

Celebrating Our Alumni



With Susan McGregor White '51 attending from California and Eric Lindblade '67D from North Carolina, our Earth to Table Alumni Dinner on September 20, 2024, was a bicoastal event. Classes represented at the dinner were from the Class of 1949 through the Class of 2024, a remarkable span of seventy-five years! Dinner was catered by Kohler Catering and served by members of the Ridgewood Student

Council and young alumni. Music teacher Eric Barga provided music for our social hour and Ridgewood alumni parent Mrs. Shashi Chadha offered our invocation. Afshan Syed '83D, president of the board of trustees, welcomed the alumni and Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, reported on the state of the school and the board's focus on teachers this year.

Following the dinner, Ridgewood proudly recognized its 2024 Distinguished Alumni, Soumya Neravetla, MD '91; Robert E. Rue '84; and Deborah Hubbard Nelson-Campbell, PhD '51. The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to Ridgewood alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields; served in local, state, or national affairs or provided service to society; and demonstrated outstanding support of Ridgewood School.



Dr. Soumya Neravetla is a highly skilled cardiothoracic surgeon who locally spearheaded the lung cancer screening program, the expansion of minimally invasive cardiovascular surgery, and launched a transcatheter heart valve replacement program. In 2023, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin awarded her its Most Distinguished Young Physician Award.

Robert E. Rue is the president and general manager of Littleton and Rue Funeral Home and Crematory. Having served as a city commissioner, he now serves as Springfield's mayor and is a significant supporter of Ridgewood School.



Dr. Nelson-Campbell is a professor emerita of Rice University. Her distinguished career includes her accomplishments as a translator, editor, and scholar of medieval and French literature. Dr. Nelson-Campbell received Rice University's George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching as well as its Phi Beta

Kappa Teaching Award. She is a Chevalier in the Ordre des Palmes Academiques, one of the oldest civil honors bestowed by the French Republic. Her daughter Alissa Nelson travelled from Texas to accept Dr. Campbell-Nelson's award and speak on her behalf.

In addition to its distinguished alumni awards, Ridgewood's Board of Trustees conferred on Violet Turner and Gail Suzel the status of Honorary Alumni. This honor is awarded to individuals who, although they are not Ridgewood alumni, have served Ridgewood by making a significant contribution of time, effort or resources to the school's welfare, reputation, and/or prestige and by serving as role models for Ridgewood School students.



Mrs. Turner, who was posthumously recognized, was one of Ridgewood's outstanding teachers and heads of school in a Ridgewood career that began in 1928 and continued into the 1960s. Many Ridgewood alumni attribute their success and work ethic to Mrs. Turner. Mrs. Turner's grandson John Landess and granddaughter Mary Emerson represented Mrs. Turner and her family.



Before joining Ridgewood School's faculty in 2004, Mrs. Suzel taught in Yellow Springs and at Springfield's Nightingale Montessori School. Since coming to Ridgewood, she has served as a tutor, taught first grade, coached Science Olympiad, and choreographed the school musicals. Today, she serves as head of Ridgewood's Hollenbeck Preschool and is its lead teacher. Mrs. Suzel played a significant role in developing the preschool's curriculum and is extremely popular with parents, current students, and the young alumni she has taught. Locally, Mrs. Suzel has served on the board of the Gary Geis Dance Company.

The 2024 Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni received commemorative crystal paperweights and copies of *Ridgewood School: The Little School in the Woods at 100*. A scholarship bearing their name is being awarded to a Ridgewood student for the academic year. The honorees' names are included on the Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni plaques outside the Cole-Carpentieri Commons.

Alumni Awards 2025: Nominate Now

The Ridgewood Association Board of Trustees will consider Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni nominations at its March 20, 2025, meeting. To nominate someone, you may write directly to Corwin Georges, Alumni Director, Ridgewood School, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, Ohio 45504 or email your nomination to cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org. When nominating your candidate, please tell how she or he meets the criteria for the award. Award criteria can be found at the Ridgewood School website under Alumni.



Hearts & Hands Auction and Dinner 2025: All the Buzz!

Join us for a memorable evening at the *Hearts & Hands Auction and Dinner* on Friday, April 11, 2025, as we embrace the theme “All the Buzz.” The evening promises to be an exciting celebration, full of opportunities to support Ridgewood while enjoying a night of fun and community.

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour, during which you’ll have the chance to visit with fellow supporters and explore the array of auction items. There’s no shortage of unique items, so be prepared to make a “beeline” for the ones that catch your eye. Following the social hour, dinner will be served, and after dinner our exciting live auction will begin.

Our auction co-chairs, Sarah DeLong and Tamara Comer, invite those who would like to help with the event to reach out to Michelle Dutton, Ridgewood’s secretary, at mdutton@ridgewoodschool.org. Whether you’re interested in helping with donations, basket assembly, decorations, or event set-up/tear-down, your support will be greatly appreciated. Additionally, the co-chairs are currently soliciting donations of auction items. If you have something to contribute, please email Ms. Dutton that information.

Online bidding for silent auction items will begin on April 7, 2025, and close during the event. This year’s “Bid for a Cause” will focus on replacing the playground basketball goals which need repair. The plan is to install new, adjustable goals to ensure that all children can enjoy the game, regardless of age or ability.

This year’s auction promises to be “un-bee-lieve-ably” fun, with fantastic auction items and exciting moments throughout the evening. Whether you’re looking to score one of our amazing auction items or simply enjoy the camaraderie of Ridgewood’s wonderful community, you won’t want to miss attending. So, mark your calendars, spread the word, and let’s make this year’s auction and dinner an event to remember—one that truly benefits Ridgewood’s students. We look forward to seeing you there! ☀

RAP (Ridgewood Advising Parents)

RAP jumped into the new school year by hosting an ice cream social in August and then in September Ridgewood’s annual Fall Fest. With balloon art, face painting, cake walk, games, a bouncy house, eighth graders in the dunk tank, and a food truck, it was easy to have a great time. October brought Multicultural Night where RAP was responsible for setup and cleanup. We also lined up 31 vehicles to have a great trunk or treat for the Ridgewood students to visit during their Halloween costume parade. In November, we helped with the school Thanksgiving feast, decorating, serving side dishes and desserts to our school crew, helping with recess, and cleaning up afterward. We had a BINGO night fundraiser at Mother Stewart’s Brewery in December which was just as competitive and fun as our BINGO night last year. Hopefully we will make this an annual event!

