

# 2022 Graduation and Passing of Classes

Ridgewood students and their families were excited to be together to celebrate our eighth-grade graduation and “passing of classes” at 7 p.m. on May 26, 2022. Because of rain, the ceremonies were held in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons rather than on the school lawn. The ceremony’s invocation was offered by eighth-graders Mary Cunningham and Landon Hunter. Music was provided by the K-7th Grade Choir and the 5th-8th Grade Band under the direction of Ms. Dawn



**Claire Lensman and her mother pose with Claire’s diploma.**

Naill. Eighth-graders Mahed Rizvi, Elliott Farr and Aiden Richardson welcomed those attending.

The graduating students’ speeches were a highlight of the evening. Following the entertaining class speeches in which the graduates envision meeting each other later in their lives, Head of School Aliya Ranginwala introduced the class and with Ridgewood School Board of Trustees President Adam Russell presented the students’ diplomas. Mr. Russell praised the graduates for their outstanding academic accomplishments and their record of



**(l to r) Elliott Farr, Charlie Grisson, Mason McGuire, Mahed Rizvi, President Adam Russell, Head of School Aliya Ranginwala, Aiden Richardson, Landon Hunter, Claire Lensman, Mary Cunningham**

community service. On behalf of his class, Mason McGuire ’22 presented the class gift of a school mascot panther suit.

The “passing of classes” followed with family members of K-7 students celebrating with their children when their child stood as his or her name was read



**Mary Cunningham offers the invocation.**



**5th-8th Grade Band performs “Simple Gifts.”**

and Ms. Ranginwala “passed the class” to the next grade level.

Mr. Metzger, Dean of Students and Student Council Advisor, presented the Student Council president gavel to Mahed Rizvi ’22 who served this year as president of the student council and the Ann Barrett King Award to Mary

Cunningham '22 who had worked more than 270 service hours. Ms. Ranginwala presented Golden Presidential Education Awards to Mary Cunningham '22 and Mahed Rizvi '22 in recognition of their seven quarters as "A" Honor Roll students. The Silver Presidential Education



Students sing Ridgewood's alma mater.

Award for most improved academic performance was presented to Landon Hunter '22. The George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution president, Tim Bode, presented the SAR Citizenship Award to Charlie Grisson '22.

Following the awards presentation, Claire Lensman '22 and Charlie Grisson '22 presented the Class Challenge. The evening's program concluded with everyone joining our new alumni in singing Ridgewood's alma mater, the band performing two pieces, and Ms. Ranginwala praising the Class of 2022 for its many accomplishments and for embodying Ridgewood's values.

Congratulations to each of our 2022 alumni: Mary Cunningham, Elliott Farr, Charlie Grisson, Landon Hunter, Claire Lensman, Mason McGuire, Aiden Richardson, and Mahed Rizvi! 🌟

# You Are Invited to the 2022 Ridgewood School • Alumni Dinner

On the evening of September 24, the Ridgewood School Board of Trustees will host its annual fall dinner recognizing its 2022 Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni, and members of its anniversary classes (Classes of 1997, 1992, 1987, 1982, 1972, 1952, and 1947).

The Board hopes you will help it celebrate this notable group! The honorees represent what is best about Ridgewood. Their lives embody the values that we strive to develop in your children. Your presence will offer proof to alumni attending that Ridgewood School continues as a strong community that values excellence in education. It will be an enjoyable and inspiring evening for all of us!

Recipients of the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award include Cynthia Durfey Smith '47 who is being recognized as an artist and for her support of Ridgewood School and the Springfield community. During the 1950-1960s Ms. Smith was an active supporter of the abstract expressionist art movement in New York City.

Also being recognized as a distinguished alumni is the Rev. Eric N. Lindblade, Jr. '67, a Methodist minister. In addition to serving as a minister, Rev. Lindblade chaired the North Carolina Conference on Christian Unity, was secretary of the North Carolina Conference Council on Ministries, and a board member of Richmond County Habitat for Humanity. He is the son of former Ridgewood Headmaster Rev. Eric Lindblade and his wife Helene Belger Lindblade who taught science at Ridgewood.

The third alumni being recognized is the Rev. Dr. Angeliqe Walker-Smith

who was one of Ridgewood's first African American graduates. Rev. Dr. Walker-Smith credits Ridgewood for the educational foundation that prepared her for her degrees at Kent State University, Yale University Divinity School, and Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a senior associate for Pan African and Orthodox Church Engagement at Bread for the World and was elected president of the Historic Black Church Family of Christian Churches Together.

Phillip R. Trimble '49 is the fourth alumni who will be recognized as a distinguished alumni. He is a former U. S. Ambassador to Nepal, law professor, and mountaineer who led the U. S. expedition to Mt. Everest in 1976.

During the dinner, the Board of Trustees will also confer the status of Honorary Alumni on three individuals who have served Ridgewood School with distinction by making significant contributions of time, effort, or resources to the school's welfare, reputation, or prestige and by serving as role models for Ridgewood's students. This honor is being awarded to Deanna Brougher, Mary Lou Loftis, and Mel Marsh.

Please join us at the Alumni Awards Dinner on September 24 when we will celebrate these individuals who represent what is best about our school. Dinner reservations (\$50) may be made at <https://AlumniDinner.givesmart.com> or by contacting Michelle Dutton at 937.399.8900 or [mdutton@ridgewoodschool.org](mailto:mdutton@ridgewoodschool.org). If you are unable to join us for dinner, please reach out and congratulate our Honorary Alumni and Distinguished Alumni of 2022. 🌟

# What A Night!

*Hearts & Hands Auction: "Strong Roots-Growing Bright Futures"*

This past spring, after two years of online auctions, it was refreshing for the Ridgewood family to come together again for its annual Hearts & Hands Auction! Under the leadership of Teresa and Phillip Campbell, former Ridgewood School parents, the event, that was this year for the first time both online and live, raised \$42,000 to support Ridgewood School students.



