

The OWL

2022–2023 School Magazine & Annual Report

**Celebrating
childhood,
preparing for
the future**

**Long Ridge
Spirit of Giving**

**LRS's Incomparable
Science Program**

**85th Graduating
Class**



The **Long Ridge** School

The Long Ridge School

The Owl, Fall 2023

Head of School

Carissa Lewis

Editors

Pam Chin

Patti Lesando

Kris Bria

Carissa Lewis

Contributors

Milan Arpino '20

Kris Bria

Eliana Bukai '15

Pam Chin

Carissa Lewis

Anne Mengden

Gwen Merlen Lindsey '98

Skyler Reading '18

Marco Volpitta '13

Julia Zachary '20

Design

Pam Chin

Photographers

Pam Chin

Rosie Glassman

Address Changes &

Class Notes

Alumni@LongRidgeSchool.org

On the Cover

4-5 students wore waders and used nets to collect and identify shallow water intertidal species. Animal encounters with local species included horseshoe crabs, oyster toadfish, mussels, snails, flounder, and many more! Students also examined animals to determine adaptations and how they survive the daily changes in their ecosystem. Meantime, we collected some animals for our own saltwater tank!

Contents

- 1 Letter from the Head of School
- 2 Letter from the President of the Board
- 3 Board of Trustees, 2022–2023
- 5 Why The Long Ridge School
- 6 Innovative Teaching For Over 50 Years
- 8 Finding New Paths to Explore with a Scientist Lens
- 9 Reaching for the Stars
- 10 Loves Learning about the World
- 11 Science Nurtures Curious Fervor Beyond Classroom
- 12 How to be the Best Version of Yourself
- 13 Thank You Science
- 14 85th Graduating Class
- 16 The Class of 2023
- 22 85th Anniversary was a Year to Remember
- 24 85th Reunion & Family Celebration
- 28 Community Spirit
- 30 The Power of Giving
- 31 Financial Breakdown
- 32 Thank you to our Donors
- 35 Thank you to our Volunteers
- 36 LRS Fest 85th Celebration & Auction
- 38 In Memoriam
- 39 Faculty and Staff News
- 41 Class Notes
- 45 Stay Connected

Letter from the Head of School

Educators, philosophers and scientists have long touted the innate curiosity of young children. Curiosity, after all, drives people to learn, and it has been the impetus behind many of the world's greatest inventions and advances. Curiosity drove Galileo, Newton, Hooke, and Raman to their discoveries that profoundly impacted the field of science, and it can be credited for Watt's invention of the steam engine.

The famous astrophysicist Carl Sagan once said, "Everybody starts out as a scientist. Every child has the scientist's sense of wonder and awe." At Long Ridge, we know this to be true. We see children as natural scientists. They have been using the scientific method since they were babies, hypothesizing, experimenting, noting results – and repeating the experiment. It is the goal of the science program to keep this innate curiosity and skill alive through the elementary years and beyond. Classes held inside and outside encourage children to observe carefully, question deeply and make discoveries. With a hands-on, experiential approach, students build a strong foundation in the physical, life, earth, and space sciences. Attitudes and dispositions of scientific inquiry are fostered, such as a drive to experiment, a desire to challenge theories, identify problems and test solutions, and communicate new ideas.

Some of my fondest memories of teaching are from the science classroom at Long Ridge. The excitement and enthusiasm of the students as we delved into studies of space, biomes across the world, forces of motion, early chemistry concepts, the human body, and so much more made teaching such a joy. When I started at Long Ridge, I was so inspired by Anne Mendgen, the science teacher at the time. The constant activity, investigation, experimentation and discovery that took place in the science room was the ultimate embodiment of Long Ridge's dedication to active learning and an academically challenging yet warm and joyful environment. When an opportunity came up to



step into Anne's shoes, I jumped at the chance. The joy we all experienced together as we incubated chicken eggs, created chemical reactions, and rigged pulley systems across the playground I will always treasure. And I know these are experiences many alumni hold dear as well. I love hearing alumni regale their colorful stories of science with Jo Wheeler, Anne or me, and I am thrilled that the cherished and prized Long Ridge science program is now in the capable hands of Niina Armstrong. As you flip through this edition of The Owl, I know you will relate to the stories shared by our contributors—no matter what your connection to the School, former or current family, or a friend of the School, the essence of Long Ridge science holds strong.

