

2024 Graduation and Passing of the Classes

Ridgewood's Class of 2024 could not have asked for a more perfect spring evening for its graduation than that of May 28! Fellow students, families, faculty and staff were seated across the school lawn where they watched the eight members of the class process to Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance." With the class seated on the graduation stage, the ceremony began with an invocation by class members Elizabeth Doss and Kayrie Manaiois. Classmates Fadhila Ashraf and Derrick Miller next welcomed those attending. An annual highlight of Ridgewood graduations is the class account in which they imagine running into each other years later. This year's story had the eight students accidentally meeting in Tokyo at the Baseball World Classic. By the time of this meeting, they have gone on to wonderful careers as doctors, baseball player, lawyer, ballerina, artists, and marketing specialist.

Following the students' presentation, Head of School Aliya Ranginwala and Ridgewood School Board President Afshan Syed awarded diplomas. Mrs.



The passing of the classes.



Head of School Aliya Ranginwala at podium and Board President Afshan Syed '83 seated with the Class of 2024.

Syed, who is a Ridgewood *distinguished alumna*, a former Ridgewood parent, and now board president, challenged the class to remember Ridgewood's values and to make the most of their high school years. On behalf of their class, Sidonie Lauricella and Avery Radlowski presented the school a new camera for use of the yearbook staff.

Awards were presented to the members of the Class of 2024. Mr. Metzger presented a gavel to Fadhila Ashraf who served as president of the student council during this exceptional year of student council achievements, and the Anne Barrett-King Service Award to Kayrie Manaiois who contributed more than 140 hours of service this year to Ridgewood and community organizations. Presidential Achievement Awards were presented by Mrs. Ranginwala. Fadhila Ashraf, Elizabeth Doss, Sidonie Lauricella, and Kayrie Manaiois received Gold Presidential Achievement Awards for outstanding academic records. Siqi Zheng and Kaleb Wilson received Silver Presidential Achievement Awards for academic improvement. The S.A.R. Citizenship

Award was presented to Sidonie Lauricella by S.A.R. representative Tim Bode, Ph.D.

Prior to the school's K-8 grade choir performance of "Celebration" and Ridgewood's alma mater, Mrs. Ranginwala oversaw the "passing of the classes" in which each class moved into the chairs vacated by the class before them beginning with the seventh graders moving into the chairs left by the eighth graders. Children in the audience who will be in next year's kindergarten class were invited to join the student body.

The evening closed with the Class of 2024's challenge presented by Kaleb Wilson and Siqi Zheng followed by Mrs. Ranginwala's closing remarks. Best wishes to the members of the Class of 2024 for continued success!



Choir singing "Celebration."

Ridgewood School National Junior Honor Society



Ridgewood School's National Junior Honor Society founded in 2023 held its second induction ceremony on the evening of March 7, 2024. Criteria considered when selecting students for membership included scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Membership applications were reviewed by a faculty committee. The three students selected for membership this year were Marley

Milam and Arhem Rizvi from the sixth grade and Kayrie Manaos from the eighth grade. Participating in the induction ceremony were Kristyn Keriazes, chapter advisor; Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School; and NJHS members Caden Groth, Annia Ameer, Fadhila Ashraf, Elizabeth Doss, and Gavin Crawford. A reception honoring the new NJHS members was held immediately following the ceremony in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons. Congratulations to these outstanding students!



(Left to right) Marley Milam, Kayrie Manaos, Arhem Rizvi

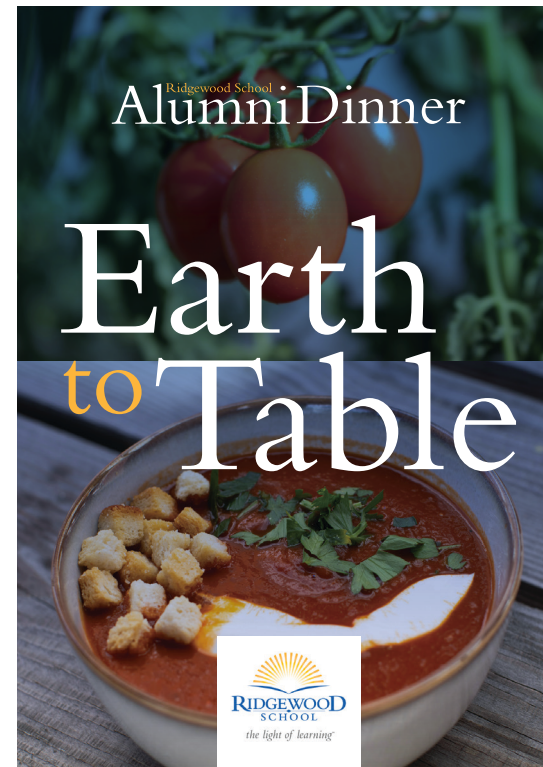


Preschool Celebration!

Families of our preschool students greatly enjoyed the preschool's end-of-year program, "Around the World and Under the Sea." With exhibits of student art works, the performance of songs and dances from around the world, and seventh-grader Mylo Frazier's performance of "Under the Sea" from our recent production of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, it was a wonderful celebration of our youngest students.

Summertime at Ridgewood

Ridgewood's Summer Enrichment courses were held for three weeks this summer. Each course ran a week, was designed for children of a specific age range, and lasted an hour and a half each day. This summer's Summer Enrichment program offered 54 interesting courses. Subjects included chess, cooking, Mo Willems, acting, art, art history, pickleball, entrepreneurship, tennis, golf, archaeology, magic, outdoor skills, creating comics, origami, science-v-fairy tales, environmental conservation, etc. The total enrollment of 615 topped last year's record enrollment of 575. Ridgewood's halls, classrooms, kitchen, and school yard were filled with laughter and excited voices! Smiles were all around—on the faces of students (some were back for their fourth or fifth summer), teachers, parents, and grandparents! Congratulations to all who made this an outstanding summer program! (For more Summer Enrichment photos, see p. 14).



