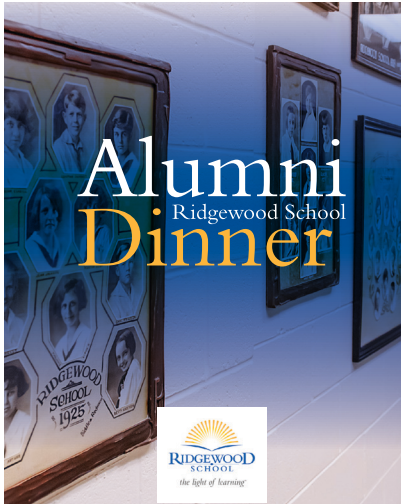


Celebrating Our Alumni



Ridgewood celebrated its alumni on the evening of September 22, 2023, when alumni, families, and friends came together in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons at Ridgewood's annual alumni dinner. Alumni from the Class of 1970 through the Class of 2023 were present. Dinner was catered by Seasons Catering under the supervision of two of Ridgewood's Distinguished Alumni, Margaret McGregor Mattox '95 and Doug McGregor '84, and was

served by Ridgewood student council members. Board President Afshan Syed '83 welcomed those attending and Rob Rue '84, Springfield's new mayor, provided the evening's invocation. Head of School Aliya Ranginwala and Sarah McPherson from the Springfield Foundation talked about Ridgewood's H. S. Kissell Legacy Society and encouraged guests to consider including Ridgewood in their estate plans.

Following dinner, Distinguished Alumna and Ridgewood Board President Afshan Syed '83 along with Corwin Georges, Ridgewood's Alumni Director, presented this year's Honorary Alumni and Distinguished Alumni Awards. Honorees were presented a crystal paperweight commemorating their recognition and a scholarship was awarded to a Ridgewood student in honor of each award recipient.



Teresa R. & Phillip R. Campbell

Ridgewood's Honorary Alumni Award was presented to Teresa R. and Phillip R. Campbell who for more than twenty years have made a significant contribution of their time, effort, and resources to Ridgewood's welfare, reputation, and prestige. In doing so, they have served as role models for

Ridgewood students. Among their many contributions to Ridgewood, Phil and Terri, parents of Ridgewood alumna Kristin Campbell '10, served as Ridgewood board members and officers, played significant roles in our Science Olympiad program, filled in as substitute teachers, and chaired our Hearts & Hands Auction.

Distinguished Alumni Awards were then presented to Ridgewood alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields; served in local, state, or national affairs or provided service to society; and demonstrated outstanding support of Ridgewood School. Posthumously recognized as Distinguished Alumni were



Mary Hope Lupfer Brooks '35



Edgar B. Lupfer '31

Brooks lived in Manhattan and Connecticut and served as executive director of St. Christopher's Child Care Agency.

Edgar B. Lupfer '31, Mary Hope Lupfer Brooks '35, and Joseph M. Lupfer '38. Each of the Lupfer siblings achieved significant success in his or her career and was an outstanding servant leader in her or his community. Both Edgar and Joseph worked for Springfield Leather and were outstanding civic leaders locally. Mrs.



Joseph M. Lupfer '38



Sarah L. Rogers '70

school days and how Ridgewood provided a foundation for her life. Ms. Rogers had spent the afternoon with upper-level language arts students and their teacher Paul Sauter.

Also recognized as a Distinguished Alumna was Sarah L. Rogers '70. Ms. Rogers is the executive director of Heritage Montgomery, a grant-making organization serving Maryland's state-certified heritage area of approximately 500 square miles directly north of Washington, D.C. In accepting her award, Ms. Rogers graciously and eloquently recalled her

David Pullins, PhD, '97 was the fifth alumni to be recognized as a Distinguished Alumni. David serves as Associate Curator of European Paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and recently co-curated the Museum's ground-breaking Juan de Pareja exhibit. At the last minute, David was required to remain in New York and provide tours of the Metropolitan to world leaders who were attending the United Nations General Assembly meeting. David's parents Ed and Dianne Pullins accepted his award for him. Mr. Pullins read a note from David in which David, referring to Ridgewood, concluded that "when parents choose to commit to education in this way (Ridgewood), it has such a lasting impact, laying the foundation that makes a whole range of exciting futures possible." Mr. Pullins also shared that he and Mrs. Pullins consider David's Ridgewood tuition one of their best investments.



David Pullins '97

Following the awards presentation, Honorary Alumnus Phil Campbell concluded the evening speaking about the outstanding foundation for life that Ridgewood provides its students and how important Ridgewood is to local students, their families, and the community.

Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni Nominations 2024

The Ridgewood Association Board of Trustees will consider Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni nominations at its March 21, 2024, meeting. To nominate someone, you may write directly to Corwin Georges, Alumni Director, Ridgewood School, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, Ohio 45504 or email your nomination to him at cgeorges@ridgewoodsschool.org. When nominating your candidate, please tell how your nominee meets the criteria for the award. Alumni award criteria can be found at the Ridgewood School website under Alumni.

Healthy Habits and Staying Fit



The COVID-19 pandemic taught us a lot of things, including the importance of healthy habits and working to stay fit. Ridgewood has taken these lessons to heart and has set developing healthy habits and staying fit as educational goals for this year. Throughout the fall semester, faculty and staff joined together to achieve these goals.

