURDAY,
MAY 25
1 P.M.**

Share with our students



Taylor Feddersen (2012) (left) talks about programming for color-blindness at Xbox at Microsoft and **Casey Pride** (2002) discusses health, wellbeing, and working as a chiropractor

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 lunchtime discussion, a presentation, or chat with a specific class.

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

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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 teachers for lunch in the MPR, go to recess with their friends, and maybe join in DEAR.

Be sure we have your email address so we can send you the Drop-In Days invitation this fall.

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



Central/Centennial High School Day

Back: James Braun, Zach Swanson-Linville, Kevin Lu, Ben Kirby, Esha Mehta, Ginny Kirby, Jake Cox
Middle: Mariah Winterbottom, Sarah Windelborn, Sophie Brown, Lauren Feddersen, Alex Shilts
Front: Jennifer Chen, Angela Xu, Jyoti Sundaram



After lunch, alumni participating in DEAR with Mr. A reading *Sinbad and Me*

Spring 2019



Left: Esha Mehta, Ginny Kirby, Angela Xu

Below: Madeleine Keenan, Sophie Zerrouki, and Eve Freund chatting with Señora Gloria's Spanish class



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

Uni/Academy/Mahomet/Judah/Urbana High School Day

Back: Andy Brown, Henry Laufenberg, Sam Laufenberg

Middle: Jake Regenwetter, Ekam Ghotra, Maddox Dempsey, William Ding, Nate Jones, Nick Bodony, Ryan Wang, Andrea Torelli, Clara Wood, Sophie Zerrouki, Aditi Adve, Emma Donnini

Front: Holden Siena, Andrew Chen, Anthony Carpenter, Maher Adoni, Cassie Colmenares, Eve Freund, Max Harman, Benjamin Chang, Dan Yang, Madeleine Keenan



Countryside Trees

Alumni Updates

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

ALUMNI:
PLEASE SEND US
YOUR UPDATES!

WE'D LOVE TO
FEATURE YOU

Eric Smith (1995) has three children ages 4, 6, and 8 and has worked at Microsoft near Seattle, WA since college. Eric is Microsoft's expert in compliance with US and international privacy laws.

Rachel Walsh (1997) got married twice last fall. She married Emil Hesslow in August in California, and she married him again in September in Sweden. Emil is Swedish and has a large family in Sweden, so they celebrated in both countries. They took a honeymoon to Thailand in December. Both weddings were attended by **Alyssa (Walsh) Green** (1999) and her wife, Stephanie, and their daughter, Annika. Rachel works at UC-Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science, and Emil works for Facebook. Alyssa works for Silicon Valley Bank, and Stephanie works for Discover. Annika is a standout in pre-school. Rachel and Emil are planning on visiting her parents, Laura and John, in Alaska in August, for hiking, camping, and boat touring of national parks, and for forced listening to Laura's musical works.

Founding student **Kali Smith Monma** (1998) has two children ages 5 and 1 and teaches them about the world the Countryside way, with projects and art and music. She is living in San Jose, CA.

Kyle Garton-Gundling (1999) and his wife, Victoria, had a child, Felix, last June. He will

start a new job as an assistant professor of English at Christopher Newport University this fall. His book, *Enlightened Individualism*, came out in March.

Michael Belmont (2003) is currently a second year medical resident in internal medicine in Chicago.

Daniel Borup (2005) After finishing his PhD last summer, he spent the fall co-teaching a course called "The Engineering of Opera" at Stanford's study abroad program in Florence, Italy. He started a new job in January as a Research Fellow at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. His group is focused on boosting the clinical value of MRI and improving the patient experience during an MRI exam.

Emily Chu (2005) received her JD from the University of Illinois, College of Law in 2018 and is currently with the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Labor & Employee Relations, City Colleges of Chicago.

Erika Belmont (2006) is currently a second year medical student in Chicago.

Tim Colombo (2006) is finishing his first year of med school at Chicago Medical School, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, in North Chicago.

Cristina Gratton (2008) graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS in biology and completed her Master in education at Washington University in St. Louis. She is now a high school science teacher and is getting married in June.

Freddie Stavins (2009) is currently working at Deloitte, a large accounting firm, in Chicago



Director of Alumni Relations

Kristin Feddersen is your Director of Alumni Relations. She also has been Countryside's Director of Communications for the past twelve 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.