Those attending enjoyed their dinners catered by Kohler Catering and the special desserts created by Ridgewood parents Humera Umerani and Zara Bilal. Ridgewood friend, Clark County Auditor John Federer, masterfully auctioned the twenty live-auction items. The other ninety items were bid on electronically by those attending and those at home. It seemed like there was something for everyone – a Windy City Weekend, ceramics, jewelry, golf outings, sports tickets and items, paintings and photographs, autographed memorabilia, student art, condos and packages for vacations, diamond earrings, items and services to pamper people or pets, dining experiences, and unique opportunities—such as commanding the cannon at the New Boston Fair!



**Auction guests playing Heads or Tails**



**Hearts & Hands Auction Co-chairs Teresa and Phillip Campbell**



**Auctioneer, Ridgewood friend John Federer**

On behalf of Ridgewood students, thanks to all who donated items and those who participated in the auction. You are making it possible for Ridgewood to continue to provide a first-class education for our students. A special thanks to the hardworking auction committee: Co-chairs Phillip and Teresa Campbell, Ashra Ahmad Ashraf, Saba Kassaye Bathija, Zara Bilal, Deanna Brougher, Corwin Georges,



**Auction item – student art**



**Ridgewood teachers enjoy the auction**

Bonita Heeg, Catherine Hellmuth, Mary Lou Loftis, Christine Reynolds, Afsheen Rizvi, Afshan Syed '83, and Aliya Ranginwala. 🌟

# Spring Semester Student Council Report

This spring, Student Council members brought back old traditions and started new ones. Under the leadership of Student Council President Mahed Rizvi our students raised money for local charities, volunteered, and hosted events at school.

During the spring, the Student Council brought back two traditions, Ties and Tiaras in March and Gals and



**Ties and Tiaras dance**

Gamers in April. Ties and Tiaras was a formal dance with food, music, and a dance competition with all proceeds going to the Fatherhood Initiative (\$415 donation). Gals and Gamers included video game tournaments, board games, contests, a special visit from Mario and fundraising for Safe Harbor (\$225). Mary Cunningham, who led the two projects, worked with students in the 5th and 6th grades to ensure that the events will continue in the future.

Over the first five months of 2022, students collected and delivered various donations to local nursing homes and charities including 325 homemade valentines, over 100 hand-painted Easter baskets, treat bags, board games, and cards. Students also collected board games for Project Woman, coats/hats/gloves/books for Rocking Horse Center, paper products for IHN Homeless Shelter, as well as made blankets for the C.A.R.E. House, and baked cookies for nurses and doctors at the hospital.



**Valentine treats for Project Woman**

Sixteen upper-level students volunteered over 100 hours during the annual Service Day in February. Students filled boxes and distributed items to families and individuals at the Food Bank. Groups made hope bags and organized donations at Project Woman. They also helped organize and move



**Books for Rocking Horse Center**

items at the Literacy Center. Once they returned to school, students made two blankets for the C.A.R.E. House, cards for nursing homes, and worked on the sets for the play. While volunteering at the local Health Fair, students distributed recipe books that were written and



**At the Zero Waste Store**

designed by students in Computer class.

During Spirit Week in March, the Student Council hosted a wide variety of school events including Pi Day, skating at the Chiller, gym games, and themed days.

The students took over the Zero Waste Store at the Hatch downtown starting in April. The store, which is open on the first Friday of each month, sells items that help the community “reduce, reuse, and recycle.” Proceeds go to the charities of the month and to purchase new items for the store. The store has already helped



**Skating at the Chiller**



**Pi Day fun**

raise over \$400 for local charities including Project Woman, Project Jericho, Breast Cancer Endowment Fund, Parent Infant Center, the blanket project, and others.

Also in April, Ridgewood Student Council was recognized by Project Woman with the Purple Ribbon Award for its service and contributions to the organization over the last eight years. The students were excited to donate \$1,000 to Project Woman at the ceremony. (see article at right).

At graduation, Student Council President Mahed Rizvi was presented a

## Ridgewood Student Council Receives Project Woman's Purple Ribbon!

gavel commemorating his leadership. Over the summer, the students have volunteered at the Food Bank and Project Woman, while also making blankets for C.A.R.E. House, and cards for nursing homes. Student Council's semester of success



**A donation to Honor Flight**

was made possible by the hard work of the students and the support of the staff, Ridgewood families, and alumni. ☀

## FYI: What Does It Mean to Be Accredited by ISACS?

ISACS is the Independent School Association of the Central States. It is an organization that provides external validation of school quality. Its accreditation assures that a school is operating at the highest level possible. Its accreditation process validates that the school has met more than fifty standards of best practice for independent education; confirms that the school subscribes to principles of good



practice in admissions and employment; and attests that the school has a fully developed

and disclosed mission and philosophy of education and that its programs are in congruence with that mission and philosophy.

Ridgewood School is one of only 42 independent schools in Ohio to have earned ISACS accreditation. ☀



**Mr. Metzger, Mrs. Ranginwala, and Ridgewood students with Purple Ribbon Award.**

Ridgewood students, staff, trustees, and friends joined members of the Springfield community on April 27, 2022, in the Courtyard by Marriott ballroom when Ridgewood's Student Council was presented Project Woman's Purple Ribbon Award. This award is presented to a group or individual for significant volunteerism that helps Project Woman achieve its mission of providing services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition to the Purple Ribbon Award, the Student Council received an Ohio House of Representatives Commendation for serving our community.

When presented the Purple Ribbon Award, Dan Metzger, Ridgewood teacher and Student Council Advisor, credited the students for annually finding new ways to support Project Woman. He reported that, although the student council is led by 7th and 8th graders, it inspires younger Ridgewood students to join its efforts. Student Council President Mahed Rizvi shared that in addition

to the special feeling that comes from helping others, being able to work with classmates and friends on behalf of Project Woman is "fun," and that Ridgewood students believe it is important to let Project Woman's clients know that others care. Head of School Aliya Ranginwala credited Mr. Metzger for his leadership saying, "Service fits our mission, vision, and values. The passion Dan has instilled in our students for service reinforces their character education and contributes to their sense of stewardship."

