

# Countryside Trees



NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spring 2018

## Letter from the Head



Stephanie Harman

Dear Friends,

Greetings! We had another great year filled with Joy in Learning and Excellence in Education.

A few highlights from the elementary grades this year include the K/1

students "traveling" to the rainforest, ancient Egypt, and the Moon; our 2/3 students creating and performing their own version of *Hamilton* and performing it on the Cathie Webber Stage; and our 4/5 students celebrating different decades of American history through their Decade Days.

Highlights from the Middle School this year include the 7/8 Social Sciences classes learning about the Holocaust and creating a beautiful book of poetry and artwork (view it here: [goo.gl/2xdEKD](http://goo.gl/2xdEKD)); Science students learning about optics and light and dissecting a sheep's eye; Literature and Writing Workshop students honing their writing skills by creating blogs (check out a particularly heartwarming student blog here: [goo.gl/Pef77X](http://goo.gl/Pef77X)); and MS Math students consulting with a professional architect while creating scaled drawings of dream homes for their hypothetical clients.

I recently had the pleasure of spending a couple of days in Chicago with our 8th-grade students - visiting the Willis Tower Skydeck, seeing Blue Man Group perform, and enjoying a sunny architectural boat tour on the Chicago River. I encourage you to come out and see these 8th graders in action as they perform the play, *Big Bad* on **Wednesday, May 16** at 6 p.m. on the Cathie Webber Stage. The show is sure to be a hit!

I also invite and encourage you to come to **Graduation**, on **Tuesday, May 22** at 7 p.m., and I look forward to seeing you all at our **Countryside Homecoming Picnic** in the fall. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 25** at 4 p.m.! Stay tuned for more details.

As we bid goodbye to this school year, we must also say goodbye to elementary teacher Maya Payne who is relocating to Houston, TX, and to music teacher, Julia Hartman, who is pursuing other professional opportunities. If you would like to say **goodbye to Mrs. Payne or Mrs. Hartman** and wish them well on their new adventures, please join us on **Thursday, May 24** from 3:15-4:15 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Warm regards,  
Stephanie Harman

Our 8th graders honored at **Graduation** on **Tuesday, May 22** at 7 p.m.:

James Braun	Centennial
Jake Cox	Centennial
Maddox Dempsey	Academy High
William Ding	Academy High
Eve Freund	Academy High
Max Harman	Academy High
Ben Kirby	Centennial
Sam Laufenberg	Academy High
Morgan Lee	Mahomet-Seymour
Kevin Lu	Central
Zach Swanson-Linville	TBD
Jordan White	TBD
Sophie Zerrouki	Mahomet-Seymour

Students matriculating as subfreshmen at University Laboratory High School will be honored at our final all-school assembly on **Friday, May 25** at 11:30 a.m.:

Aditi Adve	Sanaiya Luthar
Nicholas Bodony	Andrea Torelli
Benjamin Chang	Ryan Wang
Emma Donnini	Clara Wood
Nate Jones	Dan Yang

## Honors and Awards

- OUR STUDENTS RAISED OVER \$2,000 FOR HURRICANE RELIEF IN PUERTO RICO.
- TWO OF OUR ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS QUALIFIED TO COMPETE AT WORLD COMPETITION!

## Inside this issue:

GREAT SCHOOL NEWS	2
CLASS OF 2018 PHOTO OPS	3
25TH BIRTHDAY PICNIC	4
ALUMNI UPDATES	8
ALUMNI SHOUT OUTS	10
1ST-EVER INTERNATIONAL TRIP	14
COLLEGE BOUND	15

# Countryside Trees

## Great News from the Past Year



Our 2nd/3rd grade class experiences the total eclipse in August 2017.

7th grader Andrew received a perfect score (2130) on the SSAT exam!

Our brother-duo Marco (6th grade) and Kevin (8th grade) won 1st place in their age category at the "Games and Gaming Make-a-thon" at the University of Illinois. Akuma Wing, their winning creation, is a nostalgic arcade-style space shooter game.