You Are Invited to the 2024 Earth to Table Alumni Dinner

On Friday evening, September 20, the Ridgewood School Board of Trustees will celebrate Ridgewood School supporters and alumni when it hosts its Earth to Table Alumni Dinner featuring harvest from the school's learning garden.

The Board invites members of the Ridgewood family, alumni, and friends to attend the dinner and help it celebrate the 2024 Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni who will be recognized that evening. Being awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award are Deborah Hubbard Nelson-Campbell, PhD '51, French scholar and Rice University Professor Emerita; Soumya Neravetla, MD '94, thoracic surgery specialist; and Rob Rue '84, mayor of Springfield. The Board will confer its Honorary Alumni Award on Ridgewood faculty member

and preschool director Gail Suzel and posthumously recognize as an Honorary Alumni Violet Turner whose significant Ridgewood teaching career spanned from the 1930s through the 1960s. The anniversary classes of 1999, 1974, 1954, and 1949 will be celebrated that evening

Please join us at the Earth to Table Alumni Dinner. Dinner is being prepared by Kohler Catering. **Reservations (\$50) may be made at <https://AlumniDinner.givesmart.com> or by contacting Michelle Dutton at 937.399.8900, or mdutton@ridgewoodschool.org.** If you are unable to join us for dinner, please reach out and congratulate our 2024 Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni.

Explore the Outer Limits: Imagine. Discover. Inspire.

The 2024 Hearts & Hands Dinner and Auction, Ridgewood's annual fundraiser, was held in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons the evening of May 10. After social hour and time to view the many auction items, attendees enjoyed their dinners provided by Kohler Catering. Ridgewood's upper-level students and young alumni joined Kohler's staff in serving dinner. Desserts were provided by Zara Bilal, Lori Houseman, and John Linardos '85. Dressed in a space

suit complete with helmet and gloves, Ridgewood parent Kevin Rose served as emcee for the evening. Jeff Harvey of Springfield's Harvey Auction Co, LLC masterfully conducted the event's live auction featuring fifteen outstanding items and experiences. On-site and online bidders vied for the fifty-five silent auction items throughout the evening. Chairpersons for the space-themed dinner and auction were Tamara Comer and Kristyn Keriazes. The



auction committee included: Jenna Beck, Crystal Bollinger, Heather Cunningham, Sarah DeLong, Rachel Detraz, Corwin Georges, Jen Groth, Becky Konecki, Megan Landry, Nicole Lehman, Megan Llado, Aliya Ranginwala, Chris Reynolds, Emma Robinow '99, Jeff Rood, Caitlin Smith, Misty Smith, and Afshan Syed '83. Thanks to the many individuals and businesses who contributed their time and/or items to make the evening a success. Ridgewood students greatly appreciate your support!

RAP Needs You!

While some schools have a PTA/PTO, Ridgewood has RAP (Ridgewood Advising Parents), a parents' organization that does much to support our school, teachers, and students. Last year, RAP was exceptional, and it seemed everywhere. Whether it was organizing multicultural night, helping with the annual auction, serving as classroom parents, delivering appreciative notes and treats to teachers, chaperoning field trips, sponsoring parent gatherings, or any of its many other activities, RAP contributed time and again to making Ridgewood the special school it is. Thank you, RAP leaders and members!



With the start of this school year, we encourage parents to join RAP. RAP needs you; your students and their teachers need your support! RAP is a great way to get know other families, to learn more about Ridgewood, and to make a difference. To accommodate more people's schedules, RAP meetings are always on the second Thursday of each month but alternate between 3 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. start times. The first meeting of the school year will be held on Thursday, September 12th at 3 p.m., in the Spanish classroom. Please join RAP!

RAP Ice Cream Social

You're invited to RAP's ice cream social for students and their families on Sunday, August 18th, 1-2:30 p.m., for lower-level families (PreK-4th grades) and 2:30 -4 p.m., for upper-level families (5th-8th grades). If you have a student in both groups, come in the middle!

Congratulations, Citizens of the Month!

Each month, Ridgewood students discuss and then focus on embodying a specific positive behavior. At the end of the month, teachers select a student from their class that best exemplified this behavior during the month.

Congratulations to this semester's outstanding citizens!

December/January: Generosity

Kindergarten-Maren Mattox; 1st grade-Carter Keriases and Zayn Ashraf; 2nd grade-Kayva Kathuria and Dhruv Mohindroo; 3rd grade-Roopali Palla and Jacek Rose; 4th grade-Kabir Kathuria; 5th grade-Ta' Niyah Walker; 6th grade-Lujain Bilal; 7th grade-Caden Groth; and 8th grade-Siqi Zheng.

February: Kindness

Kindergarten-Ariya Thomas and Luke Maynard; 1st grade-Olivia Nydham; 2nd grade-Marie Frantz; 3rd grade-Ella Tanksley; 4th grade-Veera Patel; 5th grade-Claudia Lauricella; 6th grade-Arhem Rizvi; 7th grade-Dominic Ray; and 8th grade-Kaleb Wilson.

March: Creativity

Kindergarten-Ariela Currie and Tre' Kelley; 1st grade-Arianna Small; 2nd grade-Belle Steffanni; 3rd grade-Kinley Cardinal; 4th grade-Avery Timmerman; 5th grade-Kang Zheng; 6th grade-Devin Cardinal; 7th grade-Mylo Frazier; and 8th grade-Avery Radlowski.

April: Stewardship

Kindergarten: Dahlia O'Neil-Jones; 1st grade- Kathalia Zima; 2nd grade-Nathan Krogg and Gracelyn Burton; 3rd grade-Lilly Shaffer; 4th grade-Harper Donahue; 5th grade-Alianah Smith; 6th grade-Julia Doss; 7th grade Annia Ameer; and 8th grade- Sidonie Lauricella.

