



Countryside Wildcats

# Countryside Courier

Inspiring all learners to achieve excellence

October 2006



## Dual Language Program

Countryside School welcomes the Dual Language Program with 44 kindergarten students. Half of the students are English language dominant and the other half are Spanish language dominant. The program began in our District two years ago at Lines School and was instituted last year at Roslyn Road School. The dual language instruction continues until 8<sup>th</sup> grade. By 8<sup>th</sup> grade, all students will be proficient in both English and Spanish. In kindergarten, 80% of the instruction is provided in Spanish, aside from literacy instruction, which is in each child's native language.

## A Letter From Countryside's New Principal, Christy Newhouse

Dear Countryside Families,

Welcome to the 2006-2007 school year. I am enthusiastic about becoming a member of the Countryside family. Thank you for warmly welcoming me to the school and community. It was great to meet so many of our families at our "Meet the Teacher Day," Kindergarten Conferences, Back to School Barbecue, and Back to School Curriculum Night. Thank you to all of our families for getting involved and taking such a major interest in your child's educational journey. I also appreciate your patience in assisting me to put names and faces to the children and their families. It has been a wonderful start to the school year.

I would like to thank our PTO for organizing such a successful Back to School Barbecue. Many of the students were still buzzing about all the fun the next Monday at school. The DJ and the delicious food were such a hit! I'd also like to thank the PTO for putting together the school packs, which has proven to be a nice service for parents. PTO is a vital part of the Countryside community and I would encourage all parents to seek out a way to be involved in this supportive organization.

This year we welcome a few new staff members to our Countryside family. They are **Ms. Lisa Allie** (Kindergarten/Dual Language), **Ms. Colleen Wapole** (Kindergarten/Dual Language), **Ms. Shannon Robinson** (Fourth Grade Teacher), **Mr. Andrew Nettis** (Physical Education Teacher), **Ms. Lindsay Brandenburg** (Intermediate Cross-Categorical Teacher), **Ms. Heidi Joy** and

**Ms. Veronica Rodriguez** (Kindergarten/Dual Language Assistants), and **Ms. Maribeth Battista** and **Ms. Jamie Markin** (Special Services Assistants).

Communication and collaboration are key ingredients to the success of our students. Notice that hidden in the word collaboration is the word "labor." Laboring/ working together will yield positive results for our children. Teachers use a variety of formats, such as newsletters, notes, phone calls, email, and conferences to keep you informed about your child's progress and classroom happenings. (To reach a teacher via email, use his or her first initial and last name followed by **@cusd220.org**.) The office will also be sending information home through flyers, parent email blasts, and the COUNTRYSIDE COURIER. Please check your child's backpack often so that you do not miss out on important news. The classroom teacher is the best source to contact if you have a question or concern regarding your child's academic/social progress in the classroom. All medical concerns should be addressed to our Health Office. Should other questions or concerns arise, please feel free to contact me.

It has truly been an exciting start to the new school year. I look forward to working with you in partnership as we embark upon your child's educational journey.

Sincerely,  
*Christy Newhouse*



## Reading Incentive Program

The kick off for the fall/winter Reading Incentive Program was on **Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**. Start logging in those minutes!

If you have questions concerning the program, feel free to call Helen Sheyka at (847) 304 9618 or Annette Gravesen at (847) 382 1832.

**HAPPY READING, EVERYONE!**

## KUDOS KORNER

The Countryside PTO could not serve the students and families of our school without the many contributions of its volunteers. In this feature, we would like to thank some of our great volunteers!

Making the transition back to school much easier were **Vicki Huff and Sonja Ippolito**, who organized and distributed the school packs to the families in August. Their hard work is an example of how PTO volunteers help out our busy families. We hope you found this to be a nice convenience for you!

Hats off to **Steffanie Carter** who hosted a wonderful Back to School Barbeque. Mother Nature couldn't dampen our spirits as hundreds of Countryside students and families filled the gym and multi-purpose room to eat, visit and enjoy the music.

Thanks, also, to our two Room Parent Coordinators, **Tod Grube and Diana Trzaska**. All Room Parents are off to a great start thanks to Tod and Diana.