Carissa Lewis



It is the goal of the science program to keep this innate curiosity and skill alive through the elementary years and beyond.

LongRidgeSchool.org **1**

Letter from the 2023-2024 President of the Board



It's an exhilarating time to be a Long Ridge School (LRS) Board Trustee. As a parent of two boys, Yves and Zaza, who started at LRS in Kindergarten and Nursery Grades 3 and 5 respectively, I am humbled and gratified by the responsibility of being the new Chair of the Board of Trustees. My deepest gratitude to Chris Ferraro for the brilliant role of shepherding the Board of Trustees over the past few years through various challenges and triumphs. Under Chris's leadership and strategic guidance, the Board of Trustees and LRS survived COVID and since, has focused on thriving as a community. We have welcomed new Trustees and have affirmed the School's commitment to a sense of belonging. We continue to strategize on maintaining financial stability for the School and more recently, under

the leadership of Carissa, earned validation of our mission through the successful reaccreditation by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS).

My children, and I hope yours too, flourish in the well-rounded and child-centered education we offer at The Long Ridge School. This year, I am particularly invigorated by the new Social Studies Curriculum which will provide an opportunity for our children and our Community to enhance our knowledge of history from critical perspectives that may have not been previously acknowledged. From mathematics to recess, from science to library, from language arts to choice time, it's hard to pick a favorite and in no small part, witnessing their growth and development is fundamental to my commitment to this School. It represents an endorsement of the blueprint we build from at The Long Ridge School, where seeds are planted from which we can only bloom.

Over this year, we will renew strategic planning and strive to strengthen our LRS community. I look forward to your participation in our School in any ways you can: by attending Assemblies, the All-School Performance, and the Annual Benefit, helping at the All School Picnic or as a Class Parent, contributing to the Annual Fund or Fund- a-Need, encouraging families and friends to join Grandparents and Special Friends Day and, of course, by sharing your ideas, suggestions and time. All are welcome.

Thanks to you all.



Witnessing their growth and development is fundamental to my commitment to this School-

Kisha Mitchell Richards

BOARD of TRUSTEES

2022–2023



Chris Ferraro
President



Guy Bailey
Vice President



Anne Mengden
Treasurer



Shanti Hageman
Secretary



Samantha Brown
Trustee



Marc Campbell
Trustee



Mac Caputo
Trustee



William Knauer
Trustee



**Kisha
Mitchell-Richards**
Trustee



Rebekah Mate
Trustee



Lisa Mitchell
Trustee



Aric Wu
Trustee




Carissa Lewis
Ex-Officio



Ron Japha
Honorary Trustee

We thank Guy Bailey for his dedicated service as he steps down from the Board. The 2023–2024 Board welcomes new trustees Jamie Anzellotti Hein, Maureen Chiodo, and Evelyn Myers. We also give our heartfelt gratitude to Chris Ferraro for his steadfast leadership. Chris steps down as President but remains on the Board while Kisha Mitchell Richards takes over the helm.

A young boy with curly hair, wearing a bright yellow long-sleeved shirt and red shorts, is looking down at a petri dish held by a young girl. The girl has long blonde hair and is wearing a colorful t-shirt with a sea turtle and other marine life illustrations. She is holding a yellow string in her left hand and the petri dish in her right. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting, possibly a beach or a field. In the top right corner, there is a green circular graphic containing white text.