Coming up in 2025, RAP is looking forward to Valentine’s Day celebrations, helping with carnation sales for the school musical, and assisting the Hearts & Hands Auction and Dinner committee. Volunteering for field day in May will round out the school year for RAP. We are always looking for more parents to be involved with RAP. Come and see what you can do at our next meeting, February 13, 2025, at 3:00 pm in the Spanish room. ☀



Ice Cream Social



Trunk or Treat



Bingo Night

Ridgewood Teachers Receive Governor's Award for Excellence!

This fall, Ridgewood School was one of only forty Ohio schools whose teachers were recognized for "excellence in STEM education" in the 2023-2024 school year. The Ridgewood teachers receiving the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in Stem Education and Student Research were Rachel McLaughlin, Dan Metzger, Megan Miller, and Paul Sauter.

Aliya Ranginwala, head of school, explained the success of Ridgewood's teachers saying, "Our teachers collaborate tirelessly to support our students as they delve into independent research projects, applying the scientific method. This process becomes a crucial part of our students' mastery during the middle school years as they prepare to graduate from the 8th grade.

Mrs. Ranginwala elaborated, "Our faculty first help our students pick their research topics and understand components of the scientific method. They then guide the students through the research process and assist them in finding and citing sources for their final reports and presentations. When the students' research is complete, the teachers guide our young scientists in creating poster boards and rehearsing their oral presentations. It is a lengthy process."

Executive director of the Ohio Academy of Science Michael Woytek said, "We are proud to honor these schools and teachers for preparing students for the future through application-based learning.



Ms. McLaughlin



Mr. Metzger



Mrs. Miller



Mr. Sauter

The Ohio Academy of Science
&
The Ohio Department of Development



Recognize


Ridgewood School

with the

**THOMAS EDISON AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE
IN STEM EDUCATION**

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024



MICHAEL E. WOYTEK
Executive Director,
The Ohio Academy of Science

The students are learning and gaining confidence by solving complex problems through inquiry and technological design."

Mrs. Ranginwala praised Ridgewood's teachers saying, "Ridgewood teachers strive for excellence in their teaching and we, the administration, parents, and students who make up the Ridgewood community honor and respect what our teachers do for our students. They truly deserve this recognition." 🌟

Springfield Foundation Supports Ridgewood Student Council

We are pleased to announce that Ridgewood School has been awarded a civic affairs grant by the Springfield Foundation. The grant will be used to help support the community service our student council provides this year. Community service is a significant aspect of Ridgewood students' character development. As members of our student council, students learn about Springfield and its residents, as well as its assets and challenges. Most important though, they learn about civic responsibility and that they can be instruments of positive change.

Ms. Lori Boegershausen, Director of Grants at the Springfield Foundation shared, "The Springfield Foundation is deeply honored to support students who are transforming the Clark County community. These remarkable students embody leadership, innovation, and hope. They are not only making an impact today but paving the way as the visionary leaders of tomorrow."

Thank you, Springfield Foundation!



CONGRATULATIONS, DAN METZGER!

Congratulations to Mr. Metzger who received Springfield's Project Woman's Chrysalis Award in October. Recipients of the Chrysalis Award demonstrate attributes of advocacy and work to create change in the conditions and awareness of domestic violence and its impact on the lives within our community. For more than a decade, Dan has not only been an advocate for Project Woman, but also, as Ridgewood's student council advisor, has provided Ridgewood students opportunities to learn about and support this organization as part of their community service. Well-deserved, Mr. Metzger!



Academic Accolades

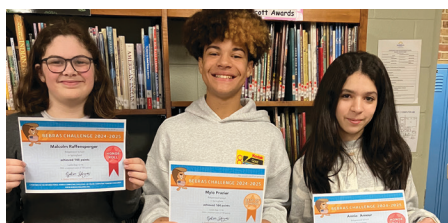
The Bebras Challenge

The following young mathematicians are to be congratulated for meeting the Bebras Challenge which focuses on informatics and computational thinking. In the Benjamin Category for students ages 10-12, Matthew Comer placed first, Evan McWhorter placed second, and Shashank Palla was third. In the Cadet Category for students ages 12-14, Mylo Frazier placed first, Malcolm Raffensperger was second, and Annia Ameer was third.

Congratulations to our students and their teachers.



(l to r: Matthew, Shashank, Evan)



(l to r: Malcolm, Mylo, Annia)



Altrusa Literary Sting

Once again Ridgewood participated in the Altrusa Literary Sting spelling bee. Representing Ridgewood this year were Mr. Dan Metzger, Mrs. Megan Miller, and Ridgewood's 2023-2024 Spelling Bee Champion Matthew Comer.

Scary Stories

Three of our young authors received awards in the Clark County Public Library's 2024 Halloween-inspired, original scary short story contest. Jaylyn Elrod's story placed first and Caden Groth's was runner up in the teen-age category. Devyn Crawford placed first in the 9-12 age category. Congratulations! 🌟



(l to r: Caden, Jaylyn, Devyn)

Spring Semester Schedule 2024-25

January 6: Return to School

January 16: End of 2nd Grading Period

January 17: Teacher Workday, No School

January 20: M. L. King, Jr. Birthday, No School

February 7: *Early Release 2 p.m.

Interim Reports

February 13: Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00 p.m.