Finally, last spring, we presented and approved our 2006-07 PTO Slate with a few openings. Thanks to the following eager and willing volunteers, the slate is complete and all positions are filled....



**Purnima Bhogaraju** will be the Newsletter Editor

**Leslie Conduitt** will be the PTO Webmaster

**Sonja Ippolito** will be the Yearbook Coordinator

**Liz Moll** will be the Annual Fund Raiser Coordinator

**Linda Sutton** will be the Co-Treasurer

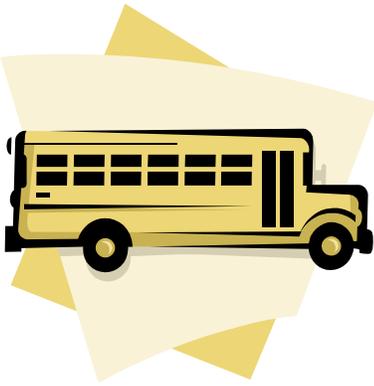
**RED RIBBON WEEK**  
**"REACH FOR THE STARS"**  
**October 23-27th**

**More information coming home in backpacks soon...**

**Call Tracy Cysewski at (847) 277-7040**



# PTO President's Letter



Dear Countryside Families,

As we begin this new school year, I would like to give a heartfelt welcome both to those families who are new to Countryside and those who are returning. A special welcome also goes out to those in the Dual Language Program.

In addition, I would like to give our new principal, Christy Newhouse, a warm welcome. We are thrilled to have Christy and will do everything to make her first year a great one.

Although it may seem like a distant memory, I hope your summer vacation was full of exciting adventures, lazy days spent poolside and, perhaps, some interesting travels.

Like many people, I love traveling but always look forward to coming home. We have that feeling about coming back to school, too. Countryside feels like 'home' and it's great to be back!

In addition to the excellent teachers and staff, your PTO provides programs that build a sense of community while the students learn, grow and laugh along the way.

I am excited about my new role as your PTO President. I enjoy working alongside such energetic, creative and enthusiastic parents. Here are the other board members dedicated to provide the best for our children....**Renee Kelsch**—VP Fundraising, **Stacey Lidbury**—VP Special Committees, **Doreen Thomas**—VP Standing Committees, **Annamaria Iacullo and Linda Sutton**—Co-Treasurers and **Christine Trzaska**—Secretary.

As we plan for our upcoming events, we would like to highlight a few of them for you. We have already had our Back to School Barbeque thanks to the efforts of

**Steffanie Carter!** Back by popular demand, we will begin our Reading Incentive Program this month. We also will offer the Book Fair during the week of fall and spring conferences. We will offer the monthly newsletter electronically to reduce printing costs and provide the newsletters in a more timely fashion.

We are also running some fall fundraisers such as Deer Park Smart Bucks, Innisbrook Wrapping Paper, Spirit Sales and Original Works. As always, we appreciate your support of the fundraisers. Because of your generosity, we can make educational purchases and underwrite events such as the Back to School Barbeque. This year, look for a column within the newsletter highlighting recent PTO purchases and events that PTO has sponsored.

Here is wishing the students and families a great year at Countryside!

Mary Jo Kunzmann

**Submissions for the Countryside PTO Newsletter  
are due by the 20th of each month.**

**Please email to:**

**Purnima Bhogaraju at [pub8@hotmail.com](mailto:pub8@hotmail.com)**

**(847) 428-5230**



# Your PTO

Please attend our monthly meeting on **October 11th at 10am** in the Countryside Multi-Purpose Room. Dr. Mary Hermann will be there to address the November 2006 Referendum and answer any questions. As with all monthly PTO meetings, all are welcome and refreshments and babysitting are provided. See you there!

## Your PTO dollars at work...

The generosity of Countryside's families provides a bevy of benefits! Do you find yourself wondering where PTO funds are used? As a new feature of our newsletter, we would like to share some of the programs and purchases made through the PTO.

In addition to activities and programs for students and their families, PTO funds fulfill teachers' purchasing requests that enhance our students' education. Remember, all expenditures are reviewed and approved at the monthly PTO meetings so feel free to drop by to learn more. Here are two recent events sponsored by the PTO...

