

Countryside Trees



NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spring 2011

Letter from the Head



Cathie Webber

Dear Friends,
Greetings from Countryside! This has been quite a year for us as we have begun building a beautiful new gym and performing arts facility (see article - page 2). We hope you'll join us for the grand opening in the fall of 2012!



We also invite you to "**Homecoming**" at the school fall picnic, **Friday, September 9**. We always hope to see our most recent graduates there, but would also love to see our older alumni.

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

May means the 8th grade trip (Hannibal, MO) and the **8th grade musical** (TOM SAWYER) which will be on **Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00**. If there are any members of the 2003 cast around, we'd love to have you come revisit your own TS stage experiences! I must say, that is one show I'll never forget! And, of course, May means **graduation!** It will be held on **Thursday, May 26 at 7:00**. Again, we'd love to see you for the alumni picture taken afterwards!

The following people will be joining your ranks as alumni:

Tristan Antonsen	Central
Masashi Azuma	undecided
Emily Delacruz	Centennial
Jordan Gunn	Central
Amran Hussain	St. Thomas More
Kyle Knox	Central
Justin Lumetta	Centennial
Niyata Madhukar	Central
Ryan Mondak	Central
Raimi Shah	Central
Morgan Standley	Central
Ashley Thopiah	Central
Pierre Viallant	Central
Nolan Westfield	Central
Ellie Zimmerman	Centennial

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

Christopher Bauer
Madeline Brown
Louis Kim
Aarthi Lakshminarayanan
Keisha Patel
Lyle Regenwetter
Robert Stavins
John Walkington

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

Don't forget our gallery of pennants from our alumni colleges and universities! We'd love to have yours to hang in our collection!

I hope you enjoy the following news from Countryside. We think of you fondly and often – please come see us! In the meantime, have a great summer!

Fondly,
Cathie Webber

Honors and Awards

- BOTH ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS TAKE 1ST AT STATE, ADVANCE TO WORLDS
- MATH COUNTS TAKES 2ND AT REGIONALS AND 9TH AT STATE
- 2 STUDENTS NAMED WARREN JUNIOR CHESS SCHOLARS

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Countryside Trees

Groundbreaking on Gym and Performing Arts Center



John Colombo announces the stage will be named in honor of Mrs. Webber.



Faculty and staff at the groundbreaking ceremony.

CHECK OUR
WEBSITE FOR
PROJECT
PHOTOS!

Imagine if you had had the opportunity to perform the all-school musical on a stage with professional grade lighting and sound where you could be seen by every audience member. Imagine a space where you could gain valuable technical skills behind the scenes. Imagine playing basketball or volleyball on a regulation-sized basketball court or hosting home games for visiting teams.

These visions are becoming a reality for current and future students with Countryside's new gym and performing arts space. This new facility will provide our students and teachers with the opportunities to grow and be challenged in new ways that will strengthen the education of every child.

Learning teamwork, gaining confidence and exhibiting good sportsmanship are important components of a Countryside education. Some of the possibilities we will gain with a new gym include: Hosting home games and even tournaments; exploring game concepts more fully with more space; providing opportunities for more students to play instead of sitting on the sidelines waiting their turn; attaining new fitness goals during the winter months; providing our Extended Day students with a permanent home in the multi-purpose room.

The arts, performing and visual, are central to a Countryside education. With a new stage our students will receive the full benefits of the performing experience. Sophisticated

lighting and sound equipment will allow interested students the opportunity to gain valuable behind-the-scenes technical training. A dedicated stage will allow our young performers to master a full range of performing skills and will allow the audience to have a more authentic and pleasurable viewing experience.

