

The Class of 2023 Graduates!



For the first time in several years, public health conditions and the weather permitted our graduation ceremony to be held on the school lawn. The ceremony began at 7 p.m. on May 25 with students processing to Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance." Eighth-grade students Alexander Morales Leon and Abby Groth provided the evening's invocation and Marquis Myers and Tucker Crose welcomed those attending. The K-7th Choir sang "You've Got a Friend in Me" and "Shooting Star." Prior to receiving their diplomas, the eighth graders read their compositions in which they envision reconnecting with each other as adults. The audience especially enjoyed the humor that the students wove into their writing.

Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, presented the Class of 2023 and with Adam Russell, Ridgewood School Association President, awarded the eight students their diplomas. The graduates included: Ayden Anderson, Usayd Ashraf, Emerson Babian, Tucker Crose, Abby Groth, Nevaeh Horne, Alexander Morales Leon, and Marquis Myers. Usayd Ashraf and Nevaeh Horne presented the school their class gift, a ping-pong table. Following the presentation of the class gift, Mrs. Ranginwala proceeded to the passing of classes in which, beginning with the seventh graders, each class moved into the chairs vacated by the class above them. PreK students who will enter kindergarten next year were invited to leave their families and

sit as a class with our kindergarten teacher Ms. Anna Kiehn.

Dan Metzger, upper-level teacher and Dean of Students, presented Nevaeh Horne the Ann Barrett King Service Award and Usayd Ashraf, Student Council President, a gavel in recognition of his presidency. Presidential Educational Excellence Awards were presented by Head of School Ranginwala to eighth graders Usayd Ashraf, Emerson Babian, Tucker Crose, Abby Groth, Alexander Morales Leon, and Marquis Myers.

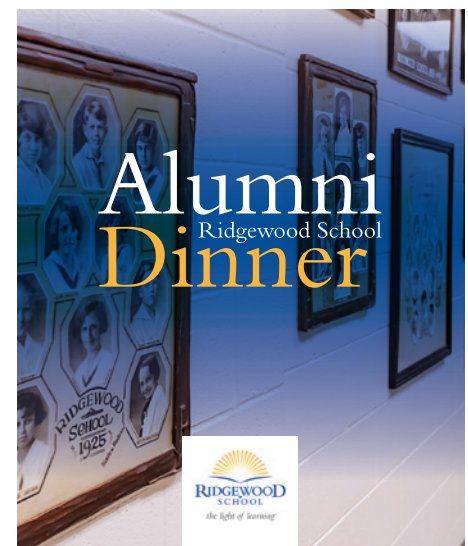
Dr. Tim Bode, a member of the George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, presented Abby Groth the S.A.R. Award.

Under the direction of Ridgewood Music Teacher Dawn Nail, the school orchestra performed "As Twilight Falls" and Offenbach's "Infernal Galop." Singing of Ridgewood's Alma Mater was led by sixth-grader Mylo Frazier. Before Mrs. Ranginwala offered her closing remarks, Ayden Anderson and Emerson Babian presented the Class of 2023's challenge. Following the ceremony, families, staff, faculty, and friends celebrated the new alumni. Congratulations to our 2023 graduates and their families!

You Are Invited to the 2023 Ridgewood School Alumni Dinner! Please Join Us!

On the evening of Friday, September 22, 2023, the Ridgewood School Board of Trustees will host its annual alumni dinner and recognize its 2023 Distinguished Alumni, Honorary Alumni, and members of its anniversary classes. This is an event not only for alumni, but for all of the Ridgewood School family. The Board of Trustees asks and encourages you to help it celebrate this remarkable group of individuals whose lives embody the values that Ridgewood strives to develop in its students.

The 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented to five alumni who have made outstanding achievements in their chosen fields, who have demonstrated service in local, state, or national affairs or service to society, and who are supporters of Ridgewood School. Included in this group are three members of the Lupfer family who are being posthumously recognized. Edgar Lupfer '31, who served as president



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of Springfield Leather Company and was a Springfield civic leader, his brother Joseph Lupfer '38 who was a Ridgewood School trustee and who managed the vinyl plastics division at Springfield Leather, and their sister Mary Lupfer Brooks '35 who was active in the workings of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City and a board member of St. Christopher's School in Westchester County, New York. The fourth graduate to be recognized as a Distinguished Alumni is Sarah L. Rogers '70, the executive director of Maryland's *Heritage Montgomery* who has led numerous organizations and agencies in strategic planning, management, and interpretive planning. The fifth Distinguished Alumni we will honor is David Pullins '97. David earned his PhD at Harvard University and today serves as the associate curator of eighteenth-century French, Italian, and Spanish painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Ridgewood's Honorary Alumni Award is presented to individuals who, although they are not Ridgewood Alumni, have served Ridgewood School with distinction making a significant contribution of time, effort or resources to the school's welfare, reputation, or prestige, and whose faithful service allows us to present them proudly as role models for Ridgewood students. Phillip and Teresa Campbell will be honored as our 2023 Honorary Alumni. Terri is a professor at Clark State College; Phil worked as a program administrator for the State of Ohio. They are the parents of Kristin Campbell '10. Their commitment to Ridgewood School started during Kristin's schooldays. Their support of Ridgewood includes serving terms as Ridgewood trustees and officers, contributing to the Centennial Campaign, and most recently serving as co-chairs of the 2022 Hearts & Hands Auction.