Back to School Barbeque, \$5500 (families paid \$10 each and the PTO covered the rest)

Summer Orton – Gillingham Reading Seminar for Teachers, \$14,250

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# *Roll Up, Roll Up For The Magical Mystery Tour*

**Friday, March 2, 2007**

**Marriott Hotel**

**Prairie Stone Center, Hoffman Estates**



Save the date for the most magical event of the year!  
The annual Countryside Fundraising Dinner and Auction.

*.....coming to take you away*

# PTO Meeting Minutes ~ September 6, 2006

PTO Meeting Minutes September 6, 2006

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mary Jo Kunzmann opened meeting at 10:05am with 32 people in attendance.

**a. Introductions of the PTO Board:**

President - Mary Jo Kunzmann

V.P. of Fundraising - Renee Kelsch

V.P. of Standing Committees - Doreen Thomas

V.P. of Membership & Special Committees - Stacey Lidbury

Secretary - Christine Trzaska

Treasurer- Annamaria Iacullo & Linda Sutton

**b. Permanent Volunteer Badges** were handed out

**c. Committee Chair Folders** were given out to all committee chairs. Inside the folders you will find a list of people who have volunteered to help with your committee, Tax ID letters and Check Request Forms.

**d. Additions to the Slate since May '06**

Yearbook - Sonja Ippolito

Treasurer - Linda Sutton

Newsletter- Purnima Bhogaraju

Annual Fund Raiser - Liz Molli

Webmaster - Leslie Conduitt

Motion to approve made by Diana Trzaska. Seconded by Annette Gravesen.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Christine Trzaska

March 8, 2006 Minutes: approved by Stan Arledge and Sue Melaniphy.

**TREASURE'S REPORT:** Annamaria Iacullo

**a. Approve 2006-07 Budget**

Copies were circulated at the meeting. If you have any questions pertaining to the Budget please feel free to contact either Annamaria Iacullo or Linda Sutton. Motion to approve the budget was made by Sue Melaniphy and seconded by Stan Arledge.

**b. PTO Fees and Dues**

Letters outlining PTO fees and dues have been sent home in backpacks. Please remember to send in your dues if you have not already done so. In addition, Birthday club letters were sent out.

**VP FUNDRAISING:** Renee Kelsch

**a. Deer Park Smart Bucks - Purnima Bhogaraju:** For all those who shop or dine at Deer Park, please remember to take your receipts to participating stores and earn "points" for Countryside. We will receive a portion of a \$15,000 cash bank depending on how many "points" we raise for our school.

**b. Innisbrook Wrapping Paper - Clara Kholamian & Penny Suppes:**

Sales will start September 13<sup>th</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup>

**c. Spirit Sales - Sally Young & Tine Jensen:**

Samples will be in the hallway outside the Multi-Purpose room beginning on Back to School Night.

**d. Original Works - Caryn Giroux:** will start in October.

**e. Annual Dinner Fundraiser - Liz Molli:** Date is set for March 2, 2007. The theme is Magical Mystery Tour and it will be held at the Marriott Prairie Stone.

**VP OF STANDING COMMITTEES- Doreen Thomas**

**a. Room Parent Coordinators: Diana Trzaska & Tod Grube**

Room Parent meeting went well and all Room Parents are ready for Back To School Night.

**b. Back to School Night:** September 13<sup>th</sup>

**c. Report from School Board Liaison:** Young Chung provided notes which highlighted the upcoming Referendum to be voted on at the November 7 elections.

**d. Art Awareness: Nancy Kholamian-** Nancy has volunteered to be a Room Parent and Helper for Mrs. Martin's Art Classes.

**e. Newsletter: Purnima Bhogaraju-** The first Newsletter will be issued as a paper copy and subsequent issues will be sent via email. If you want to continue receiving a paper copy, please contact Purnima. The deadline for newsletter submissions will be the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month.

**f. School Packs:** Thanks to Vicki Huff and Sonja Ippolito for a job well done.

**VP OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Stacey Lidbury**

**a. Back To School BBQ: Steffanie Carter-** A huge Thank You goes out to Steffanie Carter for another wonderful BBQ success.