**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.**

Innovative Teaching For Over 50 Years

Unique Science Program Designed to Keep Children's Innate Interest & Curiosity in Science Alive

by Anne Mengden

Jo Wheeler taught elementary-level science at The Long Ridge School for 33 years, retiring in 2004. She won awards for her innovative teaching methods, which emphasized both dirty-hands investigation of the outdoor environment and having fun. She knew that for children, science is Very Important. She developed a unique science program designed to keep their innate interest in science alive through the elementary years and beyond and to provide the children with foundations for understanding the natural and physical world.



Jo knew that children learn best through active engagement in hands-on exploration and experimentation rather than textbook-based instruction and built the science program accordingly. Like all teachers at Long Ridge School, Jo believed that interdisciplinary studies promote a deep understanding and mastery of the skills and concepts expected at each grade level. Science for older children is often organized around a grand, interdisciplinary theme. Second and third grade students learn new concepts and skills while they study space or simple machines and



do hands-on experiments about gravity, density, forces, etc.

Fourth and fifth grade students expand their science horizons each year through multi-disciplinary studies of freshwater ecology, and, in alternate years, the marine environment. Numerous field trips provide the basis for much of the term's work in the classroom and in the science room.

Outdoor investigations year-round familiarize all students with living and non-living things in the several different habitats available to them on the school's property. Naturally keen observers and intrepid hunters, the children develop a deep awareness and respect for the environment, from sky to soil.

Anne Mengden worked with Jo before taking over the science program upon Jo's retirement. Carissa Lewis took over the science program upon Anne's retirement and expanded the curriculum to include more work with electronics and robotics. Niina Armstrong joined Long Ridge School when Carissa became the Head of School in 2020. All three teachers have embraced Jo's science curriculum while adding their own unique perspectives and talents.

Inspired by their science experiences in their elementary years, many Long Ridge School graduates have gone on to pursue further education and careers in science and engineering. Jo would be gratified to know that her "hope that the sum of the science years here will remain an inspiration to our graduates and help them grow into science-literate adults with a caring commitment to our planet and all its inhabitants" is becoming a reality.

Photos: Top Left: Jo Wheeler at the Nature Preserve dedication in her name (2007), Bottom Left: Anne Mengden in the garden (2007)
Top Right: Carissa Lewis working on a student robot (2018)
Bottom Right: Niina Armstrong with 4-5 students (2023)



Finding New Paths to Explore with a Scientist Lens by Gwen Merlen Lindsay '98



Gwen Lindsey (néé Gwen Merlen) '98 received her Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College and Master's from University of California, San Diego. Currently, Gwen works as a Chemistry Subject Matter Expert supporting DoD research programs and previously worked at the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Energy. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and camping. Photo: False Cape State Park, Virginia

Jo Wheeler's classroom was the most unconventional place I was supposed to go as a kid, and the best place for the foundations of my scientific curiosity and creative spirit. It was a room where we witnessed the beauty of creation and became creators ourselves. Jo's enthusiastic lecture on the Big Bang set the stage for planetary models being built with paper-mache covered balloons. Her ceiling-to-floor pull-down poster depicted the periods of development of Earth and the

mysterious origin of life that gave way to waves of life forms through the periods of geological history. She brought the incomprehensibly huge scale of earthly creation to the palms of our hands with specimens of rocks, plants, fossils, and even dead animals stored in formaldehyde jars. Fear and disgust, obstacles to truth and discovery, were eroded on dissection day - when we explored the structure of fish heads. Our exploration of life sciences connected to physical science lessons, exemplified by a lesson where we examined feathers gave way to a discussion of gravity and aerodynamics. We played with physics, too, making rubber-band and Kleenex box guitars that transformed the stretchy behavior of rubber into periodic motion that vibrated air molecules which became sound when the vibration reached our eardrums. When the curriculum focused on chemistry began, I recall being overwhelmed by the number of elements on the periodic table, but then Jo had us test common foods and our own saliva with pH paper. I realized that if I wanted to understand myself and my interactions with the world, I better get comfortable with the elements that form all matter I experience. Now, I am a chemist.

