

# Looking Back at Fall Semester 2022



## First Day of School!

**August 24, 2022:** The smiles on the faces of students, faculty and staff clearly showed that they were pleased to return to school and not to be wearing masks. Their beaming faces reflected their excitement at seeing old friends and beginning a new school year.

## Second Harvest Foodbank Honor

**September 16, 2022:** See article on page 7.

## Alumni Dinner

**September 24, 2022:** See article on page 5.



## Camp Clifton Challenges

**September 24, 2022:** Fourth graders spent the day at Camp Clifton in Yellow Springs. In addition to hiking the nature trails, our students worked together to successfully complete a sequence of teambuilding challenges.



## Fall Fest

**September 25, 2022:** The food trucks, games, hayrides, dunk tank, book fair, and face painting were greatly enjoyed by the many students and their families at Fall Fest 2022. Congratulations and thanks to Mr. Metzger, Mrs. Ranginwala, Christine Reynolds, RAP, and all others who helped create this special day for the Ridgewood family and friends.



## Special Guest

**September 28, 2022:** Our Spanish classes enjoyed the visit of Mrs. Ana Perez who talked with them about Mexico. She shared some toys and Mexican items with our students, and they interviewed Mrs. Perez asking their questions in Spanish.

## Great Life Farm

**October 11, 2022:** A beautiful autumn day, just right for our kindergarten and first-grade students to visit Great Life Farm where they had a picnic, picked pumpkins, enjoyed a hayride, and sharpened their problem-solving skills in a scavenger hunt.



## Windmill Farm Market

**October 15, 2022:** Learning about farm animals, picking pumpkins, enjoying an adventure-filled hayride and scrumptious lunch filled the day for our students in grades 2-4 when they visited Springboro's Windmill Farm Market.



## Aullwood Audubon

**October 21, 2022:** Danish artist Thomas Dambo's three trolls were the focus of upper-level students' visit to Aullwood Audubon. The trolls were created by Danbo and volunteers using locally sourced materials, things Danbo found lying around the nature preserve. The

Aullwood trolls are characters found in the story “The Troll That Hatched an Egg.” Ridgewood students learned about the ideas that were the basis for the sculptures and composed their own stories inspired by the trolls.



### Multicultural Night

**October 20, 2022:** It was a wonderful evening! The school was packed with excited people and a flurry of activity. In the Cole-Carpentieri Commons, students performed international folk dances, sang, and played music from around the world. Tables laden with international foods lined the walls of the east-west hallway. Classrooms were set up as dining rooms for students and their families. Walls were decorated with student art and posters reflecting the various countries and cultures the students had studied as part of the evening’s celebration – Italy, Nepal, Israel, Australia, Russia, and native American tribes. Families proudly wore traditional clothing from their ancestral homelands. Multicultural Night is always a popular event, but this year’s celebration may have been the best ever!



### Trunk or Treat!

**October 28, 2022:** What a lovely Friday

afternoon students and families had for our annual Trunk or Treat. The beautiful weather allowed the event to return outdoors. Cars lined up on the south side of the parking lot, raised their trunk lids or dropped their tailgates, and in one case raised their sails and waited for the ghosts, superheroes, knights, fairies, firefighters, pirates, Elmo, Lady Liberty, and other characters to appear. Bigs and Littles working together filled their bags with holiday goodies thanks to Ridgewood’s generous families.



### Election Day

**November 8, 2022:** Ridgewood students visited the polling station set up in the art room where lower-level students voted on issues such as which movie they wanted to watch on “babysitting night.” Using a copy of the local ballot, upper-level students voted on local issues. Everyone who voted received an “I voted today!” sticker.



### Kindness Week!

**November 14-18, 2022:** Treating people with respect, being thoughtful, and looking for the positive in each other were foci for everyone this week.



### Thanksgiving Feast!

**November 22, 2022:** Ridgewood Bigs and Littles joined together to enjoy Ridgewood’s Thanksgiving Feast that was made more special because students had helped prepare dishes for the meal. Chef John Linardos, thank you for guiding the students in preparing their dishes; and thanks for the many delicious meals you prepare for Ridgewood students throughout the year! And thank you to all of the parents who helped with the dinner.