February 14: Conference Make Up Day, No School

February 17: Presidents' Birthdays, No School

February 28-March 1: The Lion King, Jr., 7 p.m.

March 7: *Early Release 2 p.m.

March 21: End of 3rd Grading Period

March 24-28: Spring Break

April 18: Good Friday, No School

April 25: Interim Reports

May 2: *Early Release 2 p.m.

May 13: Spring Showcase

May 26: Memorial Day, No School

May 28: End of 4th Grading Period

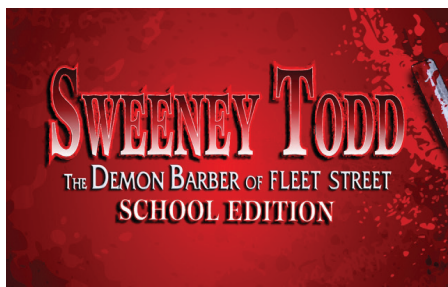
Graduation and Passing of Classes

May 29: Field Day/ 2-hour delay / Last Day of School

May 30-June 2: Teacher Workdays

Beyond the Schoolyard

Ridgewood students Elyse Linardos, Devyn Cardinal, Kinley Cardinal, Mylo Frazier, and Arlo Larson have been busy this fall appearing in Springfield Arts Council's Youth Arts Ambassadors' musical productions of *Sweeney Todd (School Edition)* and *Beetlejuice, Jr.*



Devyn Cardinal (l), who played Ariel in Ridgewood's production of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* last year, played Macduff's son in Clark State College's production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* directed by Ridgewood parent Theresa Lauricella. (Photo: Jeremy Mudd)

Apology:

In the last newsletter, Julia Doss' participation in the Gary Geis School of Dance Concert was omitted. Julia performed both tap and ballet pieces in the concert. We regret failing to recognize her with the other dancers.

Congratulations, Julia! 🌟

Citizens of the Month

Each month, Ridgewood students focus on embodying a specific positive behavior. Teachers then select a student from their class that best exemplified this behavior during the month.

Congratulations to our exemplary citizens!

September: **Enthusiasm**

- 8th Grade: Jude Konecki
- 7th Grade: Lujain Bilal
- 6th Grade: Umer Bilal
- 5th Grade: Hezekiah Zima
- 4th Grade: Evelyn Schmidt
- 3rd Grade: Lana Horrichs
- 2nd Grade: Tilly Norman
- 1st Grade: Dahlia Davis
- Kindergarten: Ezra Tanksley

October: **Responsibility**

- 8th Grade: Annia Ameur
- 7th Grade: Arhem Rizvi
- 6th Grade: Evan McWhorter
- 5th Grade: Iris Mohler
- 4th Grade: Emory Groth
- 3rd Grade: Natalie Thompson
- 2nd Grade: Lucas Harrison
- 1st Grade: Trae Kelley, Jack Llado
- Kindergarten: Quentin Bollinger

November: **Kindness**

- 8th Grade: Jaylyn Elrod
- 7th Grade: Lilly Dobbins
- 6th Grade: Alianah Smith
- 5th Grade: Vera Patel
- 4th Grade: Kinley Cardinal
- 3rd Grade: Dhruv Mohindroo, Kavya Kathuria
- 2nd Grade: Carter Keriazes
- 1st Grade: Maren Mattox
- Kindergarten: Ellis Prince, Elliana Osborne

SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



THE
**H.S. Kissell
LEGACY
SOCIETY**

**CREATING THE
NEXT 100 YEARS**

H.S. Kissell Legacy Society

What is the H. S. Kissell Legacy Society? It's a thoughtful group of individuals and families who have chosen to include Ridgewood School in their estate plans. They want to ensure Ridgewood's future, to play a significant role in creating its next 100 years! 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.

Coming Soon! *The Lion King, Jr.*



You don't want to miss Ridgewood's production of *The Lion King, Jr.*, so mark February 28 and March 1 on your calendar and be sure to attend one of the performances. Curtain time is 7 p.m. The production will run approximately one hour and tell the epic adventure of a curious lion cub named Simba as he struggles to accept the responsibilities of adulthood and his destiny as king. The performances are

admission free. Eric Barga, Ridgewood's music teacher, and Ridgewood parent Theresa Lauricella are co-directing the production. *The Lion King, Jr.* develops themes of inclusion, community, diversity, and speaking truth to power. In conjunction with the production, our K-3 students are working on African drumming in their music classes. Performances will be held in Ridgewood's Cole-Carpentieri Commons. ☀

The Little School in the Woods

Available for purchase online at HistoryBook.givesmart.com or by phoning Christine Reynolds, Administrative Assistant, at 937.399.8900, Ext. 104. Price: \$45.

Ridgewood School:
The Little School in the Woods
at 100

Tim Troupe Noonan

Fall Semester 2024 Memories!



The first day of school was a red-carpet day at Ridgewood. Seriously! Students and teachers entered the school walking on the red carpet reserved for this annual event. Here's Mrs. Miller, our fourth-grade teacher, on the red carpet on the first day of school.



For some children the first day of school provided the chance to see friends they hadn't seen since last spring and to share tales of their summers.



Others looked forward to new teachers, classmates, and classrooms, while others were just excited about starting school. It was a time of beginnings!

Ridgewood's 2024-2025 school year opened with a record enrollment of 163 students, three new teachers, and a new pizza oven in the kitchen.



Ridgewood's Hindu students, their families and members of the community honored each of our teachers and presented them with a gift in a ceremony, Guru Vandana, that recognizes the importance of teachers for imparting knowledge, for being positive examples, and guiding students in character development.



On the first Fridays in September, students enjoyed pastries with their parents before school. It's a way for students to include their parents as part of their school life and for parents to meet other parents and the faculty.



Ridgewood students learned about local history at this year's New Boston Fair held at George Rogers Clark State Park in September. Upper-level students enjoyed posing with the park's statue of General George Rogers Clark.



