

The OWL

2021–2022 School Magazine & Annual Report

**Celebrating
childhood,
preparing for
the future**

**Long Ridge
Spirit of Giving**

**Supporting,
Guiding & Inspiring**

Graduation 2022



The **Long Ridge** School

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On the Cover
Fifth grader, Callan, practicing bells that are part of the 4-5 music program.



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Letter from the
Head of School

The summertime is a wonderful time to reflect on the school year that passed. The ups, the downs, the wonderful things we accomplished, and the things we would love to do better or differently. The Owl magazine gives us another opportunity to do just that. As I think about the experiences of our students this past school year, I am compelled to look back on my own experiences as a young student. Memories of myself as a learner and my experiences at school have always greatly influenced me as a teacher, mentor, and leader.

There are a few poignant memories that are always at the forefront of my mind, and many involve my beloved music teacher, Helen Demong. Mrs. Demong was my music teacher from kindergarten through twelfth grade. From school plays, chorus concerts, small group vocal ensembles, high school musicals, and field trips to Broadway, the invaluable experiences I gained through her will always be with me. Yes, she is grand in my mind, but so too is my experience in music class - the lessons, songs, theory, history, appreciation, being part of a group, and the wonderful sense of accomplishment when the performances ended. It is no wonder my music teacher, Mrs. Demong, was my favorite teacher. And it is no wonder why our beloved music teacher, Faith Glassman, is the favorite of many as well.

At Long Ridge, we strive to give our students a robust, engaging and well-rounded education, one in which the arts don’t just supplement the curriculum but have just as much prominence and value as language arts, math, social studies, and science—the “core” subjects. There is a wealth of research and studies to support the importance of performing and visual arts education. Music education alone has been shown to increase self-esteem and self-confidence, improve memory, support teamwork, enhance problem-solving skills, strengthen language skills, improve eye-hand coordination, and promote strong study habits. With dedicated time for visual arts and music



and several opportunities to participate in additional performing arts activities, our students reap the benefits.

We dedicate this issue of The Owl to Faith, our music teacher extraordinaire, for her incomparable contributions to our school community and to the educational experience of our students! As you’ll see throughout this issue of The Owl, Faith has touched the lives of countless Long Ridge students and inspired many to pursue their dreams in music and the arts. We are grateful for her dedication, warmth, encouragement and steadfast support of all our Long Ridge students.

“ Arts don’t just supplement the curriculum but have just as much prominence and value as the “core” subjects.

Carissa Lewis

1 Caroline Cohrdes, Lorenz Grolig, and Sascha Schroeder. 2016. Relating Language and Music Skills in Young Children: A First Approach to Systemize and Compare Distinct Competencies on Different Levels. Frontiers in Psychology. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5078758/>
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**Celebrating
childhood,
preparing for
the future**

Why The Long Ridge School

At The Long Ridge School, our teachers, parents, and children collaborate to develop a lifelong love of learning in our students. As the only independent school in the region focused exclusively on early childhood and elementary education. Our students excel through inquiry-based, personalized learning in a joyful, safe environment. Long Ridge's expansive, 14-acre wooded campus is home to a close-knit, inclusive community, where students of all backgrounds take their first steps toward becoming compassionate global citizens. Through an always-evolving progressive approach, our teachers nurture each student's strengths and interests, build confidence and leadership skills, and foster academic, social, and emotional development—and future success.

Statement of Purpose

The Long Ridge School is a diverse community of learners where children are respected as individuals with innate curiosity. We believe children flourish in a small, caring, and academically challenging environment where learning is an active and joyful experience. We help children develop the skills, motivation, and values to become successful students, responsible people, and lifelong learners.

We Believe

Children should be **valued** for their **uniqueness, ideas,** and **talents.**

Children achieve their **highest potential** in a **challenging** academic **environment** that **addresses** each child's **social** and **emotional** **development.**

Children learn in **different ways** and at **different rates.**

Children should be **active participants** in their own **learning**; we **encourage children** to **explore, experience,** and **investigate** as part of the educational process.

The **natural range** of **abilities** and levels of **development** typical of **young children** are **best accommodated** in **multi-age groups.**

Children learn **best** in an **engaging** **environment** where **themes** are **relevant** and **meaningful.**

Interdisciplinary studies promote a **deep understanding** and **mastery** of the **skills** and **concepts** expected at each grade level.

Children thrive in a **rich learning** **environment** that **includes visual** and **performing arts, science, technology, world languages,** and **physical education.**

Letter from the President of the Board



My all-time favorite was when my kids practiced the song and dance routines for the All-School Performance.

Chris Ferraro



As Long Ridge begins its 85th year, I am reminded of the commitment to its core values of inclusivity, loving kindness, and celebration of childhood and confident in the School’s ability to continue evolving - integrating new ways to nurture each child’s strengths and interests. The thematic, interdisciplinary curriculum offers hands-on, experiential learning - encouraging students to think creatively, engage deeply, and develop a lasting affinity for the process of discovery.

The Music & Arts program at LRS brings back lovely memories. My all-time favorite was when my kids practiced the song and dance routines for the All-School Performance. The happy sounds of Annabella and Leonardo practicing never got old. It wasn’t just for fun, but instead part of a rich educational experience that not only enriches a child’s school experience but often helps children identify areas of interest,

strength and forms of creative expression. Simply stated, the program helped to build the self-esteem and confidence that we see in our kids today. For that, we are ever grateful to be part of the LRS family.

This past year, Long Ridge met and exceeded our fundraising goal by 32%. The Parents Group continues to be engaged and had a very successful year with a lot of events for students and parents including an in-person Annual Benefit.

We are a mission-driven Board of Trustees and are united with Carissa and the entire team to drive even more impact in the next year and beyond.

Thanks to you all.

BOARD of TRUSTEES 2020–2021



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We thank Sopong Kim , Marietta Morelli and John Ora for their dedicated service as they step down from the Board.

The 2022–2023 Board welcomes new trustees Mac Caputo, Rebekah Mate, Lisa Mitchell and Aric Wu.

Supporting, Guiding & Inspiring:

Faith's Impact on Our Students & School

You don't have to be in the field of education to know the impact a teacher can have on a child's life. We were all students, after all, and likely can recall a teacher or two that made a difference during our time at school. For many Long Ridge students, that teacher is Faith Glassman. In fact, after 32 years of teaching music at Long Ridge, there is no doubt she has touched and inspired countless students along the way.

Faith came to Long Ridge due to a fortunate coincidence, as do many good things in life. In the spring of 1990, the LRS music teacher told former Head

might be a music position at LRS in the future." The rest, as they say, is history.

Following the school's interdisciplinary approach, Faith has thoughtfully and purposefully created a curriculum that extends and deepens classroom studies. On any given day, she could be teaching the second- and third-grade students "Old Tom is Cast" as part of their study of the Middle Ages, singing songs about transportation with the Nursery students relating to their theme "Going Places," or teaching "Oh Shenandoah" to the 4-5 handbell choir, connecting it to their themes of first peoples in social studies and freshwater ecology in science. Always, Faith's connections to other studies are meaningful and provide an enriching experience for students.

Throughout her tenure at Long Ridge, Faith has developed and integrated many programs that have become the hallmark of a Long Ridge education — the development of the instrumental program for Kindergarten through grade five, the Friday Activities Choir and Rock Band to the 4-5 handbell choir and the All-School Performance. These experiences fondly live on in the memories of our alumni, many of whom come back long after graduating to see the All-School Performance or Rock Band perform on the last day of school.

In teaching young children, Faith does not see any limitations, only opportunities. She expects a lot of her students because she knows that with her support and guidance, they will rise to the challenge. And they do, time and time again. As Faith says, "If you make it fun, the kids can accomplish anything." In Nursery, she introduces the students to rhythm notation. In kindergarten, students begin learning about the lines and spaces on the treble clef and reading music. Here she introduces students to the xylophone because "the best way to solidify this new knowledge is to start putting it to use," explains Faith. Our alumni will remember playing the recorder in second and third grade, but to adapt to the pandemic, Faith swapped recorders out for ukuleles. With the introduction of this instrument to the music program, the children begin reading and playing chord charts. By the time they get to

4-5, the students are ready to take on the handbell choir. Faith has created her own unique way of charting the bell songs from which the students read both rhythmic notation and chords. Through these instrumental experiences, the children learn to play as part of an ensemble and perform for audiences as successful musicians.

