

Ridgewood School Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary

On Monday October 21, 2019, Ridgewood School celebrated the 100th anniversary of its first day of school, October 20, 1919. Students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, dignitaries, and other guests enjoyed the afternoon festivities. Morgan Reynolds '17 began the celebration by singing *a cappella* the national anthem while everyone gathered around the school's flagpole. The State of Ohio flag flown on this occasion had previously flown over the state capitol and was a gift to the school from State Senator Bob Hackett and State Representative Kyle Koehler.

Head of School Aliya Ranginwala, Ridgewood School Association Board of Trustees' President Mendy Simmons, and Student Council President Aryanna McClendon '20 welcomed those assembled. Following their speeches, attendees witnessed the ceremonial planting of the school's new Centennial Grove. Tim Noonan '66, author of the soon-to-be published *Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100* and grandson of Ridgewood School founder Harry S. Kissell, addressed the group reporting that his grandfather and mother had been present for the first day of school a hundred years ago. He then shared that

he was happy to represent his family on the first day of Ridgewood School's second century.

After the tree plantings, State Representative Kyle Koehler presented Head of School Ranginwala with a citation from the Ohio House of Representatives and commended Ridgewood School for its longevity and outstanding service to the children of Clark and surrounding counties. The school had earlier in the day received a citation from the City of Springfield. Mayor Warren Copeland and Springfield City Commissioner Dr. David Estrop represented the city at the afternoon ceremonies. Before moving into the school's Cole Carpentieri Commons to enjoy anniversary cake, the students, teachers, and others joyfully released bio-degradable, Ridgewood blue and white balloons into the autumn sky, symbolizing Ridgewood School's 100-year history of sending its graduates out into the world.

The 100th Anniversary Student Celebration Committee that included Deanna Brougher, Mendy Simmons, Brian Green, Corwin Georges, Bonita Heeg, Aliya Ranginwala, and Christine Reynolds planned the day's events.



How Much Fun Can a School Fit into One Weekend?

Ridgewood School was ready the weekend of September 21 to show everyone just how fun-filled one weekend can be with alumni, friends, trustees, teachers, students, and parents enthusiastically participating in an alumni luncheon, the annual Earth to Table Dinner at which our 2019-2020 Alumni of Distinction were honored, the Springfield Farmers Market, and the Ridgewood Advising Parents' Fall Fest.

Alumni Luncheon Friday, September 20, 2019

On Friday Mrs. Bonita Heeg, Ridgewood School's Development Director, hosted a luncheon for returning Ridgewood School alumni at the Springfield Country Club. Local classmates and friends joined the out-of-town alumni. Mrs. Heeg reported that there were no lulls in the conversation, that the alumni

picked up where they left off the last time they visited with each other, and left the luncheon looking forward to continuing their conversations at the Earth to Table Dinner that evening. Alumni attending the luncheon were: Scott Thacker '69 from California, Eric Lindblade, Jr. '67 from North Carolina, Jeanne Heckler Lampe '69 and Mary "Sis" Miller '49 from Springfield.

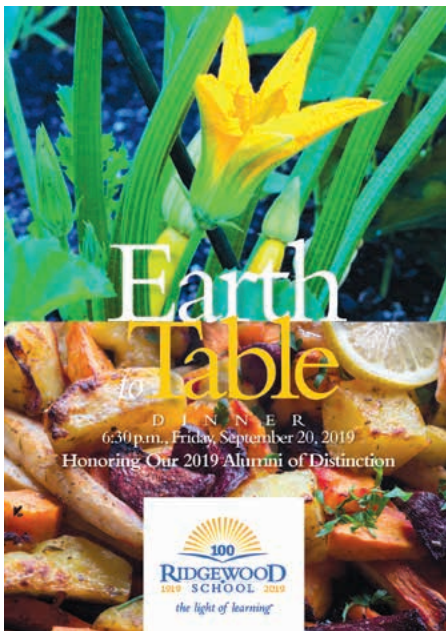


Rev. Eric Lindblade '67

Mendy Simmons welcomed guests and honorees. Rev. Eric Lindblade, Jr. '67 whose father served as Ridgewood's headmaster from 1957-1970 served as emcee for the evening.