In the hall, you could find the bulletin boards that Ms. Lisa Reynolds, RN, our school nurse, posted each month that provided health tips for students and teachers. She was also available throughout the day to provide needed health care for students and to advise them and their parents about health issues. October was declared “Exercise Month” and Ms. Milam, our physical education teacher, provided students with daily exercise routines that they could follow at home. Champion City Crossfit staff came in to work with our students. Then there were Ridgewood’s monthly Yoga Club sessions offered to students, staff, and parents. Look at the pictures to see just how much our students enjoyed participating in Sunflower Yoga’s classes. Chef John Linardos, teaching by example, worked

diligently at planning for each day a school lunch that was nutritious, well-balanced, and tasty. We proudly posted his daily menus next to the lunch counter which was frequented by students asking for seconds. And there were the connections between health education and other aspects of Ridgewood such as our learning garden and Garden Club that encouraged students to think about where their food comes from and what goes into raising that food. Recognizing the connection between the physical and emotional, Ms. Skinner, our new counselor helped students understand the connection between diet and exercise and how they feel and what they do. Mrs. Ranginwala arranged for wellness experts to speak in student assemblies about health topics and offer advice. In October, Ridgewood students focused on the importance of sleep. Nurses from Dayton Children’s Hospital spoke with students and then for the next month students maintained a record of how much sleep they had each day. Mr. Sauter’s upper-level language arts students created a video “Sleepers and Gamers” that showed how students who get sufficient sleep have an edge over those who don’t. (Our lower-

level students especially enjoyed the video.) Then in November, “Healthy Eating: Food as Fuel” workshops for students and parents were presented by Robin Kharofa, MD MPH, Associate Director of the Center for Better Health and Nutrition Program at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Heart Institute. In December the focus was on dental health. Andrea Myers, DDS, and members of Springfield Pediatric Dentistry were our guest speakers. Along with the different health subjects students focused on monthly, they participated in related health challenges.



Congratulations to those who organized, led, and coordinated this focus on healthy living. Thanks to them for understanding that not only is there a direct relationship between a student’s health and her or his success in school, but also there will be that relationship between health and success throughout their lives.

Note: We want to express our gratitude to the Community Health Foundation for the funds they provided to support our efforts. ☀



It’s Going to be a Great Time! Join us for our 2024 Hearts & Hands Dinner and Auction!

Plan to have a fun evening supporting Ridgewood School students. Ridgewood’s annual major fundraiser, our Hearts & Hands Dinner and Auction, will be held in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons beginning at 5:30 p.m. on May 10, 2024. This year’s auction theme is “Explore the Outer Limits.” Bidding for online auction items will commence May 6, and close the evening of the auction. Live bid auction items will be sold following dinner that evening.

Auction co-chairs, Tamara Comer and Kristyn Keriazes are soliciting auction items now. **If you have something you’d like to donate or if you would like to serve on the Auction Committee, contact Ms. Keriazes, kkeriazes@ridgewoodsschool.org.** Watch for more information on Facebook and Instagram! ☀



Left to right in photo: Ms. McLaughlin, Fadhila Ashraf, Abigail Groth, Emerson Babian, Alexander Morales, Annia Ameer, and Ms. Ranginwala

Ohio Academy of Science Recognizes Ridgewood!

Ridgewood students and faculty were very excited on October 2, 2023, when Ms. Angela McMurry, program director for the Ohio Academy of Science, arrived carrying Ridgewood's impressive Harold C. Shaw Memorial Award trophy. The trophy that is now proudly displayed in Ridgewood's trophy case in the Pavlatos Family Atrium was presented to Ridgewood in recognition of Ridgewood students' outstanding performance at the State Science Day this past May. The Shaw award is the highest award given by the Ohio Academy of Science. Ms. McMurry shared that out of the nearly two hundred schools participating at the State level, only twelve received this award. Out of the twelve, Ridgewood was one of only three Ohio

middle schools to be honored. Ridgewood students who participated at the State Science Day included Abigail Groth, Annia Ameer, Alex Morales, Fadhila Ashraf, and Emerson Babian. Each of our Ridgewood students received a superior rating on their project. The students also competed for additional awards and scholarships. Alex, Abby, and Emerson won two additional awards each and Annia won three. This was the third time that Ridgewood has received the Harold C. Shaw Memorial Award.

Please join us in congratulating Ms. Rachel McLaughlin our outstanding science teacher and our young scientists. 🌟

Multicultural Night

Question: Where might you find an old-fashioned American potluck dinner featuring 200 feet of tables laden with Indian, Greek, Pakistani, Polish, Chinese, Japanese, German, and regional foods of the United States?

Answer: Multicultural Night at Ridgewood School.

On the evening of October 19, 2023, the halls and classrooms of Ridgewood School were decorated with art and research projects created by Ridgewood students during the past weeks. Origami cranes hung from the ceiling, third-graders' posters featuring each student's cultural background were proudly posted on the hallway's walls, and a wealth of information about Native American cultures greeted guests outside the fourth-grade classroom. The flags of various countries and posters about them were to be seen throughout the building. And families were dressed in the dress of their homelands such as Greece, India, Poland, and the Philippine Islands.