Without question, the highlight of every school year is the beloved All-School Performance. As one can tell, Faith puts in a great deal of time and energy to get our young students ready to take the stage. Audiences have been treated to shows titled "New York, New York", "A Night on Broadway" and "LRS Rocks", in which all Kindergarten through fifth-grade students perform, bringing smiles, laughter, and tears to all who watch. While families delight in this experience, so do the students and teachers. For students, it's another way for them to uncover their interests and talents, and many flourish during the experience. Teachers get to see their students in a whole new way—seeing students find success and a sense of accomplishment outside of academics. The All-School Performance is typically a family affair for Faith. Her sister Michelle Grace often helps provide choreography and acting tips to the performers. When it's time to go live, Faith's husband Seth plays bass guitar, and daughter Rosie plays drums in the accompanying band.

In addition to the All-School Performance, Faith helps to provide another stage experience to Long Ridge students through the Friday Activities program. In the fall, Faith assists in producing a play, often a musical. In the winter, she leads the choir, and in the spring, she pulls together a rock band. Faith recalls one of her favorite Friday Activities experiences. "Karen McNicoll and I offered a drama workshop with world-renowned soprano Renee Fleming. We performed Hansel and Gretel, and Renee brought her accompanist from the Met to accompany us. Karen created beautiful costumes, and the whole show was choreographed. It was really, really good, and the kids loved it! The funny thing was for Grandparents and Special Friends Day, when grandparents were supposed to



go to their kids' classrooms, nobody went to anybody's classroom. Instead, we had a line all the way down the hall of people taking turns to come in and watch Renee Fleming teach the kids."

Outside of school, Faith is an accomplished professional musician. She trained in classical violin at the Manhattan Conservatory of Music. Faith was a member of the band Flying Island which released two albums through Vanguard Records. She has performed with numerous bands and through the home studio run by her husband, Seth, Faith appears on countless studio recordings, most often playing violin but also guitar and vocals. Faith even appears on daughter Rosie's band New Myths album *Give Me Noise*.

The Long Ridge School is incredibly fortunate to have such a devoted and talented music teacher, or more appropriately, a music teacher extraordinaire. Thank you, Faith, for sharing your expertise with our students. Thank you for your kind and unyielding support that inspires our students to keep trying. Thank you for treating all students as successful musicians. And thank you for your 32 years of dedication to The Long Ridge School. Here's to many, many more!



of School Kris Bria, that she would not be returning the following year. That night, Kris told the news to her husband, John, and advised him it was "ultra top secret" since no one in the LRS community had been informed yet. As Kris recalls, "The very next day, John ran into his long-time Pound Ridge friend, Seth Glassman, at the local hardware store. During their conversation, Seth mentioned that his wife, Faith, was looking for a music teaching position since she had left her previous ones when Rosie was born. Fortuitously for LRS, John exercised sound judgment and divulged that there

Eight Fun Facts about Faith:

1. She played the electric violin solo in the 1987 movie *Revenge of the Nerds 2*.
2. Her band, Flying Island, was signed to and released 2 records with the famous jazz label Vanguard Records (you can listen to Flying Island on Spotify).
3. Flying Island was the youngest band ever to be invited to play at the Montreux Jazz Festival.
4. Faith's parents were musicians - her father played piano, and her mother was a singer - and they owned a music store in Greenwich.
5. She's a classically trained violinist - two of her teachers were the concert masters of the New York Philharmonic.
6. Faith unintentionally gave Jimi Hendrix a raspberry over the phone (she thought her cousin was playing a joke on her, but Hendrix was actually calling to rent equipment from her dad).
7. She played on an album with the lead singer of Black 47.
8. Faith is the violin playing behind the letters M and N on a Sesame Street alphabet animation.

Mystical Inspiration by Andrew Bailey '96



There must be something mystical about Faith's old nylon string acoustic guitar. Like one of Homer's Sirens, it repeatedly lured me, a curious and bored faculty child, to Faith's classroom at the end of the day while my mother finished packing up. At some point, Faith got fed up with me relentlessly reaching for it and pulled my mother aside saying, "you've got to get this kid a guitar."

There's a long list of people I am in debt to for the success of my band DIIV and this career as a full-time musician, but without question, Faith is at the top of the list. It wasn't just because she gave me my first couple years of lessons, encouraging my strong points and pushing me on my weak points, all the while keeping it fun for me by teaching me the basics through transcribed regrettable Green Day and The Offspring tablatures; it wasn't just because she lent me what I consider my first guitar, an all black Phantom brand electric that was mine for the entire summer before 5th grade; and it wasn't just because she put me on stage with a guitar in my hand while I was too young to be nervous. Rather, it was the way she said

to my mother, "you've got to..." Her tone implied that it was a given. 'Of course this kid's a guitarist, can't you tell?' That's who I've been since that very moment. It became my identity and my destiny.

Guitarist has been my profession for over a decade now, almost all of it with the band DIIV. We travel all over the States, Europe, South America, and even Asia and Australia a couple of times, performing songs off our three studio albums. I'm presently writing this in a notepad while on a night-time personal walking tour of Manchester, UK, before our show here tomorrow night. London is next. There's been plenty of ups and downs along the way, and we owe our longevity in part to an evolving fan base who remind us how fortunate we are every night with wide smiles from the front

Emme DeMaio '20 Pays Tribute to Faith

Faith inspired my passion for music at an early age. I still remember all the fun songs we learned and looking forward to performing them at assembly. My favorite was "This Land is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie. Faith let my classmates and me come up with silly choreography when we were in K-1. We taught it to the rest of the school. It was when I joined the Long Ridge After-School Band that Faith showed me I could be a musician. She was patient and offered us a feeling of confidence when we would play. The best part of the band was when she would let us explore our instruments and compose our songs. Although they weren't great, Faith made us believe they were incredible and taught us not to judge our work. However, my favorite time of the year was always the All School Performance. I enjoyed learning the songs and choreography and the days preceding the show when our schedule was full of rehearsals with Faith. One of my favorite choir performances was "Fascinating Rhythm" by George and Ira Gershwin. We all played the role of construction workers and made beats on construction gear like buckets, paintbrushes, ladders, and rollers. I was the youngest in the choir, yet Faith made me feel confident and optimistic. After I graduated from Long Ridge School in 2020, I continued to stay in touch with Faith and take weekly guitar lessons with her.

row. At the emotional high point of every show, I try to take a moment to be present and appreciative, and to think of all the people who helped me get here. It's not uncommon for me to be on stage, looking out beneath the lights, remembering the smile on Faith's face from the front row of that first performance as a classmate and I stumbled through a Beatles rendition for our 5th grade graduation ceremony.

It's now nearly thirty years since I would sneak into Faith's classroom after all the students had shuffled onto buses, hoping she wasn't giving a lesson so I could steal a moment with that guitar. I've owned dozens of guitars along the way, most of which spend their time at my studio or in closets. But there's always one guitar within reach whenever I'm at home, and it's the closest match to Faith's old nylon string Siren that I could find.

Faith was and will forever be one of my favorite teachers. I carry around the lessons she taught me about music and how to be a kind, generous person. Thank you, Faith.



Rosie Slater ‘00 Rocks On

Someone almost as well-known as music teacher Faith Glassman on the Long Ridge campus is her daughter, Rosie. Rosie, who graduated in 2000 and practically grew up at Long Ridge, can often be found snapping photos, subbing in classrooms, giving piano or drum lessons, and playing drums during the All-School Performance. Outside of her time at Long Ridge, she has a very busy career in the music industry. Rosie is a founding member of the band New Myths, and she plays drums and percussion and sings background vocals for several other bands and performers. While on tour in Europe this summer, Rosie (known professionally as Rosie Slater) squeezed in some time to answer a few questions.

Tell me a little about your life after Long Ridge.
After Long Ridge, I attended Fox Lane Middle and High School in Bedford and then NYU for college, where I majored in Music Performance with a specialization in Jazz Performance. With every school I attended after Long Ridge, I always found that I was so well prepared (maybe even OVERprepared) in almost every subject, but especially in music.