The Student Council presented Project Woman a check for \$1,000 that it had raised through recent fundraising efforts. Ridgewood's band and choir under the direction of Music teacher Dawn Naill provided entertainment for the award ceremony.

Congratulations to Mr. Metzger and our Student Council! ☀

# Summer Enrichment Programs Are Very Popular!



**Summer's Superheroes**

The last three weeks of June brought a bustle of activity to the Ridgewood staff and our summer program faculty. Parents and grandparents arrived every hour and a half throughout the day either dropping off or picking up excited students.

In between drop-off and pick-up, K-9 grade students played tennis and golf, learned Spanish, problem-solved in the escape room, “dug” archaeology, or “bugged out” over insects. Some students studied the science of water, others the art of watercolor. There were also classes for “messy artists” (abstract expressionists), graphic artists, architects, and craftspeople. For those who were “starstruck” there was dancing and singing and/or the study of stars in the heavens.

With 115 students attending, this year’s enrollment topped last year’s. Parents, grandparents, and students reported throughout the weeks that the programs were outstanding, educational and fun! Congratulations to Head of School Aliya Ranginwala, staff, and teachers for these outstanding programs! 🌟



**Recycling Artists**



**Tomorrow's Tennis Stars**

## Ridgewood Staff and Faculty 2022-2023

*Head of School:* Aliya Ranginwala

*Dean of Students:* Dan Metzger

*Alumni Director:* Corwin Georges

*IT Manager:* George Berkhofer

*Administrative Assistant:*

Christine Reynolds

*Bookkeeper:* MaiLin Johnson

*Secretary:* Michelle Dutton

*Preschool Director/Lead Teacher:* Gail Suzel

*Preschool Teacher:* Eric Barga

*Preschool Aide:* Kristine Dillard

*Preschool Aide:* Rkia Frikech

*Kindergarten Teacher:* Anna Kiehn

*First Grade Teacher:* Jenna Carter

*Second Grade Teacher:* Kristine Reimers

*Third Grade Teacher:* Kelly Biers

*Fourth Grade Teacher:* Brandi Ketron

*Fifth Grade Teacher:* Megan Newell

*Social Studies and Math:* Dan Metzger

*Science and Math:* Rachel McLaughlin

*Language Arts:* Paul Sauter

*Spanish:* Sylvia Phillips

*Visual Art:* Molly Loftis

*Music and Lower-Level Computer:*

Dawn Naill

*Upper-Level Computer, Social Media Manager*

*& Webmaster:* Kristyn Keriazes

*Tutor:* Teresa Foreman

*Tutor:* Tera Mohler

*Tutor:* Laura Moon

*Tutor:* Tricia Yeager

*Gifted Tutor:* Rebecca Konecki

*Auxiliary Clerk:* Mary Rumpke

*Librarian:* Nora Hickey

*Kitchen Manager & Chef:* John Linardos

*Environmental Services:* Jessica Yoakem

*Nurse:* Lisa Reynolds, RN

*Aftercare:* Deanna McDonald 🌟

# Young Alums Present “Preparing for Success in High School”



Khushi Patel '18, Ibrahim Ranginwala '18, Mahum Rauf '18, Brendan Russell '21, and Zoe Bisdorf '21 joined Ridgewood Board Vice-President Afshan Ahmed Syed '83, Board Trustee Margaret Roark, and Wittenberg Assistant Professor of Education Erin Hill on March 2 to talk about how to make a smooth transition from middle

school to high school and what it takes to be a success in high school.

Upper-level students and their parents attending found the panel informative and helpful. Of special interest to parents and students were the differences among advanced placement, college credit, and International Baccalaureate courses.

Thanks to our young alums who eloquently shared their first-hand

**(l to r) Ms. Afshan Ahmed Syed, Brendan Russell, Ibrahim Ranginwala, Khushi Patel, Mahum Rauf, Zoe Bisdorf, Dr. Erin Hill, Ms. Margaret Roark.**

knowledge with the audience. Thanks to Ms. Syed, Ms. Roark, and Professor Hill who shared information from current educational studies and wonderful insights they acquired from their secondary school teaching experiences. ☀

## New Campus Feature!



This year at Ridgewood we are excited to introduce a new and unique outdoor learning space! One of the things I love about Ridgewood is its exceptionally beautiful campus, so it has been a joy designing a new space for outdoor learning experiences! Thanks to tremendous support from our Hearts & Hands

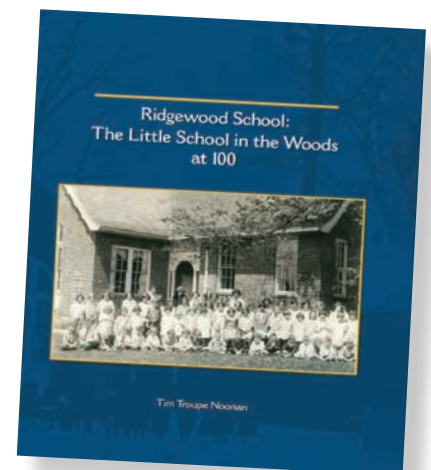
Auction's “Bid for a Cause” and some wonderful summer helpers our Zen Play Garden will be completed soon!

This unique, Reggio inspired outdoor play-scape will create an opportunity for children to experience sensory learning, peaceful activities, growth mindset, and explorative play. It can engage them with opportunities to create, grow plants, learn about the environment, and even create outdoor music. Features will include a Zen sand-raking area, sensory planting areas, a waterway, balance logs, a music-making area, and many interactive learning activities.