Please join us at the Annual Alumni Dinner on September 22 when we will celebrate these alumni who represent what is best about our school. Onsite childcare is available with prior request. Dinner reservations (\$50) may be made at <https://AlumniDinner.givesmart.com> or by contacting Michelle Dutton at 937.399.8900 or mdutton@ridgewoodsschool.org. If you are unable to join us for dinner, please reach out and congratulate our Honorary Alumni and Distinguished Alumni of 2023.



SOMETHING NEW!

There's something new in the schoolyard. It's Lilly's Little Free Library at Ridgewood School, a gift from the Rood family. Situated just west of the school, the little library is for the use of Ridgewood students and the school's neighbors. Stocked with popular children's books, the little library's patrons can take a book they want to read, read it, and then return it or swap it for one they think others will enjoy reading. Thanks, Lilly and Mr. Rood!

Young Alumni and School Representatives Join Together to Present "Looking Ahead to High School"

On March 8, six of our young alumni joined Ridgewood Trustee Margaret Roark and four regional educators to discuss how to make a successful transition from middle school to high school. Lisa Cunningham, Lead Principal of Springfield High School; Anne Dettmer, Director of Enrollment and Financial Aid at The Miami Valley School; Jennifer Schwaiger Tropp, Director of Admissions and Enrollment at Catholic Central High School; and Catholic Central's Assistant Principal Beth Allman shared information about their schools and factors that contribute to student success in high school. Ridgewood alumni Mary Cunningham '22, Sarah Hallmark '19, Brayden Herron '21, Gary Iddings '21, Christian Reynolds '19, and Brendan Russell '21 talked about how Ridgewood had prepared them for success in high school and how they made successful transitions to their high schools. Our alumni stated it was important to get involved in their new schools, to speak up when they needed help, and to be flexible in terms of goals and planning. Ridgewood's upper-level students and their parents reported that the session was informative and helpful. Thanks to all who participated in the program!

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

If you missed Ridgewood's production of the musical *Newsies, Jr.*, you missed an outstanding production! The fifty-plus cast and crew members composed of students from grades 4-8 proved themselves to be talented, disciplined, and eager to share their work with their audiences. The production's directors, Dawn Naill, Ridgewood Music Teacher, and Ridgewood parent Theresa Lauricella who is the head of Clark State's Theatre Program, were responsible for the outstanding performances everyone enjoyed. *Newsies, Jr.*, is based on turn of the twentieth-century historical events and provided students the opportunity to learn about those events and their significance. The musical develops numerous themes—courage v. fear, looking out for others, the importance of working together, women having careers outside the home, realizing one's dreams, and good v. evil. By the final curtain, we've learned that people working together for positive change can improve their lives and the lives of others.

From beginning to end, the production held the audience's attention. Cast and crew worked as a team. Choreography was creative, energetic, and well-executed. Costumes, lighting, scenery, and props supported the actors and developed our sense of character, place, and time. The music established a variety of moods for the different moments in the play and progressed the action. Students sang confidently whether performing solos, duets, quartets, or chorally





and actors demonstrated what it is to be in the moment and to play off their scene partners. It was impressive!

What a wonderful educational experience *Newsies, Jr.* was for our students and for audience members who were not familiar with the newsboys' strikes of 1899.

We want to thank and acknowledge the support of others who made this production special: teachers- Eric Barga, Paul Sauter, Megan Newell, Anna Kiehn, Kristyn Keriazes, and Dan Metzger; parents-Zara Bilal, Jen Groth, and Kay Linardos; costumer-Trudie Byrd; alumna Eleni Linardos; friends-Addie Powell, Abbie Hawke, Jason Naill, and the Springfield Arts Council's Youth Arts Ambassadors. 🌟



Ridgewood Staff and Faculty 2023-2024

Head of School: Aliya Ranganwala
 Dean of Students: Dan Metzger
 Alumni Director: Corwin Georges
 IT Manager: George Berkhofer
 Administrative Assistant:
 Christine Reynolds
 Bookkeeper: MaiLin Johnson
 Secretary: Michelle Dutton
 Director of Communications,
 Marketing, and Academic Programs:
 Kristyn Keriazes
 School Nurse: Lisa Reynolds, RN
 Preschool Director/Lead Teacher:
 Gail Suzel
 Preschool Teacher: Eric Barga
 Preschool Teacher: Christina Crose
 Preschool Aftercare and Assistant:
 Kristine Dillard
 Kindergarten Teacher: Anna Kiehn
 First Grade Teacher: Jenna Carter
 Second Grade Teacher: Rebecca Jones
 Third Grade Teacher: Kelly Biers
 Fourth Grade Teacher: Brandi Ketron
 Fifth Grade Teacher: Megan Newell
 Upper-Level Social Studies and Math:
 Dan Metzger
 Upper-Level Science: Rachel McLaughlin
 Upper-Level Language Arts: Paul Sauter
 Upper-Level Computer, Physical
 Education, and Tutor: Tami Millam
 Spanish: Sylvia Phillips
 Visual Arts: Molly Loftis
 Music and Lower-Level Computer:
 Dawn Naill
 Librarian/Media Specialist: Nora Hickey
 Tutor: Teresa Foreman
 Tutor: Pat Russell
 Tutor: Tricia Yeager
 Tutor-Gifted: Rebecca Konecki
 Tutor-Title One: Tera Mohler
 Aftercare: Deanna McDonald
 Auxiliary Clerk: Mary Jane Rumpke
 Chef and Kitchen Manager:
 John Linardos
 Environmental Services: Jessica Yoakem

Would You Prefer to Receive Our Newsletter Via Email?