4 KEY ATTRIBUTES

Generosity
Kindness
Creativity
& Stewardship



THE H.S. KISSSELL LEGACY SOCIETY
RIDGEWOOD SCHOOL
CREATING THE NEXT 100 YEARS

H.S. Kissell Legacy Society

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

Academic Accolades

Ohio Academy of Science Competition

Ridgewood School Science Fair was held on January 22, 2024. Participants included from the sixth grade: Marley Milam, Arhem Rizvi, Hassan Bilal, and Lina Ameer; seventh grade: Annia Ameer, Mylo Frazier, Caden Groth, Dominic Ray, Malcolm Raffensperger; and eighth grade: Kaleb Wilson, Avery Radlowski, Sidonie Lauricella, Elizabeth Doss, Kayrie Manaois, and Fadhila Ashraf.

Representing Ridgewood School at the District Science Competition were Annia Ameer, Fadhila Ashraf, Hassan Bilal, Mylo Frazier, Caden Groth, Sidonie Lauricella, Kayrie Manaois, Marley Milam, Malcolm Raffensperger, and Arhem Rizvi. Each of these students received a superior rating moving them on to the State Science Day competition. Special district awards were received by five of the students: Fadhila Ashraf received the Miami CTC Superintendent Award; Annia Ameer, Spirit of Science and the College of Wooster Girls Science Club Scholarship; Arhem Rizvi, the Ohio Tuition Trust Scholarship; Mylo Frazier and Caden Groth, Taft Law Environmental Science Awards.

Seventh Grade Annia Ameer Topic: The Silver Spoon	Sixth Grade Hassan Bilal Topic: The pH of Plastic Pollution
Seventh Grade Mylo Frazier Topic: Booming Bakery	Seventh Grade Caden Groth Topic: AI or Not?
Eighth Grade Kayrie Manaois Topic: Wind- The Fuel of Tomorrow	Eighth Grade Sidonie Lauricella Topic: Shades of Sensation
Sixth Grade Arhem Rizvi Topic: Dissolve the Pain	

The State Science Day was held April 22. Seven of Ridgewood students' projects were rated superior. The students whose projects received superior ratings and the titles of their projects include:

- Annia Ameer: "The Silver Spoon"
- Hassan Bilal: "The pH of Plastic Pollution"
- Mylo Frazier: "Booming Bakery"
- Caden Groth: "AI or Not?"
- Kayrie Manaois: "Wind-The Fuel of Tomorrow"
- Arhem Rizvi: "Dissolve the Pain"
- Sidonie Lauricella: "Shades of Sensation"

Sidonie's project was awarded a Behavioral Science Award and Kayrie's received a Dr. Lynn E. Elfnier Scientist Award and a Thermo Fisher Junior Innovation Challenge Award.

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



Matthew Comer

Ridgewood Spelling Bee

Congratulations to fifth-grader Matthew Comer who placed first in the Ridgewood Spelling Bee and to runner-up fifth-grader Shashak Palla! Matthew then went on to the Regional Bee where he placed third. Well done, Matthew!



Power of the Pen

Ridgewood's seventh and eighth graders enjoyed a day of writing at Kenton Ridge Middle and High School where they participated in the Power of the Pen District Competition. Our seventh-grade team placed third in the seventh-grade competition. Seventh-grade students Annia Ameer placed first, Malcolm Raffensperger placed second,

and Mylo Frazier placed eighth. Eighth-grader Fadhila Ashraf placed twelfth. Our students then moved on to the regional competition.



Pictured with students are coaches Paul Sauter and Nora Hickey.

The Power of the Pen Regional Competition was held on March 2 at Wittenberg University. Congratulations to Annia Ameer who place 11th in the 7th-grade competition, Fadhila Ashraf who placed 10th in the 8th-grade competition and to seventh-grader Mylo Frazier who received two Platinum Pen Awards. The three then moved on to the state competition held at Ashland University.

Ridgewood School NJHS History Bee

Bravos to NJHS members Malcolm Raffensperger and Caden Groth who planned and emceed the NJHS history bee, and congratulations to Matttthew Comer who placed first and to Sidonie Lauricella who placed second in the competition.

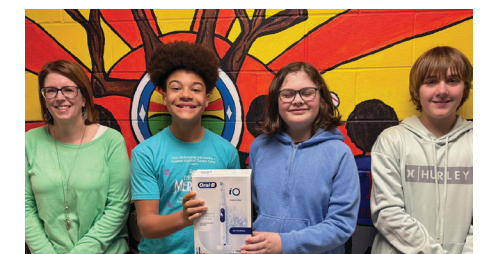


Matthew Comer

Sidonie Lauricella

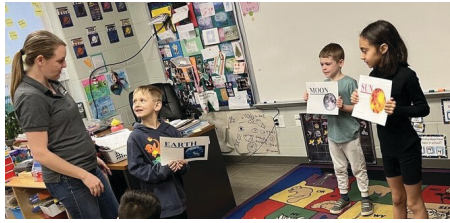
Video Competition

Congratulations to Mylo Frazier and Malcolm Raffensperger who placed first in the Community Health Foundation's Healthy Smiles Video Contest and to Jaylyn Elrod and Dominic Ray who placed second.



L to R: CHF's Rep. Mylo, Malcolm, and Dominic.

Visiting Our Classrooms



Ridgewood students always enjoy having guest speakers in their classrooms. First grade and eighth-grade students appreciated several visits from **WOW (Wizards of Wright)**, a Wright Patterson Air Force Base Educational Outreach Stem program. The Wizards shared with the students what they know about electromagnetism, UV rays, design thinking and problem solving.



Author Tanya Anderson visited Ms. Newell's history students and talked about the Civil War and the untold stories of the resilience of women in the war. She presented autographed copies of her book *Tillie Pierce: Teen Eyewitness to the Battle of Gettysburg* to the sixth-grade students and copies of her *Gunpowder Girls* to the seventh and eighth graders.



Distinguished Alumna, **The Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith** discussed her process as a writer with upper-level students. (See article on p. 7.)



Members of Ridgewood's Drones Club appreciated **Nexlore's** teachers who taught them about aerodynamics, as well as the mechanical design and operation of drones.



Earth Day at Ridgewood School was made special by the visit of **Clark County Solid Waste District's** staff who taught Ridgewood's students about the importance of composting and recycling.