We invite you to come later this fall and share a moment of peace in our new garden! ☀  
– “Miss Anna” (Anna Kiehn, Kindergarten Teacher)

**Now Available:**

*Ridgewood School:  
The Little School in the Woods  
at 100*



Get your copy of Tim Noonan's history of Ridgewood School now! Price: \$40 (shipping included). To purchase, go to [HistoryBook.givesmart.com](http://HistoryBook.givesmart.com) or email [cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org](mailto:cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org).

# Thank You to Our Visionary Business Partners in Education!

Valuing academic excellence, the following businesses joined us as Business Partners in Education in 2021-22. We thank each of them for their generous support and encourage our Ridgewood family to let them know we appreciate their investment in our students.

## Leadership Level

Mujeeb A. Ranganwala, MD  
Rheumatology

## Citizenship Level

Hometown DDS – Dr. Tanisha R. Moore  
Littleton & Rue Funeral Home & Crematory

## Academic Excellence Level

Kettering Health  
Sinclair Community College

## Critical Thinking Level

Advanced Nephrology & Hypertension  
C&N Contractors, Inc.  
The Champion Companies  
Clark State College  
Comprehensive Vein Care  
Dye & Doss Insurance  
Ferncliff  
The Heart House Research Foundation  
KAPP Construction  
McGregor Metal  
NewView Property Maintenance & Landscapes LLC  
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Park National Bank  
Roger Storer & Son, Inc.  
Springfield Cardiology  
Springfield Foundation  
Wallace & Turner Insurance  
Whitacre Pharmacy  
Zima Automotive

## Student Engagement Level

Always Sunny Realty  
Bryce Hill, Inc.  
Business Equipment Company  
Crosstowne Properties, Inc.  
Dependable Roofing  
Greater Springfield Partnership  
Harding Road Pharmacy  
Daniel C. Harkins, Attorney-at Law

Home City Tent & Awning Co.  
KB&P Financial Partners  
Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken  
Martin Browne Hull & Harper PLL  
Mercy Health  
Miller's Textile Services  
NCF Savings Bank  
North Spring Savings Bank  
North Spring Dental & Orthodontics  
Orthodontic Specialists of Ohio  
Richards Raff & Dunbar  
Memorial Home  
Sheehan Brothers Vending  
Springfield Masonic Community  
Williams Hardware  
Wittenberg University

## Discovery Level

Clark Schaefer Hackett  
Community Health Foundation  
Conroy Funeral Home  
Hauck Bros., Inc.  
Jackson Lytle & Lewis Life  
Celebration Center  
Marsh McLennan  
The Peanut Shoppe ☀️

## H. S. Kissell Legacy Society

We are grateful to have alumni and families thoughtfully choosing to become members of the H. S. Kissell Legacy Society by placing Ridgewood School in their wills! We are partnered with the Springfield Foundation, “a catalyst for Philanthropy in the region,” to assist families in making this decision a reality.

Please let us know if you have included Ridgewood School in your estate plans or if you would like information about our H. S. Kissell Legacy Society by contacting Aliya Ranganwala, Head of School, aranganwala@ridgewoodsschool.org or 937.399.8900.☀️

## Fall Semester Schedule 2022-2023

### August 18, 19, & 22

Teacher Workdays

### August 22

Open House 6-7:30 p.m.

### August 24

First Day of School

### September 2

\*Early Release 2 p.m.

### September 5

Labor Day, No School

### September 24

Alumni Dinner 6:15 p.m.

### September 30

Interim Reports

### October 6

Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30-7 p.m.

### October 7

Parent-Teacher Conference Make-up Day, No School

### October 20

Multicultural Night 6 p.m.

### October 28

End of 1st Grading Period

### November 4

\*Early Release 2 p.m.

### November 23-25

Thanksgiving Break

### December 2

Interim Reports, \*Early Release 2 p.m.

### December 6 & 8

Winter Concerts 6:30 p.m.

### December 22-January 2

Winter Break

### January 3

Return to School

### January 6

\*Early Release 2 p.m.

### January 12

End of 2nd Grading Period

### January 13

Teacher Workday, No School

### January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, No School ☀️



# Academic Accolades

*Congratulations to these outstanding scholars!*

**Geography Bee Finalists:** Each spring Ridgewood students compete against each other and prove how much they know and understand about our world and its cultures. The three winners of this year's Geography Bee were: Landon Hunter 1st place, Emerson Babian 2nd, and Annia Ameer, 3rd.



**(l to r) Landon Hunter, Emerson Babian, Annia Ameer**

**Power of the Pen-State Competitors:** Representing Ridgewood at the Power of the Pen State Competition were 7th-grader, Usayd Ashraf who placed 12th in the SW Ohio District, 7th-grader Emerson Babian who placed 14th in the SW Ohio District, 8th-grader Elliott Farr who placed 7th in the SW Ohio District, and Mary Cunningham from our eighth grade who was the SW Ohio Platinum Pen Award recipient.



**Photo: (l to r) back row: Usayd Ashraf and Emerson Babian; front row: Mary Cunningham and Elliott Farr.**

**Lagonda Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest Winners:** Our talented writers received medals and cash awards during the DAR Awards Luncheon where they read their essays to the guests. Topic of the students' essays: "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier."



**(l to r) Mary Cunningham, Elliott Farr, Usayd Ashraf, Emerson Babian**

**Ridgewood School Spelling Bee Winners:** First place in our annual spelling bee went to 4th-grader Paige Loftis, second place to 8th-grader Mary Cunningham, and third place to Mylo Frazier from our 5th grade. Congratulations!



**Photo: (l to r) Mylo Frazier, Mary Cunningham, Paige Loftis**

**Math League Contest for 4th and 5th Grade:** Highest score for 4th-grade students was achieved by Henry Young. Paige Loftis, Donte Portis, and Lina Ameer tied with the second highest score.



**(l to r) Paige Loftis, Lina Ameer, Donte Portis, and Henry Young.**

Mylo Frazier received the highest score in the 5th grade and Olivia McWhorter achieved the second highest score. Also participating and receiving the highest score among Ridgewood students was 3rd-grader Shashank Palla.