The Cole-Carpentieri Commons was packed with students, parents, grandparents, faculty, board members, and friends excited to celebrate each other's cultures. The evening's program began with Ridgewood's combined band skillfully playing Chambers' "Byzantine Dances" inspired by Turkish folk tunes. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Ms. Phillips' upper-level Spanish students led everyone in singing "Hola Amigos." The preschool and kindergarten students performed songs and dances from Guinea, Germany, and Puerto Rico. The audience especially enjoyed the preschool students' performance of a West African improvisational dance that provided each student the opportunity to perform steps that she or he had created as part of the dance. Students in grades 1-4 danced to and sang Italian, Chinese, Native American, and Tahitian songs and the fifth-grade class performed a Japanese folk song on their recorders.

The evening was fun-filled and dinner delicious. (So many desserts!) The entertainment was enjoyable. The art and poster projects were informative. The sense of family and community was profound! Congratulations and thank you to all who helped us better understand each other. 🌟

THE H.S. Kissell LEGACY SOCIETY



CREATING THE NEXT 100 YEARS

H.S. Kissell Legacy Society

What is the H. S. Kissell Legacy Society? It's a thoughtful group of individuals and families who have chosen to include Ridgewood School in their estate plans. They want to ensure Ridgewood's future, to play a significant role in creating its next 100 years! If you would like information about the H.S. Kissell Legacy Society, contact Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, aranginwala@ridgewoodsschool.org or phone 937.399.8900.

Fall Semester Snapshots



August 23: First Day of School

The first day of school brings with it a variety of emotions for students and their families.



September 1 & 8: Pastries with Parents

It was a Ridgewood family gathering! Parents, guardians, faculty, and staff started the day getting to know each other while enjoying “goodies” served by upper-level students.



September 22: Alumni Dinner

See article on front page.



September 23: Fall Fest

Face painting, dunk tank, cake walks, bounce house, food truck, hayride, games, something for everyone! RAP, student workers, and all who helped make this a special Ridgewood family afternoon, thank you!



October 7: Ridgewood Night at the Symphony

Ridgewood students, their families, and Ridgewood staff enjoyed the Springfield Symphony Orchestra’s performance of Gustav Holst’s *The Planets*. Theo and Evelyn’s NASA t-shirts were perfectly aligned with the program.



October 10: K-1st Grade Field Trip - Great Life Farm

Students made the most of the day learning about various farm animals, checking out the fall produce (pumpkins, gourds, and squash), enjoying the book *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*, and sharpening their deductive reasoning skills in a scavenger hunt.



October 19: Multicultural Night

See article on page 3.



October 20: Pre-K Field Trip - Ms. Gail’s Farm

Our Pre-K students were welcomed to Ms. Suzel’s farm where she and her husband James introduced them to a little calf, had them feed the chickens, meet a frog, and pick pumpkins. Thanks, Mr. and Mrs. Suzel, for a busy day at the farm!



October 31: 8th Grade Field Trip - Westcott House

A tour of the wonderful Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Westcott House and a design workshop presented by artist Migiwa Orimo provided our students the chance to design and construct room maquettes employing principles of light and shadow and the layering of patterns. Outstanding work, students!



October 31: Trunk or Treat

Ridgewood’s halls were filled with oohs, ahhs, and eeks, while princesses, pirates, Mario and Luigi, storybook characters, superheroes, Wednesday Addams, firemen, and others lined up for our Halloween parade. In front of the school, costumed Ridgewood parents and friends with their specially decorated autos provided the “bigs” and their “littles” with a variety of treats.



November 7: Election Day

Our art room transformed into a polling place on this day. These four proudly display their "I Voted Today" stickers having voted on school related items.



November 7: Kindness Day

Our "biggs" created chalk drawings for their "littles" celebrating what is special about their "littles."



November 8: Grades 2-4 Field Trip, Windmill Farm

It was a crisp autumn day, just right for feeding goats, petting a pony, picking pumpkins, and bouncing about on a bumpy hayride.



November 9: Last Day

Today was Mrs. Naill's last day at Ridgewood. We will miss her!



November 15: 8th Grade, "Be the Change" Youth Summit

Our eighth-graders attended Clark County Youth's "Be the Change" Youth Summit at Wittenberg University. Sponsored by Wellspring, the event focused on encouraging students to help their friends navigate the challenges they face.



November 21: Thanksgiving Feast

The week leading up to our Thanksgiving Feast was filled with excitement as classes prepared dishes for the celebration under the guidance of Chef John Linardos. Thank you, Chef Linardos!



December 1: K-8th Field Trip, The Nutcracker

For some of our students the Ohio Performing Arts Institute performance of *The Nutcracker* was an introduction to the classical ballet and its score. The event was even more special because some of their fellow Ridgewood students were performers.



December 5 & 7: Winter Concerts

Our winter concerts announce that our winter break is coming soon. A highlight of this year's concerts was the upper-level students playing and singing "In the Bleak Midwinter" arranged by Mr. Barga! Bravo, Mr. Barga! 🌟

Put These Dates on Your Calendar

February 13, 2024: ISACS Parents Series Webinar, 7:30-8:30 p.m., "Talking to Youth About Heated Topics." *

February 23 and 24, 2024: *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* 7 p.m. Cole-Carpentieri Commons.

March 5, 2024: ISACS Parents Series Webinar, 7:30-8:30 p.m., "Growing Up in Public: Milestones of Growing Up in the Digital Age." *

March 7, 2024: National Junior Honor Society Induction, 5:30 p.m. Cole-Carpentieri Commons.