What first inspired you to get into music and drums in particular?
With Faith as a parent (and my musical father as well), the inspiration to get into music was pretty much immediate. From the time I was an infant, she and my dad took me to their recording sessions and shows. Faith tried to get me started on the violin and guitar at a very young age, but much to her dismay, it didn't take. I started playing the piano in Kindergarten, but switched to drums primarily in 2nd grade. I wish my inspiration for playing the drums was something less goofy, but the truth is that I loved the band Hanson and started playing the drums simply because Zak Hanson played the drums, haha!

How did you meet the members of and form a band with New Myths?
I met the bass player of New Myths when we were 14 or 15, playing in another band called Gutterlily. The guitar player of New Myths, Brit, and I met at NYU my junior



year, but she and Marina (the bass player) already knew each other from high school. When Gutterlily split up that same year, Brit asked Marina and me if we wanted to start a new band, and we've been together ever since!

What has the band been up to lately?
New Myths just released an EP called *All The Shiny Things* that's available on Spotify, iTunes, Apple Music, and all of the other streaming platforms, along with our full-length record, *Give Me Noise*. The band just finished recording 4 or 5 new songs that will hopefully be out soon!

And what about you—what have you been up to lately?
As I write this, I'm just starting a UK/European tour with a band called Torres. We just finished a run opening for the band Superchunk this past spring. In addition to Torres, I'll be touring this fall/Christmas season again with Darlene Love! Aside from touring, I've just finished recording a record of my own and will have that out soon as well.

- Please share some career highlights (I know you have many!).**
- The song *False Gold* by New Myths was featured by Lou Reed on his SiriusXM show with Hal Wilner.
 - Played on a song called "Device Control" by the German photographer Wolfgang Tillmans, that was then used at the beginning and end of the Frank Ocean record, *Endless*.
 - Played with Brian Wilson, Lesley Gore, Steve Van Zandt and Elvis Costello.
 - Have been in a few SNL sketches, but my favorite was with Paul Rudd.

Is there anything from your Long Ridge experience that influenced your career path?
At Long Ridge, students are so encouraged to follow and explore their interests in every area from day one. Because of that, students develop the confidence to explore areas of interest that may lead to different career paths. I've been fortunate enough to have the additional opportunity of working alongside Faith at Long Ridge and watching her inspire students every

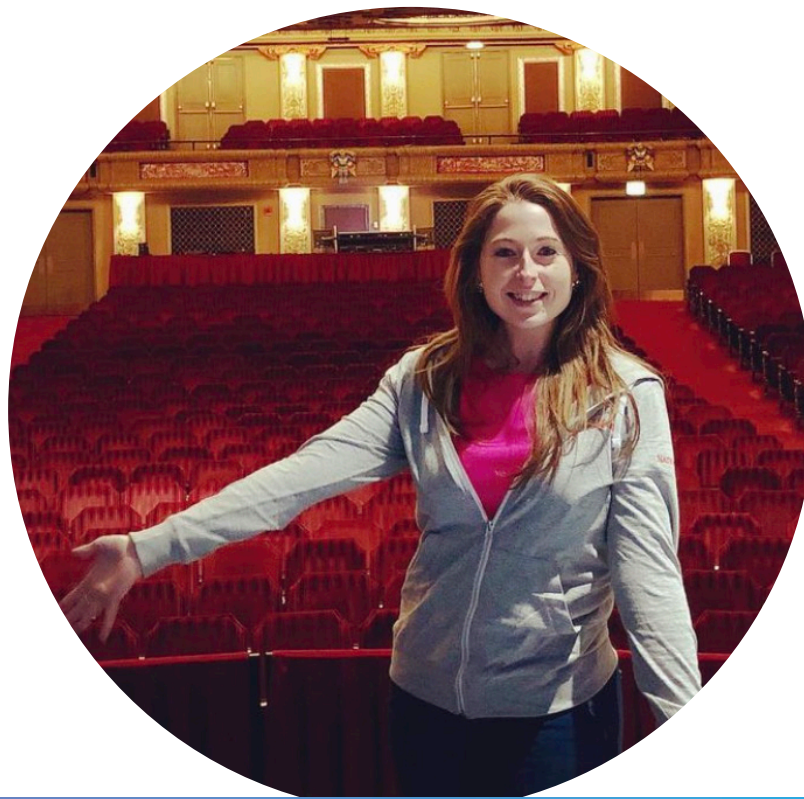
day to explore music more. She shows her students that everyone can love music and be a performer while also teaching them the discipline and hard work that goes into being in that field. It's amazing to see how the kids light up when they get on stage and become comfortable performing, singing, and making music in a way that seems totally unique to the Long Ridge experience.

“ Faith shows her students that everyone can love music and be a performer while also teaching them the discipline and hard work that goes into being in that field. **”**
Rosie Slater

Learning How to Break a Leg Megan Loughran ‘98

I remember it well: my kindergarten cohort singing "Let It Snow" on the biggest night of the year, The All-School Performance. Popsicle-stick prop in hand, I may not have been a day over five, but believe me when I tell you, I had a show to do.

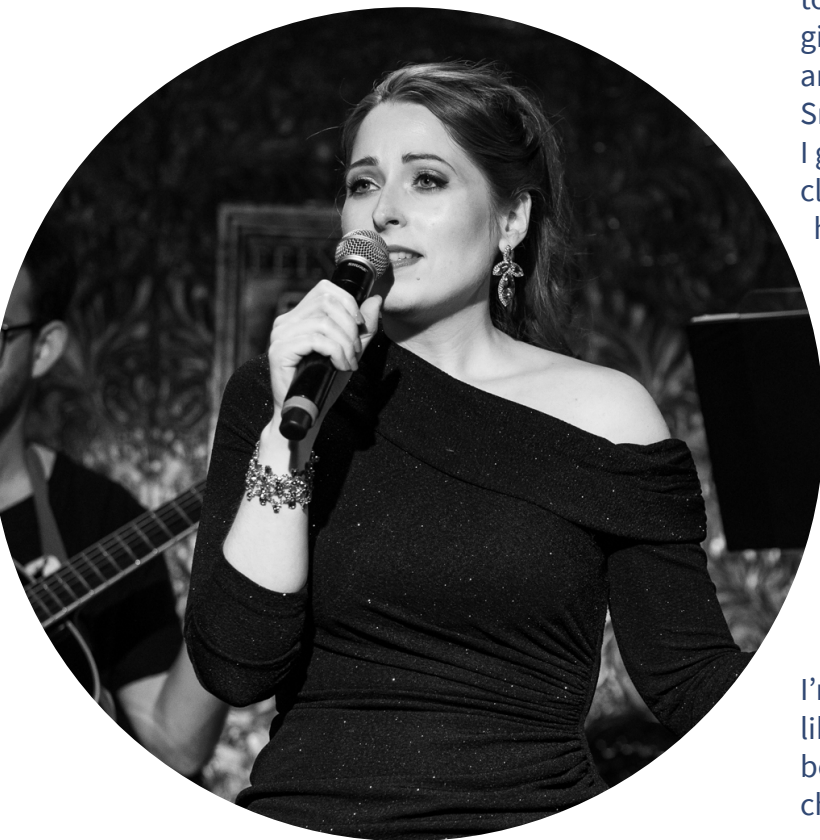
A few years later, now slightly older and self-assessed as much wiser, the big night rolled around again. It was time for our second grade (but first-rate) performance of the classic Beach Boys chart-topper, "Surfin' USA." As my classmates and I struggled to tame boogie boards twice our size, we gave our most earnest shot at what felt like MTV-level choreography, which I now acknowledge was a click simpler than "I'm A Little Teapot." But again: there was an audience waiting, and we were not going to disappoint. I mean, there were grandmas out there.



On both of these nights (and so many others), who was down in front with a warm smile, the patience of a saint, and cat-like reflexes if anyone toddled toward the edge of the stage? That would be none other than Faith Glassman.

Years later, I would come to work with conductors in professional capacities around the world, but unlike Faith, I honestly don't think any of them were paying much attention to whether I toddled toward the edge of the stage. Eventually, I had to accept this and stop complaining to my union.

Kidding aside, performances at LRS were opportunities



for all of us to build confidence. As such, they would serve my classmates and me no matter what path we would eventually walk – or wave we would eventually surf. But for me personally, they were even more than that: these are my earliest memories of developing a passion I would come to devote my life to: performing musicals and comedy on stage.

