

Community Schools FAMILY ALBUM

Volume XXI *The Newsletter for Community School Alumni* Spring 2009

Building Community

From its very inception in 1914, Community School parents, teachers and leaders have been dedicated to providing the best possible educational experiences for children. This tenet encompasses not only the academic, physical, and character education of students, but also the environment – the campus – where their day is spent. Throughout the years, Community School has regularly assessed whether the campus and buildings meet the needs of the curriculum and programs. This has led to several expansions and improvements to the School:

1919: Just three years after it was built, the “City School” on Demun Avenue launched a fundraising drive to add a new wing to keep up with growing enrollment as more grades were added.

1931: 16 acres in Ladue were purchased and the original “Country School” building was constructed to house Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grades. However, this had been in the works for several years. Part of the Board Notes from May 7, 1928 read as follows:

County Land Mr. Funsten reported further on available county land. The tract on the Clayton car line between the McKnight and Price Roads, and the adjacent property were particularly recommended as being the only suitable property on the car line.

New Bus Mr. Eiseman was appointed a committee to investigate the purchase of a new bus.

The meeting adjourned on motion.

Louise Rolan McCarthy
Secretary.



1935: A shop was built.

1936: A second building was added to the Country School to house older children. By 1937, both the City School and the Country School served Kindergarten through Sixth Grade.



1942: The first “pre-school” building was constructed to hold Nursery & Junior



Kindergarten classes. The designer was Harris Armstrong, an extremely popular Midwest designer and Frank Lloyd Wright devotee.

1943: A new Art & Shop building was constructed after the old one was destroyed by fire.

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Family Album

The alumni newsletter of

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2008-2009

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Scott McNett '73
Ken Potter '78
Laura Jones Reichman '86
Allison Klayman Walton '89

Headlines

A Message from Matthew Gould

Global Education in Action at Community School!

A wonderful tradition at Community School occurs each year before Spring Break – a major assembly led by our Sixth Grade students that involves every single Community School child. While the topic for the assembly varies – last year the focus was health and wellness, and two years ago the students focused on fine arts – the resulting production is always a truly magical event.

This year the assembly took on an international theme as children from each grade shared a song, skit, or poem from some region throughout the world. For example, the first graders shared a traditional Aboriginal dance based on their study of Australia, the third graders performed a Japanese dance replete with enthusiastic drummers, and the fifth graders shared a traditional English dance to represent their study of England and the Revolutionary War. The sixth graders not only did a traditional African song and dance, but groups of Sixth Grade students also did research



on all the countries being represented at the assembly. Each group shared a Keynote presentation with the entire audience before the younger children shared their performances.

This year's event was extra-special because the School has focused on global education throughout the year. Several times per month, students have shared information, as well as songs and dances, with their schoolmates during lunchtime assemblies. For these special lunches, Chef Mike and his team cooked delicacies to match the lunchtime performance. Thus, when the senior kindergartners shared their Chinese Dragon Dance, we ate Lo Mein and fried rice. When the second graders depicted India, we ate curried rice and chicken. This gave our students an even greater appreciation of the wonderful variety





of cultures, languages, and ethnicities that populate our world. The March 13 assembly certainly did so as well.

But the International Assembly was not just a great event. It symbolized key elements of the Community School philosophy and represented important core values we hold so dear. First and foremost, the Assembly exhibited student knowledge. Our students learned about their various countries in depth. They came to understand the language, food, climate, customs, major religions, geography, and influential people of their particular region. Even our very young students in Junior Kindergarten learned a great deal about the culture of Mexico and, for the assembly, conducted most of their performance in Spanish. Depth of understanding is a hallmark of Community School education and this certainly played itself out at the International Assembly.

Another key component to a Community School education is creativity. Creativity abounded at this particular assembly. Not only were the performances themselves creative, the costumes the children wore were spectacular. Creativity is so important at Community School, as we believe creativity will be a crucial mindset for our students to carry with them into their later school years as well as into the future workplace. Creative minds will be successful minds.