### Bright Star Theatre: Holidays Around the World

**November 28, 2022:** From Asheville, North Carolina, Bright Star Theatre introduced Ridgewood students to a variety of holidays from different cultures. In its performance of *Holidays Around the World*, our students learned about Sweden’s Saint Lucia Day, India’s Lohri Festival, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and other holidays. Following the performance,

Ridgewood students enjoyed talking with the actors about holidays and the play. While striking the set, the actors shared that our students had been a wonderful audience. Kudos to Ridgewood's students!



### Winter Concerts

**December 6 and 8, 2022:** With so many students, we've moved to having two winter concerts, one for PreK-4th grades and another for 5th-8th grades students and their families. On both nights, the Cole-Carpentieri Commons was packed with excited students and parents. After singing and dancing for more than an hour on the first evening, our PreK-4th grade students were thrilled when, at the close of the program, they were told they could take home the kazoos they had used in performing "The Chipmunk Song." On the second evening, the 5th-8th grade student choirs and bands entertained families and friends. Ms. Naill, Ridgewood's music teacher, shared with the audience some of the skills the students had worked to develop preparing for the concert. Their performances not only revealed their skill development, but also demonstrated their abilities to focus and work as a team/ensemble.



### Ridgewood Goes to the Symphony

**December 10, 2022:** More than seventy Ridgewood students, parents, and staff enjoyed the Springfield Symphony Orchestra's performance of the score for *Home Alone* that accompanied the SSO's showing of the film. Students and staff reported that the symphony should be complimented for the precision with which they coordinated their playing to the film. Ridgewood students report that this should be an annual event. ☀

*Editor's note:* In addition to the many special events that occurred during fall semester, it's important to note that there was also a lot of learning that took place!

### Would You Prefer to Receive Our Newsletter Via Email?

Please send your email address to either [cgeorges@ridgewoodsschool.org](mailto:cgeorges@ridgewoodsschool.org) or to [chreynolds@ridgewoodsschool.org](mailto:chreynolds@ridgewoodsschool.org). Thank you!

## Second Semester Schedule 2022-2023

### January 3

Return to School

### January 6

\*Early Release 2 p.m.

### January 12

End of 2nd Grading Period

### January 13

Teacher Work Day, No School

### January 16

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

### January 19

Science Fair

### February 3

\*Early Release 2 p.m.

### February 10

Interim Reports

### February 16

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

### February 17

Conference Make Up Day, No School

### February 20

Presidents' Birthdays, No School

### February 24-25

Musical Performance, *Newsies, Jr.* 7 p.m..

### March 3

\*Early Release 2 p.m.

### March 17

End of 3rd Grading Period

### April 3-7

Spring Break

### April 20

Spring Variety Concert

### April 21

Interim Reports

### May 5

\*Early Release 2 p.m.

### May 25

End of 4th Grading Period

### May 25

Graduation & Passing of Classes

### May 26

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

### May 30-31

Teacher Work Days ☀



Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

# Fall Semester Student Council Report

In September, the Student Council was involved in a variety of events and fundraisers. They made cucumber salsa to sell at school using some of the items from our learning garden. They baked goods, packaged herbs, and made zucchini bread to sell at the Farmers' Market. During the weekend of Fall Fest, they were servers at the Alumni Dinner and helped with Fall Fest's dunk tank and concessions. The following week, students



**Students selling Learning Garden products at the Farmers' Market**

hosted an Alzheimer's Walk at the school that raised over \$500 for the Alzheimer's Association. The Walk included a Promise Garden made by the students and a silent reflection lap that started the walk.

As always, the fall included various sports leagues including frisbee golf, baseball, volleyball, football, and kickball. The winning football league team added their signatures to the league trophy for the 15th consecutive year.

In October, the Student Council ran a bake sale, waffle breakfast, and movie nights to raise \$1,280 for the



**Students presenting check to Breast Cancer Endowment Fund representatives**

Breast Cancer Endowment Fund. The tradition of having a haunted house at the Halloween Bash continued with the 8th



**Students and alumni were servers at the Alumni Dinner**

graders planning an intricate story for this year's house. Students painted over 100 yogurt containers as pumpkins and made cards to deliver to local nursing homes.