April 15, 2024: ISACS Parents Series Webinar, 7:30-8:30 p.m., "Raising Resilient Children." *

May 10, 2024: Hearts & Hands Dinner and Auction: "Explore the Outer Limits." 5:30 p.m. Cole-Carpentieri Commons.

May 14, 2024: Spring Showcase, 6:30 p.m. The Spring Showcase will feature the talents of students in 4th-8th grades.

May 23, 2024: Ridgewood Learning Series, 8:30-11:00 a.m., Ridgewood School and campus.

May 28, 2024: Graduation and Passing of Classes, Ridgewood School Campus.

June 17-21; 24-28; July 8-12, 2024: Summer Enrichment. Watch for more information to come. Be sure to register as soon as possible. Our Summer Enrichment program offerings fill quickly!

* For more information, see article about ISACS Parents Series on page 8.

Help Us Stay in Touch

If you move, please provide us your new address so we can remain connected! Email your new address and other contact information to cgeorges@ridgewoodsschool.org. Thanks!

Would You Prefer to Receive Our Newsletter Via Email?

Please send your email address to either cgeorges@ridgewoodsschool.org or to chreynolds@ridgewoodsschool.org. Thank you!

Fall Semester Student Council Report



Presenting check to Mrs. Reynolds for Dayton Children's Hospital

In early September, the Student Council hosted Pastries with Parents on consecutive Fridays. Later in September, Student Council members and other upper-level students helped with the Alumni Dinner and Fall Fest. During Fall Fest's weekend, students also had a table at the Farmers' Market downtown where they sold homemade zucchini bread and brownies, dried herbs, produce from the Ridgewood Learning Garden, and steppingstones made by the students. At the end of the month, Student Council hosted its annual Alzheimer's Walk which raised \$700 for the Alzheimer's Association and featured a Promise Garden with hand painted flowers made by the students.



Presenting check to Breast Cancer Endowment Fund



Selling at the Farmers Market

A significant moment for Student Council came in October, when students presented their largest donation to-date (\$2,025) to the Breast Cancer Endowment Fund of Clark County. The proceeds were raised during the Pink Ribbon Bake Sale, our annual Waffle Breakfast, and an upper-level Movie Night at UEC Theatres. The month concluded with the Halloween Bash with the main attraction being the 8th graders' haunted house.



Pumpkin carving at the Halloween Bash

The annual food drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank in November saw the students line the hallway with food items that filled more than six barrels. Each upper-level class designed and decorated trees for the Trees for Tots program. The trees were sponsored by the Doss family, Business Equipment Company, Zero Waste Store, and Empirea Auto. (Thank

you, sponsors!) Ridgewood students voted for their favorite tree before sharing them with the residents of Oakwood Village. The trees eventually were donated to families in need. The annual Thanksgiving pie sale saw 28 pies donated to the Homeless Shelter, Project Woman, and a local soup kitchen.

Events in December included Babysitting Night which featured cookie decorating, crafts, games, story time, a movie, and dinner. The toy drive collected more than seven boxes of new and slightly used toys for the Parent Infant Center.



Working at Second Harvest Food Bank

Each month students volunteered at the Food Bank and helped at Project Woman and the Homeless Shelter. They also made and delivered cards to local nursing homes and put together treat bags for kids at Project Woman and the Homeless Shelter. The Student Council's Zero Waste Store left the Hatch in October but has continued at Ridgewood offering environmentally friendly products that focus on recycling, reducing, and reusing. Student Council committees participated in community projects including Choose Water which focused on the health benefits and importance of drinking water, and the bookcase project which will again this year build bookcases and donate books to families. Throughout the semester at Ridgewood, Student Council sponsored sports leagues that included frisbee golf, baseball, football, volleyball, and a Mario Kart Tournament and Ping Pong League. 🌟



Happy New Year from RAP!

In case you don't know, RAP stands for Ridgewood Advising Parents. We meet at school on the second Thursday of every month either at 3:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. to try to accommodate many families' busy schedules. The fearless group leaders are Jen Groth, Kristyn Keriazes, and Megan Landry. In August, RAP coordinated an ice cream social and outdoor movie night to welcome our students back to school and to help new parents get acquainted with current parents. RAP also organized Ridgewood's annual Fall Fest and helped with other school events like Multicultural Night, Thanksgiving Feast, and classroom holiday parties.

According to National PTA, there are three key factors that predict student achievement in school over and above family income levels or socioeconomic status. Those three indicators are: creating a love of learning at home, communicating high yet realistic achievement expectations to their child, and a parent's involvement in the child's school. Being a part of RAP enables parents to share in special moments with your child at school while also assisting with school events. We welcome all Ridgewood parents (or grandparents) to attend our meetings and see where you can jump in and be involved! 🌟

Academic Accolades!



"A Ghost of a Chance"

It turned out that Ridgewood students had more than "a ghost of a chance" when it came to Clark County Public Library's Halloween-inspired, original short scary story contest! Four of our Ridgewood students received awards! Stories were judged in three age categories: 6-8, 9-12, and 13-18. Stories were judged on originality, creativity, and spookiness (not violent content). Winners received trophies and read their stories at a gathering at the library on October 25. Ridgewood's Carter Keriazes placed first and Morgan Detraz second in the 6-8 age group. Mylo Frazier placed first and Caden Groth second in the 9-12 group. Congratulations to our student authors pictured here with Ms. Ranginwala. (l to r) Ms. Ranginwala, Carter Keriazes, Mylo Frazier, Caden Groth, and Morgan Detraz.

