

The Beginning of a Dream Come True



Photo: Rod Hatfield

L-R: Arhem Rizvi, Class of 2026; Isabella "Izzy" Fissel, Class of 2018; Centennial Leadership Gift Donors: Dr. Mubin & Afshan Ahmed Syed '83; Dr. Afshan & RSA President Ashfaq T. Ahmed, M.D. '84; Shahana Ahmed; Reed Robertson '39 & son, Mark Robertson '67; Robert E. Harley, Esq., attorney of the late Jane Hollenbeck '29; Plato Pavlatos, Nancy Pavlatos, Bill & Past President Deanna Brougher; Centennial Campaign Co-Chairs Judy & Dan '55 McGregor; Zeeba Ranginwala; and Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School.

The beginning of a dream come true happened on June 30, 2017, when the official groundbreaking ceremony occurred for building a west wing, including a new, state-of-the-art preschool. This was made possible by beloved alumnus, the late Jane Bayley Hollenbeck '29, who gave the largest gift in the school's history, \$3 million! The preschool will be named after her and her son, Peter Hollenbeck '54. Also, the existing building will receive a new roof, windows and floors. Completion is expected Fall 2018.

Past President Deanna Brougher welcomed more than 130 in attendance. In addition to the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, alumni, students and families, were former Headmaster Dave Calhoun, State of Ohio Senator Robert Hackett with a State Senate Proclamation; City of Springfield Mayor Dr. Warren Copeland, City Commissioner Dan Martin, Clark County Sheriff Deborah Burchett, numerous local business leaders, as well as residential neighbors of the school.

The crowd cheerfully applauded as Jaliah Rogers, 3rd grade, finished singing a pitch-perfect *a capella* solo of our National Anthem. Head of School Aliya Ranginwala then gave the opening remarks. "One Light, One Sun" was beautifully sung by Olivia Barlow, 3rd grade; Katie Howell, 4th Grade; and Jaliah Rogers, 3rd grade. Beth Dixon, Director of Development & Alumni Relations, provided piano accompaniment.

President Ash Ahmed, MD '84, and Dan McGregor '55, Co-

Chair of the Centennial Campaign both spoke. Recognition was given to all those along the way who made the historic day possible. Also recognized were Oregon Group Architects, Plato Pavlatos, President, C&N Industrial Contractors, Inc., Construction Manager, and Kapp Construction, addition builders.

Graduates from the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 20-teens attended. We were honored to have Reed Robertson '39, who was President of the RSA Board of Trustees during the 1961 groundbreaking at this site of the existing building. There were also three students from the 1961 groundbreaking: Mark

Robertson '67; Eric Lindblade, Jr. '67, son of late Headmaster Eric Lindblade; and Timothy Noonan '66. Both Eric and Tim traveled from North Carolina. Tim and his brother, Peter K. Noonan, also in attendance, are the grandsons of one of the school's founders, Harry S. Kissell. Mini "Monica" Chadha Piper '83, came the farthest from Texas. Mary Miller '49, said, "It is great to see so many here!" Generously-provided golf carts were available from the parking lot to the groundbreaking-ceremony tent.

Those in the "official" groundbreaking photo included: Arhem Rizvi, Kindergarten; Isabella "Izzy" Fissel, 8th grade;

"It's a wonderful day for Ridgewood School!"

– Pauline Chakeres, alumni parent

Groundbreaking (continued)



Renderings for the new Jane P.B. and Peter Hollenbeck Preschool, designed by Kyle Zepernick, Oregon Group Architects

Centennial Leadership Gift Donors: Dr. Mubin & Afshan Ahmed Syed '83, Dr. Afshan & President Ashfaq T. Ahmed '84, Shahana Ahmed, Reed Robertson '39, Mark Robertson '67, Robert E. Harley, Esq., attorney to the late Jane Hollenbeck '29; Plato Pavlatos, Nancy Pavlatos, Bill & Past President Deanna Brougher, Centennial Campaign Co-Chairs Dan '55 & Judy McGregor, Zeeba Ranginwala and Head of School Aliya Ranginwala.