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

Fall Semester Schedule 2023-2024

Grading Period 1:
 August 23 - October 27

Grading Period 2:
 October 30 - January 11

August 18, 21 & 22
 Teacher Work Days

August 21
 Open House 6:00-7:30 p.m.

August 23
 First Day of School

September 1
 *Early Release 2 p.m.

September 4
 Labor Day, No School

September 22
 Alumni Dinner 6:30 p.m.

September 29
 Interim Reports

October 5
 Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00 p.m.

October 6
 Parent-Teacher Conference
 Make-up Day, No School

October 19
 Multicultural Night 6:30 p.m.

October 27
 End of 1st Grading Period

November 3
 *Early Release 2 p.m.

November 22-24
 Thanksgiving Break

December 1
 Interim Reports, *Early Release 2 p.m.

December 5 & 7
 Winter Concerts 6:30 p.m.

December 18-January 2
 Winter Break

January 3
 Return to School

January 5
 *Early Release 2 p.m.

January 11
 End of 2nd Grading Period

January 12
 Teacher Work Day, No School

January 15
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday,
 No School



Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

Spring Semester Student Council Report

Student Council began the semester with its annual Gals and Gamers event that featured board games, Mario Kart Tournament, and a trivia contest. The Ridgewood panther even made an appearance at the event. The event raised \$375 for Safe Harbor.

Our annual Service Day took place in February. Fifteen students volunteered over 100 hours at local charities including the Food Bank, Salvation Army, Safe Harbor, Project Woman, Literacy Center, Parent Infant Center, and Sheltered, Inc. They also made blankets for the C.A.R.E. House and cards for local nursing homes, worked on sets for the musical, and cleaned up the land lab.



Enjoying Spirit Week's "Anything but a Backpack Day."

We held Spirit Week in March with theme days each day, including a new one, *anything but a backpack*, and activities throughout the week. The week started off with the Ties and Tiaras dance on Friday. Proceeds (\$350) from the dance were donated to the Fatherhood Initiative. The annual Pi(e) Day was on Monday with eighth graders getting "pied" by students. The Pi(e) Day in addition to other fundraisers raised \$840 for Project Woman. The week also included gym games, lunch with big brothers and sisters, an NBA 2K tournament, and a lower-level movie night.



Posing with the Ridgewood mascot at Ties and Tiaras.



Donating to Wittenberg's Empty Bowl fundraiser.

Ridgewood students also hosted in March an Empty Bowls dinner at Ridgewood to raise money for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Mr. Linardos made three types of soups and donors could pick from a selection of hand-made ceramic bowls. Students later volunteered at the Empty Bowls event at Wittenberg where they presented a donation of \$875.



Working at Second Harvest Food Bank on Service Day.

With the approach of Easter in April, students painted Easter baskets, made cards, and put together treat bags for children to deliver to local charities including the homeless shelter, Project Woman and local nursing homes. Students also set up a table at the Minority Health Fair held at Lincoln Elementary School. There they distributed healthy recipe cookbooks they had made along with water bottles and Choose Water materials.

Students presented homemade bookcases and a wide selection of books to sixteen families in the F.A.S.T. and SPARK programs during May. The National Junior Honor Society served a meal to the F.A.S.T. families during the presentation of the bookcases and books. This summer, students delivered the second set of bookcases with books (based on surveys filled out by the families) to homes of the SPARK families.

Throughout the semester, students continued running the Zero Waste Store. The store which sells items that focus on reduce, reuse,



Helping with a contribution on Service Day.

and recycle is open on the first Friday of each month in the Hatch. Each month there are also items made with recycled materials by students in different classes. Other Student Council events during the semester included a Madden and Smash Bros. partners tournament and sports leagues that included soccer, dodgeball, gaga ball, and corn hole.



Preparing bookcases and books for F.A.S.T. families.

Since school closed for the summer, students have raised \$200 for this year's Pennies for Patients fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. They earned over 700,000 grains of rice during Freerice.com week. They will be working on a variety of projects including working at the Second Harvest Food Bank, helping sort and organize items at Project Woman, volunteering with projects at Sheltered, Inc., raising money for Alex's Lemonade Stand, passing the hat at the *Newsies* musical at the park, delivering 4th of July cards to nursing homes, running the Zero Waste Store, painting the fence of the school's Ridgewood Learning Garden, and more. 🌟



Record-Breaking 2023 Summer Enrichment Program!

It may have been summer and the school year ended on May 26, but it wasn't quiet at Ridgewood School during June! The sound of children's voices enjoying Ridgewood's Summer Enrichment classes rang through the school's halls and across the school yard. Ridgewood's 2023 Summer Enrichment program with an enrollment of 575 topped last summer's record-breaking enrollment of 405! The increasingly popular weeklong Summer Enrichment experiences were held the weeks of June 12, 19, and 26 and featured activities for pre-K-9 students. Once again, the experiences were popular not only with Ridgewood

students, but also with students from other schools. This year's great variety of course offerings included sports (tennis, bowling, biking, golf), music (singing and songwriting), science (gardening, machines, owls), art (string art, watercolor, messy art), archaeology, Manga comics and comic book writing, theatre (improv and acting), Spanish, yoga, fundamentals of board games and outdoor activities, and more! Students and their families reported once again that participants learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. What a great way to start the summer! ☀️

We Thank Our 2022-23 Business Partners in Education!

We are honored to have the following Business Partners in Education. Their partnerships attest to the importance they place on academic excellence and their willingness to support Ridgewood students. Mirroring our increase in student enrollment in 2022-23, our Business Partners in Education increased this year. Our new Business Partners are bolded in the list below. We thank each of our Business Partners in Education for their generous support and ask the Ridgewood family to let our Partners know that we appreciate their investment in our students.