The Bebras Challenge

An annual computer science competition for primary and secondary school students, the Bebras Challenge focuses on informatics and computational thinking. This year Ridgewood's top scorers were Marley Milam (l.) and Malcolm Raffensperger (r.) who are pictured here. Ridgewood students receiving "honorable mention" were Jaylyn Elrod, Mylo Frazier, Shashank Palla, Evan McWhorter, Hassan Bilal, and Matthew Dean.



Ridgewood in the Altrusa Literacy Sting

Fifth-grader Shashank Palla joined Mr. Sauter and Ms. Newell as the third member of Ridgewood's spelling bee team participating in the Altrusa Literacy Sting on September 26. Palla was the youngest person to ever participate in



this annual event. Earlier this year, Shashank placed fourth in the Michigan and Ohio Region of Scripp's National Spelling Bee.



Ridgewood Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our Ridgewood Spelling Bee Champion Matthew Comer! Well done!

Ridgewood Science Fair

A dozen of Ridgewood students are excited that their science fair projects received superior ratings this week and that they will present them at the district science fair on March 16. Congratulations to all of our science fair participants! Students moving on to the district competition are from the 6th Grade, Marley Milam and Lina Ameur; 7th Grade, Annia Ameur, Mylo Frazier, Caden Groth, Dominic Ray, and Malcolm Raffensperger; and from the 8th Grade, Kaleb Wilson, Avery Radlowski, Sidonie Lauricella, Elizabeth Doss, and Fadhila Ashraf. (Photo unavailable).☀️

Beyond the Campus



Chess Champ

Congratulations to Roopali Palla, Ridgewood third grader and member of our chess club,

who placed second at the 2023 Dublin Chess Fall Scholastic U-6001.



Culture Fest

Pictured here are (l to r) Kabir Kathuria, Dhruv Mohindroo, Ridgewood teacher Ms. Rebecca Jones, and Kavya Kathuria. Kabir and Kavya had just performed in Springfield's Culture Fest.

Pure Imagination

Five of our Ridgewood students performed in the Springfield Arts Council's production of Pure Imagination on September 22, 2023. Included in the cast were Alyse Linardos, Devyn Cardinal, Matthew Comer, Kinley Cardinal, and Helen Cunningham.



Rotary International

Seventh-grader Mylo Frazier (left) and his BATS (Bringing Awareness to

Students) partner Addie Powell reported on their WYSO Radio PSA project at the Springfield Rotary Club meeting. Their project focused on "988," the suicide and substance abuse lifeline.



The Nutcracker

Ridgewood students Tilly Norman, Connor Keriazes, and Carter Keriazes performed in the Ohio Performing Arts Institute's 2023 performance of *The Nutcracker*.☀️



Take Advantage of ISACS Parents Series



Because Ridgewood is a member of the Independent School Association of the Central States, Ridgewood parents are eligible to participate in the *ISACS Parents Series*. The series' webinars feature leading experts in the fields of education, parenting, and child development. The

series strives to help parents support and guide their children in all areas of their development. There are three webinars scheduled February through April of 2024.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 7:30-8:30 p.m.: **“Talking to Youth About Heated Topics.”** Rosetta Lee, Seattle Girls’ School.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 7:30-8:30 p.m.: **“Growing Up in Public: Milestones of Growing Up in the Digital Age.”** Devorah Heitner, Author & Consultant.

Monday, April 15, 2024, 7:30-8:30 p.m.: **“Raising Resilient Children,”** Sheri Glucoft Wong, Family Therapist & Author, and Olaf “Ole” Jorgenson, Author & Educator.

For complete descriptions of the webinars being offered, go to: isacs.org/professionallearning/2023-24-parent-series.

If you’re interested in participating in any of the webinars, 7 to 10 days prior to the webinar, Ms. Keriazes will distribute via email the link that will connect you to the webinar. ☀

Spring Semester Schedule 2023-24

- January 3:** Return to School
- January 5:** *Early Release 2 p.m.
- January 11:** End of 2nd Grading Period
- January 12:** Teacher Workday, No School
- January 15:** M. L. King, Jr. Birthday, No School
- February 2:** *Early Release 2 p.m.
- February 9:** Interim Reports
- February 15:** Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00 p.m.
- February 16:** Conference Make Up Day, No School
- February 19:** Presidents’ Birthdays, No School
- February 23-24:** *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, 7 p.m.
- March 1:** *Early Release 2 p.m.
- March 15:** End of 3rd Grading Period
- March 25-29:** Spring Break
- April 26:** Interim Reports
- May 3:** *Early Release 2 p.m.
- May 10:** Hearts & Hands Dinner and Auction
- May 14:** Spring Concert
- May 27:** Memorial Day, No School
- May 28:** End of 4th Grading Period, Graduation and Passing of Classes
- May 29:** Field Day/ 2-hour delay / Last Day of School
- May 30-31:** Teacher Workdays

Citizens of the Month!

SEPTEMBER

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month, Ridgewood students focus on embodying a specific positive behavior. Teachers then select a student from their class that best exemplified this behavior during the month.

