

Fall 2021—Active and Engaged

First Day of School!

August 25, 2021

For students, their families, and Ridgewood faculty and staff, the first day of school brought with it the promise of an exciting new year of learning, seeing old and making new friends, and the hope that COVID was less of a threat.

Alumni Dinner!

September 24, 2021

The Ridgewood family gathered on a lovely autumn evening to celebrate its graduates. *See article on page 3.*

Fall Fest!

September 25, 2021



Mr. Sauter being dunked.

Ridgewood Student Council provided students, parents and guests with a fun-filled afternoon, Saturday, September 25. The schoolyard bustled with people enjoying various games, face painting, a



Mary and Helen Cunningham ready for the first day!

scavenger hunt, bouncy house, cakewalk, pumpkin painting, and hayrides provided by parents Katie Kuss and Matt Flint. Families browsed through our book fair and chose books to take home. Refreshments, including popcorn and Young's Jersey Dairy Ice Cream, were available. This year, Fall Fest featured a "reverse dunk tank" built by John Linardos, parent and Ridgewood's chef. Rather than someone falling into a tank of water when a contestant threw a ball successfully striking the tank's target, the reverse dunk tank's large, suspended reservoir of water thoroughly soaked the person sitting below it. Students this year chose teacher Mr. Sauter for dunking.

Multi-Cultural Night!

October 21, 2021

What is always a popular event at Ridgewood proved to be even more

so this year! Filled with art projects, dance, music, delicious foods and oral presentations, the entire school and schoolyard became a fascinating cultural geography lesson. Ridgewood students introduced their families, fellow students,



Kindergarten students performing Hawaiian Hukilau dance

teachers, and friends to the people of the Philippine Islands, Germany, Hawaii, Ghana, Panama, Mexico, China, Haiti, and Pakistan, as well as to Native Americans.

continued on next page »

Active and Engaged continued

Posters and artwork were exhibited in hallways and classrooms. Attendees gathered in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons to enjoy the dances and songs of the various cultures. A large



Zayn and Fadhila Ashraf wearing traditional Pakistani clothing

tent erected in the schoolyard provided a place for people to sample the ethnic food that families prepared especially for the evening. As always, a popular part of the program was the ethnic garb worn by some of the Ridgewood families.

Trunk or Treat!

October 29, 2021

Halloween always provides a great opportunity for students and their parents to exhibit their creativity and flair for



Big and Little "bagging" together

the theatrical. Because of the rain this year, the annual costume parade was held indoors and participating parents set up tables of treats in Ridgewood's halls and Commons, rather than in the trunks of their autos. Undaunted by the rain and change of location, Ridgewood's ghosts, superheroes, princesses and other fantastical entities thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon!

Thanksgiving Feast!

November 23, 2021

Our Thanksgiving Feast is always a special event, but this year it was made more special and meaningful through the efforts of Chef John Linardos who worked with



Charlie Grisson and Aiden Richardson preparing pumpkin soup

our students to prepare dishes for the luncheon. Students K-1 made apple sauce; second and third graders baked pumpkin and apple pies; the fourth grade baked scalloped potatoes; the fifth-grade class prepared a corn casserole; sixth graders prepared a pasta salad; seventh-grade students created dressing for the Feast; and our eighth graders prepared a pumpkin soup. Proudly sharing their dishes with each other made the feast extra special. Thanks, Chef John; we are truly thankful you're a part of our Ridgewood staff!

Winter Concerts!

December 14 and 16, 2021

This year our annual winter concert became winter concerts, one for preschool

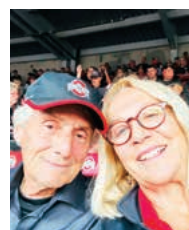


The fourth grade "harmonizing," (top) and the Winter Concert finale

through second-grade families and the second for third through eighth-grade families. Both evenings, the Commons was filled with enthusiastic performers and happy families. With the stage hung with snowflake decorations and students dressed in colorful winter fashions, it was obvious that we were celebrating winter and our school vacation was just days ahead. ☀

Note from the editor: As an arts educator, I was greatly impressed as I watched and listened. When dancing, each older class showed more advanced motor skills, improved teamwork, and greater focus than the younger class that performed before them. Our fourth-graders pleasantly demonstrated they had developed their ability to harmonize in "Holiday Harmony." The 6-7-8 Combined Band revealed great concentration and musicianship in handling the frequent time changes in "Time Traveler." And both the 4th and 5th grade choirs exhibited their ability to follow their director, listen closely to each other, and clearly articulate, thus treating us to readily understood lyrics. Considering these concerts as assessments of arts learning, I applaud our students, Ms. Naill and Ms. Suzel.

Ridgewood School Alumni Dinner and Awards



Distinguished Alumni (l-r) Catherine Corry Blakemore '45, Timothy T. Noonan '66, Afshan Ahmed Syed '83, Ashfaq T. Ahmed, MD '84, and Amer F. Ahmed, EdD '92.