It felt fitting that the night I found out I got into Yale, I was on my way out the door to attend – I'm not kidding – an LRS All-School Performance. My little brother (JP Loughran, '08, proud reader of The Owl) was a second

grader, and I had barely opened my acceptance letter when it was time to get him to the theater for his big night! I adored the chance to immediately share the news with my Long Ridge family, who had played no small part in lifting me up to that life-changing moment.

If someone were to ask me my favorite performance I've ever given, I would have to cycle through a few contenders: singing the eleven o'clock number on the main stage at Yale my senior year, performing at Lincoln Center alongside Emma Thompson and Audra McDonald, soloing at the Hanoi Opera House, or performing to an audience of 2,300 at Chicago's Nederlander Theater while on tour with the Broadway production of Falsettos in 2019. But if someone were to ask me the most meaningful performance I've ever given, it would be hard for me to think of a worthier answer than one particular arrangement of "Let It Snow" I had the honor of singing in 1992, during which I got my first taste of the glory of the footlights as I clutched my snowflake (mine was purple) and sang my heart out.

Sometimes I wonder, what if I wasn't given the chance to try out that side of myself in an encouraging environment, under the wing of a loving, trustworthy, talented mentor like Faith? What if, when it came time to do "Surfin' USA", the adults in the picture decided, nah, it's not worth it to schlep 26 boogie boards around? Well, that wouldn't be Long Ridge. And that wouldn't be Faith. And a lot of us would be different for it.

I'm so grateful none of that is the case, and instead, I – like so many of my dearest LRS pals, with whom you'd better believe I'm still in close touch – have rockstar childhood memories to build our lives on.

Thank you, Faith – from me and all of your hundreds of little snowflakes!

“... performances at LRS were opportunities for all of us to build confidence. As such, they would serve my classmates and me no matter what path we would eventually walk

Megan Loughran

A Love Fostered Wholeheartedly

David Ecker '03

I attended Long Ridge from 1994 until I graduated in 2003, which is the longest time I've spent in any academic environment thus far. I say that not to be dramatic but to hammer home just how formative these years were and how crucial Long Ridge was to my overall development.

After graduating from Long Ridge, I went to the Hackley School to 2010 and then attended Columbia University from 2011 to 2015. I underwent chemotherapy during my last year at Long Ridge and my first year at Hackley (I then relapsed in 2010). Without the incredible generosity of the educators and administrators at both of these schools, these transitions would have been 1000x harder, if not near impossible.

During my last year at Long Ridge, in particular, I have strong memories of teachers coming to visit me at home—going over lessons, so I didn't fall behind, bringing me books or CDs, and generally keeping me a part of the community. I was more than prepared academically for high school and college, but even more so—I was incredibly lucky to be at a school that made me feel connected and loved.

I have loved music from the time I was a small child and have been a jazz pianist since the age of seven. It was this pure love of music that drove me into the music industry—a love that Long Ridge fostered wholeheartedly. At Columbia, I majored in History with a Concentration in Jazz Studies. Both of these passions developed early on during my time at Long Ridge, where I was fascinated by our units on the Middle Ages or the Puritans in which Faith wove music into our everyday lives seamlessly.

I currently work at Spotify on the Artist & Label Partnerships team working specifically with US-based Indie labels and artists including Webby-nominated and CLIO award-winning campaigns along with helping develop our Fresh Finds campaign that support emerging talent. In addition to my work at Spotify, I am a jazz pianist and composer. My debut album, Songs from the Other Day, came out in 2020 and my follow-up album is likely to drop sometime next year.

The main thing I remember about Faith is that despite dealing with a wide range of musical interests and experiences in every class, she found a way to connect with each student. Whether someone was interested in Irish dancing, folk songs, or (like me) jazz piano, she made a point to foster and encourage each of those interests. She encouraged me to perform both in class and in our assemblies – and it was on these occasions that I gained my first sense of live performance.

The way Faith ran her classroom—always collaborative and encouraging, taking music seriously without taking



ourselves too seriously—is something that's stuck with me throughout my career in music. I truly believe that the communal and open-minded approach to music that Faith encouraged is what still guides me both in my playing and in my work with artists at Spotify.

I also think that the genuine curiosity and love of learning that Faith and other teachers at Long Ridge (shoutout to the late Jo Wheeler) instilled in me has been beneficial throughout my career. The desire to look underneath the surface and approach every challenge with an open mind is something I've returned to time and again.

The Talented, Spirited, and Ever-Resilient Class of 2022

by Shanti Hageman, parent and Secretary of The Board of Trustees



On behalf of the LRS Board of Trustees, I am honored to congratulate the talented, spirited, and ever-resilient class of 2022! I feel compelled to say how grateful we are to Carissa, the teachers, and LRS staff for how they have handled the pandemic and supported our children. Also, to the students, you and your teachers have had to adapt, get creative and support one another. Surely, at times the pandemic caused stress, however, you are stronger and persevered. But enough with Covid for today!

As an LRS trustee, what I’d like to impart to the graduates is that Long Ridge will always be a part of you and that is a blessing and advantage! These graduates embody the core values of LRS, which will allow them to pursue their dreams. They move on from here as the most effective LRS ambassadors to our greater community.

The Long Ridge approach to teaching and development is rooted in experiential learning which fosters curiosity and drives engagement that will serve these graduates well for years to come. LRS faculty encourages each student to actively participate in their own education, opening students’ eyes to the satisfaction of meeting their individual potential and inspiring in them the confidence to rise to challenges. Push yourselves, class of 2022—you have the skills, the enthusiasm, and the support of this community to excel in whatever endeavors you set your minds to.

As we will see this afternoon, these 5th graders are confident communicators. From Nursery on, students share their creativity and discoveries with each other. In doing so, they are supported by their classmates and teachers. Long Ridge nurtures effective expression. Just some examples include putting on plays for classmates

“ These graduates embody the core values of LRS, which will allow them to pursue their dreams. Shanti Hageman

in Nursery, sharing creative writing in Kindergarten, presenting Monster Books on a special night of first grade as some of today’s graduates did, third-grade gingerbread stories, and well-researched historical presentations in fourth and fifth grades. This culminates today, when LRS fifth graders give “the speech.” Each year on this occasion, I marvel at the poise and preparedness of the LRS graduates.

Also, whether you grew up with Long Ridge or entered later, LRS teachers and staff have reinforced love, acceptance, cultural appreciation, and the importance of community. To our graduates, remember those values as you evolve and meet people with different points of view, cultures, and backgrounds. Again, your LRS experience is valuable in helping you navigate life’s ever various social and emotional situations.

Graduates, you may be feeling a bit of sadness saying goodbye to LRS. But you will be back and remain connected. The LRS community has a rich tradition of welcoming back alumni. Come enjoy the All-School Performance next year and keep the school looped in on what is new with you. You have been wonderful mentors to our younger grades and you can continue to be. You are and always will be an important part of this community. Carissa, your teachers, and Patti and Danny care about you and anticipate great things for you all. You make the community stronger. On behalf of the LRS Board, stay in touch, and all the best to the class of 2022!

On behalf of the LRS Board, stay in touch, and all the best to the class of 2022!

Life After Long Ridge Class of 2022

Students at The Long Ridge School are actively recruited by the best middle schools in the area and beyond!

This year’s students were accepted at the following area independent schools:

Greenwich Academy, Greenwich Country Day School, Greens Farms Academy, The Harvey School, King School, New Canaan Country School, St. Luke’s School and Whitby School.

We wish the class of 2022 all the best. Please come visit soon, and often. You will all always be a part of The Long Ridge School.