The dinner was catered by Springfield's Station One restaurant and featured a summer salad created from produce from our Learning Garden prepared by Ridgewood students and our Learning Garden advisor Tammy Wiseman. Steel drum music performed by Joseph Glenn was enjoyed throughout the evening. During dessert that included carrot cake from Unbelievable Bakery and "chocolate delights," attendees watched "This is Ridgewood: One Hundred Years Strong," a video that presents Ridgewood School as it completes its first century and notes the significance it has played in numerous alumni's lives.

Rev. Lindblade introduced the Alumni of Distinction award recipients focusing on their lives, careers, community involvement, and continuing support of Ridgewood School. Each of the seven honorees was presented with an engraved glass plaque. Alumni of Distinction 2019-2020 included four members of the Reed Robertson family: Reed Robertson '39, Mark Robertson '69, Laurel Robertson Shoumlin '70, and



Earth to Table Dinner and Alumni of Distinction Award Presentation Friday, September 20, 2019

Just before the Earth to Table Dinner began, there was a brief rain shower that encouraged everyone to move under the tent that had been set up for dinner on the playground. The rain lowered the evening's temperature making it more comfortable for the eighty guests attending. This annual fall event that celebrated the harvest from our students' Learning Garden also featured recognition of the school's 2019-2020 Alumni of Distinction. Head of School Aliya Ranginwala and Ridgewood School Board of Trustees' President

2019-20 Alumni of Distinction



Reed Robertson '39



Judy & Dan McGregor '55



Cyndi & Mark Robertson '69



Doug '84 & Janelle McGregor



Laurel Robertson '70 & Tim Shouvin



Margaret McGregor '95 & William Mattox

Claire Robertson Houghton '73 who was unable to attend, and three members of the Dan McGregor family: Dan McGregor '55, Doug McGregor '84, and Margaret McGregor Mattox '95. Mark Robertson and Dan McGregor spoke on behalf of their families explaining how important Ridgewood School has been in their families' lives, sharing school-day anecdotes, and thanking Ridgewood School for their recognition. Both families have had three generations attend Ridgewood School.

Deanna Brouger, Development Committee Chairperson, Head of School Aliya Ranginwala, Administrative Assistant Christine Reynolds, and members of the Development Committee Mendy Simmons, Brian Green, and Corwin Georges were responsible for the event. Members of the Student Council and recent graduates under the supervision of Dan Metzger, Dean of Students, and

parent Kary Iddings graciously served dinner. Gail Suzel, Head Preschool Teacher, and Student Council members provided childcare for the evening. Special thanks to alumni parent volunteers: Phil Campbell, Bill Brouger and Teri Campbell who helped solve all the last minute challenges and to Jim Heeg for his awesome kitchen cleaning assistance.

Congratulations to our seven 2019-2020 Alumni of Distinction and thanks to those who joined us in honoring them!

The Farmers Market Saturday, September 21, 2019

Student Council members under the direction of Mr. Dan Metzger, Student Council Advisor, set up a Ridgewood School stall downtown at the Springfield Farmers Market on the morning of September 21, 2019 and sold items created from produce harvested from



Pictured in their Ridgewood stall are (l to r) Nevaeh Horne, Brett McGuire, Isabel Brown, Mary Cunningham, Va'Laurie Paris, Alek Pitch, Alex Baumle and TajJaie Clark-Crowley.

Ridgewood's Learning Garden and tote bags carrying a colorful design by Ridgewood School fourth-grader Vera Aguilar. Learning Garden merchandise included homemade zucchini bread, jarred herbs (rosemary, oregano, dill, parsley and sage), grape and plum jelly produced by the eighth-grade class under the supervision of parents Doug and Karin Baumle, and other baked goods. Profit realized from this project will be donated to a local charity by the Student Council.

Fall Fest Saturday September 21, 2019



Students eagerly awaiting a hayride.

Ridgewood's Advising Parents (RAP) and our Student Council provided students, parents and guests with a fun-filled afternoon. A carnival atmosphere permeated the Ridgewood schoolyard with sounds of students and parents enjoying bouncy houses, bingo, face painting, hayrides, a cakewalk, and other games. A food truck provided refreshments and the Student Council sold drinks and Young's Ice Cream to attendees. Champion City Photography's photo booth was a popular attraction and a high point of the afternoon was fifth-grade teacher Ms. Courtney Peterson being "pied." 🌞

We Need Your Support!