Community School is true to its name. The International Assembly brought to life the power of our very unique school community. I was delighted to see so many parents attend the assembly because I know how important it is for the children to see their parents at school. The home-school partnership that is created at Community School is genuine, and it was truly evident at the assembly with so many adoring parents supporting their children and the School. Furthermore, I was delighted to see over 300 different flags hanging from the ceiling of the Buder Gym. Within the context of their “family grouping,” each Community School child made a flag to represent his or her country of origin. The variety of flags hanging in the gym was astounding. It speaks to the wonderful diversity that exists within our school and how appreciative our families are of the rich diversity that works and plays together in this school community.

A key component to a Community School education – especially in the older years – is leadership. The leader-



ship that was given to our sixth graders for this assembly was significant. These students put together thoughtful Keynote presentations for every country; they cued the younger students as to when to share their performances; they took on substantial public speaking responsibility; and they served as genuine role models for the student body. This International Assembly is just one of the plethora of leadership opportunities that Sixth Grade affords our students. I was so proud to witness how well our sixth graders rose to the challenge – as they always seem to do! – to lead a beautiful program.

Finally, an integral part of Community’s program is its emphasis on global education. Nearly 100 years ago, Community School’s Founding Mothers asserted that “*the School should make a child aware of his/her responsibility in global issues.*” This founding principle was important in 1914 and is even more important today. With our country becoming more diverse and with our world becoming more interconnected, it is incumbent upon our school to appropriately prepare our students for life in this ever-changing world. The International Assembly, I hope, helped open our students’ eyes to the vast human diversity of our planet and broadened their perspective to a global one.

Matthew

Facing Page: JKers singing a song about numbers in Spanish at the International Day assembly.

Above: Sixth Graders introducing a country and displaying their Keynote presentation about it.



A Note from the President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

As a current parent, Board Member, and President of the Alumni Association, it has truly been an amazing year of work and observation. Wearing different hats, seeing the School run from different aspects — it is extraordinary to witness all that happens in the course of a single school year. Community School has been particularly busy this year. We are completing our *Branching Out* capital campaign, have begun the campus expansion, and completed another full season of Alumni Board activities. All of this accompanies ongoing Community School education, which prepares to graduate another great class of children. The sum of these forces fosters and ensures our continued growth!

Since 1914, Community School has graduated many generations of individuals with unique and special talents. As I write this column, our daughter is preparing for her Sixth Grade graduation from Community School. It is with great excitement and anticipation that my husband (an alum) and our parents (also alumni) await this day! Graduation day for our daughter will be a culmination of nine years of training that have prepared her for all of life's challenges. In addition, her strong friendships will become a network of strength and support she can carry with her into the future. These bonds will last a lifetime. As alumni, we know this to be true.

The Alumni Board has been focusing on “staying con-

nected.” Being in touch with each other and our school is paramount to having a successful Alumni Association. This year we have taken steps to refine our responsibilities and ultimately strengthen our connection to each other. We have been discussing ways to educate our new graduates on becoming “engaged” alumni, updating our database to keep all CS alum informed, and generally brainstorming ideas about how alums can participate in on-campus events. Being an elementary school, these relationships may be more difficult to retain, but our Community School alumni commitment has never been stronger!



In closing, I would like to thank our Alumni Board and all the alumni that have been in touch and “stayed connected.” With your help, gifts, support and care, Community School continues to achieve its mission to provide the best possible education and develop self-confident, creative leaders. The Alumni Board looks forward to next year and welcomes the class of 2009!

Carrie McDonald Martin
Class of 1978

I learned

how to clean tennis shoes

how to make a dam

how to go across the foot bars

how to dig tunnels in the sand box

how to count to 300

how to make and do an ABC book and a domino book

how to write on the chalk board

how to color with crayons

----Eugene Harris

What did you learn at Community School?

Eugene Harris '76 wrote the list to the left quite some time ago, but students in the little building today might say some very similar things. Note the mix of outdoor physical activities and more academic pursuits. Write your own list, and we'll publish it in the next *Family Album*!