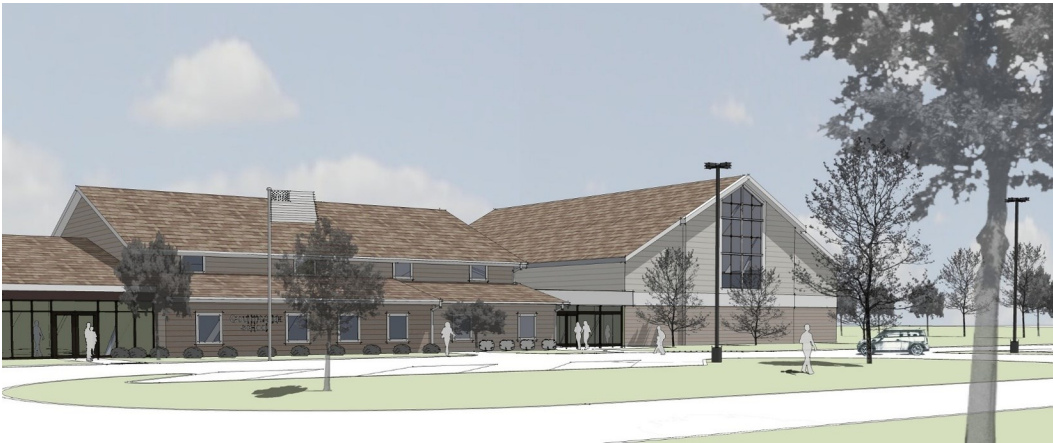
Early donors gave a powerful vote of confidence on both the priorities and the ambitious scope of this project by committing close to \$2 million toward our goal. The gym and performing arts center will cost \$4.5 million to complete. After prudent analysis, the board of directors has elected to finance a portion of the project which leaves roughly \$1 million still to raise.

Current funding will allow us to build the structure, but to fully outfit both the gym and the stage and to deliver the facility that fulfills our vision, we must raise more money through charitable giving. Gifts to this campaign will make a profound difference in the life of Countryside and the lives of our children.

We hope that if you are in the neighborhood, you will stop by and see our construction in progress. Be sure to also check our website for regular updates. We hope to have the building fully operational by the start of the 2012 school year. To learn more, please contact Jamie Driver, Development Director at Jamie.driver@att.net or 217-355-1253.

Spring 2011

Vision for the Gym and Performing Arts Center



Alum Update



Meredith Albrecht visits from Oklahoma. Wearing her flight suit, she spoke to the K/1 and 2/3 classes about her experiences as a pilot on surveillance flights and her other interest - chasing storms!

For a video on the surveillance flights:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tWjX-xiVVI>

"Since I visited last September, I qualified as an E-6B Mission Commander, and I got my next set of orders. On June 1st I will be checking out of my current squadron, VQ-3, and taking a month of leave. In July, I will report to VT-3, a training squadron based at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, near Pensacola, FL. There, I will be a Primary Flight Training Instructor, and I will be teaching the next generation of Naval Aviators."



Countryside Trees

Great News from the Past Year

We broke ground on our new Gym and Performing Arts Center in April!

Our choruses, band, and ensemble groups performed their concerts at U of I's Smith Memorial Hall and University Christian Church with a CD produced of the winter concert.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest honored fifth graders Elizabeth, Sam, Emma & Grace.

Fifth grader Anshul and second grader Harrison were named Warren Junior Chess Scholars - an award given to only 35 chess players in Illinois.

Our MathCounts team took 2nd place in regional competition. In individual competition, seventh grader Lyle placed 1st and eighth grader Justin was the Countdown Round winner. At State our team placed 9th.

Fifth grade pianist Grace won 3rd place in the junior division of the 11th Annual Sigma Alpha Iota Solo Competition. This competition is open to all instrumentalists in grades 5-8.

The Countryside Trio (eighth graders Pierre and Jordan and fifth grader Grace) won 2nd in the DOCHA chamber music competition. Pierre's other trio, Eclipse, won 1st place.

Countryside welcomed new teachers: middle school LWW teacher and parent, Chris Antonsen, and third grade teacher, Caren Allen.