November was a busy month which included the students making candles



**Students arriving at nursing home with Halloween treats for residents**

and buckeyes. They played the annual OSU-Michigan game during Buckeye Week. The annual food drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank collected over 8 barrels of food to donate. The students made thank you cards and a donation of \$250 to Honor Flight in recognition of veterans.

The students started a new tradition in December with a tree competition for Trees for Tots. The 5th-8th grade classes each decorated a tree with a selected theme and then the rest of the students voted on their favorite. Themes included Winter Wonderland, Candy (winner), Cookie, and Dinosaur. Each tree was donated to a family through the Trees for Tots program. Students collected

five boxes and two bags of toys (as well as a \$425 donation) for the Parent Infant Center. They made treat bags and bought small gifts to donate to kids at the IHN Homeless Shelter and Project Woman. Babysitting Night included games, crafts, cookie decorating, a story, dinner, and a movie.

Throughout the fall, students made cards to deliver to local nursing homes for Halloween and Thanksgiving as well as treat bags for kids at Project Woman and IHN. They volunteered each month at the food bank. In September, Ridgewood School was recognized at the annual



**Students delivering treat bags and small gifts to Project Woman**

Second Harvest Food Bank (*see article on p. 7*). During the summer students volunteered at Project Woman helping organize donations and move items.

On the first Friday of each month the Ridgewood Zero Waste Store is open at the Hatch. Each month we feature an item made by one of the Art classes at school; the items include recycled materials. ☀

# Ridgewood School Alumni Dinner and Awards

The Ridgewood School Alumni Dinner was held the evening of September 24, 2022, with alumni, faculty, staff, Ridgewood families, and other guests gathering in the school's Cole-Carpentieri Commons. It was a time to celebrate what Ridgewood does best, educate exceptional alumni and attract outstanding volunteers, advocates, and supporters.

Guests were greeted by Ridgewood Board President Adam Russell and Head of School Aliya Ranginwala. Following Rev. Eric Lindblade, Jr.'s invocation, Ridgewood Student Council members served the dinner that had been expertly prepared by Seasons Kitchen. After dinner, Mr. Russell presented Ridgewood's Distinguished Alumni Award to four 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 Eric N. Lindblade, Jr. '67; Cynthia Durfey Smith '47; Phillip R. Trimble '49; and Angelique Walker-Smith '72.

For more than 40 years, Rev. Lindblade exemplarily served as an ordained elder in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Ms. Smith, an accomplished visual artist, was a significant member of the New York City art world of the 1950s and 60s. Mr. Trimble, a former U.S. Ambassador to Nepal, served as a professor of law at UCLA and led the American Expedition to Mt. Everest in 1976. Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith is a senior associate strategist at Bread for the World in Washington, D.C. and was recently elected to the post of North American President of the World Council of Churches.

Ridgewood's Honorary Alumni Award was presented to: Ms. Deanna Brougher, Ms. Melinda "Mel" Marsh, and Mrs. Mary Lou Loftis. The three, although not Ridgewood alumni, were recognized for having served Ridgewood with distinction and for having made a



**Left to right: Distinguished Alumni Eric N. Lindblade, Jr. '67, Cynthia Durfey Smith '47, Phillip R. Trimble '49, and Angelique Walker-Smith '72**



**Left to right: Honorary Alumni Ms. Deanna Brougher, Ms. Melinda "Mel" Marsh, and Mrs. Mary Lou Loftis**

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.

Following the presentation of

awards and dessert, Distinguished Alumna Angelique Walker-Smith concluded the program by speaking about the importance of the welcoming environment that Ridgewood School offered her as a student. 🌟

# Ridgewood School Establishes a National Junior Honor Society Chapter

Ridgewood School is proud to announce that it is establishing a chapter of the National Junior Honor Society this spring. The extensive application process for Ridgewood was led by Kristyn Keriazes Ridgewood's upper-level computer applications teacher and social media manager. Founded in 1928, the National Junior Honor Society supports a school's commitment to the values of scholarship, leadership, character, and citizenship and helps middle level students develop the

knowledge and skills to become well-rounded student leaders in their school, community and beyond. NJHS chapters include more than a million students and are found in all fifty states and schools around the world.