On June 6, during our annual Learning Series, teachers and guests shared their knowledge and expertise in non-curricular topics such as acting, the environment, artificial intelligence, food, insects, the benefit of darkness, etc.



Brian Trailer from Ohio Home Movies introduces students to AI as part of the Learning Series.

2024 Eighth-Grade Trip: Washington, D.C.



Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool with Washington Monument and U.S. Capitol in background.

Our eighth graders learned that a few days in Washington, D.C. are not enough to see all that Washington has to offer. Nevertheless, they immensely enjoyed seeing and learning about the various sites they visited during their eighth-grade trip. Derrick Miller reported that the National

Museum of African American History and Culture "was the BEST museum of the trip." He also, along with the rest of his classmates, ranked the Spy Museum high on his list of favorite sites. For other students, it was the time they spent in Arlington National Cemetery and their visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier that they will remember. Avery Radlowski was impressed by the number of items that she discovered in the collection of the Natural History Museum. She especially appreciated the exhibit of gems and crystals. Having studied the Civil War and Reconstruction Era, our students appreciated the significance of Ford's Theatre as the site of President Lincoln's assassination when they visited the theatre. For some of the students, Washington's Metro was their first experience on a

subway. All reported enjoying their Airbnb, its garden, cooking meals together, and having the chance to be together away from school.

We thank parent and board trustee Heather Cunningham who planned the trip, faculty member Paul Sauter who served as faculty leader, and parents Ashra Ashraf, Joe Doss, Felicia Miller, and Brooklyn Radlowski who served as chaperones.



Ford's Theatre.

The Little Mermaid, Jr.: A Splashing Success!



Ariel (Devyn Cardinal), Sebastian (Mylo Frazier), and the Sea Chorus.

When the curtain came down, figuratively speaking, the evenings of February 23 and 24, the Cole-Carpentieri Commons was filled with the loud, appreciative applause of Ridgewood students, families, and friends. Ridgewood's latest musical, *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, like prior productions, greatly entertained and pleased its audiences. With its book by Doug Wright, and music by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, the musical was



Ariel (Devyn Cardinal) and Prince Eric (Caden Groth).

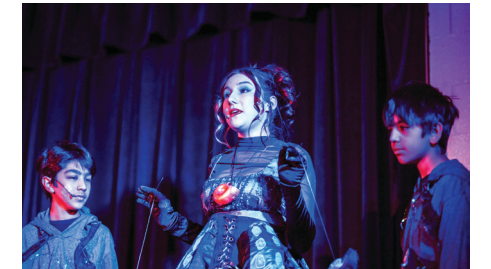
presented through arrangements with Music Theatre International. Directed by Ridgewood music teacher Eric Barga and Ridgewood parent Theresa Lauricella, the forty-three cast and crew members successfully enacted the Hans Christian Andersen

story and developed its themes of love and self-sacrifice.

The colorful scenery painted by Ridgewood art teacher Molly Loftis and her fourth-grade students, along with the production's lighting effects, and wonderful costumes readily established the difference between the world of the sea and the world of humans. Scene shifts, stage lighting and sound were skillfully handled by Ridgewood students. The show's choreography added to the spectacle and the evening's fun. Musical numbers advanced the storyline and developed the characters. In scenes and songs, the students clearly portrayed their characters' objectives and exhibited their ability to work together. More than that, they created dance and musical moments that won't be forgotten!

It is always a pleasure to watch a production in which the cast and crew look confident in what they are doing and appear eager to share their work. These qualities result from hard work, talent, dedication, and discipline and are hallmarks of Ridgewood productions. Ridgewood students are fortunate in having the opportunity to perform a musical; most schools don't produce musicals with their fourth through eighth-grade students. As an audience member and a part of the Ridgewood family, it is rewarding to see the growth of the students as actors, singers, dancers, and technicians from year to year. I look forward to next year's musical and seeing the growth of the very talented students who were in this production.

Congratulations and thank you to all who made the production a smashing success!



Ursula (Jaylyn Elrod) with Flotsam (Umer Bilal) and Jetson (Hassan Bilal).

Ridgewood School Distinguished Alumna Visits!



Students in grades 6-8 enjoyed meeting one of Ridgewood's distinguished alumnae during her April visit to Springfield. The Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith '72 talked with students about writing her latest book, *Ahead of Her Time: Pan-African Women of Faith and the Vision of Christian Unity, Mission, and Justice*. The book focuses on women from Africa, North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe who provided local, national, and global ecumenical leadership fostering the modern-day ecumenical movement.

Dr. Walker-Smith engaged the students with her questions that led them through her research and writing processes. They learned how she determined the

scope of her work, selected its subjects, and conducted her interviews. She also spoke briefly about each of her subjects and their significance. She left students with a sense of the importance of Ridgewood School in her life and encouraged them to make the most of their own Ridgewood educations.

Thank you, Dr. Walker-Smith! Please come again!

The Rev. Dr. Walker-Smith serves as the strategist for Pan-African, Orthodox and Ecumenical Faith Engagement at Bread for the World. In 2022, she was elected as president of the World Council of Churches, representing the North America region.

Student Council Spring 2024

Note: After you finish reading Mr. Metzger's report, please take a moment and think about what our students are learning by being members of our student council.



"Pajama Day" during Spirit Week.

Spirit Week

Students celebrated the week with themed days including twin/triplet day, anything but a backpack day, student dress as teacher/teacher dress as student day, pajama day, Ridgewood spirit day, and career day. During the week, the annual Pi(e) Day featured 8th graders getting pied by students and raising over \$250 for Project Woman. The Student Council also hosted the Ties and Tiaras dance which raised money for the Fatherhood Initiative. The dance included a photo booth, food, drinks, music, contest, and prizes.



Blankets for CARE.

Service Day

The 9th annual Service Day saw 6th-8th graders volunteer over 100 hours at five local charities including Project Woman, the Homeless Shelter, Salvation Army, Literacy Center, and Second Harvest Food Bank. Students also worked on projects at school including working on sets for the play and picking up trash in the land lab. The students made cards for residents at local nursing homes, organized books for the bookcase project, and made blankets for kids at the C.A.R.E. House.