**b. Reading Incentive Program - Helen Sheyka & Annette Gravesen:**

Program starts September 18<sup>th</sup>. Look for tracking sheets to come home soon.

**c. New Family Welcome : Hollie Free -** Will be held Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 9:15am in the multi purpose room. All are welcome to attend.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Translating for the Dual Language Program:**

There are 40 children participating in the program. Half of the children are English speaking with the other half being Spanish speaking. For PTO volunteers, flyers distributed in backpacks to all children need to be translated for those in the Dual Language Program. Contact your VP for details. Allow one week for translation.

**b. Principal Christy Newhouse** introduced herself and welcomed all who were in attendance and thanked everyone for coming.

**c. Leslie Conduitt, our Web Master,** requested that any document that you want posted on the Countryside PTO web site be emailed to her. [Leslie@edocsgroup.com](mailto:Leslie@edocsgroup.com)

Motion to adjourn made at 10:36 by Leah Lazzari and seconded by Stan Arledge. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Trzaska

Secretary

## It's time to start collecting BOX TOPS again!

The Box Tops for Education Program is an easy way to earn money for our school. It's as simple as clipping and turning in Box Tops from many products that you already buy such as Cheerios, Fruit Roll-Ups, and Go-Gurt. Each box top is worth 10 cents to Countryside School. Please send in all collected box tops in an envelope or zip loc bag with your child.

In fact, sending in the box tops on your child's Library Check-Out Day makes it simple for everyone!

Thanks for your support and keep on saving those box tops!

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS A NEW BOX TOPS COLLECTION BOX ON THE LIBRARY COMPUTER TABLE.



**YOUR BOX TOPS. YOUR PROGRAM. YOUR CASH.**



## New Family Welcome

**Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:15-11:00am**

*Everyone is invited—please come to meet new and returning families, to welcome our new Principal, Christy Newhouse, and to learn about happenings at Countryside while enjoying some refreshments. Younger children are welcome. Contact Hollie Free at (847) 382-8582 with any questions. Look for invitations in backpacks shortly...*

## 2005-06 Yearbooks are Here!

Thanks to Sue Melaniphy, the 2005-2006 yearbooks are here and look wonderful. If you have not yet received your yearbook in your child's backpack, please contact Sue.

## **INTERESTED IN COUNTRY-SIDE'S DISPLAY CASE?**

**The display case is located inside the main doors of the school. If you have any questions about the display case, please contact Barb Koenig at (847) 382-8768.**

Dear Parents & Staff,

Welcome to the 2006 – 2007 school year in Barrington Community School District 220.

As we start this new year, I have a simple message about the state of education in District 220. We continue to offer an outstanding education to all the children of our district, but our schools are out of space.

The overcrowding is particularly acute at both of our middle school campuses. Each of our campuses has over 1,000 students, well beyond their designed capacity. In this school year, we have made the school days longer for both elementary and middle school students. Unfortunately, half of that additional time at the middle school level will go to passing periods, instead of instruction, to help ease the crunch in the hallways. From a physical and programmatic perspective, an enrollment size of 700-800 students would allow for a much healthier environment for kids.

At the elementary school level, due to lack of adequate instructional space, many storage areas and hallways are being used for small group instruction and special education services. More appropriate spaces for these important and mandated services are definitely needed.

To address the overcrowding in our schools, the School Board has voted to place two proposals on the November 7, 2006 election ballot:

A proposition for \$87,500,000 to build and equip two school buildings (5-8 learning centers) and to repair and renovate Station and Prairie into 5-8 learning centers, thus creating additional space for students kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

A proposition to increase the operating tax rate by 0.15 cents for four years (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009) to provide teachers and staff for the new school buildings as well as maintain the quality education program for all grade levels, elementary through high school.

In addition, the board recognizes there are concerns surrounding the question “Where will my child attend school?” To answer that question, a standing, long term advisory committee is being formed that will include equal representation from all elementary attendance areas. The committee will develop recommendations for the Superintendent and Board of Education on an ongoing basis, including both elementary and middle school attendance boundaries.