Congratulations to our outstanding citizens!

September: **Enthusiasm**

Back row (l to r): Evan Maynard, Caiden Londergan, Iris Mohler, Siqi Zheng, Alyse Linardos

Front row (l to r): Cameron Mowers, Hassan Bilal, Helen Cunningham, Lucas Blair

Pictured on right: Abdullah Edhi

OCTOBER

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



October: **Responsibility**

Back row (l to r): Rishi Mohindroo, Annia Ameer, Marley Milam, Madix Milam, Kayrie Manaois

Front row (l to r): Zosia Rose, E’Lora Hembree, Theo Schmidt, Meredith Blair

NOVEMBER

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



November: **Gratitude**

Back row (l to r): Elizabeth Doss, Avalyn Sellman, Ella Tanksley, Judah Ray

Front row (l to r): Elijah Wright, Porter Swingle, Willa Walls

Not pictured: Eva Reyes, Devyn Crawford, Gavin Crawford ☀

Coming Soon! *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*



Ridgewood students are known for outstanding musical productions! Grades 5-8 students will perform Disney's *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* on the evenings of February 23 and 24, 2024, at 7 p.m. in Ridgewood's Cole-Carpentieri Commons. With music composed by Alan Menken, lyrics by Ashman and Slater, and book by Doug Wright, the musical is based on the ever-popular Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale about a magical underwater kingdom, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, who longs to leave her ocean home — and her fins — behind and live in the world above. But first, she'll have to defy her father, King Triton, make a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, and convince the handsome Prince Eric that she's the girl whose enchanting voice he's been seeking. The performances are admission free. Mr. Eric Barga, Ms. Beth Dixon, and Ms. Theresa Lauricella are directing the production. 🌟

We're Looking for Presenters!

Students in grades 5-8 are looking forward to the Ridgewood Learning Series presentations on May 23, 2023. Ridgewood parents, teachers, and friends will offer students 25-55-minute classes that focus on the presenters' careers, talents, skills, hobbies, or favorite activities. Past offerings have included sessions in acting, painting, archaeology, jewelry making, engineering, gardening, cooking, photography, etc. We're excited to see what our students will learn about this spring.

We are looking for presenters! Think about your hobbies, interests, activities, and skills, choose one, and volunteer to share it with our students. Classes will be scheduled between 8:30-11:00 a.m. If you'll help us as a presenter or have questions about the event, contact Ms. Keriazes at kkeriazes@ridgewoodsschool.org.

NOTE: We are also looking for week-long courses for our Summer Enrichment program (June 17-21; 24-28; July 8-12) Summer Enrichment sessions are 90 minutes in length each day and run for five days. If you have an idea(s) for a Summer Enrichment course, contact Ms. Keriazes at kkeriazes@ridgewoodsschool.org. A Learning Series class may be developed into a full-length Summer Enrichment course. 🌟



Decrease Your Tax Bill! Increase Your Impact!

Are you aware that the Ohio Department of Taxation provides Ohioans a scholarship donation credit? It does!

An Ohio resident who contributes to a scholarship granting organization (SGO) may receive a nonrefundable tax credit up to \$750 on their Ohio income tax returns. A couple filing jointly may claim a credit of \$1,500, if each contributes \$750 in his or her name.

It is important to note that this is a tax credit and not a tax deduction.

A tax deduction reduces the total amount of your taxable income. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar credit against the taxes you have paid or will pay to the state of Ohio. In other words, if you owe the state \$800 in taxes and donate \$500 to our Panthers SGO you would owe Ohio only \$300 and Ridgewood would benefit from your gift of \$500. If you owe the state \$800 in taxes and donate \$750 to our Panthers SGO, you would owe Ohio only \$50 and Ridgewood would benefit from your gift of \$750. Should a taxpayer donate more than his or her Ohio income tax liability, the credit will reduce the taxpayer's liability to zero, but it will not create a refund.

If you wish to take advantage of this provision and support Ridgewood School, make your contribution to the Ohio Association of Independent School (OAIS) Scholarship Granting Organization (OAIS SGO) and earmark your contribution for Ridgewood School. (oais.gosgo.co/donations/new) Your donation will be forwarded to Ridgewood. You will receive from OAIS a letter acknowledging your contribution that you will attach to your tax return.

Thank you! 🌟

Alumni Spotlights



Angelique Walker-Smith '72 D

Congratulations to The Reverend Doctor Angelique Walker-Smith on the publication of her latest book

Ahead of Her Time: Pan-African Women of Faith and the Vision of Christian Unity, Mission, and Justice! Angelique serves as president of the North American Region of the World Council of Churches and is a strategist for Pan-African, Orthodox and Ecumenical Faith Engagement at Bread for the World.



Kate Nelson Berlin '97

graduated from Miami Valley School in 2001 and in 2005 completed her BA in English and Medieval Studies

at the University of Chicago. A few years later she earned her MST from CUNY's Lehman College. After teaching middle school in New York City, she returned to Chicago and taught first grade for several years. Today she lives in Wilmette, Illinois with her husband Aaron and three children Benjamin (age 12), Elizabeth (age 10) and Nathaniel (age 5) and their two dogs, Shadow and Penny.