Leadership Level

Mujeeb A. Ranginwala, MD
Rheumatology

Citizenship Level

Littleton & Rue Funeral Home & Crematory
Sinclair Community College

Academic Excellence Level

Hometown DDS
Dr. Tanisha Moore
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
**H.S. Kissell
LEGACY
SOCIETY**



**CREATING THE
NEXT 100 YEARS**

H.S. Kissell Legacy Society

Members of the H. S. Kissell Legacy Society have included Ridgewood School in their estate plans. As members of the H.S. Kissell Legacy Society they are ensuring their support will be there for future generations of Ridgewood's students. We thank these alumni and friends for their thoughtful generosity. If you would like information about the H.S. Kissell Legacy Society, contact Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, aranginwala@ridgewoodschool.org or phone 937-399-8900.

Ridgewood School National Junior Honor Society



An important moment in Ridgewood School's 100-plus year history occurred the evening of March 2, 2023, when Ridgewood's first group of students was inducted into Ridgewood's newly founded chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. Chapter Adviser Kristyn Keriazes welcomed students, friends, and families to the ceremony and reminded those assembled that the basis for society membership is excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. The induction ceremony developed each of those five concepts and reminded the inductees that it is their responsibility to maintain standards of excellence in those areas. The formal ceremony concluded with the students reciting the NJHS pledge

and signing the official chapter registry. Following their induction, Head of School Aliya Ranginwala congratulated the NJHS members and shared how significant it is that Ridgewood School now has a NJHS chapter.

Students chosen for this honor were selected by the Ridgewood faculty and included: sixth-grade students Annia Ameer, Gavin Crawford, Caden Groth, and Malcolm Raffensberger; seventh-grade students Fadhila Ashraf, Elizabeth Doss, Sidonie Lauricella, and Harrison Young; and eighth-grade students Usayd Ashraf, Emerson Babian, Tucker Crose, Abby Groth, and Alexander Morales Leon. Following the ceremony, a reception was held in honor of Ridgewood's first NJHS members. Congratulations to these outstanding students! 🌟



Back Row (L to R): Mrs. Keriazes, Elizabeth Doss, Annia Ameer, Fadhila Ashraf, Usayd Ashraf, Harrison Young, and Tucker Crose.

Front Row (L to R): Sidonie Lauricella, Malcolm Raffensberger, Abby Groth, Caden Groth, Emerson Babian, Mrs. Ranginwala, and Alex Morales Leon.

Congratulations, Students of the Month!

At the beginning of each month our faculty and students discuss a positive character attribute that the students will focus on in their behavior during the month. At the end of the month, the student in each class who best exemplified that quality is recognized as Student of the Month. We are proud not only of our Students of the Month, but of all our students who worked to develop these attributes.

In January, our students focused on gratefulness. Those recognized as Students of the Month included: kindergarten students Eva Reyes and Bentley Hoelscher, first-grader Belle Steffani, second-grader Ayvah Crawford, third-grader Lindy Radlowski, fourth-grader Shashank Palla, fifth-grade students Amir Rhazlane and Aayush Patel, sixth-grader Alyse Linardos, seventh-grader Harrison Young, and eighth-grader Usayd Ashraf.

February's character trait was independence. Students who best exemplified that quality were Carter Keriazes from our kindergarten class, first-graders Arlo Prince and Marie Frantz, second-grader Blaze Skinner, third-graders Harper Donahue and Lindy Radlowski, fourth-graders Matthew Comer

and Isaac Reimers, fifth-grader Derreon Miller, sixth-grader Gavin Crawford, seventh-grader Fadhila Ashraf, and eighth-grader Marquis Myers.

Citizenship was the character attribute for the month of March. Students of the Month included Vivian Pollack from our kindergarten, first-grader Ryder Picklesimon, second-grader Roopali Palla, third-graders Cai Jones and Iris Mohler, fourth-grader Claudia Lauricella, fifth-grader Lina Ameer, sixth-grader Alyse Linardos, seventh-grader Sidonie Lauricella, and eighth-grader Tucker Crose.

Students of the Month for April were recognized for embodying the value of conservation in their behaviors. Our "conservationists" included kindergarten student Zosia Rose, first-graders Nathan Krogg and Emmarie Frazier, second-grader Grayson Walls, third-grader Reese Davidson, fourth-grader Rishi Mohindroo, fifth-grader Devyn Cardinal, sixth-grader Dominic Ray, seventh-grader Avery Radlowski, and eighth-grader Alexander Morales Leon. 🌟

4 KEY ATTRIBUTES

Gratefulness
Independence
Conservation
& Citizenship



Eighth Graders Visit Our Nation's Capital



The eighth-grade trip is always a highlight of our students' final year at Ridgewood. The Class of 2023's excursion to Washington, D.C., May 1-4, was no exception. I recently asked the students to share with me their highlights of the trip and learned that each student has her or his own favorite moments.