Each attendee received a pair of blue sunglasses personalized with the groundbreaking date memento. Sunglasses were chosen because Ridgewood School is “the light of learning,” and this groundbreaking demonstrates the “bright” future

for the almost 100-year-old school.

Afterwards, there were refreshments and self-guided tours of the school. Visitors observed the many “stars” placed next to graduates’ photos on the Alumni Wall of those in attendance and/or children of alumni parents who were present. Alumni Parent Pauline Chakeres said, “It’s a wonderful day for Ridgewood School!”

The *Springfield News-Sun* ran a front-page article and Dayton-Springfield Channel 7 TV provided news coverage. Special thanks to Bonita Heeg, Groundbreaking Ceremony Coordinator; and committee members Deanna Brougher, Beth Dixon and Aliya Ranginwala. ☀

Excellence in Teaching

Regardless of which study you look at, teachers are consistently in the top three influences in a child’s life. Perhaps this is why the Springfield Rotary Club looks annually to recognize



Dan Metzger

teachers in Clark County who go above and beyond. Our teachers are our best investment in our community.

Great educators know that the greatest lessons don’t always come from a textbook. These would include development of character traits like integrity, selflessness, and duty to community.

Mr. Dan Metzger, who was nominated by fellow staff and students for this year’s Excellence in Teaching Award, is not interested in such recognition. His classroom, which extends far beyond a room with desk and chairs, is where the real learning begins. You see it when his students pack hundreds of boxes of food for the needy at the Second Harvest Food Bank, or when they deliver handmade valentines to residents living in area nursing homes. It’s reflected in the blankets his students make for sick children at the Dayton Children’s Hospital, and a birthday party they plan for the homeless at Interfaith Hospitality Network. It’s evident in the countless ways his students are taught to step out of their comfort zone, give selflessly, and help make our community a better place to live.

As a finalist for this year’s nominees, Mr. Metzger understands this: A teacher’s students are his message to a future that he’ll never see. Those whose lives have been touched by Mr. Metzger count themselves fortunate, now and in the future. ☀

They're Off to See the Wizard...

Saying Farewell to the Class of 2017

Ask anyone and they'll tell you that this year's graduating class is an incredibly tight-knit group. One example is the fact that every single one of them played a significant role in the school's winter musical, *The Wizard of Oz*.

So when a threat of severe thunderstorms prompted Ridgewood to move its graduation ceremony indoors on May 24, 2017, this class (in particular) felt right at home on the stage they'd received thunderous applause from only months before.

Could it be they were typecast? Maybe so, considering special awards included the Sons of the American Revolution Citizenship Award, which was selected by the faculty and staff and presented to Glinda the Good Witch – Dakotah Pollard-Kern. And the Wizard himself, Amaan Ahmed, received the Anne Barrett-King Award for his outstanding service to community. In addition to Amaan and Dakotah, congratulations to Audrey Hallmark (The Scarecrow), John Koveleski (Toto), Morgan Reynolds (Dorothy), and Student Council President, Aadil Umerani (The Lion). The biggest acting stretch was Thomas Edwards in his villainous portrayal of the Wicked Witch.



Ridgewood Class of 2017, an amazing cast of characters. Front: Aadil Umerani; L to R: Amaan Ahmed, John Koveleski, Morgan Reynolds, Audrey Hallmark, Thomas Edwards and Dakotah Pollard-Kern.

Following the passing of the classes, Ridgewood's outgoing Board President, Deanna Brougher, presented each with a diploma.

We hope the graduates will remember that *there's no place like home*. And, in honor

of the Wizard, Ridgewood is proud to confer upon each of them the honorary degree of Th.D., Doctor of Thinkology!

Best of luck to Ridgewood's Class of 2017! 🌟



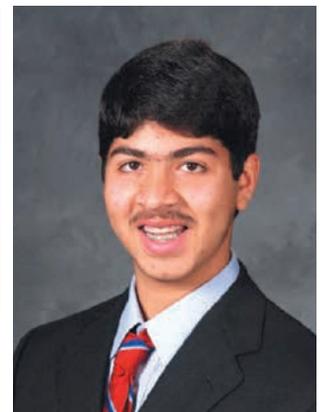
Our 2017 graduates gathered after the commencement ceremony with teacher Dan Metzger.