Ridgewood students in grades 6-8 wishing to become NJHS members must apply for this honor. Their applications will be reviewed by a five-member faculty council appointed by



the head of school. The review process includes examination of a student's GPA ensuring that the student has a 3.5 GPA or better, the school's disciplinary records, and faculty recommendations regarding the student's service activities, character, and leadership. A majority vote of the council is required for selection. A formal induction ceremony will be held later in the spring. NJHS members are required to maintain their high level of performance to retain their memberships. ☀

## For Your Calendar

### First Thursdays of the Month

#### *R.A.P. Meetings*

Ridgewood Advising Parents meets at the school on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and welcomes your participation. For additional information contact Michelle Dutton at 937-399-8900.

### February 24 & 25, 2023, 7 p.m.

#### *2023 Ridgewood School Musical, Newsies, Jr.*

A highlight of spring semester is always our students' musical production. Under the direction of Dawn Naill, Ridgewood Music Teacher, our students will present *Newsies, Jr.* next month. Inspired by the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899 in New York City, the production features music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Jack Feldman and a book by Harvey Firestein. During the 1899 strike, newsboys and newsgirls successfully took on the newspapers of Hearst and Pulitzer that had raised their papers' prices making it difficult for "newsies" to sell papers.

### February 28, 2023

#### *Ridgewood Association Honors Nominations*

In March, Ridgewood trustees will consider nominations for Ridgewood's Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni awards. Distinguished Alumni are alumni who have outstanding achievements in their chosen fields; who have participated in local, state, or national affairs or served society; and who have provided outstanding support to Ridgewood School. Honorary Alumni,

although not Ridgewood alumni, are individuals who have served Ridgewood School with distinction and have made a significant contribution of time, effort and/or resources to the school's welfare, reputation, or prestige. Honorary Alumni's faithful and distinguished service allows Ridgewood to present them as role models for Ridgewood students.

**Nomination deadline is February 28, 2023.** Nominations should be emailed to [cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org](mailto:cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org) or mailed to Corwin Georges, Alumni Director, Ridgewood School, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, OH 45504. Please include information regarding how the nominee meets the award's criteria.

### March 8, 2023, 5:30-7 p.m.

#### *Looking Ahead to High School*

Students in grades 6-8 and their parents are invited to a program focusing on how students can make successful transitions from middle school to high school. Following a panel presentation featuring young Ridgewood alumni sharing how Ridgewood prepared them for success in high school and tips for success in high school, representatives from a number of local high schools will introduce their high schools and talk about the educational opportunities their schools offer. Attendees will be able to visit individually with school representatives and our alumni to learn more.

### May 12, 2023, 6 p.m.

#### *Hearts & Hands Auction*

Planning is underway for Ridgewood's annual major fundraiser, Hearts & Hands Auction. Once again, the auction will be

a hybrid event consisting of both online and live auction items. The committee promises a fun-filled evening featuring a delicious dinner, fun games, raffle prize drawings, outstanding auction items, and great camaraderie. More information to come, mark the date on your calendar.

**P. S. The auction committee welcomes volunteers!** The committee is also looking for auction items such as sports, concert and theatre tickets, professional services, travel packages, use of vacation condos and homes, dining and recreational experiences, etc. If you would like to help or donate an auction item, contact [cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org](mailto:cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org). Thanks!

### May 25, 2023, 7 p.m.

#### *Graduation and Passing of Classes*

When Ridgewood's Class of 2023 graduates at 7 p.m. on May 25, it will have been ninety-nine years since Ridgewood's first graduation. The evening's excitement will not be restricted to our eighth graders and their families; it will be shared by kindergarten through seventh-grade students and their parents as each of their classes officially passes to the next grade level.

