



Ruffing Alumni Bulletin

Fall, 2020 Vol. 8 No. 1

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

Hello again! I hope you and your families are well. We are happy to report that thanks in part to our recent expansion and renovation of Ruffing, we have been open since September 8th for in-person, five-full-days-a-week school for all our students. For more information about the Ruffing 2020 Vision and our interrupted-but-ongoing Capital Campaign, see the enclosed letter from John McNamara. His letter includes an exciting way for you to take a 3D virtual tour of your much-improved alma mater!

Here are a few current pictures from the school, including the Class of 2020 Gift to Ruffing. It is a beautiful piece of art that hangs outside Mac's new classroom. The class created the art with the help of art teacher Wendy Mahon. The featured quote from Mac reads: "Students . . . Even if they have not added years to my life, they have added life to my years."



After 48 years as Ruffing's principal, Mac stepped down as principal in June but he is still teaching the 7th and 8th graders. In the future, we plan to celebrate Mac's tenure as principal more formally, but the pandemic has delayed that process for now. We are very happy that Mac remains an important part of our school, doing what he loves best—teaching! We are also happy that Interim Principal Ed Hollinger, who began his position on July 1st, is leading the school effectively during this challenging time.

In other news, our faculty and staff—in true Montessori fashion—continue to innovate during the pandemic. Though we had to cancel the annual Fall Festival at The Chalet, we are busy reimagining other traditional Ruffing events. For example, Back to School Night became a video titled "Around the School in 23 Minutes." The theme of our virtual Book Fair on Thursday, December 3rd will be "There's No Place Like Home . . . to Read a Good Book!" And the theme of our virtual Auction in March, 2021 will be "Live from Ruffing, It's the Auction!"

Please watch your e-mail and the Alumni Facebook group for more information on the Ruffing 2020 Vision Capital Campaign and the Ruffing Auction 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

UPDATE: *Ruffing Parents & Alumni Business Directory*

Please note that the *Ruffing Parents & Alumni Business Directory* is available at our website (www.ruffingmontessori.org)! 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.



REMINDERS: *Ruffing Parent's Digest* & Alumni Facebook Group

Another 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** as well as detailed summaries of books and articles related to Montessori parenting in today's culture. Topics include the home environment, family tech/life balance, discipline, mindfulness, mistakes, and optimism, among many others. If you'd like to receive the *Ruffing 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.

We also invite you to join our closed Facebook group, "Ruffing Montessori Alumni (Rocky River)" (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/ruffingalumnicrokyriver/>). If you know fellow alumni on Facebook, please let them know about the page! Thanks to the over 165 members who have already joined.