Adam Balogh, Saxe Middle School



Ben Chiodo, St. Luke's School



Callan Black, King School



Lilly Danc, St. Luke's School



Gabby Cerrito, Helen Keller Middle School



Jack DeMaio, St. Luke's School





Lola Fayomi, Cloonan Middle School



Emily Sessa, Fusion Academy



Charlie Dulski, King School



James Sharp, King School



Melanie Perez, The Harvey School



Leftery Sidiropoulos, Greens Farms Academy





“My years at The Long Ridge School have been some of the most fulfilling times of my life. And when I leave, there is going to be a hole in my heart that will always be there. And it all started on my first day of Beginners.”—Charlie



“Throughout my time at The Long Ridge School, I have matured and become more independent. And all of the experiences that I’ve been through take part in that... I never truly understood what the saying “time flies when you’re having fun” means... It feels like I’ve been at Long Ridge for so long but at the same time, my Long Ridge experience flew by. And now I’m graduating.”—Adam



“My experience at The Long Ridge School has come to an end. I will have to leave behind friends but exit with memories I will have throughout my lifetime... There were many exciting experiences at LRS, like math and robotics. Math is fun because we do creative projects like the Floor Plan Project using geometric shapes. I like math projects and games because they are creative, and I get to work with my friends; doing that makes me feel joyful.”—Callan

“As I was thinking about writing this speech many great memories came to mind and I started to think about how much I would miss this place...The teachers here in LRS are amazing! I’ve always had a great and kind teacher. My teacher this year is Rachel and Kelly. Rachel is a funny, smart, kind teacher. Kelly Falco is equally amazing. She teaches subjects so clearly I understand her perfectly.”—Leftery



“LRS is a great school. Everyone is so kind and nice, warm and welcoming. Thank you Danny for always giving me advice and making my LRS experience extra special and thank you Faith for helping me find my love for music. I will never forget this school.”—Gabby



“In fourth grade, the joy of learning the bells filled me. It never looked difficult when I watched the older kids do it. But then I saw that the bells are much more than making noise with golden things and white gloves. It was paying attention to what happens around you, you can’t do that alone. It didn’t take long for me to enjoy the bells.”—James



“All the years that I spent at the Long Ridge School were the best years of my life... I’m really gonna miss this place... I won’t ever forget LRS, because I will have it in my mind forever. I want to thank all my teachers for teaching me so much over the years!”—Ben

“Every time I walk onto campus I am ready for a new day. I will never forget this amazing eight year experience. So in the future, if anyone asks me what school I went to, I am proud to say that “I went to The Long Ridge School.”—Lola



“A book can make you laugh, like a friend. Just like a great friend or book, LRS is a huge part of my life that I will never forget. It will always be in me.”—Melanie



“On my first day here at The Long Ridge School I was cautious, shy, and scared. But when I stepped into the classroom, I was surprised to see how warm and welcoming the other kids were. One of the great things about LRS is that everyone is kind and inclusive. Over the years I have made many friends and been inspired by many teachers.”—Lilly



“The Long Ridge School offers fun after school activities and one of my favorites is Robotics... over the years, Charlie and I have been getting better and better. Recently, Charlie and I won 1st place for remote control!... L-R-S is a very exciting place to go when I wake up in the morning. It is full of joy and excitement. I am so sad to leave because The Long Ridge School was one of the overall best experiences of my life, and I will never forget it.”—Jack

“I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for teaching me and for having the opportunity to be a part of your lives... My time at Long Ridge was wonderful. I will miss everyone ... I am sure that all the future LRS children will have a great experience too.”—Emily





SAVE THE DATE

85th Reunion & Celebration

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

All-School Performance - A Night on Broadway



On March 10, 2022, we were delighted to have our first live All- School Performance in three years! And what a fabulous night it was!

During the winter of 2020, Long Ridge students were hard at work putting together a show that ultimately could never be performed. The last live All-School Performance was to be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, and on Tuesday, March 10, the City of Stamford asked all schools to be closed on Wednesday, March 11, and then again on Thursday, March 12, and then indefinitely. So, now that our students were able to perform for a live audience again, it was only fitting that they put on the show that never was—*A Night on Broadway*.

Rock Band - Friday Activity

Luckily, another Long Ridge tradition was able to return this past spring—Rock Band! Rock Band was a program developed by... you guessed it; Faith Glassman! Faith started putting bands together in 1998, but it didn't become an annual offering as part of the Friday Activities program for second through fifth-graders until 2004. Since 2007, the band has been overseen by both Faith Glassman and Kelly Falco. Kelly loves being a part of the band because, "It's magic watching Faith transform a group of kids into a band each year."

"Playing in a band is something that most kids this age don't have the opportunity to do," adds Faith. What's unique about the Rock Band experience at Long Ridge is the students come to the group with a

wide range of abilities. Some students join without ever playing a musical instrument. But that's not a challenge Faith can't overcome. As Faith describes, "The parts are geared to each child's ability so they can feel comfortable and confident but it's still an exercise in listening and cooperation. One of the big musical lessons that they learn is that playing in a band is like being part of a puzzle. You might have a part that doesn't make sense or seems boring, but when it all comes together, it sounds great. I love seeing their faces when they hear themselves as a band for the first time. It's always exciting!"

It's always exciting for the audience, too! Thank you, Faith and Kelly!



“Where loving kindness prevails

Harriet Rowland,
Long Ridge Founder





The Long Ridge School Parents Group

2021–2022

Co-Chairs

Liz Keane
Lisa Mitchell

Class Parents

Michael Maione: Beginners
Nicole Remling Japha: Nursery
Jamie Anzellotti: K–1
Aysha Sheikh Caputo: K–1
Irena Dragan: 2–3
Abby Handelman: 2–3
Vicky Powell: 4–5
Alina Sessa: 4–5

Events

Ice Cream Social
New Parent Reception
Cove Island Beach Clean-Up
Apple Picking
Cookie Swap
Book Club
Tricky Tim’s Virtual Magic Show
Virtual African Drumming
Ukraine Collection
Parents Group Nature Walks
Teacher Appreciation Week
All-School Picnic
End-of-Year Playdate



Community Spirit

All parents of children at Long Ridge are members of the Parents Group. As our founder Harriet Rowland said, Long Ridge is a place where “loving-kindness prevails,” and that philosophy extends to our students’ families. We welcome all to be part of our inclusive, down-to-earth community of parents, teachers, and students who deeply value education—and who join us in collaboratively building for each student the foundation for a fulfilling future.

The goals of the Parents Group are to support the School, encourage parent participation, communication and enthusiasm, provide enrichment activities for students, and coordinate volunteers for fund-raising and other activities. This year, despite the pandemic, they were as successful as ever in meeting their goals.

The Parents Group packed our year full of fun and creative activities aimed at keeping us all healthy and comfortable while helping new parents feel welcomed and returning families stay connected and engaged with the School. We are both very fortunate and grateful for all they do for us.

They kicked off the school year by bringing back one of our favorite traditions—the Ice Cream Social. It was the perfect warm, sunny day to meet and gather with friends, both old and new.

We were able to resume many in-person Parents Group activities. Parents joined each other for nature walks, book clubs and an evening social. Students were able to join in the fun with apple picking, a local beach



clean-up and virtual performances and workshop. During Teacher Appreciation Week, the Parents Group treated our hard-working teachers and staff to daily treats and a wonderful lunch. They even covered recess duty so all could join together! It was greatly appreciated by all!

To the delight of all our students, staff, and teachers, the Parents Group rounded out the school year with another fabulous All School Picnic and K-5 Field Day. It was a fantastic success and a great day of fun for all. We were so delighted to welcome back many parent volunteers to campus! The kids had a full afternoon of fun, laughter, ice cream, and games.

Thank you, Long Ridge Parents Group, for all you do!



The Power of Giving

With our unique focus on early childhood and elementary education—and with the support of our generous donors—The Long Ridge School empowers and challenges students from all walks of life to excel through progressive, inquiry-based learning. All of our resources go towards our young learners; our teachers, parents, alumni, and grandparents come together to invest in our students’ academic, social, and emotional growth.

Our thematic, interdisciplinary curriculum offers hands-on, experiential learning—encouraging our students to think creatively and engage deeply—cultivating not just knowledge, but also a lasting affinity for the process of discovery.

Across our expansive, idyllic campus, all members of the Long Ridge community work together in a warm, joyful environment to guide children toward becoming compassionate global citizens. We nurture each child’s strengths and interests—instilling confidence and leadership skills, and collaboratively fostering the foundation for a fulfilling future.

The Board of Trustees is committed to keeping tuition as affordable as possible. Tuition alone does not cover the cost of educating each child – one way to support the operating gap is to make a tax-deductible gift to the Annual Fund. Every gift, no matter the size, enhances the LRS experience. Our donors are integral to realizing a shared vision: providing needed funds to increase the diversity of our student body, enabling us to attract and retain the best teachers, and ensuring that Long Ridge can continue to provide the formative education that students and alumni have valued for 85 years.

