



Ruffing Alumni Bulletin

Spring, 2018 Vol. 5 No. 2

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

Hello again! I hope you and your families are well. It has been an exciting spring at your alma mater. Our annual Auction was a record-breaker! Special thanks to those alumni families who contributed to the event. Ruffing also recently hosted a talk on resilience by Dr. Lisa Damour, a *New York Times* bestselling author, *CBS News* contributor, and Executive Director of Laurel School's Center for Research on Girls. A packed house of Ruffing parents benefitted from Damour's research and its overlap with Montessori education.

We are excited to announce a new venture: the *Ruffing Parents & Alumni Business Directory*. This project will create a directory of businesses, services, and/or talents that could help connect Ruffing alumni, alumni parents, and current students (and their parents). The goal is to create more networking opportunities that could be mutually beneficial. Please see and mail in the enclosed information sheet if interested, or fill out the sheet at our website under "Alumni" and/or "Parents." We will also be sending the information sheet to you via e-mail.

On a related note, we would like to update our list of Alumni Liaisons for the future. If you are still in touch with Ruffing graduates from your year (or close to your year), we would love to have your help in staying connected! Many thanks to Rob Ralston '90, Ruffing grad and current Ruffing parent, for becoming an Alumni Liaison recently. If interested in becoming an Alumni Liaison, please let me know at vokeefe@ruffingmontessori.org.

Please watch your e-mail and the Alumni Facebook group for more information on the directory as it becomes available. In fact, we would like to make sure we are reaching your preferred addresses. If necessary, please contact Lori Coticchia to update your (or your child's) preferred mailing and e-mailing information (E-mail lcoticchia@ruffingmontessori.org, call 440-333-2250, or visit www.ruffingmontessori.org.)

Sincerely,

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

New “Be Mac for a Day” Auction Package a Big Hit!

One of our hottest new Live Auction packages this year was the chance for a student (or students) to “Be Mac for a Day.” Congratulations to the Osborne family! Gianna and Olivia thoroughly enjoyed their chance to “rule the school” as Principal for a Day. Mac even provided them with a couple of his signature ties. Highlights of the day included making announcements over the public address system, inspecting compliance with a tornado drill, helping Mac on the baseball field, eating a special lunch, and receiving souvenir certificates, among other perks!



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 parenting and Montessori education. **Each issue features interviews with Ruffing alumni! (The most recent includes interviews with Richie Hofstra '14 and his mother, Nancy, who has served as President of Ruffing's Board of Trustees for the past five years. Many thanks to the Hofstra family as they graduate out of Ruffing in June.)** The issue also includes detailed summaries of Montessori-related works on the topic of “Raising Girls vs. Boys: Nature, Nurture, and Culture.”

If you'd like to receive the *Parent's Digest* via e-mail, let Lori Coticchia know. Archived issues are also available on our website. Feel free to contact either Lori or me with news, suggestions, or updates. If you're on Facebook, we invite you 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 140 members who have already joined.



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 each school year we recognize the families who contribute. To donate, checks can be made out to Ruffing Montessori School. For additional ways to contribute, contact Lori Coticchia or visit our website.