Later our students watched a blacksmith working at his forge.



The kindergarten worked on maps and directions this fall. Here they are following a map that led them through the school.



Members of Ridgewood classes spanning 75 years attended our annual Earth to Table Alumni Dinner on September 20. Distinguished Alumnus Rob Rue '84 who is Springfield's mayor provided the evening's closing remarks. (See article on p. 1.)



Fall Fest was a fun time for students and their families. The student council and RAP made sure there was a lot to do -



games,



pony rides,



face painting, and the Reverse Dunk Tank.



Seventh and eighth grade students travelled to Cedarville University to see the university's production of the musical *The Secret Garden*. (Our students will produce their own musical *The Lion King, Jr.* in February. (See article on p. 5.)



Having studied award-winning author Peter Brown's book, *The Wild Robot*, and created their own robots, K-6th students were excited to see the movie *The Wild Robot*.



International cuisine, music, dance, art, and families wearing ethnic clothing created a successful Multicultural Night. (See article p. 11.)



The 4th graders learned to play the ukulele in music class.

With thirty-one vehicles lined up in the parking lot for our annual trunk-or-treat, there were plenty of treats for our witches, superheroes, Mario brothers, and other tricksters.



Throughout the semester, students enjoyed participating in our afterschool clubs—chess, board games, math, science, garden, etc. The Venture Club guided by Mr. Sauter explored Springfield's Gallagher Fen.



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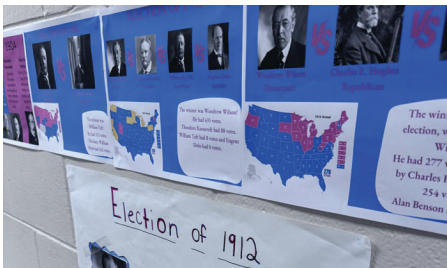
Mrs. Konecki's Board Game Club tried to escape the desert before their supplies ran out while playing Forbidden Desert.



And our first grade "wizards" worked with Wizards of Wright Patterson and learned about the three states of matter.



Election day is always a civics lesson for our students. This year, upper-level students researched the history of presidential elections, and all students voted on school-related issues.



Mr. James Suzel joined his wife, our preschool teacher Gail Suzel, in welcoming our preschoolers to their farm where students met Mr. Suzel's friend from the garden and explored the fields and woods with Mrs. Suzel.



What is it like to teach? Our 4th graders learned by helping our kindergarteners with their computer assignment.



Our "bigs" created chalk drawings and positive messages for their "littles" on World Kindness Day.



We continued this year to stress the importance of positive health habits with a visit of nursing students from Cedarville University who talked about dental hygiene.

Our Thanksgiving feast was a special day. All students participated in some way in preparing the feast. Thank you, Chef Linardos and Ms. Yoakem. Thanks also to RAP who served the feast! It was a memorable day with our "bigs" and "littles" being able to lunch together.



Our winter concerts signaled that only a few weeks were left before winter break. It was standing-room-only in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons filled with families and their friends. (See article p. 10.)



The semester ended with a special invitation for Ridgewood students and their families to attend a concert featuring Ridgewood alumnae Mariko and Kanako Shimasaki '07, our internationally recognized violinists.



Student Council Report

The Student Council stayed busy during the summer with a variety of service projects and activities. The second annual Ridgewood Olympics took place in early August. Students volunteered at the Food Bank, Project Woman, passed the hat at the Summer Arts Festival, and raised money for Alex's Lemonade Stand. The students even had the opportunity to pick up and move in appliances and furniture to the newly renovated Project Woman shelter in Urbana. In addition to these projects, the students also had a Farmer's Market at school (with produce from the Ridgewood Learning Garden), ran the Zero Waste Store on the first Friday of each month, and had a table at the Farmer's Market downtown once each month in July, August, and September. The table featured student made stepping-stones and ceramic bowls, baked goods including zucchini brownies and blueberry zucchini muffins, and produce from the school's garden.



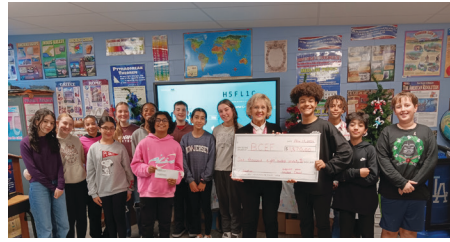
The summer capped off with a school supply drive and a shoe collection which was donated to a project that builds clean water sources for people around the world.

The school year kicked off with the Spirit Sale, two Pastries with Parents, and the first Big Sister/Big Brother lunch of the year.



Students helped serve the meal at the Alumni Dinner and helped run games and concessions at Fall Fest. The annual Ridgewood School Alzheimer's Association Walk took place in late September and

featured a Promise Garden with hand painted flowers and a donation of \$575 for the Association's local chapter.



Students were busy in October raising money for the Breast Cancer Endowment Fund by hosting events that included a bake sale, Waffle Breakfast, and Upper Level movie night at UEC Theaters. Their hard work paid off when they were able to present a donation of \$1,870 to the BCEF. October also included the Halloween Bash, which featured the Haunted House run by the 8th graders and Mr. Sauter. The Bash also included games, food, and prizes with help from Mrs. Miller, Ms. McLaughlin, and Mrs. Hall.



November was packed with events including Kindness Day, the return of bowling night, Lower-Level Gym Games, and the first ever Gobble Games. On Kindness Day, students wrote positive messages in chalk on the front sidewalk for their "bigs" and "littles." The Gobble Games were organized by Mylo, Gavin, and Malcolm and included intellectual and physical challenges. The winning team of two received a prize basket and got to sign the trophy. Proceeds from the event were used to buy Thanksgiving meal items for local soup kitchens and shelters. During November, the annual food drive collected more than 9 barrels of food for the Second Harvest Food Bank.