7th grader Ryan performed at Carnegie Hall over spring break. He was named 2nd Place Winner in the American Protégé International Competition of Romantic Music and was invited to perform "Polonaise in G Sharp Minor" by Chopin in New York City. He also performed at Carnegie last July!

7th grader Ian has been selected to represent the USA's Boy Scouts of America scouting contingent at the 24th World Scouting Jamboree in the summer of 2019. This event is held every four years and will be held next summer in the US for the first time since 1967. Fifty-thousand scouts from 169 countries will camp, cook and live outside for this 12 day event.

25 students participated in IESA's Solo and Ensemble Contest, and our performers received a first place in nearly every event! In addition, 6 students received "Best of Day" Awards: 7th graders Ryan, Dan, Sierra, and Benjamin and 8th graders William and Kevin.

Congrats to our **seven** teams who competed in the Engineering Open House Middle School Design Contest – to design a flotation device out of recyclable or reusable materials which can hold the most weight. We competed against 43 teams from across the state, and Countryside won seven awards including sweeping the "Most Weight Held" category.

Our three Odyssey of the Mind teams competed at State. Two of our teams qualified to compete at Worlds! This is the **13th consecutive year** we have competed at World Finals!

Several students won prizes in the U of I Insect Fear Film Festival art contest. 7th grader Sanaiya took Best in Show and 5th grader Noor won Best in Theme. In addition, 1st grader Aiden took 1st and 2nd grader Layla took 2nd in the K-2nd grade age group. Honorable Mentions went to: 2nd graders Oscar and Allison and 6th grader Marco.

Our MathCounts team won the Chapter competition and competed at State where they placed 21<sup>st</sup> - in the top third for the entire state. Congratulations, 7th graders Emma, Benji, and Andrew, and 8th grader James.

Continues on page 3



Consultant Dave listens as our 2nd/3rd grade class passes the "talking stick" during Morning Meeting.

## Class of 2018 College Gear Photo Day



Last year **Nick Zurich** (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.

This year we will run a “Congratulations to our Class of 2018” from **May 18 to June 1**. It will rotate with our other signs during this time. **On May 26, it will run all day.**

**What:** Class of 2018 photos

**When:** Saturday, May 26 - all day

**PLEASE** gather alumni friends in your college gear and take your photo at our signs. **AND PLEASE** send us a copy!  
[alumni@countrysideschool.org](mailto:alumni@countrysideschool.org)

**COLLEGE  
GEAR  
PHOTO DAY  
SATURDAY,  
MAY 26**

## Great News from the Past Year

Continued from page 2

Four of our students won blue ribbons in the “Town and Country Art Show” and are eligible to enter their work in the State Show - 2nd grader Allison, 3rd grader Kathryn, 4th grader Sofia, and 7th grader Sanaiya.

5th grader Bonnie competed in the Bouldering Nationals at Salt Lake City, UT. Bonnie has been climbing with Urbana Boulders for two years.

7th grader Shannon took 1st place last summer at the Illinois State Fair for her bread and butter pickles. She competed in the Open Class (all ages, all experience levels).



# Countryside Trees

## 25th Birthday Picnic Photos

**We love seeing returning alums!** This year's 25th Birthday Picnic celebration featured an alumni bags (corn hole) tournament won by Holden Siena and Anthony Carpenter, along with the usual food, inflatables, and cotton candy. Mrs. Webber, former faculty, and alumni families returned for the event.