Alumni News & Notes

Alicia Kircher Lydon '39 wrote to tell us “*my life at CS was the most important thing in my life. It has followed me all through life in Cuba, Rome, and England. It shaped all my lifetime experiences even during the Depression.*”

John Belz '53 says, “*My fondest memories and things that I still carry to this day are American History and nature items. There was a lot of emphasis on those subjects all through my Community experience. Great teachers made learning fun and easy.*”



Josh Goldman '88 (on right in photo) visited Community School during our Thanksgiving Assembly, not just as an alum, but as director of *Succeeding with Reading*, a program to help

4th & 5th graders improve their reading skills. The program received a donation of books from Community's annual Book Drive.

Julia Claggett '93 is working on a Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of California in San Diego. She also does outreach that aims to reignite public interest in science and support for the sciences through art.

Jeff Morrison '96 (far right) and his jazz trio provided wonderful background music at the *Branching Out* Capital Campaign Kickoff Party back in September.



Rachel Fowle '98 graduated last spring from Tufts University with degrees in education and classics. She is currently teaching 2nd grade at a private day school in Newton, MA. She plans to go back to school for her masters degree in education in the next year or so.

Kimberly Denson '00 is attending Wesleyan University

in Middletown, CT. She is a dance and African American studies major and on the pre-med track. She is also becoming a certified doula.

Sam Fowle '00 is currently a junior at the University of Michigan working on a degree in mechanical engineering.

Vanessa Smith '02 is enrolled at University of Missouri Kansas City in the six-year Medical Program.

Dan Riles, former CS teacher, has moved to Boston, and has a job at a small, progressive elementary school where he teaches 5th & 6th grade. He is married and recently had his first child, Rose.

Several CS grads are currently holding student leadership positions at John Burroughs School. **Colman Jin '06** is the Freshman Justice for the Student Court. **Jordan Shaheen '07** is Vice President of the 8th grade class; and **Alex Bearman '03** is president of the senior class.

Don't see your name on here? Please send us your updates (via Facebook, email, or the form on the back) and we'll fill your former classmates in on where you are and what you're up to!



Young alums often come back to see siblings get their CS pins on 6th Grade Recognition Day. Here are some snapshots from last year's reception.

Top: Adam Datema '05 & Charles Robin '04.

Middle: Jimmy '07 & Natalie '04 Fort, Anne E. Diemer '05, Sydney Philpott '05

Bottom: Bo '00, Andrew & Alex '05 Danforth.





2008-2009 New Life Members

Community School held its Annual Life Members Luncheon on December 11, welcoming five new members into this esteemed group. Life Members are elected by the Board of Trustees, and are past parents, alumni, grandparents, teachers, and friends who have contributed their time and talents and shown a continuing interest in the School. We'd like to introduce you to the 2008-2009 new Life Members:

Julie and Lee Bearman are past parents who made an enormous impact on Community School while their two children attended the School. Their dedicated efforts created long-lasting improvements to the endowment as well as programs that benefit all students and faculty.

An alumnus of the Class of 1970, Lee sat on the Alumni Association Board from 1988-1994, serving as President from 1992-1994. His connection with the alumni was critical to his leadership of alumni involvement with the Endowment Campaign in the late 1990s.

Julie was involved with the day-to-day activities of the School for many years. She served as the Community Parents Association President during the 2002-2003 school year, was Head of the School Tours committee, and taught as a substitute teacher.

Together, they were 1st Grade North Chairs and were instrumental in creating the Bearman Family Endowment Gift in honor of Mary Fuller Bearman '37 and the Marilyn Goldstein Guest Author Endowment Gift.

Julie and Lee's two children are Community School graduates: Alexandra graduated in 2003 and is a senior at John Burroughs School. Leo graduated in 2006 and is a freshman at the same school. Lee and Julie have applied what they learned through their Community School experiences to volunteer opportunities at JBS, where they currently are Parent Chairs of the Annual Giving Campaign. Lee also is an active Washington University alumni volunteer. When not working on school-related activities, Julie enjoys reading and daily walks and Lee loves tennis



(From left): Lee & Julie Bearman, Head of School Matthew Gould, Linda Smith, Susan & David Sherman

and golf. Their joint passions include supporting The Muny and Forest Park Forever.