**(l to r) Mylo Frazier, Olivia McWhorter, Shashank Palla**

**State Science Fair Participants:** Carrying on the Ridgewood State Science Fair tradition of excellence in 2021-22 were: Annia Ameer, 5th grade, Project: "The One and Only Bacteria," OAS Award-Excellent; Nicoletta Gianakopoulos, 6th grade, Project: "Let it Grow," OAS Award-Superior; Emerson Babian, 7th grade, Project: "Die Bacteria Die!," OAS Award-Superior; Mary Cunningham, 8th grade, Project: "Soil Remediation with Phytoremediation," OAS Award-Superior; Landon Hunter, 8th grade, Project: "Which Organic Waste Product Do Worms Eat the Fastest?" OAS Award-Excellent; and Mahed Rizvi, 8th grade, Project: "Apple-v-Samsung," OAS Award-Superior. Congratulations to our young scientists and Ms. McLaughlin their science teacher!



**(clockwise from top left) Annia Ameer, Nicoletta Gianakopoulos, Emerson Babian, Mahed Rizvi, Landon Hunter, Mary Cunningham.**

**Bebras Challenge Winners:** The Bebras Challenge is a competition centered around the application of computational thinking skills. Ridgewood's highest scorers were 7th-graders Emerson Babian and Nicoletta Gianakopoulos (see photos in Science Fair above). 🌟

# The Ridgewood Fund 2021-2022

We are sincerely grateful to the following individuals and organizations who contributed to **The Ridgewood Fund 2021-22**. Your generosity helped us preserve our rigorous academic standards, strengthened our programs, and enriched our students' academic experiences. Your donations were essential to helping us cover the difference between our

operating costs and tuition revenue.

Thank you!

And thank you to those who have already contributed to **The Ridgewood Fund 2022-23!** If you would like to join this group, go to [ridgewoodsschool.org/giving/the-ridgewood-fund](http://ridgewoodsschool.org/giving/the-ridgewood-fund) and charge your donation to your Visa, MasterCard or AmEx card, or mail your check, noting

it is for The Ridgewood Fund and made payable to Ridgewood School, to the attention of Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, Ohio 45504 or call 937.390.8900 and speak to Christine Reynolds, Administrative Assistant. 🌟

## The Ridgewood Fund 2021-22 Donor Honor Roll as of June 30, 2022

*Listing includes donors to GivingTuesday 2021*

Mary Foster Allardyce '51  
Mohamed & Arbia Ameer  
Bethany Anderson  
Chris '54 & Phyllis Baldenhofer  
Vijay & Saba Kassaye Bathija  
Justin & Jenna Beck  
David & Maegan Benne  
Catherine Corry Blakemore '45  
Henry Blood '68  
Anthony Bosca  
Caro-Gray Bosca '69  
Christopher Bosca  
Bill\* & Deanna Brougher  
Bill & Deanna Brougher *In Honor of Afshan Ahmed's 50th Birthday!*  
Susan Brougher  
Tony Bryan '79  
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Jenny Lee Deer  
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Clare Georges '05  
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Bethany '89 & Jordan Gray  
Mia Grimes & Adam Frantz  
Michael Hackett  
Bill & Missy Hallmark  
Eleanor Barnett Harris '49  
Brent Hayden\*\*  
Jim & Bonita Heeg  
Jim & Bonita Heeg, *In Memory of Elisabeth Cole Carpentieri '51*  
Jim & Bonita Heeg, *In Memory of Thalia C. Pavlatos 2020H*  
Catherine Hellmuth  
Deborah Hill  
Dave & Carolyn Hobson  
Clayton Horrichs & Brittany Waters  
Drs. Calvin\* & Tiffany Hunter  
Claudia James '67, *In Memory of Sue James*  
J. Gregory James '69  
Jessimi Jones & Graham Davis  
Clayton O. Klein, *In Honor of Alex Baumle*  
Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69\*  
Joe & Theresa Lauricella  
Kyle Levine '92  
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Michael & Lisa Loftis  
Tom & Mary Lou Loftis  
Thomas E. Lynch '77  
Mel Marsh & Rick Rutan  
Will & Margaret '95 Mattox  
P.J. & Lisa Miller, *In Memory of Barbara Dennerlein Miller '43*  
Mary S. Miller '49  
Justin & Tera Mohler  
Dan '55 & Judy McGregor  
Jamie '90 & Cameron McGregor, *In Celebration of Afshan Ahmed's 50th Birthday!*  
Brian & Michelle McWhorter  
Martha A. O'Connor, *In Memory of Ruth Bayley 2020H*

Plato & Tina Pavlatos  
Ben W. Perks '53, *In Memory of Nancy Turner Perks '26*  
John Pettibone '55  
Henry & Josephine Pollard  
Drs. J. M. & Sally Abbott Pomputius  
Drs. J. M. & Sally Abbott Pomputius\*\*  
Barbara Powell  
Tom Prendergast  
Dr. David E. Pullins '97  
Anne Randolph  
Carter Randolph '96  
A Ridgewood Friend  
Drs. Tariq\* & Afsheen Rizvi  
Dr. Dennis O. & Margaret\* Roark  
Mark B. '67\* & Cyndi Robertson  
Nathan & Kayla Robinson  
Rick & Joy Rogers  
Christopher & Amanda Routzahn  
Adam\* & Tiffany Russell  
Janet Sauter  
Zac & Wendy Shaffer  
Dr. & Mrs. S. Siddiqi, *In Memory of Nadeem Siddiqi '92*  
Mendy\* & Billy Simmons  
Cathy Skinner  
Cynthia Durfey Smith '47  
Brett & Christina Steffani  
Dr. Mubin & Afshan '83\* Syed  
Scott A. Thacker '69, *In Memory of Todd R. Thacker '73*  
Phillip Trimble '49  
The Turner Foundation  
Rev. Dr. Angelique K. Walker-Smith '72  
Marta Wojcik\* & Kevin Rose  
Rob\* & Molly Young 🌟

\* RSA Trustee 2021-22

\*\* In-Kind Donation

# Eighth Graders Explore the “Windy City!”



Deep-dish pizza at Gino’s, Chekhov’s *The Seagull* at the Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago’s Navy Pier, and the Field Museum were just some of the attractions our eighth-grade students enjoyed while visiting the “Windy City.” Accompanied by Dean of Students Dan Metzger and parents Calvin Hunter, Tariq Rizvi, and Ross Cunningham, the eighth graders spent May 9-12 exploring Chicago and all it has to offer.