The Ridgewood Fund

All donations to our annual fund, The Ridgewood Fund, are put to immediate use supporting our integrated STEM curricula, co-curricular activities, scholarship assistance and strategic priorities of the current school year. Every student benefits from every gift to The Ridgewood Fund. You may designate your gift to support our Arts, Curricular Innovation, Faculty Development, Scholarships, Sustainable Environmental Projects, Area of Greatest Impact, or a different area that is important to you.

As an independent school, tuition alone does not fully cover the costs associated with providing an outstanding education. The Ridgewood Fund helps “bridge the gap” between tuition and the actual cost of a Ridgewood education. Whether your donation is \$25, \$100 or \$1,000, your donation will make a profound impact on every aspect of every students’ daily school experience.

Every dollar counts. Every gift matters. Every donor makes a difference! Please participate at whatever level you are able.



Photo: Bonita Heeg

Ridgewood Fund Giving Levels

Patron – \$1,000 & Up

Partner – \$500-\$999

Supporter – \$250-\$499

Friend – \$100-\$249

Associate – \$25-\$99

Cash, check, credit card, securities and corporate matching gifts are all accepted. Please check with your employer to see if they have a matching-gift program.

For more information, please contact

Mr. Sauter, Mary Cunningham and Mahed Rizvi, along with every student at Ridgewood, are directly impacted, every day, by your donation to The Ridgewood Fund. Please give.

(Land Lab benches were built by Ridgewood parent John Linardos)

Bonita Heeg, Director of Development, at 937.399.8900 or email to bonita@ridgewoodsschool.org.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of Ridgewood School! 🌟

Save The Date

Hearts & Hands Auction

Please don't forget to attend our annual Hearts & Hands Auction on March 14, 2020 and don't come alone, bring your friends. The theme of this year's auction is “Game Time” and the evening will feature a number of fun games along with fabulous auction items.

Raffle prizes this year include: a \$500 Amazon Gift Card, a Nintendo Switch Lite, and a pair of Apple AirPods Pro. Raffle prizes have been graciously provided by: Hometown DDS, Beacon Audio Video Systems, and Krogg & Jayjohn Family Dental. We thank them and also this year's generous Hearts & Hands Auction sponsors: Art and Alex Gianakopoulos, Dr. Mujeeb and Mrs. Aliya Ranginwala, Dr. Mubin and Mrs. Afshan Syed, Dr. Tariq and Mrs. Afsheen Rizvi, and Bill



and Deanna Brougher.

Dinner will be catered by Seasons Bistro and Grille. Doors will open at 6 p.m., giving everyone a chance to check out auction items and visit with friends before dinner is served at 7 p.m.

Co-chairs Afshan Syed and Afsheen Rizvi want to remind everyone that the auction is Ridgewood School's annual, major fundraiser and that proceeds from the auction help cover Ridgewood's operating costs.

This year's “Bid for a Cause” will raise funds to purchase new lunch tables for the Cole Carpentieri Commons. (Last year's “Bid for a Cause” raised money to purchase our school's new van. See p. 9.)

Auction admission is \$50 per person or a table for 8 is \$375. 🌟

Tim Noonan '66, Author of *Ridgewood School: The Little School in The Woods at 100*

(Interviewed by members of the eighth-grade class.)



Eighth-grade language arts students and Mr. Sauter interviewing Tim Noonan '66.

Our 8th grade class was privileged to have the opportunity to interview Tim Noonan, an alumni of Ridgewood school and the author of the book, *Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100*. During our interview, we were able to ask Tim personal and professional questions about his work, life, and upcoming book.

One of the first questions we asked Tim was, "What made you want to become a writer?" He graced us with his inspiring response, "I am of the opinion that people who are creative, whether they are in business, or whether they are writers, or artists, *have to* create. You just have to. I've been writing all my life. I started writing, I think, poetry in college, and *boy* was that bad poetry. And then I started writing, and *man* was that bad writing, but I kept at it."

During our interview, Tim taught us a famous philosophical phrase that writers often reference:

"What do you think about this?"

"I don't know; I haven't written about it yet."

The phrase represents the substance that you give something when you write it down. Essentially, he means that writing is a healthy way to organize and comprehend your thoughts and ideas.