### June 12-30, 2023

#### *Summer Enrichment Classes*

A record number of students participated in our outstanding 2022 Summer Enrichment offerings, so it's not too soon to plan ahead to participate in our 2023 Summer Enrichment classes that will be offered during the last three weeks of June. Classes run for a week and are offered for students in grades K-9. Classes last for an hour and a half each day and it is possible for a student to participate in three classes each day. More information to come. ☀

# Student Council Honored by Second Harvest

Ridgewood School Student Council was recognized by the Second Harvest Food Bank at its annual Harvest Breakfast on September 16, 2022. Ridgewood students received a Partner of the Year Award for their donation of food and funds over the last decade. In addition to receiving their award, students heard local and state leaders discuss the problem of child hunger.

Learning that one in three children in Champaign, Clark, and Logan counties needs food assistance, impressed on our students the importance of their efforts. Ohio's First Lady Fran DeWine congratulated our students and encouraged them to continue their support of Second Harvest Food Bank. Congratulations Ridgewood students and Mr. Metzger!



## Beyond the School Yard



Congratulations to our young thespians who performed in the Springfield Arts Council's Youth Arts Ambassadors' production of *Mary Poppins, Jr.*: (clockwise from upper left) Matthew Comer, Devyn Cardinal, alumna Eleni Linardos and Alyse Linardos. Bravo! Brava!

Olivia McWhorter (right) placed first in the Skate Cleveland Ice Skating Competition. Congratulations, Olivia!



Harrison Young (center left) won the Drive, Chip, and Putt Regional Qualifier at Scioto Country Club. This qualifies him for the National Drive, Chip and Putt at Augusta National in April! Well deserved, Harrison!

### Faculty Note



We send our best wishes to our fourth-grade teacher Brandi Hembree who married Mark Ketron on August 27, 2022. Mr. and Mrs. Ketron, we wish you many years of happiness and good health! 🌞



## Students of the Month

Education is more than learning about math, grammar, art, or science. It's also about developing positive character attributes that prepare students for successful living wherever they find themselves in the world.

At the beginning of each month, Ridgewood students and faculty discuss a positive character trait. During the month, the students focus on nurturing that element in their behavior. At the end of the month, a student in each



### September: Respect

Back row standing: (l to r) Annia Ameur (6th), Lujain Bilal (5th); Middle row seated: (l to r) Veera Patel (3rd), Evelyn Schmidt (2nd), Elizabeth Doss (7th), Evan McWhorter (4th), Abby Groth (8th), Adelaide Stewart (1st); Front row seated: Olivia Nydam (K).



### November: Kindness

(l to r) Alex Morales (8th), Caiden Londergan (1st), Kaleb Wilson (7th), Emery Groth (2nd), Iyanna Black (6th), Devyn Crawford (4th), Cai Jones (3rd), and Avery Timmerman (3rd). Not pictured: Amyah Walton (K) and Arhem Rizvi (5th) ☀️

grade who best exemplified the quality is recognized as *Student of the Month*.

The character qualities emphasized this fall were *respect* in September, *responsibility* in October, and *kindness* in November. Pictured below are the Students of the Month for the first three months of the school year. (December's Students of the Month had not been announced by the time we went to press.)

Congratulations to our Students of the Month!



### October: Responsibility

Front row: (l to r) E'Lora Hembree (1st), Weston Beck (K); Back row: (l to r) Anima Ameur (6th), Paige Loftis (5th), Iris Mohler (3rd), Jacek Rose (2nd), Emerson Babian (8th), Devyn Crawford (4th), and Elizabeth Doss (7th).

## Academic Accolades!



The **Bebras Challenge** is designed to help students explore their talents and passion for informatics and computational thinking. Congratulations to (l to r) Mylo Frazier, (6th), and Emerson Babian (8th), who placed first in their classes, and to Malcolm Raffensperger (6th), and Abby Groth (8th), who placed second!



### Ridgewood School Spelling Bee

We applaud all of our 2022–23 spelling bee participants and congratulate our winners: (l to r) Shashank Palla, 1st; Emerson Babian, 2nd; and Usayd Ashraf, 3rd.