Honorary Alumni (l-r) Shahana Ahmed; Aristides "Art" and Alexandra Gianakopoulos; Tajuddin Ahmed, MD.

The Ridgewood School Alumni Dinner was held the evening of September 24 on the school lawn. Beneath a large tent that provided for social distancing, more than 100 alumni, faculty, family, and friends enjoyed being together to reminisce and celebrate. The warm, autumn evening began with a social hour filled with enjoyable music, animated conversations, oral histories being recorded by Kevin Rose, Ridgewood parent and The Turner Foundation historian, and copies of the recently published school history being signed by its author, Tim Noonan '66.

Guests were greeted by Ridgewood Board President Adam Russell and Head of School Aliya Ranginwala. Following Imam Mustafaa Islam's invocation, Ridgewood Student Council members served the dinner that had been prepared by Seasons Kitchen. After dinner, Mr. Russell presented Ridgewood's Distinguished Alumni Award to five Ridgewood alumni who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding achievements in their chosen fields; their participation in local, state, or national affairs or service to society; and their outstanding support of Ridgewood School. Honored as Distinguished Alumni were Catherine Corry Blakemore '45, Timothy T. Noonan '66, and three siblings, Afshan Ahmed Syed '83, Ashfaq T. Ahmed, MD '84, and Amer F. Ahmed, EdD '92.

Mrs. Blakemore is the CEO of Adams Pomeroy Press in Albany, Wisconsin, and the author of nine books. Mr. Noonan is founder of Noonan Communications and of Heritage Histories, for which he has authored and published more than 30 ghosted memoirs and corporate, school and family histories. Mrs. Afshan Ahmed Syed, a supporter of various local civic and cultural organizations and a loyal, dedicated Ridgewood advocate and

volunteer, is president-elect of the Ridgewood School Association. Ashfaq T. Ahmed, MD, a dedicated and visionary past-president of the Ridgewood School Association, is a highly respected Springfield physician. Amer F. Ahmed, EdD, an intercultural diversity expert, author and speaker, now serves as Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at University of Vermont.

Ridgewood's Honorary Alumni Award was then presented to our 2021 honorees: Ms. Shahana Ahmed; Tajuddin Ahmed, MD; Aristides "Art" Gianakopoulos and Alexandra Gianakopoulos. The four, although not Ridgewood alumni, were recognized for having served Ridgewood with distinction and for having made a significant contribution of time, effort and/or resources to the school's welfare, reputation, or prestige. Their faithful and distinguished service allows Ridgewood to present them as role models for Ridgewood students.

Because last year's dinner was cancelled due to COVID restrictions, the Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni of 2020 were also recognized. Honored as Distinguished Alumni of 2020 were Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69 and Scott A. Thacker '69. Honorary Alumni of 2020 celebrated included Ruth Kunkel Bayley*; Pauline N. Chakeres; Patrick E. Field; Thalia C. Pavlatos*; J.M. Pomputius, MD; and Sally Abbott Pomputius, MD.

Following the awards presentations and dessert, Distinguished Alumnus Scott Thacker closed the evening by sharing fond memories of his Ridgewood schooldays and the lessons he learned in those moments. 🌟

*Since receiving their awards in the fall of 2020, both Mrs. Bayley and Mrs. Pavlatos died. Members of their families were recognized at the dinner.

Fall Semester Student Council Report

Our Ridgewood Student Council has been extremely busy since last school year and has made a significant impact on student life and life in the Springfield community. The student council began the year in August by hosting for our students the Ridgewood Olympics. In September council members participated



Students working as servers at the Alumni Dinner

as servers at our Alumni Dinner. During the weekend of our Alumni Dinner, they set up a booth at the local Farmers' Market and sold produce grown in the Ridgewood garden, salsa they had made with Mrs. Newman using garden produce and items donated by Pendleton's Farm Market, and bread and zucchini brownies they had baked. That afternoon, back at school, Council members hosted our annual Fall Festival.



Students selling produce at the Farmers' Market

Later in the semester the student Council held its annual Waffle Breakfast fundraiser and contributed \$1,050 to the Breast Cancer Endowment Fund. The Council also created its own Ridgewood Alzheimer's Walk and raised \$500 for



Making chalk drawings for Kindness Day

the Alzheimer's Association. October concluded with the Council presenting our annual Halloween Bash that featured a haunted house created by the 8th graders and Mr. Sauter. In November students celebrated Kindness Day by writing positive messages in chalk to their big/little siblings. During Buckeye Week, buckeye candies and necklaces were made to sell at lunch. The Student Council took on the responsibility of the school's annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale this year and sold more than 240 pies, including 60 that were donated to families with the IHN Homeless Shelter and Project Woman. In December, the Student Council hosted the annual babysitting night with crafts, games, cookie decorating, and a movie.

