



Ruffing Alumni Bulletin

Winter/Spring, 2019 Vol. 6 No. 2

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

We have a special Ruffing Auction request!

The theme of this school year's Auction on Saturday, March 2, 2019 is **"Ruffing's 60th Birthday Bash!"** (Ruffing was founded in 1959.) Please consider sending birthday wishes to the school any way you'd like—e.g. a birthday card, letter, e-mail, or Facebook message. **If you'd rather grab your phone and make a brief video birthday wish, even better!** And feel free to tease Mac in your message! (He is currently in his 47th year at Ruffing.)

Send any videos or e-mail messages to vokeefe@ruffingmontessori.org. Cards or letters can be sent to "Lori Coticchia" at our mailing address at the bottom of this newsletter. If you're on Facebook, we invite you to join our closed group, "Ruffing Montessori Alumni (Rocky River)" (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/ruffingalumnirockyriver/>), and send your message to us there. If you know fellow alumni on Facebook, please let them know about the page! Thanks to the over 145 members who have already joined.

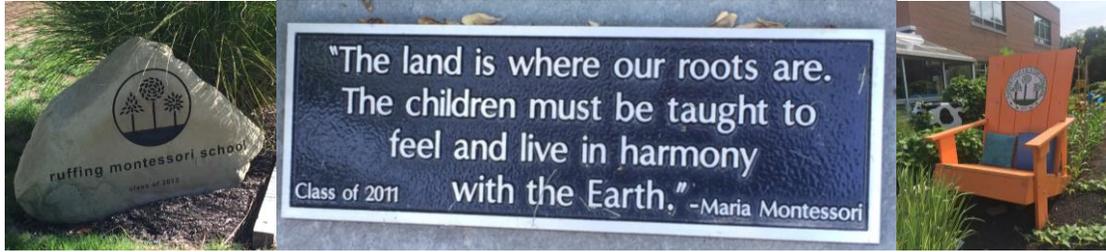
More Auction info:

We hope you can attend or contribute! **If you are interested in receiving a formal invitation to the event, donating an item/experience/financial support, 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. Thanks very much!

Please watch your e-mail and the Alumni Facebook group for more news about the Auction as it develops. 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 / Parent Resources Coordinator



A Very Brief History of Ruffing's 60 Years

Ruffing Montessori School began as the Cleveland Montessori Association in 1959. Through the efforts of Mary and Jim Ruffing, the school became the first elementary Montessori school in Ohio and the second in the United States. The first class was held in a renovated room at St. Patrick's Church on the near west side. The second pre-primary class opened on the east side in 1962 at St. Cecilia's School. The third was opened in 1964 on Fairmount Road in Cleveland Heights. In 1970, the pre-primary classes at St. Cecilia's were moved to the Fairmount location, and the pre-primary class at St. Colman's moved to St. Hedwig's in Lakewood.

John McNamara joined the west side school in 1972 as both principal and teacher. At first he taught grades one through six, then grades one through eight. In 1977, Ruffing Montessori moved into its present location in Rocky River. In 1978, we had our first eighth grade graduate. During the next decades, several additions to the campus—e.g. the middle school building—have resulted in our beautiful school environment today. Even the Ruffing Learning Garden features inspiring donations (like the ones shown above) from alumni and graduating classes.

Over sixty years we have grown from one small room with an enrollment of 12 to our present facility with 300 students. Thanks to the hard work of dedicated staff, students, and parents, we can all take pride in celebrating Ruffing Montessori School's 60th birthday.

UPDATE: *Ruffing Parents & Alumni Business Directory*

We are happy to report that the *Ruffing Parents & Alumni Business Directory* will be unveiled very soon! Over 50 businesses have already sent us their information, with more welcome in the future. **For those interested in listing their business, please fill out the information sheet at our website under "Alumni" and/or "Parents"!** 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) in mutually beneficial ways.

REMINDER: *Ruffing Parent's Digest*

Just wanted to remind you that 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 forthcoming Winter, 2019 issue will include interviews with the Carbone family!)** 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.