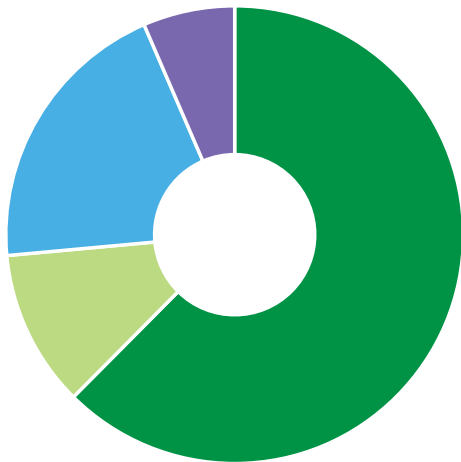
We can’t do it without you!

Ways to Give

- Checks**—Made payable to The Long Ridge School, sent using the provided return envelope.
- Credit Card**—Made via our secure website LongRidgeSchool.org/give-online/.
- Installment Giving**—Spread the gifts in smaller amounts by pledging online or contacting Development@LongRidgeSchool.org.
- Corporate Matching Gifts**—Many companies will match your gift enhancing your contribution, so please ask your employer. Please send matching gifts forms and direct questions to Development@LongRidgeSchool.org.
- Appreciated Securities**—Please contact Development@LongRidgeSchool.org to make arrangements.
- Shopping with Long Ridge**—Earn money while shopping.
Amazon—Please enroll Long Ridge School as your charity of choice at Amazon then shop every time at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0688031). Our unique charity link is: smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0688031.

Financial Breakdown updated

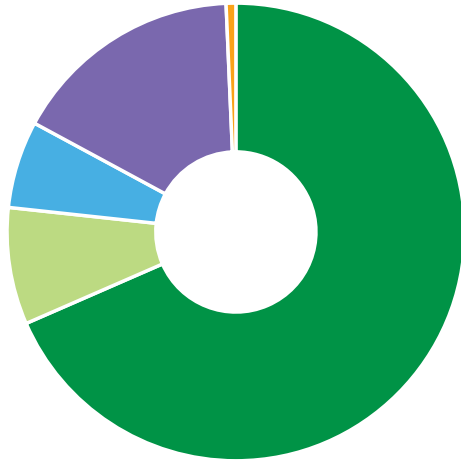
Contributions



| | |
|---|-----------|
| Unrestricted Annual Fund | \$131,770 |
| Restricted Annual Fund | \$ 23,408 |
| Unrestricted Annual Benefit | \$ 42,122 |
| Restricted Annual Benefit (Fund-A-Need) | \$ 13,677 |

Total **\$210,977**

Revenue



| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Tuition | \$2,341,722 |
| Grants | \$ 282,573 |
| Contributions | \$ 210,976 |
| Camp | \$ 562,206 |
| Other | \$ 23,442 |

Total **\$3,420,919**

Expenses



| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Salaries & Benefits | \$1,407,464 |
| Financial Aid | \$754,181 |
| Operating Expenses | \$1,028,548 |

Total **\$3,190,193**

* based on unaudited financial results

Thank You to our Donors

Individual Donors

Great Horned Owls, \$10,000+

- Anonymous • •
- Paola & Chris Ferraro •
- Anne Mengden •
- Suzanne Deschamps & Eric Wenberg •

Great Gray Owls, \$5,000–\$9,999

- Anonymous •
- Shanti & Kyde Sharp • • •

Snowy Owls, \$2,500–\$4,999

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Hawk Owls, \$1,000–\$2,499

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- Annual Fund Restricted

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- Marty-Ann Kerner •
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Spotted Owls, \$1–\$99

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- Rafael Mandujano •
- John McCormick •
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- Annie Morelli (‘09) •
- Nick Morelli (‘05) •
- Jenn & Keith Murphy •
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- Annual Restricted
- 5th Grade Class Gift
- Corporate Matching Funds
- In-Kind

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We would like to thank our Anonymous donors for their generous contributions

Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If you have been incorrectly listed or omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please notify the Development Office at: Development@LongRidgeSchool.org with any questions or concerns

Thank You to our Volunteers

Book Fair

Maureen Chiodo
Alina Sessa

Library Help

Maureen Chiodo
Alina Sessa

Annual Benefit

Jamie Anzellotti, Co-Chair
Meredith Oram, Co-Chair
Aysha Sheikh-Caputo, Co-Chair

All-School Picnic

Alison Black
Lise-Kate Campbell
Nicole Cerrito
Jennifer Fayomi
Shanti Hageman
Adam Japha
Mariann Kis-Balogh
Rebekah Mate
Genna Meier
Lisa Mitchell
Cameron Spagnolo
Alina Sessa
Elizabeth Yates

Book Club Hosts

Shanti Hageman
Vicky Powell

Garden

Nicole Japha

Parents Night Out

Aysha Sheikh-Caputo and Mac Caputo

Admissions

Shanti Hageman
Mariann Kis-Balogh
Liz Keane
Lisa McConnell
Genna Meier
Katrina Moran
Gwendolyn Morris , Alumni Parent
Adriana Sbardelotto
Kelly Sheehan
Savanna Shettler
Thomas Shettler
Phyllis Spagnolo
Sara Welter

Advancement Office

Dolores Kwan
Zia Kwan
Ian Lewis

Yearbook

Raquel DeMaio

Individualized learning

- Meeting kids where they are
- Low student-to-teacher ratio



Become a Long Ridge Volunteer

Volunteering is a great way to meet other members of the community and to strengthen our school.

Each year, parents and alumni families volunteer their time to The Long Ridge School. These dedicated members of the community help in many ways, from volunteering in the classroom, serving as Class Parents, helping with the Book Fair, serving as co-chairs of the Annual Fund or the Annual Auction, and many family events.

Please contact us at mail@LongRidgeSchool.org or by calling 203.322.7693

THE LONG RIDGE SCHOOL'S
ANNUAL BENEFIT
ROARING 20s, AUCTION

In late April, we reinstituted our Annual Benefit and Gala. Many current and alumni families joined us for a glamorous evening with hors d'oeuvres and desserts, dancing, Prohibition-style cocktails, hand-rolled cigars on the terrace, live music from B.D. Lenz and his 5-piece band, and a lively auction full of fantastic items and experiences. All at the luxurious Waveny House in New Canaan. The Auction raised approximately \$56,000 including over \$13,000 for technology Fund-A-Need, that enabled the purchase of Chrome Books, a 3-D printer, ipads, Lego Mindstorms and many other items for all classrooms.

Special thanks to the co-chairs
Jamie Anzellotti, Meredith Oram and Aysha Sheikh-Caputo



Volunteers

Hayate Boujid
Mac Caputo
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Daniela Danc
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Thank you to the many
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Noble Hair Salon
Nora's Ovenworks
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Peter Suchy Jewelers Antique and Estate Jewelry
Restore Hyper Wellness
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School of Rock, New Canaan
SoNo Ice House
Splash Car Wash
Sportsplex, Stamford CT
Spot On Veterinary Hospital
Stamford Balance Chiropractic Studio
Stamford Museum & Nature Center
Stepping Stones Museum
Sterling Golf Course
The Explorers Club
The Fun Palace
The Long Ridge Camp
The Studio for Performing Arts
Wagmore

In Memoriam

Joanna Merlen, Former Librarian by Kris Bria

With great sadness, we report that long-time LRS librarian Joanna Merlen passed away in January at the age of 91. Joanna joined the LRS faculty in 1972, became the school’s librarian three years later, and served in that position with great pride for 42 years until 2017, when she retired.

Joanna discovered Long Ridge looking for a school for her children, David and Deena, who graduated in 1975 and 1976. Joanna’s two grandchildren, Brian and Gwen graduated in 1998; her granddaughter Jody Bell graduated in 2012, and grandson, Monty Bell, attended Beginners and Nursery before the family moved.

We are so grateful that Joanna spent 45 years at LRS, sharing her wisdom, wit, and love of books and words with everyone—adults as well as children. She always saw “the silver lining within every cloud” and the best in every child.