Jo's lessons didn't stay in my past, as distant memories, lost to time. In my later years of education, when I had to sit at a desk and apply classical physics equations to calculate the motion of colliding particles or derive quantum mechanical equations to describe the wave-like property of matter, the abstract was made tangible by my years of feeling forces in my hands, and playing with waves. In my training as a chemist, I handled increasingly dangerous chemicals as I progressed from introductory chemistry lab to synthetic chemistry with reactive reagents in my work as an R&D chemist and in a PhD research program. I drew bravery from my experiences with hands-on science in Jo's classroom. The greatest gift Jo's teaching brought to my (continue to page 10)

Reaching for the Stars by Julia Zachary '02

Growing up, I spent many nights gazing through the eyepiece of a telescope. My dad showed me planets, stars, galaxies; once even the Sun. One frigid winter night, he woke up the whole family and made us go get pool chairs so we could lie outside and watch the Geminid meteor shower. While my brother rolled around in the snow, I sat and stared upwards, transfixed by the brilliant fireballs streaking through the sky.

My dad fostered in me an unwavering interest in astronomy. I cannot pinpoint the exact moment when I knew I wanted to pursue a career in astrophysics, but I remember being thoroughly inspired by the movie *Contact* (so much so that I have a tattoo of a quote from the movie!). I decided around age seven or eight that I wanted to be a scientist just like Dr. Ellie Arroway, the movie's protagonist, and just like my dad.

Long Ridge was exactly the place for me to begin my journey to a career in science. We dug up worms, caught tadpoles, collected leaves in the forest, dissected fish and raw chicken wings and daffodils. We kept fish and snails in a tank, built models and dioramas, and learned basic physics, gleefully using a lever to lift each other off the ground. We rigged pulleys in the playground and sifted through sand for rocks. I have such strong memories of how truly hands-on every lesson was. Jo and Anne, my science teachers at Long Ridge, ensured we learned something new every day.

I don't think I could name just one favorite part of my Long Ridge experience. I loved all my teachers, who supported me throughout six wonderful years of school. I loved the friends I made, some of whom I still keep in touch with even almost 20 years later. I loved the trips we took, the songs we sang, and the games we played. I have great memories of sledding in the winter and playing kickball in the spring. I still have scars on my knees from all the times I fell on the playground!



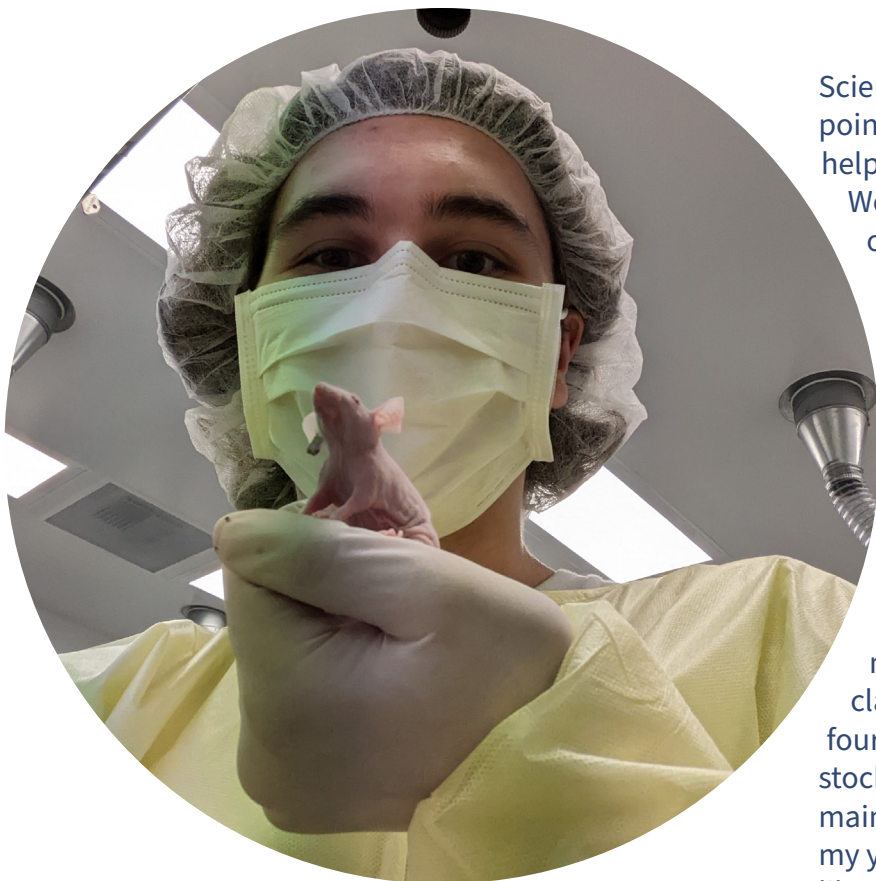
Julia Zachary, Class of 2006, lives in Somerville, MA and works as a Principal Satellite Systems Engineer on the Chandra X-Ray Observatory. She is a graduate of Wesleyan University. Julia previously was an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