Abby reported that although they had to wait in line a long time, a highlight for her was the tour of the White House. Alex stated that the class "showed off" to Mr. Metzger and each other about what they had learned about the city and U.S. history in Mr. Metzger's social

studies class. For Nevaeh, Marquis, and Usayd, touring the city's monuments was memorable, especially seeing them at night. Usayd recalled that at the Lincoln Memorial "we all went together up the many steps... and saw the huge statue of America's 16th president Abraham Lincoln. We took a countless number of pictures there and analyzed every detail of the statue." Emerson found the Holocaust Museum very interesting, but sad. He wrote, "the interactive aspect of the Holocaust Museum made it even more interesting. We were each given a booklet of a real person that either survived or did not survive the Holocaust and as we went through the museum we learned more about our person." Tucker found the Nationals-v-Cubs baseball game great



fun. "There's nothing like hearing, 'Take me out to the ballgame. Take me out to the crowd.' The sound rings through the stadium. And there's nothing like that delicious ball game food." A highlight for Ayden was the Spy Museum and its interactive games that provided each of them his or her own spy mission. And of course, the drive to Washington and the late nights spent playing games in their fabulous Airbnb rated high in everyone's memories.

On behalf of the Class of 2023, we thank the chaperones Mrs. Groth, Mrs. Crose, Dr. Ashraf, Mr. Babian, and Mr. Metzger, as well as Mrs. Cunningham who planned this year's class trip! 🌟



"There's No Place Like Home" • 2023 Hearts & Hands Auction

The Cole-Carpentieri Commons was filled with more than a hundred Ridgewood supporters enjoying being together Friday evening, May 12, at our 2023 Hearts & Hands Auction. Decorations and auction items developed this year's theme, "There's No Place Like Home." Dinner was prepared by Kohler's Catering and desserts created by Humera Umerani, Ridgewood School trustee. Rob Rue '84 served as emcee for the evening.



Guests arriving and registering.

The auction included seventy-two online items and fifteen live-auction items. The live auction was expertly handled by Jeff Harvey of Harvey Auction Co., LLC., whose skill and humor kept everyone focused on how their bidding would benefit Ridgewood students. Live auction items that produced spirited bidding included a week stay in Palm Springs, a New York travel package that includes a private tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a Polish Christmas Eve Dinner.

Auction co-chairs, Heather Cunningham and Kevin Rose, report that the event, raised \$35,000. Participants donated more than \$10,000 for purchasing new playground equipment in the Donate for a Cause portion of the auction. The remaining \$25,000 will provide scholarships and help offset the school's operating expenses.

We thank Jeff Harvey, Rob Rue '84, all who participated in our online and live auctions, sponsors, donors, students, staff,

teachers, parents, Ridgewood friends, and our auction committee which included co-chairs Heather Cunningham and Kevin Rose, Tamara Comer, Corwin Georges, Jennifer Groth, Shanna Huslig, Kristyn Keriazes, Aliya Ranginwala, Christine Reynolds, Afshan Syed, and Humera Umerani. 🌟



Guests pack the Cole-Carpentieri Commons.

Academic Accolades!



News Bowl Champions

On the first Friday of each month, teams from grades 5-8 competed in a current event competition. The eighth-grade team of Neveah Horne, Usayd Ashraf, Alexander Morales Leon, and Emerson Babian won the competition six time this year and defeated the sixth-grade team in the final match in May.



Regional Spelling Bee

Ridgewood Spelling Bee Champion, fourth-grader Shashank Palla, participated in the Ohio-Michigan

Regional Scripp's Spelling Bee on March 11. Congratulations, Shashank! You're continuing Ridgewood's tradition of outstanding spellers!



Power of the Pen Competitions

The district competition of Power of the Pen was held on February 4 at Springfield's Global Impact STEM Academy. Ridgewood's seventh-grade team placed third in the competition and the eighth-grade team placed first. Individual seventh-grade team members Avery Radlowski placed tenth and Fadhila Ashraf placed eighth. Eighth-graders Emerson Babian placed seventh and Abby Groth placed third. Abby also received two Best of Round Awards. Ridgewood's teams were coached by upper-level language arts teacher Paul Sauter and Nora Hickey our librarian/media specialist.

Power of the Pen's regional competition was held at Wittenberg University on March 5. In the regional competition our seventh-grade team placed third. In the Sweepstakes that combines the scores of seventh- and eighth-grade teams, Ridgewood placed second out of 29 schools. In the individual competitions, seventh-grader Avery Radlowski placed fourth and eighth-grader Usayd Ashraf placed third. Eighth-grader Abby Groth received two Platinum Pen awards and two Best of Rounds awards. Mr. Paul Sauter, Ridgewood's upper-level language arts teacher, received the region's Sara T. Landess Outstanding Teacher Award. Congratulations to Ridgewood students and Mr. Sauter!



Science Fair Competitions

In January, the following Ridgewood students received Superior ratings in Ridgewood's science fair: sixth-grade students Annia Ameer, Iyanna Black, and Caden Groth; seventh-grade students Fadhila Ashraf and Siqi Zheng; and eighth-grade students Usayd Ashraf, Emerson Babian, Abby Groth, and Alexander Morales Leon.

On March 25, Ridgewood students participated in the district science fair. Superior ratings were awarded to Annia Ameer, Fadhila Ashraf, Emerson Babian, Abby Groth, and Alexander Morales Leon.

On April 19, at the State Science Day Celebration, Annia Ameer, Fadhila Ashraf, Emerson Babian, Abby Groth, and Alexander Morales Leon received Superior ratings in the state competition. In the state competition, Annia received three additional awards, Emerson received two additional awards including a \$1,000 scholarship, Abby received two additional awards, and Alex received two additional awards.

Furthermore, Ridgewood School was one of only three Ohio middle schools and junior highs to be awarded the prestigious Harold C. Shaw Outstanding School Award

by the Ohio Academy of Science. This is the highest award the Academy presents.

Congratulations to our young scientists and our remarkable science teacher Ms. Rachel McLaughlin!