Delivering Valentines and treats to nursing home residents.

Read In

The Read In returned this year with a variety of reading activities for lower-level students including book character bingo, STEM and art projects based on selected books, and a scavenger hunt. Students made bookmarks and s'mores during the event.



Delivering books and bookcases at Project Woman as part of the SPARK program.

Zero Waste Store

Students continued the Zero Waste Store by selling environmentally friendly products at school on the first Friday of each month.

Minority Health Fair

Students once again had a table at the Minority Health Fair this April. They distributed healthy recipe cookbooks (made by Ridgewood students), Choose Water material, and satchels with items from the 8th grade's resiliency project. The students also presented a donation of \$250 to Heart Health Now.



Presenting check to Surender Neravetta, MD, a former Ridgewood trustee, for Heart Health Now.

Holidays

Students made over 1,400 valentines to deliver to residents at nine local nursing homes. They also made and delivered treat bags for kids at the Homeless Shelter and Project Woman. In March, students painted Easter baskets and delivered cards and treat bags.

Sports Leagues

Student Council presented and oversaw student competitions in Corn Hole, Basketball, Gaga Ball, Soccer, and Ultimate Frisbee as well as the monthly Ping Pong League.



Finishing work at Second Harvest Food Bank.

Community Service

Students continued volunteering at local charities including the Second Harvest Food Bank, Project Woman, and the Homeless Shelter. They helped sort donations and distribute items. Students also helped at Empty Bowls (including hosting an event at school that featured ceramic bowls made by 7th graders), Stamp Out Hunger, and Springfield Clean-Up. Students helped renovate and plant a garden for residents at Project Woman. They made stepping-stones for the garden and donated a birdhouse as well. Students delivered handmade bookcases and books to 15 families in the SPARK program and to 2 families at the Project Woman shelter. The bookcase project is in its second year with a goal of promoting reading by providing families with books and a place to keep them. So far, 33 bookcases and hundreds of books have been delivered to families.



Ties and Tiaras Dance.

Events and Fundraisers

Student Council hosted gym games, movie nights, Ridgewood at the Chiller, Super Week, video game tournaments (Madden, NBA2K, Smash Bros.), the Egg Hunt, Seuss Day, Gals & Gamers, Earth Day clean-up, and two bashes. Students collected paper products and donated them to the Homeless Shelter. They also raised money for Project Woman, St. Jude's, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Literacy Center.

Beyond the School Yard



Learning at COSI.

Field Trips

Spring semester was filled with field trips that took students fishing when they finished their study of *The Old Man and the Sea*, other students to Carillon Park where they learned about the Wright Brothers, the history of Dayton, and early education, some to the Boonshoft Museum where they enjoyed the planetarium, many to the Air Force Museum as participants in Read Across America, others to the Hatch Studios where they tossed bowls for the student



Fishing after Hemingway.



Practicing Spanish.

council's Empty Bowl event, upper-level students to COSI in Columbus where they tried their hands at numerous science experiences, the kindergarten class to our local Snyder Park, and Ms. Phillips' students to Mariana's Tacos y Paletas to practice their Spanish.



Exploring Snyder Park.



Chess Tournament

Congratulations to second-grader Nathan Krogg who placed 10th in the 2024 Queen City Classic Chess Tournament!

Dance Concert

Ridgewood School was well represented in the Gary Geis Dance Studio's May concert. Ridgewood dancers included Elizabeth Doss, Zoysia Rose, Emmett Reidel, Iris Mohler, alumna Mary Cunningham '22, and Ridgewood faculty member Gail Suzel.

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. Thanks!

Thank You to Our Visionary Business Partners in Education!

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The Ridgewood Fund 2023-2024

We are sincerely grateful to those who contributed to The Ridgewood Fund 2023-24. Your generosity helped us preserve our rigorous academic standards, strengthened our programs, and enriched

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

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

The Ridgewood Fund 2023-24 Donor Honor Roll

as of June 30, 2024

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 Marty & Asha Morgan Moran '84
 Joseph Mullins
in honor of Matilda Norman
 Dr. Paul & Susan Nelson
 Plato (D) & Tina Pavlatos
 Dr. Thales '68(D) & Nancy Pavlatos
 Jane Barnett Phipps '53
 Henry & Jo Pollard
 Robert & Kaitlyn Pollock
 Dr. J. M. Pomputius (H)
 Brian Potts & Caitlin Smith
 Thomas Prendergast
 William & Beth Pryor
 W. Edward & Diane Pullins
 Dr. Mujeeb & Aliya Ranginwala*
 Melinda Reardon*
 David Reichel '50
 Esteban & Cassie Reyes
 Don & DeeDee Rigney

Dr. Sayed Tariq Rizvi* & Afsheen Ansari
 Dr. Dennis & Margaret Roark*
 Mark '67D & Cyndi Robertson
 Larkin Rogers
 Rick & Joy Rogers
 Anne J. Root
in memory of Jerry Ray's mother
 Jacob & Emma Schmidt
 Jamon N. Sellman
 Mary Siddiqi
 Loi Small
 Brett & Christina Steffanni
 Roger & Carol Storer
 James & Gail Suzel
 Dr. Mubin & Afshan '83(D)* Syed
 Scott A. Thacker '69(D)*
 Phillip Trimble '49(D) & Valeria Vasilevski
 Julia Valentine
 Anna Varghese '93
 The Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith '72(D)
 Susan McGregor White '51
in memory of Elisabeth Cole-Carpentieri '51
 Sandra Wickline
 Marta Wojcik* & Kevin Rose
 Chad & Stephanie Wolfe
 Tanvir & Tasneem Zariwala

 *=RSA Trustee 2023-24
 #=Graduation year
 (D)=Distinguished Alumni
 (H)=Honorary Alumni
 SGO Donors (See article on page 13)



The Ridgewood Fund 2024-2025



Every student benefits from your gift!