Ridgewood Student Council's fall community involvement was extensive. At the end of the summer, Council members returned to the Second Harvest Food Bank where they filled boxes for senior citizens, sorted food donations, and helped in other areas. In November, the Council collected more than six boxes of hygiene products that they donated to the Food Bank. This fall, the Food Bank recognized our students for their



Donating to Rocking Horse Center

support. (See article on page 10.) Early in the fall Council members collected and donated school supplies and book bags to the Rocking Horse Center. They also donated to the IHN Homeless Shelter 40 bags of food for Thanksgiving dinners, as well as cards and treat bags filled with goodies and small toys for its young residents.

Veterans Day saw our students sending 100 thank-you cards to veterans and donating \$525 to Honor Flight, an organization that flies veterans to their memorials in Washington, D.C. In addition to contributing Thanksgiving meal items, including pies from its pie sale, to Project Woman, our students created and posted flags and signs announcing



Students helping Project Woman

Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In December, they collected five boxes of toys for children at the Parent Infant Center and made a \$250 donation to the organization. In their computer class and Craft Club, students designed ornaments with which they decorated a tree they then donated to the Trees for Tots program. Throughout the fall local nursing home residents enjoyed receiving jack-o'-lanterns, cookies, cards and ornaments for the various fall holidays and our police force, fire department, and hospital staffs appreciated the baked goods they received from our Student Council. ☀️

Thanks to our Student Council for bringing the student body together as a community and for supporting our Springfield neighbors.

Sharing Ridgewood with Others!



Presenting Ridgewood to Equipment Finance Cares members

One of our criteria for selecting a Ridgewood Distinguished Alumni Award recipient is the person's on-going support of our school. In 2020 we proudly recognized Scott Thacker '69 as one of our Distinguished Alumni. There were many reasons for Scott's selection, including his on-going support of Ridgewood, support that continues today.

Scott is the Chief Executive Officer and a board member of Ivory Consulting Corporation, the leading provider of equipment lease and loan software applications. Scott recently was a panelist at a meeting of Equipment Finance Cares (EFC) in Costa Mesa, California. EFC's mission is "to provide an educational/networking platform

for equipment finance professionals to connect with industry thought leaders on best industry practices." EFC events also focus on foundations, organizations, and charities with which equipment finance professionals are involved.

At EFC's November meeting, having served as a presenter on a panel focusing on the "human side of leasing," Scott was provided the opportunity to talk about a non-profit which he supports. Of the many groups that Scott supports, he chose to talk about Ridgewood School. In response to his presentation, Scott's colleagues donated \$400 to our annual fund and are hoping to visit Ridgewood in April prior to the next EFC meeting, in Cincinnati.

In addition to Scott's presentation of Ridgewood School, EFC Foundation's founder Jesse Johnson, vice president of sales and marketing for JDR Solutions, interviewed Scott and Head of School Aliya Ranginwala. That video interview which was first aired as "Foundation Friday with Equipment Finance Cares" is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvTNEilV9WE>. Check it out and please follow Scott's lead. Share Ridgewood with your friends, families, and colleagues! 🌟

Preparing for Success in High School

What can parents and middle schools do to prepare students for success in high school?

On March 2, 2022, Ridgewood School will present a program that will provide answers to this question. Afshan Syed '83, Ridgewood School Association vice president, will moderate a panel consisting of: Erin Hill, Assistant Professor of Education at Wittenberg University; Margaret Roark, former Springfield High School teacher; and four Ridgewood alumni who have recently made successful transitions to a variety of regional high

schools. The program is being designed for parents *and* students grades 5-8 and is open to the public.

The program will be presented in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons at Ridgewood School, 2420 St. Paris Pike, at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Childcare will be provided with prior request. Depending on COVID status, masks may be required. Limited seating; please register by February 28. Registration required. To register or have questions, phone 937-399-8900, ext. 100. 🌟

Book Review

Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100

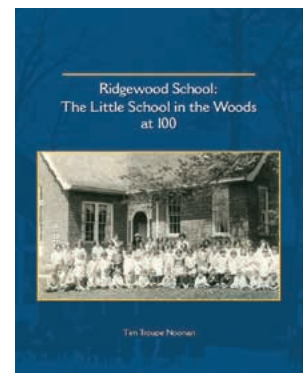
Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100, the long-awaited history of our little jewel, is an immense achievement by historian Tim Troupe Noonan '66. The school could not

have found a more perfectly suited historian to take on this task. Noonan is the grandson of Harry Kissell, the developer who created the Ridgewood neighborhood, and the son of Mary Lu Kissell Noonan '27, one of the school's earliest graduates. Noonan himself also spent a decade at Ridgewood between 1956 and 1966, a transformative period in the school's history. The book combines the objective analysis one would expect from a historical tome with the firsthand experiences of a personal memoir. Noonan weaves these together seamlessly, resulting in a publication that enlightens, delights, and inspires.