D.A.R. Essay Competition

Ridgewood students Fadhila Ashraf and Alexander Morales Leon were awarded first-place in the seventh- and eighth-grade essay competitions of the Lagonda Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution. Fadhila and Alex were presented medals, certificates, and cash awards at the chapter's March luncheon where they read their essays to the D.A.R. members. This year's essay topic was the Second Continental Congress.



Young Authors Workshop

Ridgewood School applauds its Young Authors competition winners! The students were invited to attend a daylong writers' workshop held at Wittenberg University on March 24. Ridgewood's fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Brandi Ketron, accompanied our outstanding students.

(l to r) Alex Morales Leon, Fadhila Ashraf, Annia Ameer, Derreon Miller, Matthew Comer, Shashank Palla, Devyn Crawford, and Mrs. Ketron.

Math Olympiad

Ridgewood students participated in the national Math Olympiad competition. Emerson Babian scored the highest and Abby Groth and Harrison Young tied for second. 🌟

The Ridgewood Fund 2022-2023

We are sincerely grateful to those who contributed to The Ridgewood Fund 2022-23. Your generosity helped us preserve our rigorous academic standards, strengthened our programs, and enriched

our students' academic experiences. Your thoughtfulness contributed to our ability to actualize our mission, "to create a vibrant learning environment to cultivate the intellect, imagination, and character

of our students." Your donations were essential to helping us cover the difference between our operating costs and tuition revenue. **We thank you! Our students thank you!**

The Ridgewood Fund 2022-23 Donor Honor Roll

as of June 30, 2023

Joyce Abma '76
Drs. Ashfaq '84, '21D & Afshan Ahmed
Shahana Ahmed '21H
Dr. Talal Akhter '03
Mary Allardyce '51, *In Memory of
Elisabeth Cole Carpentieri '51*
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Bill & Susan Pomputius Ayres '83
Wes Babian & Peg Foley
Chris '54 & Phyllis Baldenhofer
Dr. Justin & Jenna Beck
Jacob & Bristol Blair
Christopher & Courtney Bosca
William & Corinne Crabill Broad '51
Bill* & Deanna '22H Brougher
Jeff & Jennifer Brunner
Ed & Traci Cardinal
Joyce Carr
Vivian Carter, *In Honor of Bonita Heeg*
Dr. Amrit & Shashi Chadha
Pauline Chakeres '20H
Dr. Vijay & Ann Chitkara
Randall & Tamara Comer
Steve & Kris Culp
Graham Davis & Jessimi Jones
Aaron & Allyson Dean
Jenny Lee Deer, *In Honor of Bonita Heeg*
The Della Selsor Trust
Matthew & Sarah DeLong
Varun Devatha '11
Holly Doss
Dr. Ahmed Edhi & Sara Ali
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Scott Thacker '69, '20D*
Patrick '20H & Tiffany Field
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Dr. Larry & Kim Fish
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Art '21H & Alex '21H Gianakopoulos
Dimitri '87 & Niki Gianakopoulos
Stacy '85 & Jade Gianakopoulos
Trent Gilbert & Taja Harris
Mia Grimes & Adam Frantz
Michael Hackett

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Dr. Paul Haupt '63
Jim & Bonita Heeg
Jake & Bridget Houston
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John Gregory James '69
Jesse Johnson
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Dr. Jonathan & Karen Krogg
Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69, '20D* & Bill Ray
Megan Landry
Devon Lenz '04
The Rev. Eric N. '67, '22D &
Susan Lindblade, Jr.
Michael & Dr. Lisa Loftis
Tom & Mary Lou Loftis '22H
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Huda Ahmed Malik '11
Mel Marsh '22H & Rick Rutan
Fred Martin
William & Margaret '95, '19D Mattox
Dan '55, '19D & Judy McGregor
Julie McGregor, *In Honor of
Cynthia Durfey Smith '47, '22D*
Dale Miller, *In Memory of
Barbara Dennerlein Miller '43*
Felicia Miller
Kyaw Say & Mae Moe
Justin & Tera Mohler
Efrain Morales & Mar Leon Colon
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#D=Distinguished Alumni
H=Honorary Alumni

AND THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO THE RIDGEWOOD FUND 2023-24!

If you would like to join this group, go to ridgewood-school.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, OH 45504 **or** call 937.390.8900 and speak to Christine Reynolds, Administrative Assistant. 🌟

Alumni Graduations

In addition to celebrating our Class of 2023, we applaud the members of our Class of 2019 who are graduating from high school and the members of the Class of 2015 and Class of 2014 graduating from college!

Class of 2019

Sarah Hallmark graduated from Catholic Central High School having earned Honor Roll of Distinction status, the English Department Award, and as a member of the National Honor Society. She will enter the University of Cincinnati where she plans to major in mechanical engineering.

Eleni Linardos received her diploma from Kenton Ridge High School. She will enter Wright State University in the fall where she plans to pursue a degree in theatre studies.

Trevor McGuire graduated from Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center this spring. He will be a first-year student at Wright State University in the fall.

Christian Reynolds, having graduated from Northwestern High School, will enter Bowling Green State University this fall.

Arin Simmons graduated from Shawnee High School this spring while also completing four courses leading towards his Ohio real estate license. He will continue his real estate studies at Clark State this autumn.

Maggie Yang graduated from Dublin Jerome High School with honors and having completed her International Baccalaureate

Diploma. She will attend The Ohio State University in the fall to study chemical engineering and Spanish.

Class of 2015

Simra Ahmed graduated from George Washington University in 2023 with a Bachelor of Science degree in public health and a minor in psychological brain sciences.