We delved into Tim's past and discovered that Tim was a professional tennis player! He started writing for *Tennis Magazine* while he was on tour. "The magazine thought that was cool because there were no people writing from a player's perspective. They were all reporters."

After his years as a professional tennis player, Tim started writing for *Forbes* and *Life* magazines. He then started writing all over the place! He wrote speeches, grants for schools, as well as things for corporations. After he did that for a while, he became what he called a "custom publisher." A custom publisher writes for schools and businesses. This is what has been bringing Tim back to Springfield these past months, researching and writing the history of our school. ☀

San Francisco Ridgewood Alumni Dinner



Scott Thacker '69

Many thanks to Scott Thacker '69 who hosted dinner in his home in San Francisco on November 22 for Ridgewood alumni. Guests included: Chris Baldenhofer '54 and his wife Phyllis, Greg James '69, Susie McGregor White '51, and Carter Randolph '96.

Chris reported that "it was a lot of fun" and that the group is anxious to get together again, along with a couple of other Ridgewood alumni living in the area.

Thanks, Scott, for being a gracious host and Chris for your report on the event! ☀

A Request to Alumni

Alumni, please let us know what is going on in your lives so we can share that information in the newsletter.

Please send your news and photographs to cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org.

Thank you! ☀

In The News



Dr. Soumya Neravetia addressing Governor DeWine and Cabinet members

In November, cardiothoracic surgeon **Dr. Soumya Neravetia '94** presented to Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and members of his Cabinet a report on lung cancer in Ohio and offered a number of recommendations that would help prevent the disease and increase the rate of survivorship in Ohioans.



Jessica Lampe and Dudley

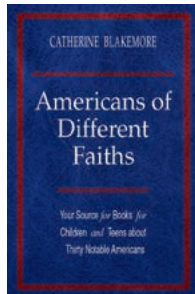
Alumna Jessica Lampe, daughter of Ridgewood School Trustee Jeanne Heckler Lampe '55, and her horse Dudley won three national championships at the U.S. National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show in Tulsa, Oklahoma in October. They also won two National Youth Championships in July in Oklahoma City. Dudley has been nominated as a finalist for the "Favorite Hunter Horse of 2019."



Aziza Chambers (right)

In October, **Aziza Chambers '03** won bronze medals in Taekwondo in the Canadian Open in Montreal and in the World Taekwondo President's Cup in Las Vegas. Aziza is a member of Team USA.

Catherine Corry Blakemore '45 will soon publish her sixth book. A former policy analyst for the U.S. Congress, Catherine's latest work, *Americans of Different Faiths*, is a carefully researched and developed bibliography of books for children and teens about thirty famous, twentieth-century Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Americans.



Aseelah Ashraf

Aseelah Ashraf '16 has been recognized as a Commended Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Based on a comparison of her PSAT score to other Ohio students' scores, Aseelah ranked in the top 3-4%. An outstanding student, Aseelah has received early admission to Harvard University.



Devin Chen (right)

Devin Chen '15 and two other Northwestern High School students have been recognized for the video they produced showing the effect bullying can have on its victim. The trio received a Student Production Award presented by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Emmy Committee.



Ridgewood School: *The Little School in the Woods at 100* authored by **Tim Noonan '66**, grandson of Ridgewood School founder Harry S. Kissell, is scheduled for publication later this year. Watch for an announcement of the date that Tim will be here to sign copies of his book. (See p.5) 🌟

Multicultural Night Celebrates Cultural Diversity

Ridgewood School's Multicultural Night continues to be one of our most popular and important gatherings. By bringing together faculty, staff, board members, students, their parents, aunts, uncles,



cousins and grandparents, the event is a multi-generational celebration of the school's cultural diversity.

On the evening of November 7, 2019, Ridgewood School families brought their favorite salads, entrees, and desserts and placed them on tables that lined the Syed Alumni Gallery. Recipes were proudly displayed alongside the flavorful dishes at this internationally inspired, old-fashioned American potluck dinner. Some students and adults dressed in their homeland's traditional garb adding to the multicultural ambience created by Ridgewood art students' renditions of various national flags and a map of the world that decorated the stage floor.

Families and friends talked and laughed as they dined around tables covered with colorful tablecloths in the Cole Carpentieri Commons. After dinner, on the Commons' stage and in the area in front of the stage, students performed



dances and music from many countries including: Germany, England, Scotland, France, Palestine, Japan, Australia, Greece, the West Indies, and the United States.