On another note, we learned through a voter survey that 59% of registered voters did not vote last March. That means that nearly 6 out of 10 people who were able to vote did not cast a ballot.

Please don't let that happen this November. Learn about the proposals, challenge our thinking, and ask questions. But please vote, it's core to our Character Counts citizenship pillar and our duty as community members. Your vote will shape your children's education.

For more information, please visit the school district's website at [www.cusd220.org](http://www.cusd220.org).

Sincerely,

Jeff Nordquist  
District 220 School Board President

Estimados Padres y Personal Escolar,

Bienvenidos al año escolar 2006-2007 de Barrington Community School District 220. Mientras comenzamos este nuevo año, tengo un mensaje sencillo acerca del estado de la educación en el Distrito 220. Continuamos ofreciendo una educación estu-  
penda a todos los estudiantes de nuestro distrito, pero se nos acabó el espacio en nuestras escuelas.

El congestionamiento está más grave en nuestras escuelas intermedias. Cada escuela tiene más de 1,000 estudiantes, mucho más de la capacidad diseñada. Este año escolar, los días escolares son más largos para los estudiantes en las escuelas primarias e intermedias que en años pasados. Desafortunadamente, la mitad de ese tiempo adicional en las escuelas intermedias está dedicado al tiempo entre cada período para pasar a la próxima clase, en vez de la instrucción. Este cambio fue hecho para aliviar el congestionamiento en los pasillos. De una perspectiva física y pragmática, una matriculación de 700-800 estudiantes permitiría un ambiente más saludable para los estudiantes.

En las escuelas primarias, debido a una falta de espacio educativo apropiado, están usando muchas áreas de almacenamiento y pasillos para instrucción en grupos pequeños y servicios de educación especial. Definitivamente, estamos en necesidad de espacios más apropiados para estos servicios importantes y mandados.

Para tratar el congestionamiento en nuestras escuelas, la Junta Directiva de Educación ha votado y van a incluir dos propuestas en la votación que será el 7 de noviembre, 2006:

Una propuesta de \$87,500,000 para construir y equipar dos nuevas escuelas (centros de aprendizaje para Grados 5-8) y reparar y renovar las escuelas Station y Prairie a centros de aprendizaje para Grados 5-8, por lo tanto se está creando espacio adicional para los estudiantes de kindergarten al 8<sup>vo</sup> grado.

Una propuesta para incrementar la contribución de impuestos de 0.15 centavos por cuatro años (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009) para proveer maestros y personal escolar para las nuevas escuelas además de mantener la calidad de nuestro programa educativo en todos los niveles de grado, del primario al secundario.

Además, la Junta Directiva reconoce que existen preocupaciones con respecto a la pregunta, "A qué escuela asistirá mi hijo/a?" Para contestar esa pregunta, estamos formando un comité consultivo de largo plazo que incluirá representación igual de todas las áreas de asistencia de las escuelas primarias. El comité desarrollará recomendaciones para la Superintendente y la Junta Directiva de Educación en una base continua, incluyendo los límites de asistencia de las escuelas primarias e intermedias.

Con respecto a otro asunto, aprendimos de una encuesta de votantes que el 59% de los votantes registrados no votaron en marzo del año pasado. Eso significa que casi 6 de 10 personas que podrían haber votado no votaron en la última votación.

Por favor no deje que eso suceda esta vez en noviembre. Infórmese de las propuestas, desafíe nuestro pensamiento, y haga preguntas. Pero por favor vote, es parte de nuestro pilar de ciudadanía del Carácter Cuenta y es nuestra obligación como miembros de la comunidad. Su voto formará la educación de su hijo/a.

Por más información, por favor de visite el sitio Web del distrito al [www.cusd220.org](http://www.cusd220.org).

Atentamente,

Jeff Nordquist

Presidente de la Junta Directiva de Educación del Distrito 220

# 'Back To School BBQ!'



Neither downpours, lightning,  
nor strong winds could  
stop us Countrysiders from  
having a great time!!