Alumni Updates

doing international tax planning. Countryside taught him to love problem solving and every part of the world, so the job has been an evolution of so many things he enjoys.

Aileen Chu (2010) is at the University of Minnesota completing her MS in pharmacology. She graduated with a BA in biology from Grinnell College in 2018.

Gloria Ha (2010) started her PhD training at Harvard in the department of systems biology.

Juliana Trach (2010) After completing her ScB in cognitive neuroscience at Brown University in 2018, Juliana has taken a position as manager of the Baby Lab at Princeton University. Juliana's senior thesis research focused on the effect of practice and embedded motor sequences on the execution of abstract task sequences. After doing research with adults, Juliana is excited to shift gears and work with young children in the Baby Lab.

Tristan Antonsen (2011) completed his senior year at the University of Illinois in mechanical engineering with a minor in art and design. He continues to serve on the Executive Board of the Varsity Men's Glee Club and took half of last year off from classes to build his artist-blacksmith business. He returned to school full time in the spring and will have a summer internship at Fast Radius, a leading additive design & manufacturing company in Chicago.

Emily Delacruz (2011) is graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in bioengineering. This fall she will attend the University of Illinois - Chicago for her Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

Ashley McFarquhar (2011) is graduating from the neuroscience program at McGill University in Montreal & in August will start at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX.

Ryan Mondak (2011) graduated from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and he will be touring through 2020 with pop/R&B singer Emmaline in support of their new EP.

Mac Dressman (2012) has been on study abroad in Rabat, Morocco studying journalism

as part of his politics and culture degree. He used his French, lived with a family, and then stayed in Casablanca to interview and write a story on rap artists in Morocco. He will travel to Turkey and Abu Dhabi before returning to the US. This summer he will work in Washington DC and begin his senior year at Georgetown this fall.

Isaac Freund (2012) is in his second semester at RWTH Aachen University and is enjoying living in Germany!

Aarthi Lakshminarayan (2012) completed her junior year at UCLA majoring in developmental biology and psychology. She and her family will go to South America for the summer. Aarthi then plans to go to a graduate program for interdisciplinary data science/analysis.

Abby Potesman (2012) was recently selected as a Goldwater Scholar by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, and she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Abby is a junior at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in math and physics. She plans to become a computational condensed matter physicist.

Omri Schwartz (2012) finished his junior year as a lighting design & technology major in the Department of Theatre at the University of Illinois. He served as the programmer for the Tony award-winning lighting designer, Jennifer Tipton, during The Builders Association's residency at Krannert Center. This summer he will be returning for his second season to Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre in Logan, Utah as the moving light programmer. He was recently accepted into the highest level of the ETC Cue conference - a lighting programming conference that is by placement examination and exercises only.

Ailin Valdivia-McCarthy (2012) is graduating from Barnard College in NYC with a degree in environmental sciences. She has accepted a position with McMaster-Carr in Chicago as a data engineer.

Katie Bostaph (2013) is a sophomore at Arizona State University where she is majoring in psychology.

**ALUMNI &
ALUMNI
PARENTS:
SHARE YOUR
E-MAIL
ADDRESS**

Countryside Trees

Alumni Shout Outs

Grace Delacruz (2013) is working on her undergraduate degree in political science from Marquette University in Milwaukee. She is a recipient of the Pere Marquette Presidential Scholarship.

Toby Antonsen (2014) completed his freshman year in linguistics at the University of Illinois. He has been a member of University Chorus and works at Pandamonium Doughnuts. For the second consecutive year, he will run a Countryside summer camp, Dungeons & Dragons game play. Next year, he anticipates switching to a major in history or classical civilizations.

David Kanfer (2016) is a junior at Central. He loves physics and is planning on majoring in it in college. He will also volunteer at a summer camp this summer.

Edward "Teddy" Sammons (2017) is a sophomore at the Hun School of Princeton where his favorite subjects include Latin and

math, and he will be taking AP Physics over the summer. He volunteers at the local animal shelter and adopted two cats, Sam and Luna. Teddy still thinks about his friends in Illinois, and plans to visit again for Thanksgiving. He is thinking about majoring in computer science.