We salute our teachers for integrating international education in their curriculum, applaud Mr. Weller, Ms. Suzel, and Ms. Loftis who produced the evening's multicultural entertainment and decorations, recognize the faculty, staff, and administrators who worked diligently to coordinate this celebration of Ridgewood School's diversity, and thank the members of R.A.P. (Ridgewood Advising Parents) who supported everyone's efforts. 🌟

Winter Concert 2019 Brightens the Holidays



On December 17, Ridgewood students presented their "Winter Concert" to a standing-room-only audience of families and friends in the Cole Carpentieri

Commons. Seasonal music and dance from various countries and cultures entertained the appreciative audience and reminded everyone that our winter



Friends and families were delighted with the concert of music and dance.

vacation was just ahead.

Congratulations to all of the dancers and musicians! Thanks to Ms. Suzel and Mr. Weller for not only a festive program but also for teaching every one of Ridgewood's students to read music, play a musical instrument, and dance. Ridgewood is unique among pre-K-8 schools in providing this breadth of arts education. 🌟

Student Council Report

To learn how committed to our community and school our Student Council is, read Student Council Advisor Dan Metzger's report.

Student Council started the year with their annual school supply drive for Rocking Horse. In September, the students volunteered at the Alzheimer's Walk at Wittenberg and contributed \$400 to the Alzheimer's Organization. Also in September, the students ran a stall at the Farmers Market downtown. They sold items from Ridgewood's Learning Garden. (See p.3)

In October, the students hosted a bake sale and Waffle Breakfast to raise money for the Breast Cancer Endowment Fund (BCEF) of Clark County. The students made a donation of \$1,125 to the organization. In the last ten years, the Student Council has donated over \$10,000 to the BCEF.

In October and November, the students collected more than seven barrels of food for the Second Harvest Food Bank. In recognition of Veterans in November, students made thank-you cards and delivered a \$500 donation to Honor Flight, an organization that flies Veterans to their memorials in Washington D.C. They also held a flag sale and placed flags in the front entrance on Veterans Day.

In December, students collected toys at the annual Babysitting Night and then delivered them along with a \$450 donation to the Parent Infant Center. The students also collected coats, hats, and gloves for Rocking Horse, designed ornaments and decorated a tree for the Trees for Tots program, and rang the bell for the Salvation Army.

During the first half of the year, students made monthly visits to volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank and mobile pantry, delivered cards and treats to local nursing homes and the Homeless Shelter (for Halloween, Thanksgiving,



Visiting at Villa Springfield



Serving guests at Student Council Waffle Breakfast



Collecting for the Salvation Army

and the holidays), helped Project Woman set up for their candlelight vigil, and collected supplies for the Soup Kitchen, Free Store, and Parent Infant Center. Champions were crowned in the Baseball and Football Leagues. Ping Pong



Enjoying Pastries with Parents



Donating clothing to Rocking Horse



Helping Project Woman set up its candlelight vigil

Leagues were also held every month.

In addition to service projects, the Student Council hosted a variety of events for Ridgewood students and families including Pastries with Parents, the Waffle Breakfast, a bowling night, Ridgewood at the Chiller, Lower Level



Presenting check to Breast Cancer Endowment Fund of Clark County



Presenting check to Parent Infant Center

Around Town with Ridgewood Students



Field trips and community service are two important parts of a Ridgewood education. Last spring's Hearts & Hands Auction's "Bid for a Cause" raised the



Delivering holiday cards and treats to the homeless shelter

movie nights, the Halloween Bash (where alumni returned to continue the annual tradition of a haunted house), Buckeye Week, bake sales, sports leagues, and other events. The Student Council also recognized Staff of the Month including Miss Paige, Ms. Meghan, and Mrs. Fett.



money needed to purchase a van to transport our students to off-campus educational experiences. So far this year, the van has carried our field-trip students to the Springfield Museum of Art, the New Boston Fair, Camp Clifton, the Westcott House, Wind Mill Farms, and Bent Tree Farm. It has also safely delivered our community-service volunteer students to numerous destinations. (See p.8) Ridgewood School excels in providing a large number of field experiences to its students and our van makes that much easier.