Alumnus **John T. Nelson** is an associate in the Tax Department at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York City. He received his J.D.

from Yale Law School in 2021. John holds an MSc from the London School of Economics and Political Science and an MA from the University College London School of Slavonic and East European Studies, where he was a Marshall Scholar. He received an A.B. summa cum laude from Princeton University and was a Fulbright Scholar in Russia. Prior to joining Debevoise & Plimpton, John worked as a Legal Fellow for Just Security an online forum providing rigorous analysis of security, democracy, foreign policy and rights where he published a number of studies. Earlier John was a research associate at the Council on Foreign Relations and an aide to Dr. Henry Kissinger.



James B. McGregor '90 serves as Chief Executive Officer of McGregor Metal in Springfield and is currently the chairperson of the Springfield

Museum of Art's capital campaign. As a servant leader, Jamie has served as president of the Springfield Museum of Art's Board of Trustees, a trustee of Dayton Children's Hospital, a director of the Second Harvest Food Bank, and a board member of Bon Secours Mercy Health. He has also chaired fundraising campaigns for the Springfield Arts Council, Rocking Horse Center, and Dayton Children's Hospital. Jamie is a graduate of Western Reserve Academy and Sewanee: The University of the South.



Christopher Barnes '03 is the CEO of Escape the Crate, which is a play-at-home escape room company and has shipped more than a million copies of

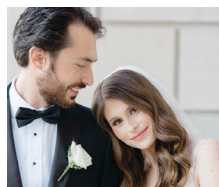
games worldwide. Players work together to solve history-based mysteries, while tackling puzzles and cracking codes. The son of long-time Ridgewood teacher, Patty Barnes, Chris graduated from Wright State University with a master's degree in education. After graduation, he briefly returned to teach 5th grade at Ridgewood and then taught at Miami East Elementary School. He currently lives in Columbus, Ohio.



Chloe Palmer Richardson '05

completed her bachelor's degree in marketing and management information systems at Ohio

University. Today she is an app and website design consultant at Cap Tech Consulting, a technology consulting company. Chloe, her husband Arnie, and their daughter Kinsley live in Charlotte, NC. Chloe is also an abstract painter and does commission pieces.



Renae Pavlatos, PharmD, '08.

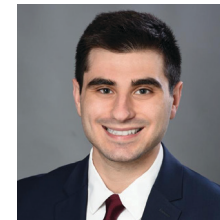
Having graduated from Catholic Central High School in 2012,

Renae was accepted into Ohio Northern University's six-year Doctor of Pharmacy program. She completed her pharmacy degree in 2018 and then accepted a position at Ohio Valley Surgical Hospital in Springfield, Ohio. She married William Arfaras on October 28, 2023. Renae and William are living in Canfield, Ohio.



Nicole Pavlatos, MD, '11 graduated from Springfield High School in 2015 and was accepted into Northeast Ohio Medical University's six-year BS/MD

program. Nicole graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS from the University of Akron in 2017. In 2021, she graduated with her medical degree and is currently in her final year of Emergency Medicine residency at the University of West Virginia in Morgantown, West Virginia. Nicole has accepted a position working at OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, starting upon completion of her residency in June of 2024.



Nicholas Pavlatos, MD, '12 graduated as Salutatorian from Springfield High School in 2016. He was then accepted into Northeast

Ohio Medical University's six-year BS/MD program. Nicholas graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS from Kent State University in 2018. In 2022, he completed his medical degree and is currently in the second year of his Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky.



Isaiah Johnson '16, unrecognizable as seen here in his firefighter's gear, visited school in his firetruck and spoke to students about fire safety.

Isaiah is a firefighter and paramedic with the City of Springfield, Fire Division. 🌟

Business Partners in Education

As 2024 begins, we want to thank our 2023 Partners in Education listed below. These businesses generously supported our students throughout the past year. In turn, we were pleased to promote our Partners throughout the Springfield community.

We have just launched our 2024 Partners in Education Campaign. If you, or a business owner you know, would like to be a 2024 Ridgewood Partner in Education, go to ridgewood-school.org/giving.

2023 Partners in Education

Leadership Level

Mujeeb A. Ranginwala, MD, Rheumatology

Citizenship Level

Littleton & Rue Funeral Home & Crematory
Sinclair Community College

Academic Excellence Level

Dr. Tanisha Moore, Hometown DDS
Palmer Manufacturing and Supply

Critical Thinking Level

Bauer & Beck DDS
C&N Contractors, Inc.
Clark State College
Comer Group at Coldwell Banker Heritage
Comprehensive Vein Care
Dependable Roofing
Dye & Doss Insurance
Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum
George Rogers Clark Heritage Association

The Heart House Research Foundation

KAPP Construction

KB&P Financial Partners

McGregor Metal

Megan Miller Direct Primary Care

Mershon's World of Cars

Park National Bank

Roger Storer & Son, Inc.

Springfield Cardiology

Springfield Foundation

Springfield Symphony Orchestra

Wallace & Turner Insurance

Student Engagement Level

Bryce Hill, Inc.

Business Equipment Company

Harding Road Pharmacy

Daniel C. Harkins, Attorney-at-Law

Martin Browne Hull & Harper PLL

Mercy Health

Miller's Textile Services

North Spring Dental & Orthodontics

Orthodontic Specialists of Ohio

Richards Raff & Dunbar Memorial Home

Sheehan Brothers Vending

Springfield Health and Fitness

Westcott House

Wittenberg University

Discovery Level

Behind the Curtain Dance Studio LLC

Clark Schaefer Hackett

Community Health Foundation

Conroy Funeral Home

Crosstowne Properties

Gary Geis School of Dance

Greater Springfield Partnership

Hauck Bros. Inc.