The Champaign-Urbana Optimist Club honored three fifth graders with Challenge Awards: Anshul in Science, Grace in Arts, and Raya in Community Service.

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

The All-School Art Show "River Walk on the River Seine" had its grand opening at the Orpheum Children's Museum in April, complete with French inspired theme and foods.

Countryside began an afterschool Math Olympiad club for grades 4-6.

The biennial International Dinner was held at the Urbana Country Club. Celebrating our cultural diversity, the event featured food from around the world and tango lessons.

Service projects benefitted Scope for Hope, Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Center for Women in Transition, Pennies for the Planet, Times Center, Salvation Army, Crisis Nursery, and the residents of Bickford Cottage, Bridle Brook Assisted Living, and the Windsor of Savoy.

Our Chinese classes performed at various community events including the Chinese New Year Celebration at the University of Illinois.

The All-School Music Show was *H2Oh!* and included songs and dances about water.



H2Oh! All-School Music Show
Pirates of the Caribbean - middle school girls

CSA Happenings

Countryside School Association sponsored several events for the school this year. They organized teacher appreciation lunches and book fairs. The highlights of the year's events were the Fall Picnic, Winter Ice Skating Party, and the International Dinner.

Many alums came back for this year's picnic. The event was held at the school and featured a picnic dinner with many carnival activities including a bounce house, obstacle course inflatable, cotton candy and baseball.

Join us this fall:

**"Homecoming" and Fall Picnic:
Friday, September 9, 2011**

ALUMS:
SHARE YOUR
E-MAIL
ADDRESS
WITH US!

Alum Visits



Erin and Kyle Sullivan with Cathie Webber. The Sullivans were visiting from Virginia. Kyle will start at the University of Virginia this fall.



Kali Smith visits from Los Angeles, California.



Meera and Sameer Manchanda visit from Carmel, Indiana.



Sonya Kumpuckal holds the *Odyssey of the Mind* 2nd place at **Worlds** trophy her team earned while she was at Countryside. She is finishing her sophomore year at Danville Schlarmam.

Newest Tiny Comet



Countryside welcomes our first "legacy", **Alexander** – born in October to alumna Jenny Bartlett and her husband Prakrit Jena. She is also our first alum to serve on our board of directors!



Zsolt Bognár with Cathie Webber - Zsolt visited from Cleveland, OH. He is a concert pianist and will be performing in Germany this summer.

GRADUATION
THURSDAY,
MAY 26,
7 P.M.
AT THE
SCHOOL

Countryside Trees

Alum Reunion 2011



Above Left:

Aileen Chu, Ruth Kahn and Petra Rantanen

Left: Luis Tian, Arun Doogar and David Jin

Left:

Back row:

Valerie Makri, Mrs. Henson, Arielle Zimmerman

Front row:

Madelyn Gunn, Jessica Goode, Freddie Stavins



The Alum Reunion Pizza Party for alumni in grades 9-12 was held at the school in April. Even Mrs. Henson returned to see her former students. We loved seeing all the returning alums, but we are thinking about changing the date of the Pizza Party to a less hectic time of year next year. We would appreciate your input.

countryside@countrysideschool.org

Alum Updates

Michael Meyer spent his senior year of high school at Lusher Charter School in New Orleans, Louisiana, after his family moved to New Orleans during July of 2010. Michael will attend Columbia University in New York City in the fall. He worked as an extra in the HBO series *Treme* when the show, based in New Orleans, shot a scene at his high school. He also participated on the Lusher team in an entrepreneurship competition and helped to present his team's concept to New Orleans Saints Quarterback Drew Brees.

Matthew Meyer is a student at Isidore Newman School in New Orleans, Louisiana; his family moved to New Orleans during the summer of 2010. Matthew is a Lincoln-Douglas debater and placed third in the state in his division. The school sponsors debate trips to competitions across the nation and Matthew has competed in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, and New York. He was also the recipient of an annual award for Outstanding Character, voted on by the Newman faculty.