The book opens with an exploration of Springfield during the First World War. Noonan creatively takes the reader on a trolley ride to witness the city through the eyes of Marthena Winger, Ridgewood's first principal. This sets the stage for the founding of Ridgewood School, which sprang from the same passion and zeal that earned Springfield the title of "Best 60,000 City in America." The first several chapters present a school often on the brink of closure, although we can rest comfortably knowing that it will ultimately prevail. Noonan shows Ridgewood School as an evolution, always adapting and changing to meet the challenges and opportunities of the times. 🌟

Reviewer: Kevin Rose, parent and The Turner Foundation historian

Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100 may be purchased at [HistoryBook.givesmart.com](https://www.historybook.givesmart.com) or by phoning Christine Reynolds, Administrative Assistant, at 937.399.8900, Ext. 104. Purchase price: \$35; shipping: \$8.70



GivingTuesday 2021



“GivingTuesday is a global movement that reimagines a world built upon shared humanity and radical generosity.” It occurs the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Ridgewood School participated for the first time this past November.

For this one-day of giving, it was important to give potential donors 1) the monetary goal and 2) the purpose for the giving frenzy, preferably something for which the money would be immediately utilized and benefit all of the Ridgewood School community. Thus, the goal became \$5,000 and the purpose to fully fund this year’s annual musical, *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* Thanks to the wonderful response, it was a resounding success! Understanding these dollars are earmarked for this year’s musical, all GivingTuesday donors are listed in “The Ridgewood Fund Honor Roll of Donors” in this newsletter.

Thanks to everyone who monetarily contributed to make our first Giving-Tuesday event such an amazing success in raising its goal of \$5,000! Additionally, Bonita Heeg, Director of Development, wishes to give special thanks to the following individuals who helped with the planning and execution of the event: Bob Bingenheimer, Bridge Communications, Inc.; Mary Cunningham ’22; Dr. Corwin Georges, RSA Board Development Committee member; Kristyn Keriazes, Computer Faculty; Dan Metzger, Dean of Students and Faculty member; Dawn Naill, Music Faculty; Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School; Christine Reynolds, Administrative Assistant; Afshan Ahmed Syed ’83, RSA Vice President and Board Development Committee Chair; and Scott Thacker ’69. 🌟

H. S. Kissell Legacy Society

We are thrilled to have visionary alumni and families generously choosing to become members of the Ridgewood School H.S. Kissell Legacy Society by placing Ridgewood School in their wills.

If you have included Ridgewood School in your will, please contact Bonita Heeg, Director of Development, at bonita@ridgewoodschool.org or 937.399.8900, Ext. 102. 🌟



Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

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!

Second Semester Calendar

January 3-June 1, 2022

January 3

Return to School

January 7

Early Release 2 p.m.

January 13

End of 2nd Grading Period

January 14

Teacher Work Day, No School

January 17:

M.L. King, Jr. Birthday, No School

February 3

Science Fair

February 4

Early Release 2 p.m.

February 10

Interims

February 17

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

February 18

Conference Make Up Day, No School

February 21

Presidents’ Birthdays, No School

February 25-26

Musical Performance, *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*, 7 p.m.

March 2

Preparing for Success in High School, 6:30 p.m.

March 4

Early Release 2 p.m.

March 18

End of 3rd Grading Period

March 19

Hearts & Hands Auction, 6 p.m.

March 28-April 1

Spring Break

April 8

Early Release 2 p.m.

April 15

Good Friday, No School

April 21

Spring Variety Concert

April 22

Interim Reports

May 6

Early Release 2 p.m.

May 26

End of 4th Grading Period

May 26

Graduation & Passing of Classes

May 27

Field Day / 2-hour Delay / Last Day of School

May 31 & June 1

Teacher Work Days

The Ridgewood Fund

Investing in the Power of Academic Excellence

The Ridgewood Fund is imperative to preserving our rigorous and stimulating education for our students, strengthening our programs, and enriching our students' Pre-K, elementary and middle school experiences. Every gift, no matter the size, makes an impact on every student at Ridgewood School! It is an essential part of the operating budget, as tuition alone does not meet the total cost of an ISACS-accredited, STEM Plus Ridgewood

education. This year's campaign concludes June 30, 2022. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. We need your support!

Go 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 Bonita Heeg, Director of Development,

2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, Ohio 45504 **or** call 937.399.8900, Ext. 102, to be connected to the Development Office. Be sure and ask your employer if there is a corporate matching-gift program!