Students visited the Navy Pier on the first day and rode the giant Ferris wheel along with other fun rides. They later shopped and visited an outdoor exhibit that featured stories of survival. That night they dined on authentic Chicago deep-dish pizza.

**Checking out shops on The Magnificent Mile**



**Dining at Gino’s**



**Visiting the Museum of Science and Industry**

Tuesday was a busy day. Students visited the Museum of Science and Industry where they saw a wide range of exhibits. After the museum, they toured Millennium Park and took pictures at Kapoor’s *Cloud Gate* at the AT&T Plaza. That evening they attended a production of Chekhov’s classic, *The Seagull*.

The third day saw them visiting the Field Museum and shopping on Michigan Avenue.

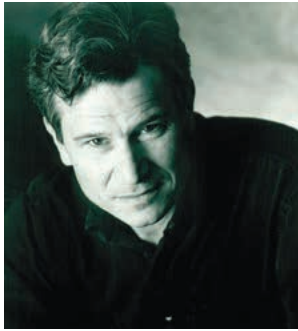


**Posing at the Navy Pier**

The trip wrapped up on Thursday with a visit to the observation deck of the Willis Tower, walking through Union Station, plus visiting Lincoln Park and the Lincoln Park Zoo. If that wasn’t enough, during their visit to Chicago, students also found time to explore the neighborhood around the Airbnb loft in which they stayed. ☀️

# Alumni Spotlights

**Tom A. Matthews III '64**, known to his Ridgewood friends as “Andy,” has enjoyed a career in the theatre. Having appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and in numerous regional theatres, “Anderson Matthews” (his stage name) has performed in musicals, comedies, dramas, French farces, Shakespeare, contemporary American plays, and in tv/ film. “Andy” is now retired and lives with his wife in Winstead, Connecticut.



**Monica “Mini” Chadha Piper '83**, MA, MBA, BCBA, LBA, is the founder and CEO of Stepping Stones Consulting Services. Stepping Stones provides in-home ABA therapy for special needs children that increases their language and communication skills, as well as improves



their attention, focus, social skills, memory, and academics. Monica and her husband Jeff who live in Frisco, Texas are the parents of two sons, Shawn and

Aidan. Shawn at age 2 was diagnosed with autism. It was Shawn’s autism that led to Monica’s graduate study in psychology and her founding of Stepping Stones.

**William B. Brown III '84** is the managing partner and chief executive officer of Formidable Asset Management which he founded in



2013. Under Will’s management, the Formidable Asset Management team has more than doubled the value of assets it manages. Will holds a BS degree from the University of Cincinnati, has served on the Cincinnati Mayor’s Task Force on Immigration, is a board member of Joey, a startup, and on the board of marketing and branding agency Altabos. He is a former member of the Mount Lookout Community Council. Will and his wife Karen live in Mount Lookout with their three children.

**Asli Orhon '86**, MD, is a psychiatrist in Richmond, Virginia. She received her medical degree from American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine and completed a residency in psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System. She has been in practice more than 20 years.



**Zeeshan Ahmad Butt '87**, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist with extensive experience in multi-disciplinary patient-centered outcomes research and clinical care. He earned his doctorate at Case Western Reserve University in 2006. In addition to serving as Director of Clinical Content at Phreesia, Zeeshan is an adjunct lecturer at Feinberg School of Medicine and lives in Chicago.



**Jessica Weisenbach Sellers '95**, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA, began her career as a special education teacher before helping to build and lead the Behavior Support Team of Metro Nashville Public Schools. In 2016, Jessica started a private



practice. Sellers Behavioral Consulting, LLC, located in Nashville, Tennessee, is a team of behavior analysts

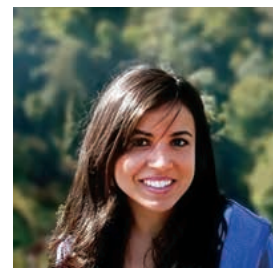
who collaborate with caregivers, school personnel, and other stakeholders on increasing prosocial skills in children with challenging behavior. Jessica completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Vanderbilt University.

**Toby Smith '97**, PhD, is a researcher, educator and advocate specializing in punishment and law in the US and China. He holds a PhD in Jurisprudence and Social



Policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a JD degree from Berkeley Law School. His research has been published in *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Punishment & Society*, *The British Journal of Criminology*, and other journals. He works both in English and Chinese and has taught at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Olivia Chitkara '04** completed her BS in statistics at the University of Michigan and went on to MIT Sloan School of Management where she earned her MBA. Today she is vice president at Macquarie Group in New York City. Macquarie Group is a global financial services organization.



# Creativity, Kindness, Honesty, and Stewardship!

**Mashal Akhter Khan '05**, MD, is now

servicing patients in Downtown Columbus, East Columbus, and Delaware, Ohio. Dr. Akhter earned her medical degree from Northeast Ohio Medical University and completed a

residency at the Kresge Eye Institute/ Wayne State University School of Medicine, where she was voted the most compassionate resident by her peers. She later completed a fellowship in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery at the University of Southern California Roski Eye Institute where she was the chief fellow. She is Board Certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists. Welcome back to Ohio, Mashal!