Amaan Ahmed received the Anne Barrett-King Award for his outstanding service to community.



The Sons of the American Revolution Citizenship Award was given to Dakotah Pollard-Kern.



Aadil Umerani received the Student Council President's Gavel.

Musical Notes...

Three Wows Crowd

On March 11, 2017, Ridgewood alumnae and violin virtuosos, Kanako and Mariko Shimasaki took to the stage at the new John Legend Theater alongside jazz pianist and composer, Luke Gillespie. The Ridgewood Benefit Concert featuring *Three* was made possible through the generous support of The Pavlatos Family – Thalia, Plato, Tina, Thales '68 and Nancy Pavlatos, and Jim and Nike '66 Pavlatos Lagos.

The capacity crowd was treated to a program that included music by Piazzolla, Bizet, Massenet, Brahms, songs from the American Popular Songbook, and original pieces and arrangements. The hour-long concert drew to a close with several standing ovations from a hometown audience that was clearly reluctant for the evening to end.

We'd like to believe that Ridgewood is a lucky charm for the sisters. The morning of the Benefit Concert, Kanako competed in Cincinnati's Three Arts Competition, and learned only minutes before stepping out onto the stage that she'd won first prize – a \$10,000 award.

And there's even more good news. The sisters will be featured as a part of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra's upcoming season under the direction of



Luke Gillespie, Kanako and Mariko Shimasaki received a standing ovation at the Ridgewood benefit concert on March 11, 2017.

Maestro Peter Stafford Wilson.

So, we hope you'll mark your calendars and join us on January 20, 2018, at the Clark State Performing Arts Center, where there's sure to be a large and proud contingent from their extended Ridgewood family. Congratulations Kanako and Mariko!

Following their sold out performance in Kyoto this past June, *Three* released their debut CD which includes many of the pieces they played at the Ridgewood Benefit Concert. If you would like to purchase a CD, please contact Kanako Shimasaki at three.concert@gmail.com or by calling 937-360-5154. ☀

Music Educator of the Year

On February 25, Ridgewood families and friends sat among 1,000 audience members at the Kuss Auditorium in anticipation of two great things. The first was to hear the Springfield Symphony Orchestra play. The second, to celebrate Mr. Weller.

The Springfield Symphony Orchestra Educator of the Year Award is open to educators in public, private and parochial schools in kindergarten through grade 12 in Clark, Champaign or Greene counties. This year, our very own Mr. Michael Weller was selected by the symphony board's education committee to receive



Mr. Michael Weller

this prestigious award.

Mr. Weller began teaching at Ridgewood in 2005, starting the first concert band program in our school's 97-year history. Over his 12 year tenure, he has worked tirelessly and above the call of duty to purchase and refurbish instruments so that every child in grades 4-8 has one to play.

A reception in his honor was held after the concert, where Mr. Weller was surrounded by his greatest Ridgewood fans and favorite young musicians. ☀

Ridgewood School, in collaboration with Community Health Foundation and Rocking Horse Community Health Center present

Dr. Leonard Sax: Parenting with a Purpose



Dr. Leonard Sax

“If you’re going to read one book on parenting this year, make it *The Collapse of Parenting* by Dr. Leonard Sax. This is a book that is easily read and will provide sound advice for giving our children the best chance to succeed in life.”

– *New York Journal of Books*

Tuesday, September 12, 6:30 p.m., at the John Legend Theater

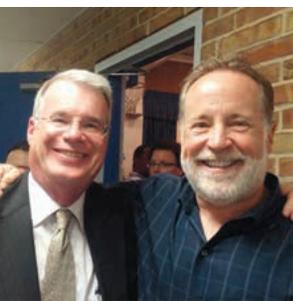
Free and Open to the Community

Has there ever been a more challenging time to raise children? Dr. Leonard Sax is an internationally known author and premier expert on child and adolescent development. He addresses resiliency, and why so many children in America today are fragile, depressed and anxious.