Kirsten Beals graduated *magna cum laude* from Miami University last spring where she majored in psychology and completed a minor in child studies and youth development. She will attend graduate school at Clemson University where she will pursue a master's degree in pediatric clinical mental health.

Devin Chen graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in film from Ohio University. He plans to pursue a career in film writing. In 2019, Devin won a National Student Production Awards "Emmy" from The Foundation of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his movie *User Blocked*.

Isabella Gianakopoulos will return to The Ohio State University in the fall having graduated from OSU this spring. She will enter a master's program in speech pathology.

Jasmine Owens completed her bachelor's degree from Miami University of Ohio in 2022. She majored in anthropology, history,

and race and ethnic studies. Today she works at the Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center in Cincinnati.

Mariam Ranginwala graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Cincinnati where she majored in medical sciences. She also completed a minor in public health, psychology, and integrative health and wellness. She currently works as a patient advocate for the Rocking Horse Center, and looks forward to attending medical school.

Lena Syed completed her bachelor's degree in business administration last spring at George Washington University where she majored in international business and minored in sustainability.

Amal Umerani completed her Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science and human health at Emory University where she graduated *summa cum laude* and was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Pi Epsilon honor societies. She plans to complete an MPH in environmental health in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory next year and then enter medical school.

Class of 2014

Armaan Ahmed spoke on behalf of his classmates at their graduation from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University on May 16, 2023. Armaan will now pursue a master's degree in philosophy and art at Stony Brook University.

Alumni Spotlights



Before moving to specific alumni spotlights, I want to share a letter we received from alumnae Corinne Crabill Broad '51 and Sally Wallace Ocasek '51.

"To Whom It May Concern:

'Our dear little school in the woods.
We love with all our might.
That is why we are so good.
So happy and so bright!
Ridgewood, Ridgewood!'

That song and memories of our graduation have remained with me for all of these years. There were eight of us that graduated in pretty, long dresses in front of the school—circa 1951. Mary Foster, Liz Cole, Sylvia Beasley, Joan Fausnaugh, Debbie Hubbard, Susie McGregor, Sally Wallace and me, Corinne Broad.

Sally and I have been friends since we met at Ridgewood. We were in each other's weddings and are still friends at 83 years old! Sally Wallace Ocasek lives in Hawaii and has two grown sons.

Corinne Crabill Broad lives in Atlanta, GA and has three beautiful daughters. Both of us are still happily married to our husbands of 62 years!

Every year we receive your *Ridgewood Times* and every year it brings back such fond memories of our times at Ridgewood, ... the beautiful school that we loved and that was the foundation for our happy lives and wonderful memories.

Our best wishes for the future of Ridgewood!

Sally Wallace Ocasek and
Corinne Crabill Broad"

And now on to our alumni spotlights!

Mary "Sis" Miller '49 enjoyed her career as a Springfield South High School French instructor and department chairperson.

She continues her relationship with Ridgewood today and has proved to be a valuable resource for information about Ridgewood School and our alumni. Her interests today include reading, quilting, genealogy, and OSU football. She is also a reader for scholarship applications for the Springfield Foundation.



Howard Zitsman '68 earned his BA from Macalester College in 1976 where he majored in psychology and enjoyed making jewelry

and sculpting. In 1980, he completed an MBA at The Ohio State University. He followed his MBA with postgraduate study at New York University from 1984-1987. In New York, Howard worked as an associate at Lazard Freres and vice president at Drexel Burnham advising on mergers and acquisitions. From 1988-2010 he served as founder and president of The Harman Group Corporation Finance, Inc. in Columbus, Ohio. From 2010 to 2012, Howard commuted to Washington, D.C. to work with the FDIC on implementing the Dodd-Frank legislation. He is listed as a noteworthy investment banker in Marquis Who's Who. In 2012, he unpacked his metal-smithing tools and after a 30-year hiatus returned to the craft. Howard and his team of artisans formed H. Perle to create and market hand-crafted jewelry and accessories. H. Perle products can be seen and purchased on HPerle.com.

In 1918, Howard's grandfather Elick Zitsman founded the Ideal Jewelry Store in Springfield, Ohio. Howard's mother, Connie served on Ridgewood's Board.

Christopher Bosca serves as CEO and Creative Director of Bosca Leather, a Springfield-based company founded in 1911 by his grandfather Hugo Bosca. The company produces outstanding leather items that are sold across the country. In addition to creating beautiful leather products, Chris is passionate about music. He is a singer, writer, and player of fretted instruments and can be heard on a number of recordings. He recently served on the board of Columbus Songwriters Association, an organization that provides opportunities for new music to be heard, nurtures collaborations among musicians, and works to develop Columbus as a contemporary music center. Chris is a 1982 graduate of Wittenberg University.



Hina N. Ahmed '88 is a board-certified, fellowship-trained ophthalmologist practicing in Ocala, Florida where she lives

with her husband and two children. Following completion of a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and graduating *cum laude* from Dartmouth College, Hina earned her medical degree from Wright State University. She then completed a three-year residency at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland followed by a residency at the University of Pennsylvania's Scheie Eye Institute. In June of 2004 she was honored with the Humanism in Ophthalmology Award.



George Gianakopoulos '90 graduated from Avon Old Farms School in Connecticut and moved to Fairbanks, Alaska to attend the

University of Alaska where he completed a BFA in fine arts. During his time at UAF, in addition to studying visual arts, he performed in music groups on the upright bass and continues to play today with a variety of bands. George now lives in Ester, Alaska with his wife and two children. For more than 20 years he has created bright, colorful, abstract paintings, art quilts, and ceramics.