The **Daughters of the American Revolution American History Essay Contest** is open to students in grades 5–8. The contest requires that students research and compose an essay about a given American history topic. The topic for this year focused on the Second Continental Congress 1775–1781. We congratulate Ridgewood students Alexander Morales, 8th grade, and Fadhila Ashraf, 7th grade, who placed first in their grade levels in Springfield's Lagonda Chapter's DAR competition. ☀️



# The Ridgewood Fund 2022-2023

Thank you to the individuals and organizations who have contributed to **The Ridgewood Fund 2022-2023!** Your donations make it possible for us to provide the outstanding educational opportunities we provide our students. Your support is essential in helping us meet the difference between our

operating expenses and tuition revenue! If you haven't already contributed to **The Ridgewood Fund 2022-23**, to do so, go to [ridgewood-school.org/giving/the-ridgewood-fund](http://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, Ohio 45504 or call 937-390-8900 and speak to Christine Reynolds, Administrative Assistant. 🌟

## The Ridgewood Fund 2022-23 Donor Honor Roll

as of December 31, 2022

Joyce Abma '76  
Drs. Ashfaq '84, '21D and Afshan Ahmed  
Mary Allardyce '51, *In Memory of Elisabeth Cole Carpentieri '51*  
Susan Pomputius Ayres '83  
Chris '54 & Phyllis Baldenhofer  
Dr. Justin & Jenna Beck  
Jacob & Bristol Blair  
Christopher & Courtney Bosca  
Bill\* & Deanna '22H Brougher  
Jeff & Jennifer Brunner  
Vivian Carter, *In Honor of Bonita Heeg*  
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  
Varun Devatha '11  
Holly Doss  
Dr. Ahmed Edhi & Sara Ali  
Patrick '20H & Tiffany Field  
Dr. Larry & Kim Fish  
Clare Georges '05  
Dr. Corwin\* & Anne Georges  
Art '21H & Alex '21H Gianakopoulos  
Dimitri '87 & Niki Gianakopoulos  
Michael Hackett  
Eleanor Barnett Harris '49  
Dr. Paul Haupt '63  
Jim & Bonita Heeg  
Angel Howard  
John Gregory James '69

Corey Jones & Adriel Harris  
Ahmed Khan '01  
Dr. Jonathan & Karen Krogg  
Megan Landry  
Devon Lenz '04  
The Rev. '67, '22D and Mrs. Eric N. Lindblade, Jr.  
Tom & Lou Loftis '22H  
Thomas Lynch '77  
William & Margaret '95, '19D Mattox  
Dale Miller, *In Memory of Barbara Miller '43*  
Felicia Miller  
Julie McGregor, *In Honor of Cynthia Durfey Smith '47, '22D*  
Dr. Paul & Susan Nelson  
Dr. Rohit '06 & Preeti Nezhad  
Kinjal & Kajal Patel  
Plato '19D & Tina Pavlatos  
Cassandra Picklesimon  
Henry & Jo Pollard  
Robert & Kaitlyn Pollock  
Drs. J. M. '20H & Sally Abbott Pomputius '20H  
Barbara Powell  
Thomas Prendergast  
Dr. Mujeeb & Aliya Ranginwala  
Bill Ray & Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69, '20D\*  
Christine Reynolds\*  
Dr. Sayed Tariq Rizvi\* & Afsheen Ansari  
Dennis & Margaret Roark  
Mark '67, '19D & Cyndi Robertson  
Jeffrey & Jackie Rood  
Rick Rutan & Mel Marsh '22H  
A'Dymond Sammons '18

Sajjad & Mary Siddiqi, *In Memory of Nadeem Siddiqi '92*  
Billy & Mendy Simmons  
Michael & Mindy Skinner  
Loi Small  
Cynthia Durfey Smith '47, '22D  
Brett & Christina Steffani  
Roger & Carol Storer  
Dr. Mubin & Afshan '83, '21D\* Syed  
Scott A. Thacker '69, '20D\* *In Memory of Todd R. Thacker '73*  
Phillip Trimble '49, '22D & Valeria Vasilevski  
Elizabeth Varghese  
The Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith '72, '22D  
Sandra Wickline  
Dennis & Junie Young  
Rob\* & Molly Young 🌟