Dr. Sax has spoken on issues of child and adolescent development not only in the United States but around the world. He has visited more than 380 schools since 2001. He has appeared on the Today Show, CNN, National Public Radio, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and many other national and international media. ☀

Home Again

Not many can beat Eric Lindblade Jr.’s claim that Ridgewood had the single biggest influence in his life. After all,



Eric Lindblade Jr. (L) and Mark Robertson, Class of 1967

when he, his brother, John ‘65 and his sister, Marian ‘59 attended the school, their father, Eric Lindblade Sr. was Headmaster and their mother, Helene, taught 2nd grade and Science. Growing up, Ridgewood was pretty much a

twenty-four–seven kind of experience. “I was more well-behaved than I should have been,” Lindblade chuckled.

The countless fond memories of Ridgewood bring him to Ohio as often

as possible – to visit the school, and his lifelong friend and classmate, Mark Robertson ‘67.

Lindblade remembers baseball games, DeMoss’s donuts, his special childhood friend, Marlie Griffin, and winter days at Ridgewood when the gym teacher let the kids bring their sleds to school.

Naturally, Lindblade was happy to trek up from North Carolina to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his graduating class and speak at this year’s graduation ceremony. Soon after, he returned and shared in the excitement when we broke ground for the new Jane P.B. and Peter Hollenbeck Preschool on June 30, 2017.

“Growing up, I loved Ridgewood. It was my home.”

Probably more so than your typical Ridgewood student. ☀

Tim Noonan ‘66 to Compile Ridgewood 100-year History



Tim Noonan

In April, Ridgewood’s Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to devote time and resources to compiling Ridgewood’s rich history in a commemorative book celebrating our upcoming centennial. Thanks to Tim Noonan, whose mother Mary Lu Kissell was one of Ridgewood’s earliest graduates in 1927, and whose grandfather, Harry Kissell, was one of Ridgewood’s original Founders, the project is well underway. Three months into his research, he’s uncovered some surprising information...

For instance, the Kissell Company, which had built the Ridgewood subdivision north of McCreight Avenue, had long planned a school, but few knew that the first principal, Marthena Winger, who ran a school in downtown Springfield in 1918 but did not have enough room for her students, was the first cousin of Olive Kissell, wife of Kissell company president Harry Kissell. In other words, the final piece of the puzzle for “the little school in the woods” likely came together informally at a Winger – Kissell family gathering as Harry and Marthena discussed their respective, mutual needs for teachers and a building,

The Wittenberg archives have also turned up a wealth of information about the 1930s and 1940s when Ridgewood could not keep its doors open after the Depression, and turned over the operation to the Wittenberg Department of Education, which ran it for 20 years as a “progressive school.” Reflections by Ridgewood community members from the last 30 years are turning up equally interesting insights. ☀

Multiple Choice Question:

If you happened to drop by the school anytime in June, there's a good chance you encountered what?



- A) People in medieval garb strolling past groups of archers shooting arrows at targets, and others, with sabers in their hands, dueling in the grand art of fencing.
- B) Sleuths trying to solve a murder mystery and around every corner you encounter a spy practicing espionage.
- C) The hallways abuzz with students building robots, computers, bridges and rockets, all constructed by young technical wizards.
- D) Meeting a different kind of wizard (Harry Potter), as Ridgewood is transformed into Hogwarts with lessons in Astronomy, Herbology and a game of Quidditch out on the playground. ☀️

The correct answer is All the Above.

Thank You for a Successful Hearts & Hands Auction!



This year's Hearts & Hands Auction themed "Once Upon a Time" raised nearly \$60,000. Thank you to our Auction Co-Chairs, Jonathan and Melanie Bisdorf – and to the generous individuals and businesses whose promise to Ridgewood is all about Happily-Ever-After.