For more photos of the event: [tinyurl.com/CSalumniphotos2017-18](https://tinyurl.com/CSalumniphotos2017-18)



**Top left:** Sophie Brown, Lauren Feddersen, Raine Bernhard, Megan Bostaph

**Top right:** Raya Gandhi, Anupam Sharma

**Middle left:** Ginny Kirby (with Haley Driver on Facetime), Esha Mehta, Veronica Chistaya

**Middle center:** Toby Antonsen, Sarah Heffley

**Middle right:** Lauren Lumetta, Shelby Pitts, Jyoti Sundaram, Kayla Israel, Veronica Chistaya

**Bottom:** Anthony Carpenter, Holden Siena, 8th grader Kevin, Maher Adoni, Andrew Chen, Henry Laufenberg, Jaden Wang, Ekam Ghotra

**HOMECOMING**

**FALL PICNIC**

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 25

AT THE  
SCHOOL



### Facebook Throwback Thursday photos



From last May to this May, we ran a year of weekly Throwback Thursday photos on our Facebook page. Our most popular photo was the one above from the groundbreaking for our school at 4301 W. Kirby Avenue in October 1996. Visit our Facebook page to see 51 other "historical" photos: [www.facebook.com/Countryside-School-91680340521](https://www.facebook.com/Countryside-School-91680340521)

SEE OUR  
THROWBACK  
THURSDAY  
PHOTOS ON  
FACEBOOK

### Share with our students



**David Kaplan** (2000) (left) talks about chip development at Advanced Micro Devices, and **Rachel Kaplan** (2003) talks about being a cardiologist at Northwestern Medical Center.

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](mailto:feddersen@countrysideschool.org).



# Countryside Trees

## Former Faculty Updates

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

Natalya and her husband, Robert, were very happy to welcome the arrival of baby Elizabeth Clair Jennings, born in July 2017. Natalya is working for the non-profit education technology group, The Concord Consortium, as a Research Associate, studying how young people learn mathematics. She still does MATHCOUNTS problems for fun.



Long trip home: Remember the map high on the wall in the 4/5 room? It now resides in Saipan at the school where Mrs. Brickey taught after leaving Countryside!

## CSA Happenings

Countryside School Association sponsored several events for the school including the incredible 25th Birthday Party Picnic last fall. Alumni photos:

[tinyurl.com/CSalumniphotos2017-18](http://tinyurl.com/CSalumniphotos2017-18)

They sponsored teacher lunches during conferences, teacher appreciation week, (massages, breakfast, the teacher appreciation lunch and gifts), family work day with new family tours, and the book fairs.

Highlights of the year's events included the Winter Ice Skating Party and a Kids' Social at I-Power Gymnastics. In addition, CSA also coordinated Countryside gear sales and the end of the year gathering in the park.

Thank you, CSA volunteers!

## Featured Alumni

**Daniel Slichter** (1996) went to Uni High, then Harvard, then UC Berkeley to do a Ph.D. in physics. For the past six years, he has been living in Boulder, Colorado and working as a staff physicist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). His research is focused on developing technologies for quantum computing.

His wife Yolanda is a Ph.D. biostatistician working on clinical research and statistical methodology development. They have two young children, Trevor (age 5) and Isabela (age 3).

Daniel is happy to talk with any Countryside students or alumni interested in careers in science. Email him at: [dhs@nist.gov](mailto:dhs@nist.gov)

## Alumni Memories

From those who attended this year's Winter Alumni Reunion: Can you guess who said what?

Countryside's trip to Puerto Rico! Best school experience ever!

Telling stories around the fire during the middle school campouts

Mr. A's homeroom when we all played a prank on the homeroom students

Classes with Mr. A

The middle school flour bomb war!

Odyssey of the Mind with Mrs. Wilken

The castle in K/1

"Expedition" in middle school

Ellis Island simulation in 4/5

Middle school dances!

All the great teachers I had!

Our *Odyssey of the Mind* team taking 2nd place at Worlds!

Playing "Ghost in the Graveyard" at the middle school camp out

Doing the escape room/breakout boxes

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 teachers 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.



**Uni High:** Back: Jake Regenwetter, Lorenzo Pantano, Henry Laufenberg, Andy Brown  
Front: Ekam Ghotra, Maher Adoni, Lauren Lumetta, Madeleine Keenan

**Central/Centennial/U of Illinois:** Back: Adam Youssef, David Kanfer, Holden Siena, Alex Shilts, Justin Lumetta Middle: Sophie Brown, Sarah Windelborn, Lauren Feddersen, Olivia Gunn, Esha Mehta, Zoe Eichorn Front: Ginny Kirby, Angela Xu, Jennifer Chen



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

# Countryside Trees

## Alumni Updates

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

***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.*

**Rose Kearns** (2000) graduated from Uni, followed by a degree in Creative Writing from Columbia University. She is working and writing plays in New York.