We are humbled and grateful to the following individuals and organizations for investing in the power of academic excellence at Ridgewood School! ☀

The Ridgewood Fund 2021-22 Donor Honor Roll *as of December 31, 2021*

Listing includes donors to GivingTuesday 2021

Joy of Learning Level (\$1,000+)

Della Selsor Trust
Brent Hayden**
Claudia James '67, *In Memory of Sue James*
P.J. & Lisa Miller, *In Memory of Barbara Dennerlein Miller '43*
Drs. J. M. & Sally Abbott Pomputius
Drs. Tariq* & Afsheen Rizvi
Mark B. '67* & Cyndi Robertson
Dr. Mubin & Afshan '83* Syed
Scott Thacker '69

Inspiration Level (\$500+)

Anthony Bosca
Dan '55 & Judy McGregor
Justin & Tera Mohler
Carter Randolph '96
Mendy* & Billy Simmons
The Turner Foundation

Diversity Level (\$250+)

Bill* & Deanna Brougher
J.P. Dahdah '89, *In Memory of Dr. Salim Dahdah*
Jenny Lee Deer
Equipment Finance Cares
Dr. Larry & Kim Fish
Dr. Corwin* & Anne Georges
Michael Hackett
Jim & Bonita Heeg
Clayton Horrichs & Brittany Waters
Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69*
Michael & Lisa Loftis
Mel Marsh & Rick Rutan
Will & Margaret '95 Mattox
Plato & Tina Pavlatos
Melinda Reardon, JD*
Dr. Dennis & Margaret* Roark
Christopher & Amanda Routzahn

Adam & Tiffany Russell
Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith '72
Marta Wojcik* & Kevin Rose

Creativity Level (\$100+)

Mary Foster Allardyce '51
Chris '54 & Phyllis Baldenhofer
Dezarae Banks
Catherine Corry Blakemore '45
Caro-Gray Bosca '69
Christopher Bosca
Susan Brougher
Tony Bryan '79
Traci & Edward Cardinal
Ms. Vivian Carter
Ann F. Collier '54
Brock & Jenni '92 Cox
Chad & Heather Crawford
Joe Doss '92
Mike* & Rachel Fissel
Mia Grimes & Adam Frantz
Bill & Missy Hallmark
Catherine Hellmuth
Deborah Hill
Dave & Carolyn Hobson
Drs. Calvin* & Tiffany Hunter
J. Gregory James '69
JD & Shonda Lindeman
Tom & Mary Lou Loftis
Jamie '90 & Cameron McGregor, *In Celebration of Afshan Ahmed's 50th Birthday!*
Martha A. O'Connor, *In Memory of Ruth Bayley 2020H*
Ben W. Perks '53, *In Memory of Nancy Turner Perks '26*
Barbara Powell
Tom Prendergast
Anne Randolph

A Ridgewood Friend
Zac & Wendy Shaffer
Dr. & Mrs. S. Siddiqi, *In Memory of Nadeem Siddiqi '92*
Cathy Skinner
Rob* & Molly Young
Integrity Level (\$25+)
Bethany Anderson
Vijay & Saba Kassaye Bathija
David & Maegan Benne
Justin & Jenna Beck
Henry Blood '68
Bill* & Deanna Brougher, *In Honor of Afshan Ahmed's 50th Birthday!*
Shawn & Christina Crose
Holly Doss
Janet W. Ebert, PhD
Virginia C. Gano '59, *In Honor of Bonita Heeg*
Clare Georges '05
Bethany '89 & Jordan Gray
Jessimi Jones & Graham Davis
Clayton O. Klein, *In Honor of Alex Baumle*
Joe & Theresa Lauricella
Kyle Levine '92
Thomas E. Lynch '77
Brian & Michelle McWhorter
Mary S. Miller '49
John Pettibone '55
Henry & Josephine Pollard
Dr. David E. Pullins '97
Nathan & Kayla Robinson
Rick & Joy Rogers
Dawniece Ross
Janet Sauter
Christina Steffani
* RSA Trustee 2021-22
** In-Kind Donation

Alumni Spotlights



L to r: Phil Trimble, Frank Morgan, and Dan Emmett on Mt. Everest

Phillip Trimble '49, former U.S. Ambassador to Nepal and former Vice-Provost for International Studies and Overseas Programs in UCLA's College of Letters and Sciences, lives today in New York City with his wife Valeria Vasilevski. Professor Emeritus Trimble is the author of *United States Foreign Relations Law* (2002) and (with Barry Carter) an *International Law* casebook. He has also written numerous articles found in various law journals and other publications. In addition to his distinguished careers in law, education, and government service, as a mountaineer, Ambassador Trimble climbed on five continents and in 1976 led the American Expedition to Mt. Everest.



Caro-Gray Bosca '69, a graduate of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts

University in Boston, has for more than twenty years been a partner in Hughes-Bosca where she creates pieces of jewelry that are "compelling works of art that become something a person wants and must have for their own." She and her business partner and collaborator, Mary Hughes, are recognized nationally as master goldsmiths and have been invited to display their creations in major shows and museums including the Peabody

Essex Museum, National Museum for Women in the Arts, the Smithsonian, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Fuller Craft Museum. Their inspired jewelry can be viewed at hughesbosca.com or in their Side Street Gallery in Gloucester, Massachusetts.