The 8th graders made two cakes and two pies with Mr. Linardos to donate to the Food Bank's annual dessert auction. The pies were donated in memory of Grandma Jo Pollard. Students were able to deliver over 30 donated pies from our pie sale to two local soup kitchens, the Homeless Shelter, and the shelter at Project Woman. Students sold flags that were posted in the front entrance starting on Veteran's Day. Proceeds, along with thank you cards made by the students, were donated to the local chapter of Honor Flight (\$400).



The Bookcase Project continued this fall with seven bookcases and over 100 books donated to families in the FAST program.



In December, students donated four trees to the Trees for Tots program. Each Upper-Level class decorated their own tree with the 8th graders winning the competition (Disney themed). The annual Babysitting Night happened on the first Friday in December and included games, cookie decorating, bingo, crafts, a story, a movie, and dinner. Toys were also collected for the Parent Infant Center. We were able to deliver 7 boxes of toys and a \$450 donation to the Center.

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(Continued from p. 9)



7th and 8th graders also helped packaged meals for the Lesotho Project at Wittenberg.



Throughout the fall, students delivered more than 800 cards and painted pumpkins to local nursing homes and treat bags to kids at local shelters. The students volunteered monthly at the Food Bank, helped put up domestic violence awareness signs for Project Woman, and helped with mobile food pantries each month. The Zero Waste Store continued to sell environmentally friendly items each first Friday of the month. Sports leagues in the fall included frisbee golf, baseball, football, volleyball, kickball, and the monthly ping pong matches. There were Mario Kart and Smash Bros. video game tournaments and the monthly News Bowl current events challenge. All of this would not have been possible without the hard work of students, support and contributions of the staff, and generosity of families and local business. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to many new projects and activities in the upcoming year. 🌟

Winter Concerts 2024



Fourth graders playing "Good King Wenceslas"

I imagine that I'm not the only parent who fondly recalls their child's first Ridgewood School performance. Although in my case that winter concert performance was in 1996, I clearly remember today sitting in the front row thinking that that moment was what life was all about.

I suspect that the parents attending this year's Winter Concert for our PreK-3rd grades on the evening of December 3, 2024, will also cherish their memories of seeing their children singing and dancing in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons in front of an SRO audience. For some parents the memory will be the preschool's performance of "The Ice Race" and Mrs. Suzel's choreography that had their children tumbling across the stage. Some will recall how much the kindergarteners enjoyed moving to "Jingle Bell Rock," and not only the kindergarteners, but the older students who were present and remembered the song's choreography that they learned several years before. Parents of first grade students will relish how polished their children's performances were when dancing the "Troika." Second grade students' families will continue to be impressed that their



6th-8th grades band playing "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?"

children skillfully handled the challenge of singing a *round*, "Holiday Round" and third grade students' parents will time and again be pleased when they remember their children's performance of "O, Hanukkah."

The Winter Concert on December 5, 2024, that featured the 4th-8th grades left parents with not only warm memories but also an understanding of what their children are learning. The evening program consisted of the fourth grade performing on handchimes "Good King Wenceslas." Mr. Barga, our music teacher, explained that the fourth graders are now learning to read notes, understand scales, and play in an ensemble. With the fifth grade, he shared that the fifth graders are learning to play musical instruments. He then had them introduce their instruments and tell us to which family (brass, woodwind, percussion, etc.) their instruments belonged. The fifth graders then performed "Jingle Bells." The evening concluded with the 6th- 8th grades band performing "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" and a lifetime of memories for everyone attending. 🌟



First graders dancing the Troika

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

  Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

Multicultural Night 2024

Kenya, France, Mexico, Japan, Australia, and the Netherlands were represented in this year's Multicultural Night celebration. And once again, the school was packed with students and their families ready to learn about different cultures through their cuisine, arts, and national dress.



Preparing to launch their boomerangs

Starting at 6 p.m. our preschool and kindergarten students performed South American and Kenyan songs and dances in the Cole-Carpentieri Commons. After their performance that ended with the kindergarten's joyous Kenyan improvisational drum dance, everyone moved to the school lawn where they enjoyed an international potluck dinner. Each family had prepared for the dinner an appetizer, entrée, or dessert that represented their cultural heritage. The delicious dishes were arranged on lengthy tables beneath a tent erected on the blacktop adjacent

to the school. Some diners chose to stay outside and dine on the school lawn, while others returned to the school and enjoyed their meals in their children's classrooms. Students' art projects and informational posters representing different cultures lined the walls of the classrooms and hallways.

A little after 7 p.m., everyone reconvened in the commons and students from the first through eighth grades performed. The second half of the program opened with the 6th-8th Grades Band playing "Habanera" from Bizet's *Carmen*. Next the first graders performed Mexican songs and dances



displaying great concentration and discipline. Japan was celebrated by the second graders with one of their songs being introduced by body percussion music. When it was the third graders turn to perform, some in the audience sang along with the third graders who performed the familiar French

song "Alouette." Wonderful harmony was created by the fourth graders singing Australia's "Kookaburra" and the fifth graders demonstrated their rhythmic skills in performing "Sarasponda," a popular song from the Netherlands.

Thanks to Mr. Barga our music teacher, Ms. Suzel our preschool director and resident choreographer, Mrs. Loftis our visual arts teacher, and the other teachers who integrated the study of a particular country with their curriculum. Special thanks to Mrs. Jen Groth and the members of RAP who provided needed support for the event. Congratulations to Mrs. Ranginwala, Ms. Christine Reynolds, Mr. Linardos, Mrs. Yoakem, and Mr. Metzger whose thoughtful planning, attention to details, and unending behind-the-scenes efforts produced another successful Ridgewood event. ☀️



Baking Mexican Wedding cookies

Business Partners in Education Campaign 2025

With the start of this new year, we are launching our 2025 Partners-in-Education Campaign. This annual campaign asks local businesses to show their support of our students by becoming one of our Partners-in-Education. In turn, Ridgewood is proud to recognize and promote these businesses through a variety of media. If you have a business or know someone who has a business that would like to support our students, please have them contact cgeorges@ridgewoodschool.org. We'll be happy to send them our 2025 Partners-in-Education materials.