**Ruth Welch** (2004) will be in her final year at Stanford Law School this fall.

**Gordon Ruan** (2006) is graduating from SIU Medical School in May and will go to Mayo Clinic for residency.

**John Kearns** (2007) finished high school at the Gow School in South Wales, NY (near Buffalo), received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Notre Dame, and an M.S. from Georgia Tech. He is working in Silicon Valley.

**Sarah Heffley** (2008) is working on a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education at Erikson Institute, and is teaching pre/K students in the Headstart program in the Chicago Public Schools. (She remembers when her 2nd/3rd grade class at Countryside went to the Headstart in Savoy to read to the kids.)

**Angelita Repetto** (2009) graduated from the University of Illinois in 2017 and is currently working at Epic, a software company. In the fall she is going back to school for her PhD in sociology at UC Davis. She will be studying race, ethnicity, and inequality.

**George Ruan** (2010) graduated Bronze Tablet (University Honors) from the University of Illinois in Computer Science in December. He is now working at Facebook.

**Robby Welch** (2010) is graduating from Colorado College with a degree in neuroscience and will be working (likely at a psychiatric hospital) in Denver after one last hiking trip in Nepal this summer.

**Abbie Driver** (2013) is finishing her freshman year at Indiana University and is still considering her academic path.

**James Vaughn** (2013) has been doing educational work for DeltaCorps (a subset of AmeriCorps) in Clarksdale, MS in the public schools and at an afterschool program called Spring Initiative ([facebook.com/SpringInitiative](https://facebook.com/SpringInitiative)). James will be attending Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia next year and attending the Pacific Music Festival in Japan this summer. Please check out: [facebook.com/jsvaughen](https://facebook.com/jsvaughen) and [youtube.com/user/isingiplayilaugh](https://youtube.com/user/isingiplayilaugh)

**Christopher Heffley** (2014) is graduating from Uni High this month. He will be attending the U of I to study electrical and computer engineering.

**Haley Driver** (2016) is finishing her sophomore year at Mary Institute/Country Day School in St. Louis. She recently spent two weeks in Argentina on a school exchange trip.

**Jake Regenwetter** (2018) attends Uni High. His Scholastic Bowl subfreshman team will compete at Nationals this month!

## Alumni Association

We our Alumni Association Executive Board in place. To contact the Executive Board:

Meredith (Albrecht) Botnik (1996) - [meredith@wx5ab.net](mailto:meredith@wx5ab.net)

Jenny Bartlett (1997) - [jennifera.bartlett@gmail.com](mailto:jennifera.bartlett@gmail.com)

Hilary Phillips (2001) - email her through [alumni@countrysideschool.org](mailto:alumni@countrysideschool.org)

Devin Richardson (2002) - [devinirene17@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:feddersen@countrysideschool.org).



## 25th Anniversary Gala & Prom Photos



Countryside School celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gala and prom on Saturday, February 24. About 120 people attended the event held in the school's Gym and Performing Arts Center.

Countryside alumnus **Ryan Mondak's** (2011) jazz quartet provided music during the cocktail hour followed by DJ Icy Dré spinning 90's dance songs in honor of Countryside's founding in 1992. (Nineties prom attire was encouraged.)

The event included naming a prom king and a prom queen - former longtime board president Earle Heffley and current parent Stacey Mitchell. As this was a celebration of Countryside School's 25th year, a small silent auction raised funds to support the Gym and Performing Arts Center.