Nobel Prize

Elisabeth Cole Carpentieri '51

Pulitzer Prize

Ruth Bayley

Janice Fissel

Suzanne Fachon-Kalweit

Kapp Construction

Dr. Robert and Mary Moore (*in memory of their beloved son and Ridgewood Alum, Robert (Robby) Moore II*)

Scott Thacker '69

Newbery Medal

Bill and Deanna Brougher

C&N Industrial Contractors Inc.

Comprehensive Vein Care

Doug and Jane Deer

Doug and Dr. Michelle Mack

Douglas Pund, Jr.

Dr. Sayed and Afsheen Rizvi

Dr. Dennis and Margaret Roark

Mark '67 and Cyndi Robertson

Springfield Cardiology

Whitacre Pharmacy



Caldecott Medal

Drs. Sally Abbott and Jim Pomputius

Acorn Consulting

Advanced Nephrology and Hypertension

Shahana Ahmed

AAMCO

Bryce Hill, Inc.

Susie Brougher

Dr. Amrit and Shashi Chadha

Dependable Roofing

Ryan Detrick '93

Dr. Ashok and Vijaya Devatha

DiAnne Doss

Holmes Marketing Services

Home City Federal Savings Bank

William and Gretchen Huffman

Andy Irick

Dr. Ravi and Vinita Khanna

Tom and Mary Lou Loftis

McCall Sharp Architecture

McGregor Metalworking Companies

Dan '55 and Judy McGregor

Merchants National Bank

Miami Valley Islamic Association

Dr. Charles and Donna Novak

Oregon Group Architects

Orthodontic Specialists of Ohio

Mujeeb A. Ranginwala, M.D.

Abdur Rauf, M.D.

Jenni Rollins

Marjorie and Brian '88 Schwebel

SAS - Surgery and Vein Specialists

Seasons Bistro and Grille

Springfield Foundation

Wallace & Turner, Inc.

WesBanco

Kyle Zepernick ☀️

Centennial Celebration Preparation Includes Historic Centennial Campaign



Centennial Campaign Co-Chairs Dan '55 & Judy McGregor.

Dan & Judy are the parents of Doug McGregor '84 & Margaret McGregor Maddox '95, co-owners of Seasons Bistro & Grille in downtown Springfield. Dan has served on the RSA Board of Trustees several times through the years, as well as president. Judy was the consummate volunteer while their children attended Ridgewood. "We are pleased to be co-chairs of the Centennial Campaign," stated Dan & Judy when talking about this historic opportunity.

Ridgewood is fortunate not only to have Dan '55 & Judy McGregor but also the following outstanding individuals, dedicated to our school, serving on the Development-Steering Committee: Ashfaq T. Ahmed MD '84; Deanna Brougher; Shashi Chadha; Douglas S. Deer; Beth Dixon, Director of Development; Bonita K. Heeg, Campaign Manager; Nancy Pavlatos; Mark B. Robertson '67; Afshan Syed '83; and Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, Ex Officio. The incredible strength of this committee is demonstrated by almost half of them having attended and/or graduated from Ridgewood, almost every member with children who attended and/or graduated from Ridgewood, and almost every member having served on the RSA Board.

You will hear more about the exciting Centennial and Centennial Campaign in the coming months! ☀

Meet Campaign Manager Bonita Heeg

Bonita Heeg, Centennial Campaign Manager, has strong ties to Ridgewood School. She and her husband, Jim, are the parents of Bethany Heeg Gray '89 and Timothy Heeg '93. Bonita was the school's first yearbook advisor, volunteering from 1981-1993.

She was hired as the Director of Development & Marketing from 2011-2012. As Development Director, she secured the school's largest gift, \$3 million, generously given by alumna Jane Bayley Hollenbeck '29. Bonita said, "Janie loved Ridgewood School. When she learned of the need for a pre-school with building renovation and expansion, dear Janie wanted to make it happen for her beloved alma mater."

Bonita said she is honored to be a part of this exciting time in not only Ridgewood School's history but Springfield's history, as well. ☀

Ridgewood School will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2019! There will be various celebratory activities planned to mark this historic event.