\* RSA Trustee 2022-23  
D Distinguished Alumni  
H Honorary Alumni

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## H.S. Kissell Legacy Society

We thank the alumni and families that have thoughtfully chosen to become members of the H.S. Kissell Legacy Society by placing Ridgewood School in their estate plans. They are creating Ridgewood's future. If you would like information about the H. S. Kissell Legacy Society, contact Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, [aranginwala@ridgewood-school.org](mailto:aranginwala@ridgewood-school.org) or phone 937-399-8900. 🌟

# Alumni Spotlight



**Paul Haupt '63, DO**, completed his BS in Physics at Syracuse University and his DO at Ohio University. Retired since 2019, Paul's career included serving in the Peace Corps in Liberia, West Africa; as Medical Examiner for Menominee County, Michigan; as president and a family practice physician of Menominee Medical Clinic; and as a family practice physician and member of the board of directors of Northreach Healthcare Marinette, Wisconsin. He is an expert in the field of mood disorders and behavioral issues in primary care. He and his wife of 43 years have two children and two grandchildren. Paul says his claim to fame is having been the navigator of a 36-foot sailboat that won the Chicago to Mackinac sailboat race in 1991.



Since 2005, **Tony Bryan '79** has worked at Sinclair Community College in Dayton. Today he serves as a SEP Coordinator, or in his own words, "coach," in Sinclair's Department of

Disability Services. Tony earned a BA at The Ohio State University and a MS in Mental Health Counseling from Wright State University. To catch up with Tony and learn more about his work, check out Sinclair's "Staff Saturday" Facebook video in which Tony is featured.

In addition to working as President and General Manager of Littleton & Rue Funeral Home and Crematory, **Rob Rue '84**



serves as Springfield's Assistant Mayor. He completed his BA in Business Administration at Heidelberg University and his degree in Mortuary Science and Funeral Directing at Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. Rob also holds an Associate of Arts degree in Practical Ministry. He and his wife Jenny are parents of five children.



**Alicia Gardner Camper '90, PhD**, and her family live in Madeira, Ohio where she is a City Council Member. She works as the Global Director of Inside Sales for Quanterix, a company that develops ultra-sensitive digital immunoassay platforms. Alicia attended Centre College in Danville, Kentucky where she double majored in Anthropology and

Biochemistry. She earned her PhD in Pharmacology and Molecular Biology at the University of Cincinnati.



**Dominique Wagner '00, PhD**, is a computational biologist working in support of AFRL/RX for UES, Inc. in Dayton, Ohio. Dominique earned his BS at Miami University, MS at Simon Fraser University, and PhD at the University of Miami. His PhD focused on genome sciences. His current work uses metagenomic data and machine learning to investigate microbial communities and develop cloud-based tools for 'omics research. Dominique previously studied the genes underlying spatial cognition in birds and how climate change affects species-species interactions and hybridization using whole-genome DNA and RNA-Seq analyses.

After graduating from Ridgewood, **Burleson Grimes '01**

completed high school at Mercersburg Academy and college at Case Western Reserve University.

Today he is Vice President at

Bryce Hill Inc. in Springfield. Burleson completed the Columbus Marathon in October. Congratulations, Burleson!





**Kristin Campbell '10** graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Miami University in 2018. While at Miami, Kristin also

graduated from the Lockheed Martin Leadership Academy, was a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and Phi Sigma Pi, and President of the Miami University Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). Kristin began as an intern working for Kroger in Cincinnati the summer of her freshman year. Today she works as a Regional Project Manager remodeling and building new Kroger stores and fuel centers in southwest Ohio. In August of 2022, Kristin completed her MBA at the University of Cincinnati. Kristin enjoys yoga, the outdoors, and spending time with her Corgi, Elleanor.



Following graduation from Culver Academies, **Varun Devatha '11** completed his bachelor's degree at Cornell University in Hotel Administration, with minors in

Information Science and Real Estate. While at Cornell, Varun also served as the President of the university's student government. Having worked for the Boston-based Venture Philanthropy, New Profit, for several years, this past September Varun became an Associate at ff Venture Capital in New York.