View the gallery:

[tinyurl.com/CSGalaPromPhotos](http://tinyurl.com/CSGalaPromPhotos)



**Above right:** Prom Queen Stacey Mitchell and Prom King Earle Heffley

**Left:** Alumnus Ryan Mondak with his jazz quartet

**Below left:** Alumnus Kyle Garton-Gundling, 1st grade teacher Stacy Kirby, Alumna Devin Richardson

**Below right:** Latin teacher Whitney McComas, 2nd grade teacher Maya Payne



# Countryside Trees

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## Alumni Shout Outs

### From last spring (after our deadline):

**Alex Mestre** (2009) graduated from Indiana University double majoring in accounting and international business. He is an associate consultant for the global management consulting firm Bain & Company in Chicago. Alex was featured in *The News-Gazette*:

[tinyurl.com/News-Gazette-Mestre](http://tinyurl.com/News-Gazette-Mestre)

**Petra Rantanen** (2009) graduated from Notre Dame in sociology and pre-health studies. She is working for Casa de Esperanza, a safe space for children in crisis in Houston, TX before heading to medical school. Petra was featured in *The News-Gazette*:

[tinyurl.com/News-Gazette-Rantanen](http://tinyurl.com/News-Gazette-Rantanen)

**Chelsea Edwards** (2010) graduated from MIT in chemical engineering and is now at California Institute of Technology for her doctorate. Chelsea was featured in *The News-Gazette*:

[tinyurl.com/News-Gazette-Edwards](http://tinyurl.com/News-Gazette-Edwards)

**Maanasa Narayanamoorthy** (2014) received a perfect score on *both* the ACT and the SAT! She is also a National Merit Scholarship finalist this year.

**Kayla Israel** (2016) received Centennial High School English Department's Freshman Highlights Narrative Award.

**Ginny Kirby** (2016) was honored by the Centennial High School Choral Department as Outstanding Vocalist for Treble Choir.

**Esha Mehta** (2016) received Centennial High School English Department's Freshman Highlights Analytical Award.

### Shout outs from this year:

**Emily Manganaro** (1999) was selected as a 2017 Forty Under 40 winner by the Central Illinois Business Magazine. Emily is a financial consultant with First Midwest Bank. The award recognizes young professionals for their achievements, experience, innovation, leadership, and community involvement.

**Mallika Luthar** (2014) received the Susan Kovacs Award recognition of outstanding service and leadership for students and community at Uni High School.

**Grace Qiu** (2014), **Olivia Gunn** (2016), and **Angela Xu** (2016) were named to *The News-Gazette* All Area Girls' Tennis Team. Olivia was also named Central High School's Student-Athlete of the Week.

**Raine Bernhard** (2015) with her Uni High 200 free relay team broke the pool record at Centennial High School and also qualified for State in that event.

**Lauren Feddersen** (2015) qualified to swim at State in 3 events and broke two school records at Centennial - a 14-year old school record in the 100 breaststroke and a 16-year old record in the 200 free relay. She was also named to *The News-Gazette* All Area Girls' Swim Team.

**Alex Shilts** (2015), who swims for Centennial, was named a News-Gazette Athlete of the Week. He also qualified to swim in 4 events at State and was named to *The News-Gazette* All Area Boys' Swim Team.

**Ginny Kirby** (2016) received the Live Like Luke Award for the sophomore class because she embodies kindness, compassion, and friendliness each day to make Centennial High a better place.

ALUMNI  
REUNION  
TBD. OVER  
WINTER BREAK



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



Follow us on Twitter  
[@CountrysideCU](#)



Check out our **YouTube** channel:  
[tinyurl.com/CSsideYouTube](http://tinyurl.com/CSsideYouTube)



Alumni page on our website -  
[www.countrysideschool.org](http://www.countrysideschool.org) -  
Check out alumni news & photos and update your contact info.



### Celebrating 25 Years: Highlights of the 25th Year



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**25 YEARS:**  
SEND US YOUR  
STORIES AND  
PHOTOS

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**Top:** Founder's Day/25th Anniversary Closing Ceremonies May 2018 - the entire school and guests form a "25" to commemorate the 25th Anniversary. Great drone photo!