Thank You to Our 2024 Business Partners in Education!

Leadership Level



Citizenship Level



Academic Excellence Level



Critical Thinking Level

Business Equipment Company
C & N Contractors
Comprehensive Vein Care
Direct Primary Care
Dye & Doss, Inc.
Esterline and Sons MFG
Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum
Kapp Construction, Inc.
Link-Hellmuth Insurance
Martin, Browne, Hull & Harper PLL
McGregor Metalworking Companies
Palmer Manufacturing and Supply
Park National Bank

Springfield Foundation
Springfield Symphony Orchestra
The Comer Group at Coldwell Banker Heritage
The Miami Valley School
Wallace & Turner, Inc.
Westcott House

Student Engagement Level

Altrusa International of Springfield
Cintas
Daniel C. Harkins Esq.
Dependable Roofing
James A. Tetz DMD Inc.
KB&P Financial Partners
North Spring Dental
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Discovery Level

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Greater Springfield Partnership
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Springfield Museum of Art
The Peanut Shoppe



Thank you, Scholarship Donors!

On behalf of our students who received scholarships for the 2024–2025 school year and their families, we want to extend a thank you to the individuals listed below who made it possible for Ridgewood to provide these scholarships. While preparing to write this article, I noted that some of these generous people took advantage of the Ohio Association of Independent School's (OAIS) scholarship granting program (SGO) in which Ridgewood participated for the first time last year. The OAIS SGO program was established in response to Ohio's tax law that encourages an individual to donate up to \$750 of what she or he owes the state in income tax to a scholarship granting organization. Contributions to the OAIS SGO program that are designated for Ridgewood are then forwarded to Ridgewood. This legislation decreases what the person owes Ohio in income tax and helps a student attend Ridgewood. This year we have been able to award \$30,000 in scholarships that were generated by Ridgewood School supporters, including those who donated through OAIS.

Scholarship contributions may be made by directly contacting Mrs. Ranginwala, our head of school, or you may take advantage of the income tax reduction process, by contributing to Ridgewood through OAIS. Donating to our scholarship fund at OAIS is a simple process. It begins with visiting OAIS.org and clicking on Scholarship Granting Organization. Follow the link that you find there. The next step is simple, create an account. Once completed you will be asked if you are an individual or business, name, address, phone number, and 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 contribution. 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 received and processed, you will receive a receipt acknowledging your donation. You attach your receipt to your Ohio income tax form when you pay your taxes this year. It's really a simple process that takes as little as five minutes! Donations for 2024 through OAIS may be made through **April 15, 2025**. You still have time!

We thank:

Ash, MD '84 (D) & Afshan Ahmed, DDS
Shahana Ahmed (H)
Sana & Syed Ali, MD
Henry J. Blood '68
Bill & Deanna Brougher (H)
Traci & Ed Cardinal
Tamara & Randall Comer, JD
Kyle Davidson & Noel Fonseca
Tom, PhD & Marilyn Bauer Davison '60
The Della Selsor Trust
Anne & Corwin Georges, PhD
Trent Gilbert & Taja Harris
Deborah Hill

Rebecca Konecki
David Krauss, PhD
Jeanne Lampe '69 (D) & Bill Ray
Megan & Joaquin Llado, MD
Mad River Veterinary Hospital LLC
Mel Marsh (H) & Rick Rutan
Nadia, MD & Nadeem Moghal, MD
Nancy & Thales Pavlatos, MD '69 (D)
J. M. Pomputius, MD (H)
Brian Potts & Caitlin Smith
Thomas Prendergast
William and Beth Pryor
Aliya & Mujeeb Ranginwala, MD
Mujeeb A. Ranginwala, MD, Inc.
Afsheen Ansari & Tariq Rizvi, MD

Mark '67 (D) & Cyndi Robertson
Emma Robinow, PharmD '99 &
Jacob Schmidt, PhD
Larkin Rogers
David & Janet Sauter
Jamon N. Sellman
James & Gail Suzel
Afshan '83 (D) & Mubin Syed, MD
Julia Valentine
Angelique Walker-Smith, DMin '72 (D)
Marta Wojcik & Kevin Rose

(D)=Distinguished Alumni
(H)=Honorary Alumni

We're Looking for Presenters for Our Learning Series and Summer Enrichment Program!



Fencing

Students in grades 5–8 are looking forward to the **Ridgewood Learning Series** presentations on May 15, 2025. Ridgewood parents, teachers, and friends will once again offer students 25 or 55-minute classes that focus on the presenter's talents, skills, hobbies, careers or favorite activities.

Past offerings have included sessions in acting, painting, archaeology, jewelry making, engineering, gardening, cooking, photography, etc. We are looking for volunteer presenters and are excited to see what our students will learn. Think about your hobbies, interests, activities, and skills, choose one or more, and volunteer to share it/them with our students. Classes will be scheduled between 8:30–11:20 a.m. If you'll help us as a presenter or have questions about the event, contact Ms. Sana Ahmed at sahmed@ridgewood-school.org.

We are also looking for week-long courses for our **Summer Enrichment Program** (June 9–27, 2025) Summer Enrichment sessions are 90 minutes in length each day and run for five days. A Learning Series class may be developed into a full-length Summer Enrichment course. Summer

Enrichment teachers are paid; Learning Series teachers are volunteers. If you are interested in offering a course, contact kkeriazes@ridgewood-school.org.



Gardening

Alumni Spotlights



Dr. David Berry '49 sent his greetings to those attending the alumni dinner in September. Dr. Berry who completed his undergraduate and

medical school education at the University of West Virginia, spent forty years as a head and neck surgeon in North Palm Beach. He and his wife Betty recently celebrated their 64th anniversary and now live in The Villages, Florida.