Jake Regenwetter (2018) experienced his first national championship swim meet, YMCA Nationals in April. He continues to play piano and won a local baroque music competition.

Daniel Heumann (2019) is a GenderCool champion (Gendercool.org). He has been speaking to Fortune 100 and 200 companies as part of a national campaign sharing stories about who these kids are, not what they are. He and other champions recently spoke at ConAgra brands, Citibank, and Allstate. This summer he will speak in New Jersey and Chicago with companies working to become more diverse and inclusive workplaces.

**ALUMNI
REUNION**
WINTER BREAK

DATE TO BE
DETERMINED

Featured Alumni

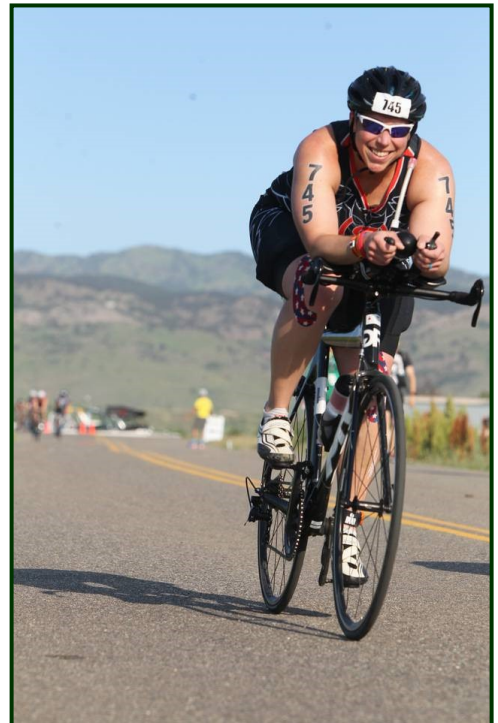
Meredith (Albrecht) Botnick (1996)

I actually had a pretty big 2018. I changed jobs in March and am now a Project Engineer for Ball Aerospace in Boulder, CO. My group specifically works on mechanisms for our satellites, and my role is essentially project management.

I also realized a goal that I thought had been out of reach last June when I crossed the finish line of Ironman Boulder. It was a brutal day with record heat and wind, but I got it done within the allotted time and my husband was there to medal me.

Editor's note: An Ironman is a brutal triathlon consisting of a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike, and 26.2 mile run and must be completed within 17 hours!

Right: Meredith Botnick competing in the cycling portion of Ironman Boulder



Middle School Deep Dive Week

Our Middle School took a break from classes in February for an in-depth learning experience. Students explored one of four topics: Foodie Science; Civic Engagement & Activism; Film Making & Video Editing; and Model Railroad & Scenery.

Foodie Science toured the UIUC Food Science Product Pilot Plant and saw how extruded puffed products are made (think Cheetos).

Model Railroads not only built their railroad and scenery (including mountains), they also video chatted with the older brother of one of our 8th graders who is a Rail Operations Specialist at HNTB in Boston.

At the end of the week, other classes came to their showcase to see the two movies the Film Making group made, learn about how to be an activist, see the model train set in action, and taste unusual foods.



Above: Film Making rehearses a fight scene

Below Left: Foodie Science makes mozzarella

Below Right: Model Railroad & Scenery demonstrates their model



MEMORIES:

SEND US YOUR
STORIES AND
PHOTOS!

Alumni Association

Our Alumni Association Executive Board is 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**! You can 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 interested, please contact Kristin Feddersen at feddersen@countrysideschool.org.

Countryside Trees

Winter Alumni Reunion - Wacky PE Games

During winter break over 30 alumni, alumni parents, faculty, and former faculty attended the Winter Alumni Reunion at the school. The reunion included PE games including Scooterville, team walkers, and our new climbing wall. In addition, alumni wrote messages to faculty and former faculty on their whiteboards, perused old yearbooks, and chatted with friends!