**Above right:** Current Head Stephanie Harman and former Head Cathie Webber kick off our year of celebration at our 25th birthday on Founder's Day, May 2017.

**Left:** Our new mascot, Kirby Comet, greets students on the first day of school. Kirby makes appearances at Comet Fests (all-school assemblies) and selected sporting events.

**Like us on Facebook to see Throw Back Thursday photos of the past 25 years.**

We just completed our year-long celebration on Facebook.



# Countryside Trees

## Winter Alumni Reunion - Digital Scavenger Hunt

During winter break over 30 alumni, faculty, and former faculty attended the Winter Alumni Reunion at the school. The reunion included a digital scavenger hunt, writing messages to faculty and former faculty on their whiteboards, perusing old yearbooks, chatting with friends, and of course, seeing Cathie Webber!

More photos:

[tinyurl.com/CSalumniphotos2017-18](http://tinyurl.com/CSalumniphotos2017-18)



Sohan Gandhi, Roma Metha, Caterina Kim, and Raya Gandhi - one of several groups working to solve the digital scavenger hunt around the school. It was "Joy in Learning" in action!



Julie Strauss and Nealay Kalita

WANT THIS  
NEWSLETTER  
SOONER?  
SEND US  
YOUR EMAIL  
ADDRESS



**Top row:** Devin Richardson, Ali Webber, Susan Richardson (Associate Head of School)

**Third row:** Joey Kim, Anthony Carpenter, Holden Siena, Gail McWilliams (former Spanish teacher), Lois Wilken (former MS Math teacher & Odyssey of the Mind), alumni parent Lorraine Kim

**Second row:** Madeleine Keenan, Colette Tichenor, Zoe Eichorn, Esha Metha, Sophie Brown, Lauren Feddersen, Sarah Windelborn, Taylor Feddersen

**Bottom row:** Binky Bognar (Administrative Assistant), Sohan Gandhi, Raya Gandhi, Roma Metha, Caterina Kim, Stephanie Harman (Head of School), Cathie Webber (former Head of School)



## Retiring Faculty

### Maya (Enriques) Payne 2nd Grade (formerly 5th grade)



Mrs. Payne has taught at Countryside for 7 years. Her family is relocating to Texas where her husband has a new job.

**What will you miss most?** I will miss the amazing

staff! I have loved the silly, goofy memories that we have made over the years. I will also miss all of the students that I have taught. It is the best thing ever to see them grow and mature through the years!

**Most memorable moment?** Singing the rap part of Taylor Swift's song, *Shake It Off*, with the "Countryside Band" during music in our schools month

**Your future plans:** I am currently looking for a teaching position, but plan on being at the beach as much as possible with my kids over the summer.

**Advice for our students?** Always keep a positive attitude. You can't change the things that come your way, but you can control how you deal with them.

If anyone wants to keep in touch, I would love it! My email address is [mayazpayne@gmail.com](mailto:mayazpayne@gmail.com)

Mrs. Payne

### Julia Hartman Music



Mrs. Hartman came to Countryside after teaching for 7 years at Gifford Grade School. She has taught here for 4 years.

**What will you miss most?** The passionate kids

and staff who made every day a fun adventure.

**Most memorable moment?** Singing and playing with other teachers at lunch and morning concerts. Learning how to dance the waltz with middle school students. Having a baby shower thrown for me by the K/1 room.

**Your future plans:** I am applying at the university and hoping to get a full-time job there.

**Advice for our students?** Keep playing music! Remember music can be a part of your life in many ways. It doesn't have to be your full-time job or even something you practice for years. It can be enjoyed in your way and on your own time.

Students may email me at: [bluej82@gmail.com](mailto:bluej82@gmail.com)

Mrs. Hartman

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**FAREWELL  
RECEPTION**  
THURSDAY,  
MAY 24  
3:15-4:15 P.M.

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### Director of Alumni Relations

**Kristin Feddersen** is your Director of Alumni Relations. She also has been Countryside's Director of Communications for the past eleven 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](mailto:feddersen@countrysideschool.org).