Dear Friend,

As we continue to provide an excellent education for children in our community, we reach out to our parents, alumni and friends to help us achieve our annual *Ridgewood Fund* goal. Your support is essential in making Ridgewood a unique and transformative educational foundation that helps to create a successful future for our children.

It is through your generous donor support that we are able to employ talented teachers and provide them with the tools and resources they need to go above and beyond. Your donations are the catalyst for innovation and celebration.

As our admission numbers continue to climb, we truly depend upon the assistance of those who understand the vital role Ridgewood School plays in the lives of its students, families and the four-county area (Clark, Champaign, Greene and Madison counties) it serves. All of our students need you!

The Ridgewood Fund, our annual-giving program, is a critical part of the school's budget; It helps cover the difference between our operating expenses and tuition revenue. *The Ridgewood Fund* enables us to provide our students a balance of academics and character development. As an ISACS-accredited, non-sectarian, independent, day school, we are proud of Ridgewood's nurturing environment that fosters lifelong learners. We respectfully ask you to help us reach our goal this year. Your gift, no matter the amount, will have a direct and immediate impact on every student! Please help us continue our proud, historic legacy of academic excellence!

Thank you for considering our sincere request,

Aliya Ranginwala, BBA, M.Ed.
 Head of School

Scan here to donate online!



I/We Support The Ridgewood Fund!

Name as it is to appear for recognition: _____

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Check enclosed for \$ _____ (Payable to Ridgewood School)

Charge \$ _____ to my credit card:

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Please add credit card fee to my total to save additional expense to the school.

Name on Card _____ Card # _____

CCV # _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Credit Card Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Questions? Please contact Aliya Ranginwala at 937.399.8900 or aranginwala@ridgewoodschool.org

- Integrity Circle: \$25+**
- Creativity Circle: \$100+**
- Diversity Circle: \$250+**
- Inspiration Circle: \$500+**
- Joy of Learning Circle: \$1,000+**

In Honor of In Memory of

Please direct gift to greatest need.

Please direct gift to (i.e., Scholarships, Grade, or Department)

Please let us know if you have named Ridgewood School in your will, retirement plan, or insurance policy. If not, please consider placing us in your will.



Alumni Spotlights



Robert B. Patton '55 continues to reside in Springfield and serves as president of AirTrim, the leader in pneumatic

trim waste removal systems in the United States. Bob earned his BA in business from Washington and Lee University and his MBA in finance and marketing from the University of Virginia. Bob is a graduate of Western Reserve Academy.



Marilyn Bauer Davison '60

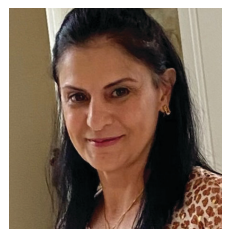
and her husband Tom reside in Columbus, Ohio. Marilyn is an alumna of

Duke University where she earned her BS degree. In 1975, she completed an MSc in computer information and systems at The Ohio State University. From 1973 to 2011, she worked at Battelle Memorial Institute where she retired as Vice President of Information Management. Since 2012, she has been volunteering as a tax preparer for the AARP Foundation. She and Tom enjoy sailing, golf and tennis and are big Duke and OSU sports fans. They share their home with Suzy, their Scottish Terrier.



Rob Hagelberg '75 has retired as the general manager of the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin, Texas

and returned to Springfield. Since 1993, Rob has worked for Four Seasons hotels and resorts across the country. While in Austin, Rob served for four years on the Board of Directors of Visit Austin and was an executive committee member of the Austin Hotel and Lodging Association for nine years. Rob is a graduate of Michigan State University.



Sonia Yakhmi '84 has returned to Springfield to live. Since earning her BA in psychology at Wittenberg University, Sonia

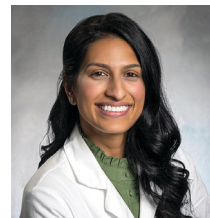
has worked in healthcare and business management in Ohio and Florida. Sonia, who holds a MA in industrial and

organizational psychology from Xavier University and a MA in accounting and financial management from the Keller Graduate School of Management, recently completed her Six Sigma Black Belt certification. Welcome home, Sonia!



Raman Khanna, MD '95 is a Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of California San Francisco and Medical Director of Inpatient

Informatics at UCSF Health. He received his BA and MD, and subsequently completed his residency, at Northwestern University. Later, Dr. Khanna completed a research fellowship and Master's in Clinical Research at UCSF. His work today centers on the design and implementation of information technology applications in health care. Since 2009, Dr. Khanna has been a speaker with the Hindu Speakers Bureau sharing his knowledge of Hinduism with numerous groups. He and his family live in San Francisco.



Kavitha Ranganathan, MD '00 was inspired by her father to pursue a career in medicine and by her uncle, a surgeon in India,

to study craniofacial surgery. Kavitha, her husband who is also in medicine, and their five-year old daughter live in the Boston area where she is Director of Craniofacial Reconstruction at Brigham and Women's Hospital and an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. Kavitha attended Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and completed an internship and residency at the University of Michigan Medical School.



Nanditha Ranganathan, DDS '03 earned her BS degree from the University of Dayton and her DDS from The Ohio State

University College of Dentistry. In 2022 she founded Dentistry at Millennium Park in Chicago where she practices

today. She says her goal is to educate her patients on the state of their oral health and that she strives to put their comfort and quality above all else.



John Koveleski '17 is creating art and living in Cincinnati where he is studying operations management at the University of

Cincinnati's Carl H. Lindner College of Business. John is working on several pieces of art including his exhibition for the Historic Black College and University Night at the Great American Ball Park on August 31 where DJ Diesel (Shaq) will be performing in a post-game concert. John is seen here standing next to one of his paintings, "One Love," in which villagers recognize the concept of "one love" written in the sky in more than fifty languages.



Tahjaie Clark Crowley '21

(second from left in photo) had quite a year representing Springfield High School in track and field. She won titles in

shot and disc at regionals and placed sixth in the OHSAA Girls Division 1 State Competition. Tahjaie has received an academic scholarship from the University of Kentucky where she will enter this fall. Congratulations, Tahjaie!