Susan and David Sherman are past parents who have dedicated many years to Community School. Their involvement in all areas of School life has fostered the wonderful growth experienced by Community as an organization.

David is a proud Community School graduate of the Class of 1971. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1998-2005, providing wise counsel for the completion of the Endowment Campaign and the change in School leadership. Prior to his time as a Trustee, David spent four years on the Alumni Association Board.

Susan participated in many parent volunteer activities from the beginning of her children's Community experience. She worked on several Community Parent Association committees, and served as Chair for the Cornucopia Auction in 2006. Everything with which she became involved was successful.

Susan and David have supported Community in all ways. Their two children stand as testaments to the Sherman's devotion to education: Sylvie graduated from Community in 2006 and is now a 9th Grader at John Burroughs School; Keil attended Community until 4th Grade and is now a 6th Grader at Churchill School.



David and Susan are very involved in the St. Louis community. David serves on the St. Louis Children's Hospital Board of Trustees, is the President of Temple Emanuel, and sits on the Board of the Jewish Community Center. Susan is the former Board Chair and current Board member for the Contemporary Art Museum, sits on the Board of Trustees for JBS, and is a Board member of COCA.

Linda Marie Smith was a member of the Community School family for 38 years, providing wonderful food and a lovely smile for generations of children who filled the Community Center. Her dedicated work as a member of the kitchen staff began in 1967 as an 18 year old, fresh out of high school. She came to help her mother, Mrs. Hattie Smith, who was the head cook at the time. During her tenure, Linda affectionately prepared and served more than 6,200 lunches, along with catering hundreds of school events and meetings.

She saw many changes at Community, most notably the increased number of students. While she was able to watch the physical size of the School expand, she remembers most fondly the individual students she watched grow at the lunch tables. Her greatest thrill was to see the children of the students who first befriended her during her early days at the School.

Linda retired from Community three years ago, and is enjoying spending time with her husband, Sammie, and their four children, Sean, Bridgette, Portland and Yolance. Her six grandchildren keep her quite busy, too! Never one to sit still, though, Linda works part-time at John Burroughs School, participates in the New Northside Baptist Church (where she has been a member for 15 years), and enjoys exercising and playing tennis.

Advancement Update

by Mark Palmer

This school year has seen a most gratifying outpouring of support for Community School. From the capital campaign to the Alumni Association Board's outreach efforts, our students have benefited in countless ways.

Since its public launch in September 2008, the *Branching Out* capital campaign has been very successful. Contributions from alumni, parents, grandparents and faculty have amounted to \$7.8 million of our \$8 million goal. The initial phase of construction has begun and our families are watching the progress on a daily basis. There is still time to participate in the campaign, so send in your gift today.

Our Annual Giving program has received great support during this school year – we currently sit at 92 percent of our \$440,000 goal. Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously, allowing our teachers and students the vital resources they need on a daily basis.

The Alumni Association Board has been busy reconnecting with Community's alumni. An effort to update our alumni database is underway in preparation for a new alumni directory next year. To aid the process, we have a new alumni update form on the School's website. Our

graduates can now send us their most recent contact information with the simple click of a button. If you are an alum or if you know one, visit the website and send us an update. (Look under the "Getting Involved" link.)

And we're on Facebook! Look for us under "Community School (St. Louis) Alumni Group" – we just launched this, so we have a small presence, but growing.

To all our alumni, parents and friends, we give thanks for assisting in the advancement of the mission of Community School: to nurture the gifts of mind, body and spirit. Without you, our children would not receive the incredible education that is preparing them for their tomorrows.

On a sad note, we have also seen the departure of Susan Hunkins, our former Director of Advancement and more recently Capital Campaign Coordinator. We express our appreciation for all she did to help Community during her thirteen years at the School. Her legacy will continue through our campaign efforts.