For her 60th class reunion at Brandeis University Joanna wrote, “I feel fortunate to have spent my working life reading wonderful stories to children I do not have to put to bed... A special pleasure in my years at the school was catching glimpses of my own two children and their four children happily frolicking with their friends in the fields beyond my windows.”



Dale Melikan, Former Head of School by Guy Bailey

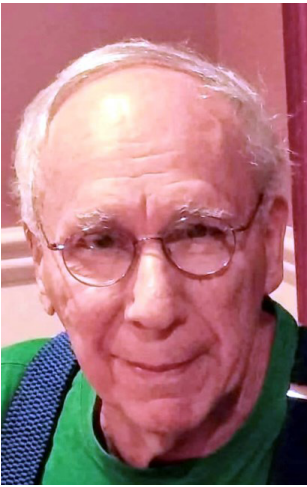
I turned twenty-one only three months before starting my first job at St. Luke’s School in September 1968... young, naïve, basically unprepared, but eager for the challenge. Dale Melikan, Head of the Upper School there, welcomed me into a community of educators that made my first two years of teaching life-changing.

It was the beginning of a lifelong friendship. Dale was appointed Headmaster of The Long Ridge School in 1971 and invited me to join the faculty to oversee the newly created 7 th /8 th grade class. He became my mentor and my best friend.

His tenure at LRS was marked by many successes, including additions of what is now the office area and the two nursery rooms, increased enrollment, and a

reputation as the go-to independent school in the area. During that time, he also married Jan Allen, who taught music at Long Ridge, and together, they became entertainers, Jan on guitar, and Dale on piano, making appearance at restaurants, clubs, weddings, and private parties. They later moved to Cape Cod, bought and ran a bed and breakfast as innkeepers of the Isaiah Clark House in Brewster.

Dale’s confidence in my abilities, and willingness to go out on a limb for a “long- hair,” non-conventional teacher was praise-worthy, to say the least...and I welcomed the opportunity to explore and experiment with the “open classroom” and other innovative teaching methods. His mentoring continued and was largely responsible for my being appointed Assistant



Head, with business management duties, when he left LRS to pursue a career in music. Subsequently, my experience as Assistant Head laid the foundation and positioned me to be named Head of School in 1984, the same year that he served as best man in my wedding.

“Best Man” might well be the most fitting way to describe what Dale Melikan was in my life.

Guy Bailey, Current Vice President of The Long Ridge School Board of Trustees.

Dale’s obituary can be found at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/.../dale-melikan-10865269>

Faculty and Staff News



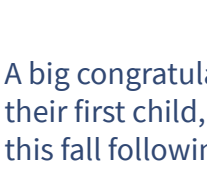
Second and third grade teacher **Kelly Finland** and her husband Eric, are expecting their second child in November. Big brother James is looking forward to meeting his baby brother. Congratulations, Finland Family!



Nursery teacher **Elyse Gallagher** is expecting her second child in February 2023. Congratulations to Elyse, her husband Michael, and Big Sister Lillian on the upcoming addition to their family!



Elizabeth Joseph — Felicitations to Elizabeth Joseph, P.E. teacher, on her wedding. Elizabeth and her partner, Stephanie Boyles were married on September 30, 2022. In addition to her exciting personal news, we are happy to announce that she will be stepping into the role of Two-Day Beginners teacher this year, alongside her specialist role as our P. E. teacher.



A big congratulations to 2-3 teacher **Juliette La Greca** and her husband, Mike, on the birth of their first child, Scarlett Joy, born April 6, 2022. We are delighted to welcome Juliette back to 2-3 this fall following her maternity leave.



We are thrilled to welcome **Isabella Leahy** to our 2-3 teaching team and the LRS community. Izzy holds an M.S. degree in Early Childhood Special and General Education from Bank Street and has worked in various elementary grade levels. She most recently taught second grade at The Dwight School in Manhattan. Welcome, Izzy!



Pam Chin — We are delighted to have Pam return to Long Ridge as the Director of Advancement. She was the Director of Development for eleven years from 2008 - 2019.



Where young students grow, thrive and **develop** a lifelong love of learning

Reunion and 85th Birthday Celebration

Please mark your calendars for the 85th Reunion on Sunday, June 4th from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm.

Stay tuned for upcoming information about the 85th Birthday Celebration and Benefit this spring.

Class Notes

* **honorary** – left before graduation.

Class of 1973

Ian Falconer published a new children’s picture book, *Two Dogs*, about two fun-loving dachshunds, named Augie and Perry, the names of his nephews who attended LRS. Ian is the author of the Olivia series about the adventures of an independent-minded pig, for which he received a Caldecott Award and reached #1 on the New York Times bestsellers list. Ian also illustrated many New Yorker covers and designed sets and costumes for the New York City Ballet, the San Francisco Opera, and the Royal Opera House.

High School, Chappaqua.

Michael Seiler and Jessie Sunday welcomed their second son, Kai Sunday Seiler, on June 27, 2022. Older brother, Noah, greeted him with, “Maybe I can teach him numbers and letters.” Kai’s proud grandmother is Beginners teacher, Susan Seiler.

Class of 1999

Canio Carlucci and his wife, Sara, welcomed twins, Wyatt James and William Brennan, on December 15, 2021. They join older siblings Canio, 2, and Kinsley, 3, “who are taking their big sister duties very seriously, reading and everything else they need.”

Class of 1994

Marni Blank has launched a new venture “Begin with the End” to support people with end-of-life discussions and planning, including legal documents, as a non-practicing lawyer. Marni is also the founder, with her sister Willa ‘97, of Blank Studio NYC, a creative studio space to rent in Soho for special events, photo shoots, speakers, etc.

Class of 2000

Michael Bornstein is living in Charlotte, N.C. and is engaged to be married.

Laurel Hanson is a Program Management Officer at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. After graduating from Tulane University, she received an MA from King’s College London in Disasters, Adaptation and Development.

Class of 1998

Rebecca Ebstein and Andrew Selig welcomed Asher Alexander Selig on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021. Rebecca began her tenth year teaching high school English, for the past five years at Horace Greeley

Class of 2001

Alex Plutzer married Rachel Ersted on May 1, 2021, and

lives in Denver, CO. He is Product Lead at Coinbase. He “loves making music,” and invites friends to visit his Spotify Artist Page.

Lauren Sakin married Dave Fegan on July 23, 2022, in Carbondale, CO. She is a Trial Attorney at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C.

Ryan Serkes co-founded Modern Launch/Custom Software Solutions in February. A 2012 graduate of Bentley University, Ryan previously worked at several tech start-up companies.

Marion Trumbull and Clay Garfinkle and big sister, Clara, welcomed Asher to their family on April 18, 2022.

Class of 2002

Sarah Louise Harris married Christopher Gibson on October 2, 2021 in Garrison, NY. Their wedding party included Sarah’s sister, **Julia ‘04**.

Andrew Jamieson, a 2009 graduate of The Harvey School, has joined the staff as Associate Director of Development. Previously, he worked as an Associate in the Advancement Office of Hackley.

Alex Japha wed Elizbeth Schulman on June 12, 2022 in Philadelphia. His niece, **Peyton Japha LRS ’28**, was a very happy flower girl. Alex received a Master of Library Science at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a digital archivist at Lehigh University.

Alex Morelli is engaged to Barbara Sostaita. They are planning a June 2023 wedding.

Merrilee Weston wed Dustin Walls in Asheville, NC, on October 16, 2021. A graduate of Williams College, Merrilee is Director of Annuity Technology Delivery at Brighthouse Financial and lives in Charlotte, NC.

Class of 2003

Joanna Bornstein received a degree in nursing from Nova Southeastern University, lives in Naples, FL, and is engaged to Nathan Allen.

David Ecker and wife, Grace, bought a new home in Glen Rock, NJ. David works at Spotify and continues to write and record his own music–check it out on Spotify or Instagram.

Marissa Friedman became engaged to Will Gamber in July. She is Project Manager at Kitamba, an organization to improve learning and education for all children in Washington, D.C. She is Co-founder of PA Youth Vote. She previously developed history and civics curriculum for several educational programs.

Nate Hopkins started a new position as Success and Career Advisor at Dean College, Franklin, MA. Previously, he was a Learning Specialist at Worcester Academy and a Special Education Teacher in New York City Public Schools.