More photos:

tinyurl.com/CSalumniphotos2018-19



Above: Aditi Adve, Dan Yang, Andrew Chen, Emma Donnini

Left: Scooterville with Sophie Brown and Megan Bostaph



Top row: Madeleine Keenan, Maddox Dempsey, Eve Freund, Mrs. Eckstein (former 5th grade teacher/alumni parent), Brian Eckstein, Earle Heffley (alumni parent)

Third row: Lauren Lumetta, Jyoti Sundaram, Sam Laufenberg, Max Harman, Ben Kirby, Henry Laufenberg, Jaden Wang, Ekam Ghotra

Second row: Alex Shilts, Lauren Feddersen, Sophie Brown, Megan Bostaph, Kate Ferreira, Mr. Antonsen (MS Literature teacher)

Bottom row: Aditi Adve, Emma Donnini, Taylor Feddersen, Andrew Chen, Nick Bodony, Mrs. Harman (Head of School), Stacy Kirby (1st grade teacher)

**WANT THIS
NEWSLETTER
SOONER?
SEND US
YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS**

Alumni Shout Outs!

Benjamin Chang, Nate Jones, and Ryan Wang (all 2019) took 2nd place nationally in the Toshiba/NTSA ExploraVision competition! They won regionals in the grades 7-9 division with their project exploring self-repairing road technology. In the grades 10-12 division, **May Yang** and **Mahe Adoni** (both 2017) won regionals with a customizable prosthetic spine, hip, and knee bone replacement system. This national competition requires students to develop a scientific innovation to solve a real-world problem.

Kat Omo-Osagie (2018) is the National Champion in Level 10 Trampoline and took 3rd in Level 10 Synchronized Trampoline when competing at the USA Gymnastics Championships in Greensboro, NC.

Natalie Bina (2010) received the Boylan Award at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. The award recognizes an outstanding piece of creative nonfiction, journalistic work, or writing for general readers.

Several of our students and alumni performed in *The Nutcracker* at Krannert Center - alumni **Eve Freund** (2018), **Clara Wood** and **Lorenzo Pantano** (both 2019), and 3rd graders Allison and Harper.

Sophie Brown (2015) co-organized two student trips over lunch from Centennial High School to vote early in November. She also spoke at the local school board meeting opposing the proposed statewide resolution allowing the arming of teachers.

Lauren Feddersen and **Raine Bernhard** (both 2015) made it to IHSA State in swimming. Lauren competed in the 200 medley relay & 500 free for Centennial. Raine competed in the 200 free relay & 400 free relay for Uni.

Jenna Lee (2016) performed a violin solo from "Flight of the Bumblebees" with the CU Symphony at their youth concert at Krannert.

Olivia Gunn and **Angela Xu** (both 2016) made it to IHSA State in tennis. Olivia competed in doubles for Central, and Angela competed in singles for Centennial.

Jake Regenwetter (2018), **Lauren Feddersen** and **Alex Shilts** (both 2015) competed at the YMCA National Championships in swimming in Greensboro, NC in April.



Louis Kim (2016) met President Obama at Caffè Paradiso coffee shop when Obama spoke this fall at the University of Illinois.

Ginny Kirby (2016), **Sarah Windelborn** (2015), **Jake Cox** and **Ben Kirby** (both 2018) were involved with the Centennial/Central combined production of *Shrek!* A special shout out to Ginny as the lead, Fiona!

Jake Cox (2018) received the Live Like Luke Award for the freshman class because he embodies kindness, compassion, and friendliness each day to make Centennial High School a better place.

CSA Happenings

Countryside School Association sponsored several events for the school, including the incredible teacher lunches during conferences and teacher appreciation week (massages, breakfast, teacher appreciation lunch, make-your-own snack bar, and custom gifts). They also organized Family Work Day to get the school ready for the first day of classes.

Highlights of the year's events included the Family Roller Skating Night following our roller skating P.E. unit, the Winter Ice Skating Party, a Kids' Social at I-Power Gymnastics, and the book fairs at Barnes & Noble.

CSA also coordinated Countryside gear sales and the upcoming end-of-the-year gathering at Hessel Park on the last day of school.

Thank you, CSA volunteers!

**HAVE A
SHOUT OUT?
SEND IT
TO US!**

Countryside Trees

Current and Former Faculty Updates

Cathie Webber (former Head of School) I've found there's not a lot of spare time in retirement! The last year has been particularly busy with the birth of a grandson and the wedding of a daughter. Lots of trips to NYC and Boston! I've also become very involved with OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Illinois): taking classes, attending lectures, participating in study groups, and currently serving as Board Chair. I continue to find great joy in learning! I do miss all of the Countryside people and try to follow you all as much as possible!

