



Ruffing Alumni Bulletin

Fall, 2017 Vol. 5 No. 1

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

Hello again! The school year at your alma mater is off to a great start. Thanks to alumna Kendall Pattison '13 and her parents, Frank and Sheryl, our students are now welcomed to school by an inviting, colorful row of building blocks that spells "Ruffing." The Pattisons built and donated them as a family project. (The Pattison Landscaping Company also keeps our school grounds in great shape.)

You may recall that the Pattisons also built and donated the giant orange Adirondack chair with the Ruffing logo to our school last year. In true Montessori, multi-age fashion, Frank explained to me that while the chair was built primarily for the older students to enjoy in the Ruffing Learning Garden behind the school, the blocks were built with the younger students in mind near the preprimary classrooms in front of the school.



When I asked Frank about how the Montessori philosophy might relate to their family project, he replied: "One of the sayings Mac has is. . . if you can't be right, be wrong. Meaning I had no idea how to build them. They certainly aren't perfect but I knew that once we started we had to finish. . . . The other Montessori part is kind of the saying. . . when your body is in motion your mind is in motion. As you are building you start to look at ways of being more efficient and maybe a better way of putting things together. There is a reason the young kids at Ruffing don't have desks and the other classrooms are set up to create movement all day long. You are just more creative when you are moving." Here's to all our children sharing the strong foundations (or building blocks) provided by their Montessori education!

Sincerely,

Vincent O'Keefe, Ph. D. / vokeefe@ruffingmontessori.org / Parent Resources Coordinator

New Event at Ruffing

It may interest (or amuse) you to know that a new Ruffing event was held at the school on September 30, 2017: The 1st Annual Ruffing Dads' Basketball Tournament! A good time was had by all, and you gotta love their logo:



Save the Dates! (Contact Ruffing for more details)

Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017: Annual **Ruffing Book Fair** at Barnes & Noble, Crocker Park.

Saturday, March 3, 2018: 38th Annual **Ruffing Auction**, 6 p.m., St. Demetrios Hall, Rocky River.

This year's Auction theme is "Ruffing's Red Carpet!" **If you are interested in donating an item or experience, advertising your business in the Live Auction program, or receiving an invitation to the event, please contact Lori Coticchia** at lcoticchia@ruffingmontessori.org or call Ruffing at 440-333-2250. Relevant forms are also available under "Auction 2018" on our website at www.ruffingmontessori.org. Thank you!

Reminders: *Ruffing Parent's Digest* & Facebook Group

A new resource available to alumni and their parents is the *Ruffing Parent's Digest*, a quarterly e-publication that contains articles related to Montessori education. **Each issue features interviews with Ruffing alumni! (The most recent includes an interview with Sarah Gottfried '00. If you'd like to start receiving the *Parent's Digest* via e-mail, let Lori Coticchia know.** Also feel free to contact either Lori or me with news, suggestions, or updates.

And if you're on Facebook, you're invited to join our closed group, "Ruffing Montessori Alumni (Rocky River)" (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/ruffingalumnirockyriver/>). If you know fellow alumni on Facebook, please let them know about the page! Thanks to the over 135 members who have already joined.

RUFFING LEADERSHIP FUND

The Ruffing Leadership Fund provides funding for priority projects and operating costs so each student has the most fulfilling educational experience possible. **Thank you** to the alumni families who have joined the Leadership Fund. During the school year we will recognize the families who contribute. To donate, checks can be made out to Ruffing Montessori School (see the enclosed flyer). For additional ways to contribute, contact Lori Coticchia or visit our website.