The parentNode property returns the parent node of the specified node, as a Node object.

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<title>insert before</title>

<script type="text/javascript">

var getParentNode = function(){

var childElement = document.getElementById('drinks');

alert(childElement.parentNode.nodeName);

}

</script>

</head>

<body>

<div>

<ul id="drinks">

<li>coffee</li>

<li>tea</li>

<li>juice</li>

<li>water</li>

<li>milk</li>

</ul>

</div>

<br>

<button onclick="getParentNode()">getParentNode</button>

</body>

</html>