# Countryside Trees

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## First International Middle School Trip

Countryside celebrated its first international school trip! Last June our middle schoolers enjoyed a week in Puerto Rico chaperoned by our social sciences teacher, Mr. Morton and math teacher, Ms. Santiago (who grew up in Puerto Rico.)

They toured Old San Juan to learn about the Spanish-influenced history of Puerto Rico, hiked in the El Yunque National Rainforest, learned to salsa dance, toured the home and

studio of artist Samuel Lind, and visited the Camuy River Cave Park.

In addition, they explored the old Spanish fort Castillo San Felipe Del Morro, and toured a coffee plantation. In a cooking class, they made cassava mofongo, a classic Puerto Rican dish. They also spent time snorkeling, exploring a nature reserve, and enjoying beach time.

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8TH GRADE  
PLAY  
**BIG BAD**  
WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 16  
7 P.M.

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Lola and Forrest snorkeling



Jaden, Zoe, Sam, Henry, and Ekam exploring the rainforest



The group visiting the home and studio of artist Samuel Lind (front center).



## College Bound 2018

### Congratulations to our alumni headed to the following universities:

Sandeep Anil	DePaul - undecided
Toby Antonsen	Illinois - linguistics
Emma Berry	Hamilton College
Austin Chen	New York University - Stern School of Business - finance
Raya Gandhi	Northwestern - neuroscience
Elizabeth Guenther	Illinois - social work and human resources
Dylan Gunn	Illinois - history
Christopher Heffley	Illinois - electrical & computer engineering
Caterina Kim	Illinois - integrated biology
Daniel Konicek	Illinois - material science
Aditi Mehta	UIC - GPPA medicine program - neuroscience
Roma Mehta	Miami University (Ohio)
Julia Miller	Purdue - health and disease
Corinne Petruzzi	New York University - individualized major
Grace Qiu	UC Berkeley - economics
Jaden Roberts	Southern Illinois University
Anupam Sharma	Dartmouth College
John Vaaler	Middlebury College
Justin Wang	Cornell - human development
Adam Woodard	Illinois - general studies

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](mailto:alumni@countrysideschool.org)

### Countryside at 25

Historical Slideshow highlighting the past 25 years: [tinyurl.com/CSsideYouTube](http://tinyurl.com/CSsideYouTube)

25th Anniversary Gala photos:  
[tinyurl.com/CSGalaPromPhotos](http://tinyurl.com/CSGalaPromPhotos)

Groundbreaking Celebration from 1996:  
(will be added soon)  
[tinyurl.com/CSsideYouTube](http://tinyurl.com/CSsideYouTube)

### Do you have memories to share?

We are collecting stories and photos for our historical archives. Send to: [feddersen@countrysideschool.org](mailto:feddersen@countrysideschool.org)

### Community Service

Our All-School Service Project raised \$2,000 for hurricane relief through the American Red Cross and Puerto Rico Rises.

Our Middle School service projects included:

- Creating pollinator garden
- Cleaning up an elderly neighbor's yard
- Building a Gaga pit!
- Constructing raised garden beds for the residents at The Villas West senior assisted living facility.

The K/1 class gathered and sent \$200 and 21 pounds of underwear to Undies for Everyone (Houston Hurricane Relief).

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

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# 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](mailto:alumni@countrysideschool.org)

**We don't want to lose contact!**

Please send us your email address:  
[alumni@countrysideschool.org](mailto: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](mailto:alumni@countrysideschool.org) Thanks to our alumni for the new Ohio State pennant!



## Mark your calendars:

8th grade play *Big Bad*/Showcase of the Arts  
Graduation (and alumni photos)  
Farewell Reception - Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Hartman  
Class of 2018 photo at the corner sign  
Homecoming/Fall Picnic  
Alumni Reunion

Wednesday, May 16	6 p.m.
Tuesday, May 22	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 24	3:15-4:15 p.m.
Saturday, May 26	all day
Saturday, August 25	4-7 p.m.
TBD - December 2018	