Joan Abma Elder '74

earned her BS in psychology and education at Wittenberg University where her father was a faculty member. Since 2005 she has worked in the non-profit sector. In that time she spent nine years working as the Director of Grants and Scholarships for the Springfield Foundation. Today she is in her eighth year working at Community Health Foundation as a program coordinator and event planner. One of her responsibilities is Springfield's annual Health Expo that draws more than 500 people to downtown Springfield to explore opportunities for health and wellness. Joan is a member of the Springfield City School District Board of Education.

David B. Farrall '88,

having spent the last 22 years working in the field of purchasing and sourcing, today works at Dayton



Children's Hospital as the corporate director of supply chain. Following graduation from Ridgewood he attended and graduated from Culver Academies. He then completed a BA and BFA in art at Bowling Green State University where he also played football. In 1999 he completed a MFA in ceramics at Kent State University. He lives with his family in Troy, Ohio.



Carter Randolph '96 is the director of quality assurance at Sunbasket in San Francisco. The December 2021 issue of *Consumer Report* states, "meal

kit users in a CR-experience study liked Sunbasket for its variety, portion sizes, and organic ingredients. And it made making healthy choices easier, CR's nutritionists said." Congratulations, Carter and Sunbasket.

Abbey Knight Simeral '03

is the founder and owner of the popular interior design company Lagom Loft



located in Granville, Ohio. "Lagom" is a Swedish word that is translated as, "the right balance of things." Lagom Loft's mission is "to approach each project with a holistic vision." Its designers are "committed to designing spaces that are a true reflection of the clients living in them." In addition to its interior design studio, Lagom Loft includes an online shop providing a unique selection of quality, handmade products for the home. You can learn more about Abbey's design studio and shop at lagomloft.com.



Landon Prendergast '06

is a cyber operations officer in the U.S. Air Force and is currently stationed in Tucson, Arizona.

Captain Prendergast graduated from the University of Arizona in 2014 with a major in geography, and has since been stationed in Mississippi, New Mexico, and

South Korea. In 2020, Landon completed a master's degree in international security from the University of Arizona. During his career, Landon has enjoyed traveling the world and experiencing new cultures with his wife Mackenzie.



Meghan Prendergast,

Landon's sister and a Ridgewood alumna, is a marine biology graduate of Coastal Carolina University

in South Carolina and is now teaching at Springfield's Global Stem Academy. She will complete her master's degree at The Ohio State University in May.



Ryan Prendergast,

Landon and Meghan's brother and a Ridgewood alumnus, is a graduate of The Ohio State University

School of Aviation. Following graduation from OSU, Ryan attended flight training school in Florida and is now flying for an air charter service in Tampa. Ryan continues to work towards his goal of becoming a commercial aviation pilot.



Rohit Nezhad, DDS '06

has recently joined his father, Dr. Kayvon Nezhad, at his father's practice, Springfield Gentle Dental.

Rohit completed his undergraduate education at the University of Akron and his Doctor of Dental Surgery at West Virginia University in 2018. He is a member of ADA, the Ohio Dental Association, and the Academy of General Dentistry. Rohit participates in continuing education opportunities with the Seattle Study Club, a STEPPS mini-residency in

implant training, and is pursuing a fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry.

Azad "Azie" Dhingra, DDS '08

has returned from Cleveland and joined his mother, Seema Dhingra, DDS, in her practice, Dhingra



Orthodontics with offices in Springfield, Beavercreek, and Bellefontaine. After graduating from Ridgewood, Azie attended Springfield High School where his science projects twice merited invitations to attend the most prestigious high school science competition in the world. After high school, Azie went on to study at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. He was most recently a resident in orthodontics at Case Western Reserve University's School of Dental Medicine.



Saarah Khan, DMD '09

was born and raised in Springfield, Ohio. After graduating from Springfield High School, Saarah attended

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in English. She earned her Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry degree from the College of Dental Medicine at Midwestern University, just outside of Chicago. She is a member of the American Dental Association, the Xi Psi Phi Dental Fraternity, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the Ohio Dental Association. She is now part of Advanced Dentistry of Blue Ash and resides in Cincinnati. Dr. Khan reports she is happy to be practicing in Ohio and living near her family and friends.

Thomas Edwards '17

achieved a perfect "7" on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level English Exam and became the sixth Springfield High School student since 2008 to achieve this distinction. During his junior and senior years, Thomas took six IB courses, wrote a 4,000-word essay and completed a community service project to fulfill the rigorous requirements of the IB diploma. Only five of his classmates also earned their IB diplomas in 2021. These included Ridgewood's *Megan Reynolds '17* and *Audrey Hallmark '17*. Thomas, who served as president of his senior class at Springfield High, is now attending Columbia University where he is pursuing studies in film, international politics, and psychology.



Ibrahim Ranginwala '18, Raaidh Rizvi '18, and Mary Cunningham '22

were honored recently by the Mental Health Recovery Board of Clark, Greene, and Madison Counties. The three received the organization's Annual Exceptional People Award for Youth Leaders who've made outstanding contributions toward mental health and drug services for youth. Congratulations!