Emerson Babian '23

(third from right in photo) was a member of Springfield High School's 2023-

2024 Mock Trial Team. The team defeated 250 other Ohio schools and placed first in the state competition. The team went on to place ninth in the National High School Mock Trial Competition in May. Well done, Emerson!

Note: It's been great to talk with alumni who visited school this summer! Mini Chadha Piper '83, Sonia Yakhmi '84, and Chris Kalweit '12, thanks for stopping in and letting us know how and what you're doing.

Writing: A Ridgewood Tradition



Since its founding in 1919, Ridgewood School has recognized and stressed the importance of writing in its curriculum. Some alumni from the 1960s recall that Head of School Eric Lindblade required seventh and eighth-grade students to submit a 400-word essay every Monday morning. They also remember how they felt while they stood beside him as he graded their papers. Others share that Mrs. Jane Wiley would write a long paragraph on the blackboard omitting

its punctuation and capitalization and have her sixth-grade students rewrite it correctly. Mrs. Wiley awarded students only one of two grades, 100 or 0. If they missed a single error, their grade was zero. Even before Dr. Lindblade and Mrs. Wiley, Ridgewood teachers emphasized writing and high standards for their students' work. One alumna from the 1940s recalled how proud she was of a poem she had written for her teacher Mrs. Violet Turner who had her read it to students in other classrooms. An alumnus who is a professional writer recently praised Mrs. Turner for the extremely high expectations she always had for her students. Today, Ridgewood's teachers continue to emphasize writing and Ridgewood students prove to be among the best writers in regional writing competitions.

In recognition of Ridgewood's tradition of emphasizing writing, one of the display cases in the Pavlatos Atrium is housing an exhibition of the works of some alumni authors. Included in the exhibit are U.S. history books, reference works for educators, law books, scholarly

articles from the fields of psychology, physics, and Chinese penology, along with a history of tennis in North Carolina, art exhibit catalogues and studies, publications about the natural world, scholarly articles about French music and medieval troubadours, and several translations of significant medieval French works. Unfortunately, we could not find a copy of the Broadway play, *Out from Under*, written by Jack Kelly '25.

If you stop in school, take a minute and look at the exhibit containing the work of John Corry '43, Elizabeth Corry Blakemore '45D*, Phillip Trimble '49D, Deborah Hubbard Nelson-Campbell '51, Tim T. Noonan '66D, Angelique Walker-Smith '72D, Caroline Lupfer Kurtz '73, Eric Bauer '87, Elizabeth Reynolds '96, David Pullins '97D, and Toby Smith '97. The variety of the publications illustrates the importance of writing in our world and why Ridgewood continues to emphasize writing in its curriculum.

*D=Distinguished Alumni

Would You Like to Donate \$750 to Ridgewood School and It Not Cost You a Cent?

Working through the Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS) and its SGO program (Scholarship Granting Organization), Ridgewood School receives scholarship donations from Ohio residents who designate a portion of their Ohio state tax monies to Ridgewood School. These are dollars that Ohio allows a resident to contribute to a private school of his/her choice, rather than pay to Ohio as income tax. This is *not* a tax deduction that merely decreases the total income on which a person pays taxes, but a reduction in the total amount of tax dollars a person owes the state. In other words, if you owe \$1,000 in state income tax and make a \$750 donation to Ridgewood through the OAIS program, you will then owe the state only \$250. These donations are limited to \$750 per individual or \$1,500 for a couple who file jointly but make their \$750 donations as individuals. (Please note that should a taxpayer donate more than the

taxpayer's income tax liability, the credit will reduce the taxpayer's liability to zero, but it will not create a refund.)

It's a simple process to support Ridgewood in this way. The process begins with visiting the OAIS website and clicking on Scholarship Granting Organization. Follow the link that you will find there to the one-page donation form. This form will ask if you are an individual or business, your name, address, a phone number, and an email address to which OAIS can send your receipt. You will then choose Ridgewood School from their list of participating schools and enter the amount of your donation. The next step is to indicate whether you are sending a check to OAIS, using a credit card, or debit card and provide the needed information. One step remains and that is to submit your donation. After your payment is processed, you will receive a receipt acknowledging your donation

that you then attach to your Ohio state tax form when you pay your taxes next year. It's really a simple process that takes as little as five minutes!

Last school year was the first year that Ridgewood received scholarship donations via the Ohio Association of Independent Schools. These funds totaled more than \$25,000 and will provide scholarships to students this year. While that is a financial help to Ridgewood families and the school, Ridgewood can use additional scholarship monies. Remember that the dollars you donate are dollars that you would otherwise pay to the state of Ohio.

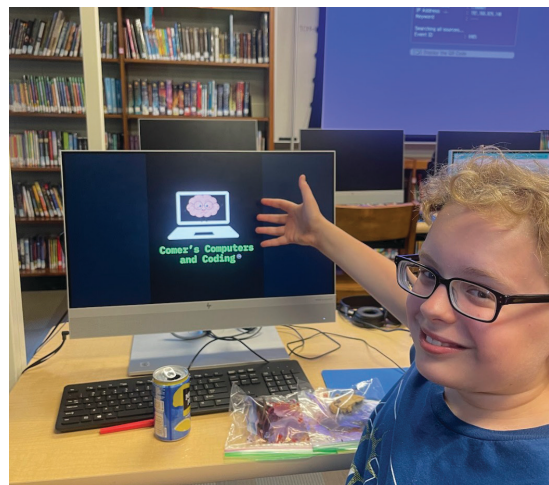
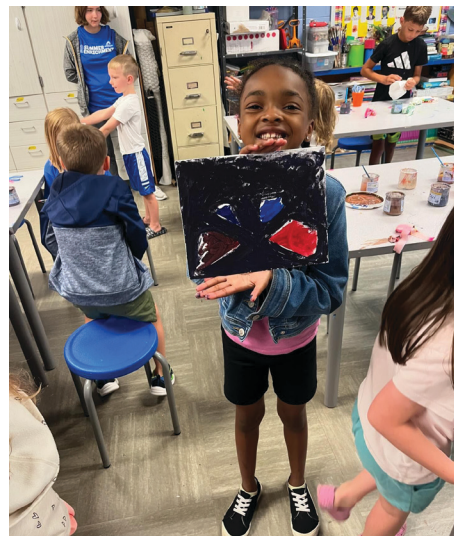




Join Us for Our 2025 Summer Enrichment Program!