**Sam Broucher '10** completed his BS

in economics and history at Duke University in 2018. In May of this year, he completed his master's degree in computer science at North Carolina State University and is now working as a software developer at SAS Company in Cary, NC. Congratulations and best wishes, Sam! ☀️

We'd like to include you in Alumni Spotlights. Please let us know where you are and what you're doing. Send your information and a high-resolution photo to [cgeorges@ridgewood.school.org](mailto:cgeorges@ridgewood.school.org).

## Help Us Stay in Touch

If you move, please provide us a new address so we can remain connected! Email your new address and other contact information to [cgeorges@ridgewood.school.org](mailto:cgeorges@ridgewood.school.org). Thanks!

## *A Semester of Students of the Month!*

Ridgewood students and faculty discuss a positive character attribute each month. During the month, the students focus on that element in their behavior. At the end of the month, a student in each grade, who best exemplifies the quality, is recognized as Student of the Month.

In January students focused on creativity. The students selected at the end of the month as embodying creativity in their lives and work are seen below.



**(l to r) Rishi Mohindroo, 3rd grade; Caiden Londergan, K; Used Ashraf, 7th; Kaleb Wilson, 6th; Iyanna Black, 5th; Helen Cunningham, 1st; Anis Ameur, 2nd; Da'Miya Turner, 4th; Isaias Nunez-Bailes, K; not present for photo, Mahed Rizvi, 8th.**



**(l to r) Siqi Zheng, 6th grade; Dhruv Mohindroo, Kindergarten; Dominique Ray, 5th; Lana Horrigths, Kindergarten; Ayden Richardson, 7th; Evan Maynard, 1st; Claudia Lauricella, 3rd; Lauren Loftis, 4th; Judah Ray, 2nd; Lina Ameur, 4th.**

Students focused on kindness during February. Ridgewood alumna Mozie Van Raaij '16, founder of Be Kind, came to school and presented kindness workshops. Students exemplifying kindness included: Kavya Kathuria, Kindergarten; Kinley Cardinal, 1st; Kabir Kathuria, 2nd; Devyn Crawford, 3rd; Hassan Bilal, 4th; Annia Ameur, 5th; Derrick Miller, 6th; Abby Groth, 7th; and Mason McGuire, 8th.



**Kindergarten students, Miss Kiehn (l), Ms. Van Raaij (r) in kindness workshop.**

Honesty was the character attribute in March. Ridgewood exemplars of honesty are pictured at the top of the next column.

In early April, Head of School Ranginwala discussed stewardship and what it means to be a good steward in morning assembly. Students later recognized as being good stewards included Aaron Say and Nathan Krogg, Kindergarten; Sydney Reimers, 1st grade; Cai Jones, 2nd; Claudia Lauricella, 3rd; Jacob Gomez, 4th; Mylo Frazier, 5th; Fadhila Ashraf, 6th; Tucker Crose, 7th; and Landon Hunter, 8th. ☀️



**Ms. Ranginwala and students discuss stewardship.**

## Thank You, Spring Semester Volunteers!

We couldn't do it without you: Ashra Ashraf, Cathy Bell, George Berkhofer, Zara Bilal, Deanna Broucher, Kristin Campbell '10, Phil Campbell, Terri Campbell, Suzanne Fachon-Kalweit, John Federer, Matt Flint, Jim Heeg, Kathie Hellmuth, Kary Iddings, Saba Kassaye-Bathija, Kristyn Keriazes, Katie Kuss, Lisa Loftis, Mary Lou Loftis, Tom Loftis, Deanna McDonald, Dan Metzger, Nicole Newman, David Reynolds, Lisa Reynolds, Afsheen Rizvi, Mark Robertson '67, Adam Russell, Paul Sauter, Mary Siddiqi, Gail Suzel, Afshan Syed '83, Punky Turner, and Humera Umerani!

# Welcome New Faculty and Staff to Ridgewood



**Eric Tyler Barga** is a native of Springfield and graduated from Kenton Ridge High School. He holds a Bachelor

of Music in Bassoon Performance and MA from the New England Conservatory of Music. In 2021 he completed his teaching licensure from The Ohio State University. He is currently serving as Music Director at Springfield's Covenant Presbyterian Church. Eric reports that he is an avid reader, cyclist, gardener, and freshwater aquarist. He is excited to be our new preschool teacher.

Fluent in English, French, and Arabic,

## **Rkia Frikech**

was born in Casablanca, Morocco. In 2005 she came to Ohio and



this summer moved to Springfield. She has been working with preschool children for 14 years and holds a CDA certificate. Rkia, the mother of three sons, shares that she loves to see all children learn and discover new things. She will serve as a preschool teacher's aide.



Our new school librarian, **Nora Hickey**, earned her BA in English at Kalamazoo College and her MFA in creative writing

at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Her writing can be found in various journals and magazines.

Nora has been a frequent conference presenter discussing graphic novels and comics and has taught writing and inter-disciplinary courses. Nora is happy to be in Ohio as her mother is from Dayton. Nora, her husband, an offensive line coach for Wittenberg, and her dog (Lulu) enjoy exploring and trying different ice creams. So far, Young's ice creams are their favorites.

## **Dee McDonald**

joined us second semester last year as our aftercare instructor. A native of Iowa, Dee has lived in Springfield for more than 20 years. In that time, she has worked for the Springfield City Schools, Kohl's, and the YMCA. Welcome back, Dee!



## **Suzanne Metzger**



grew up in Springfield and graduated from Catholic Central High School. She completed her BA in Early Childhood Education at

Wittenberg University and holds an MA in Organizational Communication from Ohio University. Suzanne writes that she is drawn to a smaller school setting that focuses on not only academics but also character development. She thinks Ridgewood is a perfect fit for her. Suzanne, who likes to read, work out, paint, and do crafts, and her husband Preston Snodgrass are the parents of a one-and-a-half-year-old son, Oliver, and have a black lab named Scout. Suzanne who taught eight years at Clark Shawnee Local School District looks forward to tutoring our students.