Students, faculty, and staff thank all who contributed last year to "Bid for a Cause" making it easier for our students to take advantage of educational opportunities off-campus. ☀️

Upcoming Events

February 13

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

February 14

Parent-Teacher Conferences Make-Up Day, No School

February 17

Presidents' Day, No School

February 23

Interim Grade Reports

February 28 & 29

Shrek The Musical, curtain time 7 p.m.

March 6

Early Release, 2 p.m.
Young Authors Conference,
Wittenberg University

March 13

End of Third Grading Period

March 14

Hearts & Hands Auction, 6 p.m.
District Science Fair

March 20

Report Cards

March 23-27

Spring Break

April 3

Early Release, 2 p.m.

April 10

Good Friday, No School

April 24

Interim Grade Reports

May 1

Early Release, 2 p.m.

May 25

Memorial Day, No School

May 27

End of Fourth Grading Period
Graduation and Passing of Classes, 7 p.m.

May 28

2-hour delay; Field Day, **Last Day of School**

May 29 & June 1

Teachers' Work Days

June 4

Grade Cards may be picked up

Mary Jane Bauer



Born on February 20, 1925, Mrs. Mary Jane Bauer, former Ridgewood School faculty member, died on July 29, 2019 in The Woodlands, Texas. Mrs. Bauer taught lower level science and health at Ridgewood from 1991-2002. She was a 1947 graduate of Wittenberg University, a member of Kappa Delta sorority, and the Wittenberg Choir.

Locally, Mrs. Bauer co-founded a continuing education program for unwed teenage mothers and was an active member of Springfield's First Lutheran Church. In 1947, she married Carlton Bauer who predeceased her in 1984. Following her retirement in 2002, she moved to The Woodlands, Texas, to be near her son John who along with her daughter, Carla Bauer, four grandchildren, and one great grandson survives her. A memorial service was held for Mrs. Bauer on August 1, 2019 at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church in The Woodlands, where she regularly attended Pastor's Bible Study and Sunday services.

Grateful to Mrs. Bauer for her many contributions to Ridgewood School and its students, we extend our sympathy to Mrs. Bauer's family.

Sharon A. Grossman



The Ridgewood School family was saddened to learn of the death of Sharon Grossman, one of our exceptional volunteers, who died unexpectedly on November 2, 2019. Sharon was born in Dayton, Ohio on October 6, 1953, the daughter of Calvin and Doris M. (Sheldon) Grossman.

She worked in Chicago for a number of years for M & G Graphics before returning to the local area. In recent years she volunteered at Ridgewood School working in the cafeteria, library, or wherever needed, often coming in to help with Ridgewood's special events. Being at Ridgewood allowed her to be close to her grandchildren, Ridgewood students Vera, Stela, and Tomas Aguilar, and to support their educations.

Mrs. Claudia Fett, school librarian, described Sharon as an "immense help" to her during the reorganization of the library last year. Sharon's warm smile and outstanding work ethic was a wonderful model for Ridgewood's students.

In addition to her three grandchildren, Sharon is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Ashley and Esteban Aguilar, her brother Thomas (Bonnie) Grossman, sister Constance Grossman (Jeanne Casanova), and many friends.

Appreciating her many contributions, Ridgewood School extends its condolences to Sharon's family. ☀

R.A.P. Report

R.A.P. (Ridgewood Advising Parents) has been busy every month this year and promises to continue this second semester with a variety of projects.

In September R.A.P. began the school year by conducting a Chipotle fundraiser. In October they hosted their annual Fall Fest (See p. 3) and sponsored their always popular "Trunk or Treat." In November R.A.P. held its pie sale fundraiser and welcomed students, staff and families to Multicultural Night.

Also in November, members elected



Trunk or Treat was just one of the fall activities sponsored by R.A.P.

the following as R.A.P. officers: Kristy Wiles, President; Amanee Yousef, Vice President; Jen Groth, Secretary; Ashley Aguilar, Treasurer; and Kelly Reidel, Facebook Secretary. R.A.P. concluded 2019 by holding Craft Day for students and families.

R.A.P. members are now at work preparing for the Hearts & Hands Auction. If you are interested in being a member of R.A.P. and helping our school, please let school receptionist Michelle Dutton know. She will see you are contacted by R.A.P. ☀

Academic Accolades

We congratulate our students on their noteworthy achievements!