Watch our website in early spring for our 2025 dates and remember that courses fill quickly!

Suggestions for exciting courses are welcome. If you are interested in offering a Summer Enrichment course, please contact kkeriazes@ridgewoodschol.org.



Please Welcome to Ridgewood!



Amy Fischer is coming to Ridgewood as our new computer teacher and gifted math tutor. In addition to being an experienced computer teacher, Amy has an extensive background in teaching math. She earned her BS in mathematics education at Ohio University and a MA in gifted education at Wright State University. Amy is married and has a daughter who is also a teacher. Amy loves puzzles (Sudoku, Wordle, etc.) and running. She runs about 50 miles a week.



Maginta Grim holds a BS degree in early childhood education from Ohio University and will teach in our preschool. She shares her home with her dog Archie and cat Molly who is ten years old. She enjoys reading and spending time with her friends and family. She is excited to join the preschool team and looks forward to meeting all the students this year.



Jennifer Hall will be joining the Ridgewood faculty as our fourth-grade teacher. She earned her BA degree in education at Wittenberg and a MS in education from Walden University. Her favorite subject is math, favorite color purple, favorite sport hockey, and she has five cats. Jen and her husband Jeff have one daughter Harleigh who will be off to college in Chicago this fall.



Rachel Detraz, Ridgewood School parent and Edison State Community College (ESCC) associate professor, will be joining the Ridgewood faculty as our physical education teacher. Rachel holds a MS degree in biology and has been recognized for teaching excellence at ESCC. This summer, Rachel participated in Ridgewood's Summer Enrichment program offering a course titled, "Where Fairy Tales and Science Collide."

Ridgewood Staff and Faculty 2024-2025

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

Would You Prefer to Receive Our Newsletter Via Email?

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

Fall Semester Schedule 2024-2025

Grading Period 1:
 August 21 - October 25

Grading Period 2:
 October 28 - January 16

August 16, 19 & 20
 Teacher Work Days

August 19
 Open House 6:00-7:30 p.m.

August 21
 First Day of School

September 2
 Labor Day, No School

September 6
 *Early Release 2 p.m.

September 27
 Interim Reports

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

October 4
 Parent-Teacher Conference
 Make-up Day, No School

October 17
 Multicultural Night

October 25
 End of 1st Grading Period

November 1
 *Early Release 2 p.m.

November 27-29
 Thanksgiving Break

December 3 & 5
 Winter Concerts

December 6
 *Early Release 2 p.m.

December 13
 Interim Reports



December 23-January 3
 Winter Break

January 6
 Return to School

January 16
 End of 2nd Grading Period

January 17
 Teacher Work Day, No School

January 20
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday,
 No School

  Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

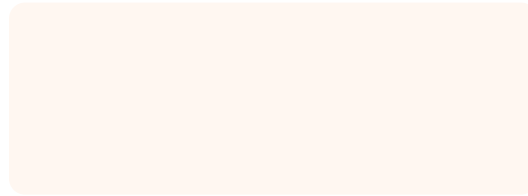


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Ridgewood Times

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Ridgewood School Association Officers and Trustees 2023-24

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Secretary: Christine Reynolds*

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Margaret Roark

Kathryn Rogers

Scott Thacker '69D

Aliya Ranginwala, *Ex Officio*

*Non-voting member

#D=Distinguished Alumni

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



From the Head of School



Head of School Aliya Ranginwala

It takes a teacher....

Since the founding of Ridgewood School in 1919 there have always been passionate teachers to inspire our students to achieve. It all began when Ms. Winger, who was running a little school out of the basement of a church on High Street, presented her case to a group of local businessmen for her dream school. Her plea was a success as money was collected and construction commenced soon after. Ms. Winger and Mrs. Beard served as Ridgewood's first teachers. Ms. Winger also served as the principal. This was the beginning of the Light of Learning.

After these amazing ladies established the school, Ridgewood continued to attract and retain some remarkable teachers. As it has been documented in our history book, Ridgewood School has

had its struggles over the years. Fortunately, this never stopped the teachers at Ridgewood School from continuing in their efforts to provide the best education for our students. In the 30s and 40s, we had the amazing teacher, Violet Turner, who served as both a 1st grade and 2nd grade teacher and for some time even served as the principal. Some recorded quotes about Mrs. Turner included "I loved her. She taught me to love reading. The day she became my teacher was the best day of my life." Then there was Miss Lucille Jones adored by her kindergarteners. She also produced, managed and directed several Ridgewood performances with other teachers making costumes and sets. I could go on and on about the impactful educators that have walked the halls of Ridgewood School in the past and continue to presently, but that would be a newsletter in itself. My point is to share that it takes a teacher to motivate, inspire, and help students become the adults that they desire to be.

In my experience as a student, teacher, parent and for the past 10 years Head of School, it is a teacher that ignites the light of learning for all children. Without that special teacher to inspire, engage, excite, guide and translate our lessons to life,

learning becomes a burden and at times a challenge we feel we cannot surmount. Our teachers help us to realize we can indeed achieve our goals.

Teachers don't just help us to learn, but the best become our advocates, our cheerleaders of sorts. They are there with words of encouragement and kindness. They help us to find the positive in all that we struggle to accomplish. There are times where they force us to face our reality and push us to go beyond what we think we can accomplish. Though it may seem annoying and painful at the time, ask any alum and they will tell you how grateful they are for that not so pleasant experience of the past.

Ridgewood School's tradition of academic excellence was founded on the beliefs of a small group of parents, community leaders, and teachers who wanted to provide something better for their children. That dream could not have been delivered without extraordinary teachers. As a result, the Board of Trustees have now included in their strategic planning their commitment of supporting all efforts to retain and attract excellent teachers for all future generations of students.