After graduating from Ridgewood, **Ann Foster Collier '54** attended Kingswood School

Cranbrook in Michigan and then Ohio Wesleyan University where she met her late husband, Glenn Collier. Today Ann lives on Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. As longtime residents of Springfield, Glenn, a prominent attorney, and Ann, a realtor and owner of the women's clothing shop Tweed and Twill, were exemplary community leaders and steadfast supporters of many organizations including the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Springfield Museum of Art, Westcott House, Ridgewood School, and Wittenberg University.



Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith '72, World Council of Churches' President from North America, recently served as a representative to

the United Nations' Summit of the Future for world government leaders. She was a co-convener of a session about Haiti. The Summit was described as "an opportunity for world leaders to make tough choices – to pave the way for global peace and prosperity, restore our planet, promote digital transformation and protect human rights." During a reception held at the close of the Summit, Walker-Smith shared with those attending, "This week marks a significant milestone—the adoption of the United Nations Pact for the Future. In this moment, we pause to recognize the incredible potential of humanity when we act together for the common good."



Aubyn Thomas '76 was recently appointed as the Head of Global Marketing Intelligence at T. Rowe Price. Her career history includes serving as

Senior Managing Director at Greystar, and in vice presidencies at Home Depot, ADT, Lowe's Home Improvement, Macy's, Caesars Entertainment Corporation, Bank of America, and Eastman Kodak. Her specialized skills include marketing strategy and planning, analytics, CRM, digital and social branding, media mix optimization, customer intelligence, and research and insight generation. Aubyn earned a BA in Mathematics at Spelman College, a BS in Electrical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology, and an MBA in Marketing at Clark Atlanta University. She now resides in Baltimore, MD.



Anthony Bosca '80 lives in Minneapolis and is owner of InVision Distinctive Eyewear. Anthony, the father of three sons, is an avid backgammon player and collector

of antique backgammon boards. He is a supporter of Minneapolis' Highpoint Center for Printmaking and Ridgewood School. He is pictured here with his dogs Hobbes and Daisy.



Ryan Detrick '93 is Chief Market Strategist at Cincinnati's Carson Group, a company that provides financial advisors with tech, compliance, marketing and investment

management information, advice, and support. Ryan's expertise has earned him recognition as a thought leader in the financial industry, including being named one of Business Insider's 2023 Oracles of Wall Street. Ryan frequently shares his market perspectives through media appearances on CNBC, Fox Business, Yahoo! Finance, Bloomberg and SiriusXM. He also co-hosts a top-investing podcast, "Facts vs Feelings." Ryan has a Chartered Market Technician (CMT) designation, a bachelor's degree in finance from Xavier University, and an MBA from Miami University. He lives in Cincinnati, with his family, where he can often be found coaching his two boys in various sports.



Dr. Saad Ranginwala '00 is a radiologist in Chicago and is affiliated with multiple hospitals, including Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital

of Chicago. He received his medical degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine where he was recognized as an Outstanding Academic Scholar. Saad specializes in pediatric radiology and writes and speaks about healthcare social media.



Clare Georges '05, her husband Derek, and their dog now live in Springfield. After graduating with a BS in Business Administration from the University

of Dayton, Clare worked for several years at Lafayette 148 in New York City. She then moved to Columbus and worked in management at Express and Victoria's Secret. Today she is a client director for Landor. She also serves as an alumna advisor for Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women.



It was special for Ridgewood students and their families to have the opportunity to attend a StringSource concert

featuring Ridgewood alumna **Mariko Shimasaki '07** (center left) and her sister **Kanako Shimasaki '07** (center right). Their "Home for the Holidays" concert was performed on December 20, 2024, at the recently renovated State Theater in Springfield. The program included both classical and contemporary holiday songs. The sisters who are concert violinists have performed in numerous international venues. Mariko and Kanako, thank you for sharing your talents with your Ridgewood family and the Springfield community. We look forward to your concert at the State Theater on February 14, 2025!



Mary Cunningham '22, now a junior at Miami Valley School, has been selected as one of the eleven speakers for TEDxDayton Youth 2025. The event, themed

"Listen," showcases young voices from across the Miami Valley and will take place on March 6, 2025, in Dayton. Being a TEDx speaker involves months of preparation including writing, workshops, mentorship, and rehearsals. Congratulations, Mary!

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@ridgewoodsschool.org. Thanks!

The Ridgewood Fund 2024-25

We're halfway into our annual Ridgewood Fund Campaign and want to thank the families, friends, and alumni who have already contributed. They are listed in the Donor Honor Roll below. We want to encourage those who haven't participated to please do so. Your support is significant in making it possible for us to offer students an outstanding education. We hope to have 100% of Ridgewood families participate.

The Ridgewood Fund provides monies essential to our annual operating budget. It is the Ridgewood Fund and our other fundraising activities that cover the difference between our tuition revenue and operating costs.

You can contribute by scanning the QR Code on the next page, or by going to ridgewoodsschool.org/giving/the-ridgewood-fund and charge your donation to your VISA, MasterCard, or AmEx card, or by completing the form on the next page and mail it to the attention of Aliya Ranginwala, Head of School, Ridgewood School, 2420 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, OH 45504. Thank you!