I want to thank you all for attending this  
year's BBQ and making it one of the best ones yet!  
To all those parents who helped me in all aspects of the event -  
especially with the clean up - you know who you are  
and know that your effort was much appreciated!

Here's to a great year!

*Steffanie Carter*

Back to School BBQ Chairperson



## October Calendar of Events



*Following are events that all Countryside families are invited to participate in and attend. These events are a way to promote your child's educational experience, foster a strong Countryside community and enhance your family life.*

### **October 6th:**

*New Family Welcome at Countryside, 9:15-11 am*

### **October 9th:**

*No School*

### **October 11th:**

*PTO Meeting at Countryside, 10:00 am*

### **October 11th:**

*District 220 Board Meeting at 7:00pm at BHS*

### **October 16th-October 20th:**

*Fall Book Fair*

### **October 19th-October 20th:**

*Conferences*

### **October 20th:**

*No School*

### **October 23rd-October 30th:**

*Red Ribbon Week*

### **October 25th:**

*District 220 Board Meeting at 7:00 pm at BHS*

## **NEW BUDDIES PROGRAM**

Countryside is proud to introduce a program designed to assist new students. The New Student Buddies Program allows those who know the ropes here at Countryside to lend a helping hand to those who are new. Buddies have been showing the new students around the building, guiding them in library procedures and providing them with other helpful information. Buddies are drawn from the same classrooms as the new students and have been a great resource for our new students. Please welcome these new students to Countryside:

### **First Grade:**

Mohammad Hijazi, Ethan Kennicott, Olivia Pollina, Megan Risser, Thomas Swiercz, Frankie Feraco, Jake Meyer, Kendra Schumann, Sloane Barry, Lauren Carre, George Wight

### **Second Grade:**

Michael Risser, Matthew Haller, Kennedy Kist, Scottie Robinson

### **Third Grade:**

Brooke Barry, Gregory DaCunha, Graham Hamilton, Ian Porwisz, Clare McLaughlin, Sean Morris, Rebecca Neises, Sammy Sabouni, Matthew Arjmand, Andrew Berta, Matthew Blevins

### **Fourth Grade:**

Sarah Swiderski

### **Fifth Grade:**

Holly Berta, Katarina Haller, Blake Kohl, Cassie Manuel, Emma McLaughlin, Jessica Neises, Cole Hamilton

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## **Lost:**

1 pair of Puma sneakers - Size 6 - Black with white stripe  
Green ankle detail

Most importantly inside the sneakers were  
*custom made insoles - value \$750.00!!*

Don't need the shoes back, would just like the insoles!!

Please if found - send in the insoles and place in Lost & Found area in the hallway behind the Cafeteria.

## **MARATH//TIC**



## *The Canterbury Shoppe*

*The Canterbury Shoppe in the Barrington Ice House Mall has agreed to return 10% of your purchases in a dedicated donation back to the Countryside PTO. This is a year-round promotion, so you can earn money for our school at any time.*

*Bring a friend and your shopping list, and be sure to mention Countryside when you shop.*

*That's all there is to helping out our school at the same time that you treat yourself and your friends to the Canterbury Shoppe's unique gift selection.*

*Support Countryside PTO*



Target Stores throughout the USA are offering a fabulous fundraising opportunity for Countryside school. All you need to do is charge your Target purchase on your Target guest card or your Target Visa card. Target will donate 1% of your purchases to Countryside! 1/2 % of your Target Visa purchases made everywhere else will also be donated to Countryside.

If you **do not have a Target guest card**, you can sign up for one at any Target store and designate Countryside to receive the donation (Countryside #45138). As a thank you for signing up Target will give you 10% off your first charge card purchase.

If you **already have a Target guest card or a Target Visa Card**, either call the Target Educational Hotline at (800)316-6142 to enroll your card, or register on-line at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com). Go to "Store Services", then to "Community Giving" and click on "Take Charge of Education". Note this must be done before charging any items to your card.

If you have grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc. anywhere in the USA, they can also designate Countryside as the beneficiary of their purchases. It is a great way for out of town families to help us raise money for our school, and it's easy to do.

**Questions? Please contact:  
Call Purnima Bhogaraju**

**(847) 428-5230**