David Pullins '97 earned his PhD at Harvard University and is an associate curator of seventeenth-century French, Spanish, and Italian

painting at New York's Metropolitan Museum. He recently organized the Met's exhibit "Juan de Pareja: An Afro-Hispanic Painter" and co-authored the exhibit's catalog. If you would like to learn more about Juan de Praeja, check out youtube's David Pullins on Velázquez Juan de Pareja|Curator's Cut.



Halim Chambers '00 is working at Penske Entertainment as a videographer, colorist and editor. He films, edits, and interviews

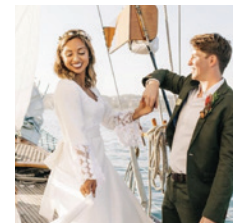
the Penske drivers for Indycar races. His career takes him coast to coast and

occasionally out of the country. Halim did his undergraduate and graduate studies at DePaul University and holds a master's degree in digital communication and media/multimedia.



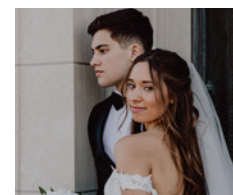
Aziza Chambers '03 is an athletic trainer at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, Florida.

On the left in the photo, Aziza is seen supervising a team of athletic trainers at the U. S. Open Taekwondo Championships at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino. Aziza is no stranger to Taekwondo competitions, having been a successful national and international competitor.



Christopher Vandiford '97 left Middlebury College during his sophomore year for a two-year religious mission in Taiwan.

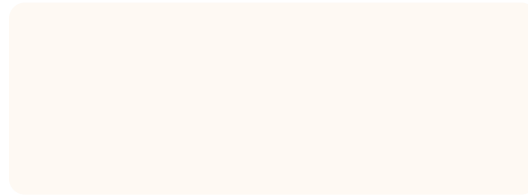
Returning to Middlebury in 2014, he completed a degree in international economics and a minor in Chinese. In 2019 he completed a master's degree in international relations in Nanjing, China. During graduate school he interned for *The Economist*, United Nations, and two venture capital firms. He is now a research analyst at BNP Paribas, a French bank in San Francisco. His wife Sabrina is a professional photographer, videographer, and IG influencer.



Chandler Vandiford attended Emory University majoring in economics and political

science and swimming on Emory's Championship D3 team. As an undergraduate, he interned for Van Eck, a global investment manager, and Jared Dillian, author of the financial newsletter, *The Daily Dirtnap*, and NYT Bestselling author of *Street Freak*. Having graduated in 2020, he is now a senior associate at JP Morgan in New York City and with his wife Katie lives near Central Park. They have recently launched Vandi Bakery which provides local delivery of homemade cookies and bread. 🌟

Return Service Requested



Ridgewood Times

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#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

Lush green trees line our parking lot as I approach the Ridgewood campus. The Zen garden blooms are peeking through the lovely white fence defining our vast grounds. Right outside the fence sits Lilly's Little Free Library, full of children's literature to share with our neighbors. This adorable structure was built and donated by one of our own families. I continue to drive past our building toward the back where I park in front of our learning garden. From my car I get a glimpse of some strawberries growing within the first planting bed. As I get out of my car, I get a whiff of sweet basil and mint. I snag a few berries as I enter the building.

With the hustle and bustle of summer enrichment having ended, the Ridgewood campus is quiet and serene allowing time for reflection. I am reminded that not so long ago the approach wasn't so pleasant. There was an aging campus with an overgrown landscape and dying trees. Superficial improvements were attempted to cover-up some of

the disrepair. There were concerns about enrollment and the financial sustainability of the school was in question. The trip to school was more of a mental preoccupation on what could be done to turn things around for this amazing little school that means so much to so many people. In its almost one hundred years of existence, this was not just the little school in the woods, it was the little school that could "survive" and be better.

That Ridgewood no longer exists, as we have made it through all those struggles with hard work, good fortune and the generosity of families that believed in the little school that could and gave of their time and money to help us complete the largest capital campaign in our 100-year history. Being good stewards of those campaign dollars was the forefront of our mission for the past 6 years.

At this point our enrollment qualms have ended, our deteriorated building now amazes visitors, and our breathtaking addition houses our preschool. These youngest students bring a breath of fresh air to our school. Amidst the brightness, a darkness came upon us in the form of a virus. This brought back some fears and difficulties, but our strength pulled us through. We remained open when many were unable to. Soon after we came together with all our traditions intact. Our children once again began to shine in their pursuits in writing, science, and the arts. Our summer program doubled in attendance and continues to grow each year.

Seeing a healthier school does not mean that we can now become complacent. With the goal of sustainability in mind, I am reminded of the goals set in our strategic plan to increase our endowments as they are our support system. Ask any child what they remember most about Ridgewood and almost always it is a special teacher that touched their heart and filled their mind with creativity, a desire for knowledge and confidence in who they are. It is our responsibility to persist in improving teacher compensation packages, so that we can continue to provide our children with highly skilled teachers. In addition, we have a responsibility to our broader community, and we must make sure we build scholarships for students that would otherwise not be able to attain a Ridgewood education. We must set the example for our children that growth never ends, and we must always strive to be better than before.

With continued growth in the Ridgewood Fund, Partners in Education, and the H&H Auction we are now proud to be introducing the H.S. Kissell Legacy Society so that our proponents can set the course for our next 100 years. Please join us in setting the new course of growth.