Ironworks Waffle Café

New Carlisle Family Practice

The Peanut Shoppe

Springfield Museum of Art

The Ridgewood Fund 2023-24

We've launched our annual Ridgewood Fund Campaign and want to express our gratitude to the families, friends, and alumni who have already contributed. They are listed in the Donor Honor Roll below. We want to encourage those who haven't participated to please do so. Your support is significant in making it possible for us to offer students an outstanding education. We hope to have 100% of Ridgewood families participate.

The Ridgewood Fund provides monies essential to our annual operating budget. We spend approximately \$1,400 more educating a student than their tuition produces. We cover the resulting shortfall through our fundraising efforts and rely heavily on the Ridgewood Fund for this purpose.

You can contribute by going to ridgewood-school.org/giving/the-ridgewood-fund and charge your donation to your VISA, MasterCard or AmEx card or mail your check payable to Ridgewood School, to the attention of Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, Ohio 45504. You may also go to oais.gosgo.co/donations/new and contribute to our scholarship fund.

For an explanation of SGO donations, see "Decrease Your Tax Bill! Increase Your Impact!" article on page 9. **Thank you!**

The Ridgewood Fund 2023-24 Donor Honor Roll

As of December 15, 2023

Sherri Bitler

Anthony Bosca '80

William and Corinne '51 Broad

Bill* and Deanna (H) Brougher

Jeffery and Jennifer Brunner

Sarah Rogers '70D and Michael Brusnigham

Vijay and Ann Chitkara

Larry and Sally '71 Cisler

Kyle Davidson and Noel Fonseca

Aaron and Allyson Dean

Varun Devatha '11

Suzanne Fachon-Kalweit

Basil and Claudia Fett

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Phillip Trimble '49D and Valeria Vasilevski

Julia Valentine

Susan White '51

Chad and Stephanie Wolfé

Tanvir and Tasneem Zariwala

* Ridgewood Trustee

(H) Honorary Alumni

D Distinguished Alumni

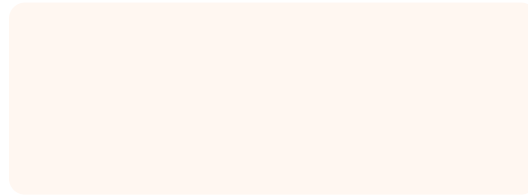


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Ridgewood Times

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

Editor: Corwin Georges, PhD

Copywriters: Corwin Georges, Dan Metzger, Aliya Ranginwala, Kristyn Keriazes, Jen Groth

Design: Andy Hayes, Huckleback Design Studio

Photos: Joe Lauricella., Kristyn Keriazes, Dan Metzger, Aliya Ranginwala

Ridgewood School Association Officers and Trustees 2023-24

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Sayed Tariq Rizvi, MD

Margaret Roark

Scott Thacker '69D

Humera Umerani

Aliya Ranginwala, *Ex Officio*

*Non-voting member

#D=Distinguished Alumni

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. Anyone wishing 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



Head of School Aliya Ranginwala

Ridgewood School is staying the course in our ever-changing educational world!

As we continue to navigate our way through the sea of educational change with the Science of Reading, AI, and endless other technology in the classroom, Ridgewood never stops adapting while still holding true to its mission, vision, and values.

Many schools rush to adopt the next new educational practice or in many cases the renamed already existing practice, falling prey to the bombardment of new apps, programs, curriculum, and equipment that will supposedly solve all the challenges educators face today. With over 100 years of providing excellence in education, Ridgewood takes a more mindful approach in making our adjustments to the ever-changing educational climate.

At Ridgewood we focus on building strong foundational skills in our students. We infuse technology without it running the classroom. Our students can be ahead of the game in technology skills while still being comfortable producing a handwritten cursive writing assignment in the classroom or at the Power of the Pen writing tournament. We proudly incorporate rocket math fact drills in our lower grades with a goal of mastering multiplication by the end of 3rd grade. This is done while also focusing on the conceptual understanding of math equations with discussion and written responses of processes used in solving problems. We have always employed the Science of Reading while also being aware of the need to expose children to the best literature to build their interest and desire to read.

When it comes to social-emotional learning we promote a positive mindset in our students and help them develop strong independence and self-regulation skills beginning in preschool. With our small class sizes teachers are able to build a strong rapport with each child in their classroom. We work with our students and families to help our children reach their potential emotionally and academically. When other schools have allowed cell

phones in the classroom and eliminated homework due to difficulty in getting student compliance, Ridgewood has held strong to a no cell phones or headphones policy. We have also held strong on students completing homework. It is our mission to prepare our students for high school and beyond. Being engaged in the classroom without distractions from a phone and development of the responsibility to do homework to practice concepts taught during the school day are critical to a successful high school and college career.

As we work toward navigating our school through the vastness of educational products and practices, the mission of creating a vibrant and personalized learning environment that cultivates the intellect, creativity, and character of our students is always at the forefront. Change is good, but only if it is intentional, not just change in itself. That is why we support our students and staff to help matriculate students that will excel in learning, achieve in life, and engage in the global community.