Sharon Henson (former 4th grade teacher) Greetings to my former students from Mrs. Henson. I still remember each one of you! My past year has been busy and fun. Last August I went to Spokane, WA with my family to visit our grandchildren Owen (8 years old) and Leah (6 years old). In January we became Florida residents and on April 1 we purchased the villa that we had been renting for a few years. We will continue to spend winters in Florida and summers in Iowa. Come visit us if you are nearby.

Janet Brickey (former 4th grade teacher) We are enjoying our last year in Saipan. The ocean water and coral reefs are beautiful this time of year.

Julia Hartman (former music teacher) is an internship coordinator with ATLAS in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois. She helps humanities majors receive hands-on technology experience through different internship experiences across the university as well as some non-profits off campus. She still plays ukulele for fun and loves bumping into former students (usually at Target or the YMCA).

Ana Dillman (former 2nd grade teacher) is living in San Francisco with her husband Japheth and 7-year-old son, Apollo. She is currently working as the arts coordinator at her synagogue's religious education program, and teaches art at the local public Montessori school. She is also one part of a female improvisational singing trio and has recently started studying Wing Chun.

Amy Chesser (current creative dramatics and performing arts teacher) When I'm not walking my dogs and hanging out with family, I divide my time between directing the upcoming 8th grade show, Mother Goose Has Flown the Coop, with researching, reading and watching possible shows for middle school and elementary students to tackle next year.

**8TH GRADE
GRADUATION
(& ALUMNI
PHOTOS)**

**MAY 21
7 P.M.**

New Logos



With the conclusion of Countryside's 25th Anniversary celebration last May, it was time for us to update our look. We worked hard to design a look that reflects the forward-thinking philosophy of Countryside School while still preserving the traditions of the past with the incorporation of an abstract tree design into our school logo. In addition, we updated our athletic Comets logo.

We acknowledge "new" will feel different to our alumni, but we are still the same incredible school you attended!

College Bound 2019

Congratulations to our alumni headed to the following universities:

Raine Bernhard	Carleton College
Megan Bostaph	Ithaca College
Sophie Brown	Illinois - social work
Matthew Cho	MIT - mathematics
Martin Dalling	Washington University St. Louis - biology
Miranda Fairbanks	Indiana University - business
Lauren Feddersen	Illinois Wesleyan University - biology
Dante Freund	Baldwin Wallace University - composition
Nina Galvez	Northwestern - biomedical engineering
Mary Ann Ha	Northwestern - journalism
Emma Hummel	Illinois - general studies
Kashyap Joshi	University of Iowa - chemical engineering
Albert Lee	Johns Hopkins - biomedical engineering
Ryan McFarquhar	University of British Columbia, Vancouver
Hunter Omo-Osage	U.S. Navy
Lucy Poteshman	Northwestern
Alex Shilts	Undecided - mechanical engineering
Joshua Stephens	University of Hawai'i Hilo - marine sciences
Alex Swanson-Linville	Illinois - computer engineering
Arjun Tangella	Illinois - computer engineering
Julian White	Illinois - kinesiology
Sarah Windelborn	Illinois - psychology
Mariah Winterbottom	Illinois - undeclared

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Faculty Congratulations

Mr. Woodcock (Athletic Director and PE teacher) and **Mrs. Woodcock** (5th grade teacher) welcomed Lyla Kathryn in February!

Mr. Morton (MS social sciences) and his wife Cheryl welcomed Elizabeth "Ellie" Mary in February!

Our former Athletic Director and PE teacher, **Chad Simpson**, has coached men's tennis for the past four years at Point University in West Point, GA. Coach Simpson recently won this year's Appalachian Athletic Conference's Coach of the Year award in tennis!



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 73 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 Vanderbilt and Illinois Wesleyan pennants!



Mark your calendars:

8th grade play *Mother Goose Has Flown the Coop*
Graduation (and alumni group photos)
Class of 2019 photo at the corner sign
Homecoming/Fall Picnic
Winter Alumni Reunion

Wednesday, May 15	6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21	7 p.m.
Saturday, May 25	1 p.m.
Saturday, August 24	4-7 p.m.
TBD - December 2019/January 2020	