Ibrahim Ranginwala (L) and Raaidh Rizvi



Mary Cunningham

continued on next page »

Alumni Spotlights continued



Suhail Ahmed '96
now lives in Columbus and is a graduate student in the College of Social Work at The Ohio

State University. He is working towards a MSW degree.

In Memoriam

Elisabeth Robbins Cole Carpentieri '51

died January 17, 2022 in Florence, Italy where she had lived for more than fifty years. "Liz" was born in Springfield, the daughter of Fred M. Cole and Elisabeth C. Robbins Cole. "Liz" completed high school at Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut. She earned a degree in art history from Smith College in 1961. It was through her participation in Smith College's Junior Year Abroad program in 1959 that her love for Italy and Florence began.

In 1962, "Liz" completed a master's degree in Italian at Middlebury College in Vermont. She then worked as an art historian in Boston and San Francisco, before moving to Florence in May of 1968. It was there in 1975 that she married Alfonso Carpentieri, a photographer, who, in 2007, preceded her in death.

During her years in Florence, "Liz" was an involved member of St. James Episcopal Church, a supporter of Smith College's Junior Year Abroad program, and beloved friend to many. Although living in Florence, "Liz" continued to support her many friends and various groups here, including Ridgewood School. We are greatly indebted to her for her thoughtful support of Ridgewood students.

Thalia Cutchis Pavlatos 2020H

The Ridgewood School family was saddened by the death of Thalia Cutchis Pavlatos, on July 29, 2021. Mrs. Pavlatos

was a classically trained pianist raised in New York City who moved to Springfield after marrying Nicholas Pavlatos, MD. Mrs. Pavlatos and Dr. Pavlatos played significant roles in serving and caring for the Springfield community. Ridgewood School along with other local educational and cultural organizations will greatly miss her thoughtful support. In 2020 Ridgewood honored Mrs. Pavlatos by conferring on her the distinction of Honorary Alumna and recognizing her as a model for our students.

Mrs. Pavlatos' Ridgewood legacy lives on in her three children who attended Ridgewood, Nike Pavlatos Lagos '66, Thales Pavlatos '68, MD, and Plato Pavlatos, as well as in her Ridgewood alumni grandchildren: Renae Pavlatos '08, Nicole Pavlatos '11, Nicholas Pavlatos '12, Evygenia Lagos, and Thalia Lagos. We extend our condolences to Mrs. Pavlatos' family.

Betty Jane Eakins Ryan '30

Mrs. Ryan was born in Springfield on January 25, 1919. She was the daughter of Herbert and Juanita Eakins and was raised on Fountain Boulevard a few blocks south of the original Ridgewood School building. A graduate of Wittenberg University and a World War II Navy veteran, Mrs. Ryan was a member of Springfield's First Lutheran Church and a valued volunteer at Community Hospital and Planned Parenthood.

On June 12, 1948 she wed Dr. Wilmer E. Ryan who preceded her in death. She is survived by their sons Tom (Cathie) of Hilliard and Charlie (Beth) of Lima, five grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. Ridgewood extends its sympathy to the family of one of our early alumnae. 🌟

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

Second Harvest Food Bank Honors Student Council



Student Council members working at Second Harvest Food Bank

When you next see Mr. Metzger or a member of Ridgewood Student Council, please congratulate them for being recognized by Springfield's Second Harvest Food Bank for their 10 years of volunteer service. During these past years, our students have found numerous ways to make a tangible and direct impact on the Springfield community while working with Second Harvest. They have distributed items at mobile pantries, volunteered at Second Harvest's Empty Bowls fundraisers, sorted donations, packed emergency and senior boxes, and annually collected and donated needed items and funds to the Food Bank.

When honoring our students, the staff at Second Harvest Food Bank wrote, "We are grateful to have so many staff and students who regularly volunteer and work hard. We are thrilled to be such a part of their community and have the chance to instill a love of our neighbors in the students, while educating them about hunger through direct service experiences. If anything, we at Second Harvest Food Bank are inspired by all the students that take the time to volunteer with us!" Unable to work at Second Harvest during the past year because of the pandemic, our students were pleased to begin again last fall.

Congratulations Mr. Metzger, Council advisor; Student Council members; and former Student Council members! 🌟

Beauty and the Beast, Jr. Set for February 25 & 26

One of Ridgewood's special programs is our annual student musical. On February 25 and 26 at 7 p.m. in our Cole-Carpentieri Commons, Ridgewood students will present *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*, an adaptation for young performers of the book and score of the original Broadway musical. With familiar original songs written by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman and new songs written by Menken and Tim Rice, the musical presents a well-known tale that is a story of transformation and tolerance exemplifying the importance of loving and being loved.