After working 32 years in the finance department of the City of Springfield and having served as a treasurer and

bookkeeper for a variety of organizations, **Mary Rumpke** is coming to Ridgewood and will serve as our Auxiliary Clerk. She is a graduate of Roger Williams College in Bristol, Rhode Island, and holds a BS in Finance and Accounting. Mary Jane and her husband of more than 50 years are the parents of five, grandparents of nine, and great-grandparents of one great grandson.



## **Tricia Yeager**



loves to play tennis and read! She is the mother of three children and enjoys watching them play tennis and soccer. She holds a BS in Education from

Bowling Green State University and an MS in Education from the University of Dayton. You may remember Tricia from 2018-2019 when she served as a tutor at Ridgewood. She returns as a tutor this fall. Welcome back, Tricia.

Please drop in and welcome our new staff to Ridgewood! ☀️



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# Beauty and the Beast, Jr. – An Impressive Production!

On February 25 and 26, 2022, our annual school musical was presented in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons. This year's production, *Beauty and the Beast, Jr* with book by Linda Woolverton, music by Alan Menken, and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, embodied extremely high production values. The show was aptly paced, the scenery and costumes imaginative and delightful, and the actors and technicians focused and disciplined – exceptionally focused and disciplined! Ridgewood students from grades 4-8 not only acted, sang, and danced but also performed as lighting, sound, props, and scenic technicians. Outstanding performances came from students at each grade level. The production elements were well-integrated and coordinated. It was truly an ensemble performance of a familiar tale that reminds us of the importance of love and being loved!

This enjoyable production, one that is still being talked about, was directed by Ms. Dawn Naill our Music teacher and parent Theresa Lauricella who is Professor and Program Coordinator of Theatre and Music at Clark State. They were assisted by parents Will Mattox; John and Kaye Linardos; Ridgewood Preschool Director, Gail Suzel; and teachers Kelly Biers, Anna Kiehn, Molly Loftis, Megan Newell, Nicole Newman, and Paul Sauter. The theatre training and experience represented in this production team truly contributed to the production's success.

Congratulations to the cast, crew, and production staff for a memorable production! Thank you to all of the "angels" who contributed to our Giving Tuesday Campaign that offset production costs!

If you were unable to attend a performance or did attend and would like to enjoy our production of *Beauty and the Beast, Jr* again, you can purchase a video of the production by contacting Ms. Naill at [dnaill@ridgewoodsschool.org](mailto:dnaill@ridgewoodsschool.org) 🌟



**(l to r) Mary Cunningham, Mahed Rizvi, Usayd Ashraf, Devyne Cardinal, and Nicoletta Gianakopoulos**



**(l to r) Usayd Ashraf, Devyne Cardinal, Nicoletta Gianakopoulos, Elyse Linardos, Mylor Frazier, Gavin Crawford**



**Curtain call**

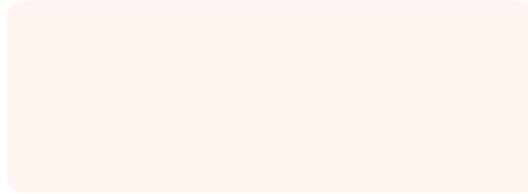


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#### Ridgewood Times

is published for families, alumni and friends of Ridgewood School.

Editor: Corwin Georges, PhD

Copywriters: Corwin Georges, Bonita Heeg, Anna Kiehn, Dan Metzger, Aliya Ranginwala

Design: Bob Bingenheimer

Photos: Bonita Heeg, Trina Jones, Kristyn Keriazes, Joe Lauricella, Dan Metzger

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\* Non-voting member

Ridgewood School Association meetings are open to the public and occur on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., at Ridgewood School. If you wish to speak to the Board at a meeting, please write the Board president at least one week prior to the meeting requesting that you be added to the agenda, and provide a brief statement of the subject you will address. Leave your request with Christine Reynolds, Ridgewood's Administrative Assistant, at the school office.

### From the Head of School

## Surging Ahead Guided by What We've Learned



Head of School Aliya Ranginwala

As we move forward into the 2022-2023 school year, I cannot help but peer into the rear-view mirror at the past two years. What a wild ride we have had, not only in our personal lives but in our school lives! Educational institutions were put to the test as were many other organizations. There were numerous lessons learned and new pressures put on teachers, children, and parents. Getting through the extremely difficult 2020-2021 made last year look a bit refreshing, but fatigue was definitely moving in as 2021-2022 drew to a close.

Our sacrifices and vision to "follow the science" resulted in keeping our children in school through the difficult

times of 2021-2022, when many schools across the nation remained completely online or experienced a rollercoaster ride of being in and out of school throughout the year. We learned through our experience that while virtual school may offer some benefits and opportunities, students learn best in school. Children need and crave connection with their classmates and their teachers. We learned that we need each other more than we realized. We saw the learning loss and most certainly the social emotional lag in many of our young students at the start of last year. We witnessed them grow through the year as anxiety slowly subsided as each week of school passed. We were excited to have parent involvement in school return this past year as we ventured out on some field trips with our parent chaperones, and we appreciated the generous donations of time and items by parents to classrooms for parties and events such as the Halloween Parade, Multicultural Night potluck, Thanksgiving Feast, the school

musical, and Field Day. All of us working together again for the best interest of our children was a wonderful "reunion" of our Ridgewood family.

With our school year ahead, we are excited to start with new adventures, opportunities, and experiences. We look forward to reestablishing our parent group R.A.P. As we start this new year, we wish to thank some of our staff that will not be returning. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to Mrs. Bonita Heeg, as her devotion and hard work in the Development Department has been unmatched. We will miss her service but hope to see her as part of many of our events. We would like to thank Nicole Newman, our gym teacher, tutor and so much more. We wish her well as she furthers her education. Thank you also to our preschool teacher Megan Landry, as she pursues a new venture. I am looking forward to the return of our young students and our wonderful staff. There is much excitement in the halls of Ridgewood during the month of August! ☀️