Class of 2004

Miranda Aisling Hynes has been named Head of Education and Engagement at Cape Ann Museum, Gloucester, MA.

Class of 2006

Lindsay Bralower received an MBA from Darden School of Business, University of Virginia.

Carlo Genovese, a Sports MBA candidate at San Diego State University, accepted a position as Associate Manager, Measurement at Wasserman, a sports marketing and talent management company in Los Angeles.

Ellie Grinnell wed Reid Castner at Le Chateau in South Salem, on September 26, 2021. A graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Ellie works at Lockheed Martin.

Michelle Menacho recently completed her fifth year of teaching Spanish, first teaching 8th grade in Boston, and more recently at The Harvey School.

Pat Taylor became engaged to Niki Jo Berino on December 19, 2021. He is a sports broadcaster and lives in the Bronx with his three cats.

Class of 2007

Teran Mickens became engaged to Rai Wilson, a lawyer, on February 15, 2020. Teran is a MD/MPH Candidate at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

Class of 2009

Emily Genovesi received a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in a White Coat Ceremony in August from the University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. A graduate of Davidson College with a BS in Biology, she previously received an MS in Translational Medicine at City College.

Hugh McDonald graduated from the James Madison College at Michigan State University with a degree in International Relations.

Harlene Samra was featured in a Carnegie Mellon University message “1 Million Teenage Coders” highlighting the school’s CS Academy that offers free online programming instruction. “Harlene and a team of fellow CMU undergraduates helped drive “CSO,” a lightweight version of CS Academy that works in less structured settings like afterschool programs and remote learning.” A 2021 CMU graduate, Harlene is a Software Development Engineer with Amazon in Seattle, WA.

Class of 2010

Are you Getting our Emails?

If not, please send your preferred email address to **Kris Bria** —Alumni Relations at

Alumni@LongRidgeSchool.org

Michael Ecker, a graduate of Pace University, began a Master’s in IT/Cybersecurity. He is working in IT at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester.

James McDonald* graduated from Michigan State College of Engineering in May 2022 and joined Pratt & Miller Engineering as a Design Specialist in June. He survived three rollovers at the RIT Baja Car competition, a collegiate design series sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers, this June, and his only regret is that it wasn’t four.

Class of 2011

Noah Bailey* graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) with a degree in Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering.

Elizabeth Barash graduated from Syracuse University Summa Cum Laude with a B.A and Distinction in Political Science with a minor in Spanish. She has worked as a research Associate at Third Bridge Group Limited.

Justin Hone was on the spring semester Dean’s List at Marquette University, where he is majoring in International Affairs with a concentration in Global Healthcare Policy. He holds leadership positions in several campus service organizations.

Heidi Lee graduated from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University, with a double major in Finance and Management. She was a finance tutor and held several internships in finance and communications. She has accepted a position as a Financial Products Analyst at Bloomberg LP.

Alex Schwartz graduated from Colby College with a B.A. in Classics and Classical Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics.

Jesse Segalla graduated from Bates College where she was named to the dean’s list. She is working in Colorado for the summer and plans to move to New York City in the fall.

Bennett Wattles graduated from New York University with a degree in Media, Culture, and Communications. He hosted WNYU Sports Radio & Podcast The Cheap Seats and was an intern for CSM Sport & Entertainment. He is a Sales Coordinator for Fluent, Inc.

Lucia Wiggers graduated from Williams College with a degree in Geological and Earth Sciences/Geosciences. At Williams, she was a Teaching Assistant in Astrobiology and a Spanish Tutor. During previous summers, she held several internships in ecology and sustainability, and this summer she is a Youth Conservation Crew Leader in the Forest Preserves of Chicago.

Class of 2013

Will McDonald* is a junior at Michigan State University, majoring in plant biology, currently researching how to make sorghum more productive.

Class of 2014

Lydia Dormer graduated from Wilton High School and will attend UCONN.

Luca Segalla is a sophomore at Kenyon College.

Christopher Wearing graduated from St. Luke’s School and will attend Union College In the fall.

Class of 2015

Charlie Aspillaga was named a 2021-22 Scholar in the College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program in academic achievement. He graduated from Wooster School where he was named a winner of the William Irwin Carter Jr. Prize, the school’s top academic award. He headed a club that raised \$10,000 as part of the Extra Life Charity to provide funding for children’s hospitals. He will attend St. John’s College, Annapolis, MD.

Eliana Bukai graduated from New Canaan High School with High Honors. Her mixed-media artwork “Dissolve” was featured in the 35th annual Senior Art Exhibition and will remain in the permanent art collection, receiving one of three Fritz Eager Purchase Awards. Eliana will attend the University of Miami, majoring in marine biology and ecology at the University’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. She credits her science classes at Long Ridge for her interest in marine science. “I realized quickly after graduating from LRS that science class wouldn’t always be as much fun as it was in the Long Ridge classroom. Not even the most brutal of chemistry courses could take away the scientific interest Long Ridge had instilled within me.”

Andrea Chang graduated from Rye Country Day School where she was named a candidate in the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Andrea participated in Columbia University’s Science Honors Program, MIT’s Coursera Online “Introduction to Python” and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NISY) internships program. This fall, she plans to attend Johns Hopkins University.

Dominic D’Onofrio graduated from The Harvey School. After a successful baseball season in which Harvey’s team secured the HVAL championship, Dominic will attend Colby-Sawyer College and play baseball for the NCAA DIII Chargers of New London, New Hampshire.

Eleanor Donahue graduated from Westhill High School and will attend Penn State University to study

engineering. She recently appeared on the cover of the Stamford Advocate for recognition as a runner-up in a regional competition by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. She developed a theoretical app, “SnackScan,” that would determine the environmental impact of the food we eat.

Liz Fleischer graduated from St. Luke’s School where she received the Karen E. Wiegman Award. After graduation, she spent the summer traveling all over Europe with a friend before heading off to Emerson College in Boston where she will be studying Creative Writing, Literature and Publishing.

Brandon Heagle graduated from New Canaan High School with Honors and will attend Chapman University this fall.

Jake Hellinger graduated from The Harvey School as a Cavalier Scholar with a GPA of over 4.0. He will attend Cornell University, majoring in Behavioral Economics, and play on Cornell’s club hockey team.

Joseph Jacobson graduated from New Canaan High School and will attend Drexel University’s Westphal College of Media Arts and Design.

Abigail Lepanto graduated from Ridgefield High School with High Honors. She received a President’s Volunteer Service Award that recognizes community service from the Ridgefield Chapter of National Charity League. Abby will attend UCONN and major in Biology.

Alexandra Mathews* is a first-year student at The University of Chicago. She graduated with academic honors from Hopkins School, where she was recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student and selected for the Hopkins Authentic Research Program in Science and awarded National French Contest medals. Alexandra was awarded U.S.A. East Zone All-Star Team recognition, the Anne Degman Award and gold and bronze medals at local, national and Junior Olympic competitions.

Brent Schwartz graduated from The Harvey School and will attend Berklee School of Music in the fall.

Ian Wearing* graduated from New Canaan High School and will attend College of Charleston this fall.

Class of 2017

Illiana Hellinger was named the top student athlete of the fall 2021 term at The Harvey School, as the co-captain of the varsity volleyball team. A sophomore, she was a Harvey Cavalier Scholar and received a science and math award for women. She received scholarships to attend an engineering camp at Georgia Tech last summer and a hands-on medical program at Tufts University this summer.

We Want to Hear from You!

We invite you to reconnect with your Long Ridge family, discover what’s new, share your stories, and learn how you can help ensure that our students continue to have a deeply meaningful, formative education—one that builds for each child a foundation for a fulfilling future.

Please submit your news and updates to Kris Bria, Alumni Relations at **Alumni@LongRidgeSchool.org** or online at **www.LongRidgeSchool.org/alumni**.

You can also submit news and updates via mail using the enclosed return envelope.

Have any updates on other Long Ridge alumni, or community members? Please share this news too!

Want to become a class ambassador to help gather news and updates for your graduation year? Please send notes of interest to Kris; she would greatly appreciate your assistance.

Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of these class notes. If you have been incorrectly listed or omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please notify the Alumni Relations at: **Alumni@LongRidgeSchool.org** with any questions or concerns.

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