The Ridgewood Fund 2024-25 Donor Honor Roll

as of December 20, 2024

Arbia and Mohamed Ameer
Phyllis and Chris Baldenhofer '54
in memory of Philip Baldenhofer '55.
Jenna and Justin Beck, DDS
Betty and David Berry, MD '49
Danielle and Austin Blackshear
Bristol and Jacob Blair
Jessica and Kyle Brady
Henry J. Blood '68
Caro-Gray Bosca '69
Corinne '51 and William Broad
*in memory of my years at
Ridgewood School.*
Jennifer and Jeffery Brunner
Shashi and Amrit Chadha, MD
Pauline Chakeres (H)
Ann and Vijay Chitkara, MD
Ann Collier '54
Mar Leon Colon and Efrain Morales
Tamara and Randall Comer, JD
Jenni '92 and Brock Cox
Heather and Chad Crawford
Allyson and Aaron Dean
The Della Selsor Trust
Ryan Detrick '93 *in memory of
Marcia Detrick.*
Vijaya and Ashok Devatha, MD
Milam Dobbins
Sara, MD and Ahmed Edhi, MD
Barbara Jane Emmons
Amy Fischer *in honor of the
Ridgewood Faculty and Staff.*
Kim and Larry Fish, MD
Anne and Corwin Georges, PhD
Niki and Dimitri Gianakopoulos '87
Mia Grimes and Adam Frantz
Jennifer and Aaron Groth, MD

Michael Hackett
Eleanor '49 and Donald Harris
Taja Harris and Trent Gilbert
John Hamilton and
William Robinson
Stacey and Kevin Harrison
Paul Haupt, MD '63
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Catherine Hellmuth
Deborah Hill
Ayesha Imam, MD and
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Jessimi Jones and Graham Davis
Elizabeth and Bruce Kelley
Krisityn and Kyle Keriazes
David A. Krauss, PhD '61
William Landess
Therese and Otto Larson
Theresa and Joe Lauricella
Melinda Marsh (H) and Rick Rutan
Nikki, DVM and
William Maynard, DVM
Mary Miller '49
Imam and Mutahher
Mohammed, MD
Tera and Justin Mohler
Paul, PhD and Susan Nelson
in honor of Corwin Georges.
Sri Ramani Bandaru and
Chandra Mouli Palla, MD
Maria and Marshall Norman
Ubalдина Ottley
Kajal and Kinjal Patel
Tina and Plato Pavlatos (D)
Cassandra Picklesimon
Kaitlyn, DO and Robert Pollock
J. M. Pomputius, MD (H)
Emily and Benjamin Prince
David Pullins, PhD '97 (D)

W. Edward and Dianne Pullins
Aliya and Mujeeb Ranginwala, MD
Mujeeb A. Ranginwala, MD, Inc.
Cassie and Esteban Reyes
Afsheen and Tariq Rizvi, MD
Cyndi and Mark B.
Robertson '67 (D)
Sarah L. Rogers '70 (D) and
Michael Brusnigham
Jenny Lee Rollins
Jackie and Jeffrey Rood
Anna Jean and Paul Sauter
Janet and David Sauter
Jamon Sellman
Wendy and Zac Shaffer
Mary Siddiqi
Loi Small
Caitlin Smith and Brian Potts
Christina and Brett Steffanni
Lydia and Andrew Taylor
The Turner Foundation
Sonia Yakhmi '84

'#=Alumni graduation year
(D)=Distinguished Alumni
(H)=Honorary Alumni



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

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Please let us know if you have named
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consider placing us in your will.

Questions? Please contact Aliya Ranginwala at 937.399.8900 or aranginwala@ridgewoodsschool.org
Ridgewood Times | Spring 2025



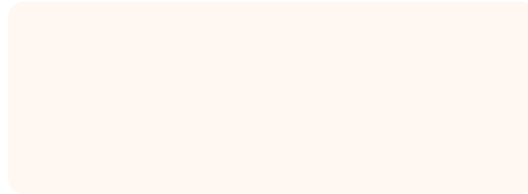


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*Non-voting member
#D=Distinguished Alumni

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

As proclaimed by the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a speech at Morehouse College, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character -that is the goal of true education." When reading this quote, I am immediately reminded of the mission statement of Ridgewood School which states: "Ridgewood School creates a vibrant and personalized learning environment that cultivates the intellect, creativity and character of our students."

In order to achieve the goals set in our mission statement and in the proclamation made in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's speech, it is imperative for students to experience struggle.

In the realm of education, the journey towards mastery often involves a path laden with challenges and obstacles. Far from being a deterrent, these struggles are crucial for fostering resilience, deep understanding, and personal growth. Embracing struggle is essential for student learning.

Struggle teaches students the invaluable lesson of resilience. When faced with difficult problems or complex concepts, students must persist and adapt their strategies. This process helps them develop grit—a quality that will serve them well beyond the classroom. Learning to cope with setbacks and continue working toward goals prepares students for the myriad challenges they will encounter in life.

A growth mindset—the belief that abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—is essential for lifelong learning. Students who experience and overcome struggles are more likely to develop this mindset. They come to see effort as a path to mastery and view challenges as opportunities to grow rather than insurmountable obstacles.

When students are allowed to struggle, they learn to rely on their own abilities and resources. This fosters a sense of independence and self-efficacy, as students realize that they can overcome difficulties through their own efforts.

Life beyond school is full of challenges that require persistence, problem-solving and resilience. By allowing students to struggle in a supportive environment, educators prepare them for the real world. Students learn that success is often the result of hard work and perseverance, and they develop the mental fortitude needed to navigate adult life.

The satisfaction and sense of accomplishment that come

from overcoming a difficult challenge are unparalleled. When students struggle and eventually succeed, they experience a boost in confidence and motivation. This positive reinforcement encourages them to tackle future challenges with enthusiasm and determination.

Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children through struggles. By providing a safe and encouraging environment at home, parents can help their children develop the resilience and problem-solving skills necessary for success. It's important for parents to allow their children to face challenges independently, offering guidance and support without immediately stepping in to solve problems. Praising effort rather than innate ability reinforces a growth mindset and helps children see struggle as a natural part of learning.

When reflecting on all the alumni memories of Ridgewood School, the challenging curriculum is always a memory that students hold. They recall the struggle and the hard work to achieve their goals. It has always been about setting the bar high and supporting the process to reach it. Teaching children the process of achieving success and then getting them used to the feeling of success will motivate them to keep striving for excellence in school and in life.