To ensure Ridgewood's continued viability for its next 100 years, the RSA Board of Trustees voted to conduct a Centennial Campaign to raise much-needed funds for our school. The goal is \$4 million. We have already received a \$3 million Lead Gift from the Estate of Jane Bayley Hollenbeck '29, the largest gift in the history of the school! We need to raise an additional \$1 million. Bonita Heeg has been hired by the RSA Board of Trustees as their Centennial Campaign Manager. She has established a Development-Steering Committee to help carry out this goal.

"These are exciting times for Ridgewood School," say Centennial Campaign Co-Chairs Dan '55 & Judy McGregor.



Bonita Heeg, Centennial Campaign Manager

Upcoming Events

Monday, August 21

Open House

Wednesday, August 23

First Day of School

Thursday, August 30

Pastries for Parents

Tuesday, September 12

Parenting with a Purpose:
Featuring Dr. Leonard Sax

Saturday, September 23

Farmer's Market and Earth to Table Dinner

Sunday, September 24

Fall Fest

October 19-21

Alumni Weekend

Thursday, November 2

Multi-Culture Night

Tuesday, December 12

Winter Showcase

R.A.P. Sessions

Led by President, Mendy Simmons and Vice President, Kristy Wiles, our Ridgewood Advising Parents Group meets monthly at Ridgewood School. All parents and guardians are welcome (and urged) to attend!

Tues., August 8, 6:30 p.m.

Tues., September 19, 6:30 p.m.

Tues., October 17, 6:30 p.m.

Sat., November 11. 10 a.m.

Did You Know...

Ridgewood School is a member of ISACS? Independent Schools Association of the Central States Membership provides professional development and resources to keep our administration and staff current with best practices. As a part of this 7-year accreditation cycle, we are looking forward to a visit from the ISACS team in March, 2018. A special thanks to our accreditation committee, Margaret Roark, Mel Marsh, Molly Loftis, Aliya Ranginwala and Beth Dixon.



the light of learning™

2420 Saint Paris Pike
Springfield, Ohio 45504

NonProfit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dayton OH
Permit No. 248

Ridgewood Times

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

Editor: Beth Dixon

Design: Bob Bingenheimer

Photos: Joe Lauricella, Rod Hatfield,
Jody Edwards, and others

Ridgewood Board of Trustees

The Ridgewood School Association Board of Trustees meets the third Thursday of each month.

Members

Ashfaq Ahmed, M.D., *President*

Mark Robertson, *Vice President*

Mendy Simmons, *Secretary*

Mike Fissel, *Treasurer*

Jason Barlow

Melanie Bisdorf

Deanna Brougher

Douglas S. Deer

Corwin Georges, Ph.D.

Deborah Hill

Maureen Osseck

Margaret Roark

Ajaz Umerani, M.D.

The Building Begins!



A Note from Our Head of School, Mrs. Aliya Ranginwala

It is with great anticipation that I sit in my office as hard-hatted construction workers walk by and renovations begin at Ridgewood School. Such an exciting time for our school! Though students will not be returning to a completely renovated building, they will discover a gymnasium with new flooring and renovated bathrooms, as well as new flooring and a new ceiling in the kitchen. The current entrance will have a newly cemented pathway resolving our overflow issues.

When school starts our construction project will have moved to our new building. Kapp Construction has promised to work hard to make sure the education of our children has the least amount of disruption.

With that said, I am very excited about our upcoming academic year! Ridgewood has just completed a very successful four-week summer enrichment program with enrollment exceeding all previous years. Students are still coming in daily for tutoring to keep their skills strong for the upcoming school year. Some of our upper level students are taking online classes with Springfield City Schools, to build their high school transcripts before school even begins.

We are looking forward to another amazing school year as teachers begin preparing their classrooms and building on curricular ideas for the coming year. Something I am very thrilled about is our first parenting speaker, renowned best-selling author Dr. Leonard Sax. Ridgewood School, in partnership with Community Health Foundation and Rocking Horse Center, will present Dr. Leonard Sax on parenting with a purpose.

I hope you are all enjoying your summer, and I look forward to seeing all our young students back in August.