



Ruffing Alumni Bulletin

Fall, 2013 Vol. 1 No. 1

Letter from the Editor: Dear Ruffing Alumni (and Parents of Alumni),

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *Ruffing Alumni Bulletin*! I hope you and your families are well! This new publication is designed to update you on your alma mater, as you'll see on the next page. My name is Vincent O'Keefe, a current Ruffing parent of two daughters (in 8th and 5th grade). Thanks to Mac, my daughter now comes home and says things like "If you can't be right, be wrong, Dad."

I am also the Parent Resources Coordinator at Ruffing, which is a new staff position devoted to providing helpful resources for both parents and alumni. Since this is the first issue of the *Ruffing Alumni Bulletin*, we would like to make sure we are reaching your preferred address. At your earliest convenience, please contact Lori Coticchia at Ruffing to update your preferred mailing and e-mailing information (E-mail lcoticchia@ruffingmontessori.org, call Ruffing at 440-333-2250, or visit www.ruffingmontessori.org.)

In addition to the *Ruffing Alumni Bulletin*, another new resource available to our alumni is the *Ruffing Parent's Digest*, which is a new e-publication designed to provide a variety of resources related to both Montessori education and parenting. In consultation with John McNamara, I include sources from journals, websites, newspapers, previous issues of *Ruff Notes*, and, most importantly, some of Ruffing's alumni. The Fall issue features interviews with Ruffing alums Michael Rego '82, now a Broadway producer, and Catherine (Angley) Wilkins '92, M. D., now an OB/GYN. It also includes my summary of a fun, provocative article by Peter Sims from the *Wall Street Journal* website titled "The Montessori Mafia."

The next issue of *Ruffing Parent's Digest* will appear in mid-November and will include more interviews with Ruffing alumni. If you would like to start receiving a copy via e-mail, please let Lori know. Also, if you know of alumni who do not receive this bulletin, please pass along this information to them or ask that they contact the school. If you are the parent of an alumnus/alumna and somehow received this letter, please let us know a current address for your son(s) and/or daughter(s). We would like all our alumni to be informed about their alma mater!

Thanks again and feel free to contact either Lori or me (see info below) with any questions, comments, or suggestions. Let us know of any news you might like to share with fellow alumni. We are always looking for alumni to interview, as well as alumni who might be willing to speak to our current students about their Montessori experience and subsequent career/life paths.

Sincerely,

Vincent O'Keefe, Ph. D. / vincentokeefe@centurytel.net / 440-930-0960
Ruffing Parent Resources Coordinator

Update: Ruffing Learning Garden

For alumni who haven't seen our campus lately, you would be surprised by the Learning Garden now behind the school. It contains a large variety of plants, flowers, butterflies, roof gardens, picnic tables, benches, trails, student-made crafts, and (sometimes) Ruffing students. Highlights include the "sensory garden" and the "sunflower shower"! Special thanks to Anne Krueger and Lorrie Moy for all their hard work.



Update: Save the Dates! (Contact Ruffing for more details)

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013: Annual **Ruffing Book Fair** at Barnes & Noble, Crocker Park. Get your holiday shopping done and help Ruffing at the same time!

Saturday, March 8, 2014: Annual **Ruffing Auction**, St. Demetrios Hall, Rocky River. The theme this year is "Roaring Ruffing!"

Update: Ruffing Leadership Fund



The Ruffing Annual Fund is now titled The Ruffing Leadership Fund

The Ruffing Leadership Fund provides funding for priority projects so that each student has the most fulfilling educational experience possible.

Tuition covers 85% of the cost of educating our students; financial support bridges the gap. **Thank you** to the families who have joined the Leadership Fund, which will run annually from September through July.

During the school year we will recognize the families who contribute. Help us develop the next generation of leaders! (To pledge support, watch for future correspondence.)