The production is admission free and open to the public. Our students, from grades 4-8, not only serve as performers but also as technicians handling lights, sound, props, and scenic production elements. The production is under the



direction of Ms. Dawn Naill our Music teacher who is being assisted by parents Theresa Lauricella, Will Mattox, John and Kaye Linardos; Ridgewood Preschool Director, Ms. Gail Suzel; and teachers Kelly Biers, Anna Kiehn, Molly Loftis,

Megan Newell, Nicole Newman, and Paul Sauter.

General admission seating. Depending on COVID status, masking may be required. ☀

Hearts & Hands Auction Coming on March 19: Strong Roots ☀ Growing Bright Futures

Co-chairs Phil and Terri Campbell, alumni parents, ask that you mark Saturday, March 19, on your calendar now, and then join other Ridgewood families and friends for our annual Hearts & Hands Auction that evening. The auction, titled this year "Strong Roots ☀ Growing Bright Futures," is Ridgewood's major annual fundraiser with the funds it generates supporting our student activities and scholarships.

The Campbells are excited that this year the auction will be both an in-person and online event. Because of COVID the last two auctions were conducted solely online. Our 2022 auction will be held in our Cole-Carpentieri Commons with online bidding available before and during the evening. Beginning at 6 p.m., dinner will be catered by Kohler Catering. Individual reservations are \$75; a table for eight may be purchased for \$550. The auctioneer will be John Federer.



Beginning March 13, auction items may be previewed at StrongRoots2022.givesmart.com where you may also bid on them. In addition to the items for

sale, the auction is featuring a raffle with first prize being a Sony PlayStation®5 Console; second prize, a \$300 gift card to Springfield's Seasons Kitchen; and third prize, a \$200 amazon gift card.

Raffle tickets may be purchased from Ridgewood students February 18 through March 18, online beginning March 13, or at the school the evening of the event. You may also contribute online to the auction's Donate for a Cause which this year will raise funds for playground equipment.

Please join us for this event that not only supports our students but also brings the Ridgewood family together for a fun evening. Depending on COVID status, masking may be required. If you would like to make a reservation, donate an item or service for the auction, volunteer to help, or require additional information, call 937-399-8900, ext.102, Development Office. ☀

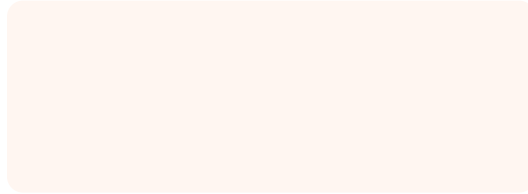


the light of learning™

2420 Saint Paris Pike
Springfield, Ohio 45504

NonProfit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Springfield, OH
Permit No. 199

Return Service Requested



Ridgewood Times

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

Editor: Corwin Georges, PhD

Copywriters: Corwin Georges, PhD; Bonita Heeg; Dan Metzger; Aliya Ranginwala; and Kevin Rose

Design: Bob Bingenheimer

Photos: Joe Lauricella, Dan Metzger

Ridgewood School Association Officers and Trustees 2021-22

President: Adam Russell

Vice President: Afshan Syed '83

Secretary: Christine Reynolds*

Treasurer: Rob Young

C. William Brougher

Mike Fissel, CPA

Corwin Georges, PhD

Calvin Hunter, EdD

Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69

Melinda Reardon, JD

Sayed Tariq Rizvi, MD

Margaret Roark

Mark Robertson '67

Marta Wojick

* Non-voting member

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

From the Head of School

An Environment for Learning



Head of School Aliya Ranginwala

It is our mission at Ridgewood School to create a vibrant and personalized learning environment that cultivates the intellect, creativity, and character of our students. For years, Ridgewood School has been creating this unique environment for learning. We continue to offer our students a well rounded college preparatory education preparing them for their future in high school and beyond.

When speaking with Ridgewood alumni it is often mentioned how their experiences while at

Ridgewood prepared them for what was expected of them in their future endeavors. Whether it was the weekend writing prompts, Power of the Pen, keyboarding and technology class, four years of science fair, various other academic competitions, opportunities to create art pieces and perform in productions, students felt prepared to work hard and achieve at higher levels.

Another component of a Ridgewood experience is the opportunity for leadership and service which has grown tremendously over the last 15 years under the leadership of Dan Metzger. Our student government is focused not only on leadership within the school but also in developing relationships with several nonprofits throughout Springfield. The students participate in countless opportunities to volunteer and fundraise

for local charities. They even devote an entire scheduled day off from school doing service. They take these experiences forward into high school and college by running for leadership positions and finding new opportunities for service wherever they may be. In addition, Ridgewood School students are motivated to maintain good grades and respect their teachers.

This spring Ridgewood School will host a "Preparing for Success in High School" program. We hope to share with our local community information from young alums and individuals representing academia to help us all learn what students need to succeed. I hope parents with children in grade 5-8 will take advantage of this learning opportunity. See page 5 for more information. ☀