Spelling Bee-December 11, 2019

No word too difficult for these spellers:



Clockwise from top: Brendan Russell, 1st place, Jesse Leidheiser- Stoddard, 2nd place and Usayd Ashraf, 3rd place

DAR Essay Contest Winners

Lagonda Chapter of the DAR



Brendan Russell, 7th-Grade Winner (left) Aleksander Pitsch, 8th-Grade Winner

Football League Champions

Team OSU had the winning season.



Left to right: Emerson Babian, Thaila Braddy-Cockran, Brayden Herron, Jason Jordan, Not Pictured: Alex Baumle

Young Authors

Students from grades 4-8 chosen to represent Ridgewood at the Young Authors Conference at Wittenberg



Left to right: Writers Elise Hess, Brett McGuire, Isabel Brown, Abby Groth, Zoe Bisdorf, Ava Boyle, Nicoletta Gianakopoulos, Siki Kang, with Ms. Hembree

Geography Bee-January 29, 2020

These champions know their places!



Left to right: Lauryn Timmons (1st place), Lauren Finney (2nd place), Alek Pitsch (3rd place)

Science Fair-December 18, 2019

Students whose projects received a superior rating – these students will have the opportunity to advance to Districts on March 14th.



Front Row (l to r): Levi Russell, Landon Hunter, Elise Hess, Mary Cunningham, and Nevaeh Horne; Back Row (l to r): Brett McGuire, Tahjaie Clark-Crowley, Alek Pitsch, and Lauryn Timmons; Not Pictured: Brendan Russell 🌟

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Ridgewood School congratulates upper-level language arts teacher Paul Sauter on his September 28, 2019 wedding to Anna Jean Petroff. Paul, who joined the Ridgewood faculty last year, and Anna Jean, who serves as the Clark County Combined Health District's epidemiologist, were married in Springfield's Christ Episcopal Church.



Paul and Anna Jean (pictured above at last fall's Earth to Table and Alumni of Distinction Dinner) met on their first day of graduate school at Miami University. Paul is originally from Oxford and Anna Jean from Springfield. We extend our best wishes to them. 🌟

Would You Prefer to Receive This Newsletter in Your Email?

In the last months we have heard from a number of parents, friends, and alumni that they would prefer to receive their newsletters electronically. As we look for ways to better serve our families, alumni and friends and to operate more efficiently, we welcome you to send us your email addresses for this purpose.

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



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**Ridgewood Board of
Trustees 2019-20**

As of January 1, 2020

President: Mendy Simmons

Vice President: Adam Russell

Secretary: Mark Robertson '67

Treasurer: Mike Fissel

Ash Ahmed, M.D. '84

Deanna Brougher

Corwin Georges, Ph.D.

Jeanne Lampe '69

Melinda Reardon

Margaret Roark

Rob Young

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.

From the Head of School

Vision for the Next Hundred Years



What makes independent schools tick? *Autonomy* is the key to private education. Our public schools are so strapped by government regulations and testing that true education is lost. Students who go to independent schools don't just learn the material they are given but are heard, supported and encouraged to become the best versions of themselves. They are given choice and voice. While public schools are trapped in the realm of stop-and-go education due to multiple testing times during a school year, an independent school like Ridgewood provides opportunities for research, experimentation, discovery, discussion, creation, performance and service.

As Ridgewood School, an ISACS-accredited institution, moves forward into the first decade of its second century, our vision is to continually grow and discover better ways of facilitating the learning of our young students. Some of these goals for the next decade are to provide more experiential learning opportunities for our students; make them more aware of their role as global partners; understand that there is work-life balance; incorporate nutrition and health education while expanding our Learning Garden into a greenhouse that provides us with vegetation year round.

To work toward these goals, we have increased opportunities for our teachers to receive professional development. More teachers at Ridgewood School attend and receive professional development opportunities than ever before. We continue to improve the employment packages we offer our teachers. We have increased support staff with an administrative assistant, tutors, Learning Garden specialist and a librarian. We have also added an Alumni Relations Director and Director of Development. In order for our vision for the next decade to take place, we will continue to seek support from our alumni, community partners and families. Support for our annual fund, the Ridgewood Fund, and Hearts & Hands Auction is a vital component to achieving our goals.

Ridgewood School has been blessed with the generosity of its current and past families and friends. We would like to thank you all for your continued support.☀