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1947: The Nursery building was doubled in size as the needs of the program grew.



1948: The City School (out of use for several years) was sold, and the Country School added an assembly hall (the current Community

Center), as well as classroom and office space, and a new entrance.

1954: The Art & Shop building was enlarged.

1974: The Buder Gymnasium was built, more than doubling the size of the old gym, as well as providing more classroom space. At the same time, the old assembly hall was converted into the new, more modern Community Center. The Buder Wing and remodeled facilities were selected for the 1975 Exhibition of School Architecture Award.

1981: In 1979, a Long-Range Planning Committee ascertained the School needed more space, and proposed an “art wing” to house art, music and a multi-purpose room. The 6,000-square-foot expansion was completed in 1981.



1994-5: The new Early Childhood Center as well as the 3rd Grade/Discovery Center Wing were built. Several classrooms were renovated and the Head’s Office constructed.



2009-2010: After careful consideration and a long-term strategic planning process, Community School continues to expand, with the creation of a new Leadership Wing for 5th & 6th Grades and a renovated, enlarged kitchen.



The current generation of Community School students and families eagerly await the completion of this latest, much-needed addition to our Community School home. Follow our progress online at www.communityschool.com and watch us grow!

(Article compiled from Community School History Books and information from the School Archives.)



Where in the World is the Class of 2002?

Community School's Class of 2002 headed off to college earlier this year. Seven years ago these students lived and learned together each day, and now they are scattered across the U.S. from California to Vermont! While we cannot take all the credit for these fine students and what they are up to today, Community School, without a doubt, provided a strong foundation for the pursuit of lifelong learning. We wish them well!



Here is where members of the Class of 2002 are studying today:

Stephen Adams
Landmark College

Jenney Aselage
University of Virginia

Callie Burrows
Lehigh University

Nicholas Clemens
Hendrix College

Kezmen Clifton
Princeton University

Missy Combs
University of Kansas

Stephanie Cousins
Yale University

Stella Dee
Duke University

Melissa Finerty
University of Richmond

Tyler Gerard
UM - Mizzou

Ronald Henson
UM - Mizzou

Brian Holekamp
Dartmouth University

Ben Hosler
Washington & Lee

Sam Hunkins
UM - Mizzou

Rebecca Kallaus
*The University of the
South - Sewanee*

Makie Knight
UM - Mizzou

Alexa LaBarge
University of Denver

Ted Maritz
University of Denver

Teddy Maritz
Univ. of Colorado - Boulder

Timmy O'Hara
Harvard University

Libby Overcash
UM - Mizzou

Timothy Rassieur
*The University of the
South - Sewanee*

Jayce Reese
UM - Kansas City

Kelley Rouse
Auburn University

Max Riley
University of Pennsylvania

Abby Siwak
University of Wisconsin

Vanessa Smith
UM - Kansas City

Jane Stupp-O'Neill
*University of Southern
California*

Nicholas Turner
University of Miami

Jordana Vanderselt
Tulane University

Anastasia Volarich
Rhodes College

Allison Weinstein
Elon University

Justin Westfall
Indiana University

John Wuestling
Washington & Lee



Want to see this issue in color? Check it out online at:
www.communityschool.com - Click on "Getting Involved"/"Alumni"/"Welcome"

We Want to Hear From You!

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of *Family Album* Alumni News. Please keep the information coming! We love hearing from you and so do your classmates! We'd love to hear your updates PLUS any fond memories or thoughts about your experience at Community School. Contact us via Facebook - Community School (St. Louis) Alumni Group, via email (mpalmer@communityschool.com), our website, or just fill out this form & send it back!

Name: _____ Class: _____

Email: _____

What's new with you?

If you'd like to start receiving our monthly e-newsletter, the **OakLe@f**, and find out even *more* about what's happening here at Community School, please let us know your e-mail address and we'll put you on the list. (We will never share or sell your email information.)

Parents: If your son or daughter
is no longer living at your address,
please notify us. Thank you.

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