**Sarah Hallmark '19** is a member of Springfield High School's mock trial team that placed in the top 10 at the International Empire Mock Trial Competition in Baltimore last fall. She and her teammates participated in courtroom trial simulations that required them to prepare and present legal arguments. The competition is designed to develop students' understanding of our judicial system. Congratulations, Sarah!



## Help Us Stay in Touch

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

## Ridgewood Learning Series



One of the highlights of last spring for Ridgewood students in grades 5-8 was our Learning Series. Family members, faculty, and Ridgewood friends provided students with 25- or 55-minute classes. The classes were focused on the presenters' careers, talents, skills, hobbies, or favorite activities. Offerings included sessions in acting, painting, archaeology, jewelry making, engineering, forestry, entomology, etc. Students were enthralled with the classes and are enthusiastically looking forward to this spring's event.

May 18 has been set for this year's Learning Series and we are looking for presenters. Classes will run from 8:30-11:20 a.m. and will be offered here at Ridgewood. If you would like to be a presenter or have questions about the event, please contact Mrs. Keriazes at [kkeriazes@ridgewoodschool.org](mailto:kkeriazes@ridgewoodschool.org).

**Note:** We are also looking for week-long courses for our Summer Enrichment program (June 12-30) and are ready to receive applications. Summer Enrichment sessions are 90 minutes in length each day. A Learning Series class may be developed into a full-length Summer Enrichment course if its creator is interested.

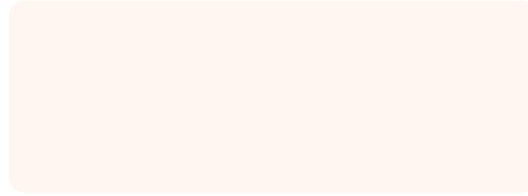


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#### Ridgewood Times

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#### Ridgewood School Association Officers and Trustees 2022-23

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\* Non-voting member

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

### From the Head of School

## Where Students Shine



Head of School Aliya Ranginwala

It's our first normal school year since the shutdown of 2020! We have returned to our traditional activities that were dormant the past couple of years.

We started the year with "Pastries with Parents," a traditional event allowing parents to meet and greet staff and other parents, while enjoying donuts and juice; we ended the semester with two delightful holiday programs. In between, a lot of learning took place thanks to our full-time staff and our increased number of tutors who are helping our students recover from pandemic-related learning losses and challenging those needing to be challenged.

Just before winter break, we held our school-wide spelling bee and Bebras competition, and submitted our entries for the D.A.R. Essay, Young Authors, and M.L.K. writing competitions. Now, 7th and 8th grade students are preparing for Power of the Pen. The 6th, 7th and 8th are preparing for the return to an in-person Science Fair scheduled for January 19, and we've begun rehearsals for *Newsies, Jr.*, our 2023 musical.

As much as Ridgewood is about academic excellence, character education also plays a large role in our mission. We highlight a character quality each month and recognize students who best demonstrate the trait. Our mentorship program between upper and lower-level students is also part of this effort.

One of the most significant aspects of our students' character education is their community service. This past year, our student council and its adviser, Mr. Dan Metzger, were recognized by two local nonprofits for their commitment and the

extraordinary work they have done over a decade. Every week we see the Ridgewood van pulling out of the school headed to the foodbank, local nursing homes, or family shelters.

The wonderful outcomes and experiences found at Ridgewood school would not happen without the support of an amazing community of parents, who have recently re-started the R.A.P. group that meets monthly and helps our staff get things done. Whether it is the awesome fall fest, trunk-or-treat, Thanksgiving feast or fun filled classroom parties, Ridgewood counts on its parents.

Ridgewood is also fortunate in having an amazing group of local Business Partners in Education and generous alumni, friends, and families who contribute to the Ridgewood Fund. Through the support of these groups and the beginnings of a Legacy Society, Ridgewood looks forward to the next 100 years as the light of learning in Springfield and surrounding communities. ☀