Former Faculty Updates

Annie Wiseman-Floyd - French

Although I left Countryside in 2003 when our family moved to North Carolina, I kept many wonderful memories of my French students K-8, at Countryside. I remember sitting on a breakout room floor with some rambunctious learners playing games, singing songs, writing commercials, memorizing poetry, rehearsing plays - anything and everything to get them to speak French! They spoke beautifully and I hope they still are!

We had 4 great years in NC before moving to the Dominican Republic and Haiti in 2007 to work mostly with vulnerable and orphaned children. We learned by observing others that often when trying to help people go forward, especially poor people, you can actually prevent them from making progress. This mainly occurs when people throw money at a problem or do a job for someone that they can and should do themselves. We learned that one of the best ways to help Haiti is to provide better education for children (50% of whom do not have the luxury of attending school). So after 3 years there and one year back in NC (for a sabbatical), we will soon be returning to start a small, progressive Christian School in Carrefour (an area in Port au Prince). Two of Haiti's greatest assets are children and their thirst to learn. We will offer an education that is relevant to real life there and is stunningly creative.

You cannot imagine how often I recall my teaching experience at Countryside and my former students. The work there helped

prepare me to teach children in Haiti and the DR who do not "wiggle" as much you all did but who nonetheless inspire me! Countryside's simple motto of joy in learning and excellence in education remains my mantra!

Contact Wiseman-Floyds at wisemanfloyds@yahoo.com or <http://www.haitisjewels.org/>

Dawn Richman - 3rd grade

It's hard to believe it has been a year since I left Champaign and moved to Lubbock, Texas. After a little adjustment, my family and I have settled in nicely. Dave is enjoying his job and is excited about all the opportunities he now has, and the children quickly made friends and are doing well academically at their new schools. To get acclimated to the culture and to find the right school, I spent this year working as a substitute teacher.

Although I have worked at the local public schools, my favorite jobs have been at a small Episcopalian school that is very similar to Countryside. My plan is to continue substituting at this school until a teaching position there opens up. My family and I are all enjoying the southwestern culture; we have visited canyons, mountains, and the amazing White Sand Dunes National Park. Due to the warm climate, I have also been able to pick up a new hobby...gardening! Although I still miss everyone at Countryside, I am enjoying the opportunity to explore this fascinating area of our country!

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

We Need Your Pennant

We would like to display pennants from all our alums' colleges and universities. Although we have over 30 on display, we are still missing several. Drop us an e-mail if you can provide us with a pennant! countryside@countrysideschool.org





Countryside School

Joy in Learning, Excellence in Education

NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Countryside School
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Many students are NOT listed here...

If you are headed to college and are NOT listed, it is because we have not been notified where you are going to school. Please let us know!

countryside@countrysideschool.org



Find us on
Facebook

Not only do we have a fantastic website, but we now have an official page on Facebook. Become a fan and be notified when alumni updates or photos are posted and when alumni events are planned.

Also visit our website where you can check out the Alumni page for news on past graduates and can update your contact information. We'd love to keep in contact with you!

www.countrysideschool.org

College Bound 2011

Mary Cimakasky - Beloit College

Jenny Cooke - Rice University

Ethan Gelke - Illinois Wesleyan
(biology and physiology)

Cristina Gratton - University of Illinois
(biology pre-med honors program)

Alex Grubele - University of Illinois
(mechanical engineering)

Jordan Hosier - Illinois Wesleyan

Eli Hyman - University of Illinois
(civil and environmental engineering)

John Kearns - University of Notre Dame

Claire Liu - Princeton University

Michael Meyer - Columbia University

Preena Patel - University of Illinois
(advertising)

Lilli Pearson - Princeton University

Abbie Peterson - University of Illinois
(atmospheric sciences)

Miles Ross - St. Olaf College

Kyle Sullivan - University of Virginia

Ben Taylor - Michigan State University
(Academic Scholars program)