



Ruffing Alumni Bulletin

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

Hello again! I hope you and your families are well. We are excited to announce the theme of this school year's Auction: **"Ruffing's 60th Birthday Bash!"** Founded in 1959, our school will turn 60 in 2019, so save the date of Saturday, March 2, 2019, 6 p.m. for our 39th annual Auction. **We hope you can attend! If you are interested in receiving a formal invitation to the event, donating an item or experience, or advertising your business in the Live Auction program, please contact Lori Coticchia at lcoticchia@ruffingmontessori.org or call Ruffing at 440-333-2250.** Relevant information is also provided on our website at www.ruffingmontessori.org. Stay tuned for additional ways you can wish Ruffing a happy birthday and get involved in this signature event!

We are also happy to report that soon we will unveil the new *Ruffing Parents & Alumni Business Directory*. This project is 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. **Thanks to all of you who have already submitted your business information sheet. For those interested, there is still time to fill out the sheet at our website under "Alumni" and/or "Parents."** But please do so soon if you would like to be included!

Please watch your e-mail and the Alumni Facebook group for more information on the Auction and the Business 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.) Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

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

Remember the Ruffing Family Fall Festival?



Hay! Depending on your graduation year, you may or may not remember the Fall Festival, but this year was the tenth anniversary of the event. Thanks to all our families, this year's Fall Festival at the Chalet in Strongsville was once again a lot of fun! Nearly 300 people enjoyed the "interactive" hayrides, the fall scenery, and the dancing.

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 seven interviews with the entire Ertle family, including the parents!)** The issue also includes detailed summaries of Montessori-related works on the topics of discipline, family happiness, and print vs. digital reading for children.

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.

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.)