My advice to current students or recent graduates interested in astrophysics or aerospace engineering is to find something you love and stick with it. Remember that not all paths to a career are linear. I intended to get a PhD in astrophysics, but was rejected from every graduate school I applied to! Build relationships with your peers and teachers or professors; you never know when an opportunity may appear. I actually got my first job with a recommendation from one of my astronomy professors. Keep your options open, and be willing to accept both advice and criticism from others.

(continued from page 8) career and my life, though, is the quality of exploration. While many scientists commit to one research focus and one career path, I want to experience it all and refuse to be confined by socially constructed ideas of the importance of a linear career path. I have followed my curiosity from analytical chemistry applied to medicinal research to electrochemistry for renewable energy solutions. I stepped out of the lab into the beverage industry for a couple years, working at beer and kombucha breweries to experience the tasty biochemical magic of yeast and bacterial cultures. In the context

of the COVID-19 pandemic, I moved to Washington D.C., and pivoted toward governmental work, hoping that the beauty of the natural world and the human experience that I enjoyed in Jo's classroom can be safeguarded by scientifically informed government decisions. I contributed my scientific acumen to regulatory work at the Food and Drug Administration and policy work at the Department of Energy, and I keep finding new paths to explore with a scientist lens. My career and life have been full of success and adventure thanks to Jo.

Marco Volpitta '13 Loves Learning About the World



Marco Volpitta '13 is studying biochemistry at Middlebury College. Photo: In the Summer of 2022, Marco working in in vivo testing for a cancer drug discovery company in Carlsbad, CA, called Tyra Biosciences.

Science was my favorite subject at LRS. At that point, Anne Mengden was the teacher and she helped me learn to love learning about the world. We learned theoretical concepts, but most of the learning was done through hands-on activities which helped make basic concepts intuitive once I got to more formalized science instruction. This has been especially helpful outside the classroom, as the basic understanding of concepts like equilibrium and gut instinct for what something will do becomes (at least in the places I've worked) more important for monitoring how an experiment is running than the mathematical laws that justify what's happening at a molecular level. My favorite memory from the classroom is the fishtank that we kept in my fourth grade year. Going to Long Island Sound to stock the tank was my favorite field trip, but the maintenance of the tank was also a highlight of my year, and taught me to understand concepts like salinity and food availability throughout ecosystems that I've been able to apply to biochemistry, my chosen course of study at Middlebury College, as well as in the workplace.

Science Nurtures Curious Fervor Beyond Classroom

by Eliana Bukai '15

Have you ever visited the Museum of Natural History in New York City? It is an awe-inspiring testament to the grandeur of Earth's natural marvels and the boundless curiosity of human exploration. Colossal skeletons of prehistoric giants allow you to traverse the epochs of time just before you venture into the cosmos. You can even stand on the moon.

While the science classroom at The Long Ridge School is a little bit smaller than this world renowned museum, I was a little smaller when I attended Long Ridge, too. And I felt the same visiting the Museum of Natural History for the first time as I did walking into science class each day at The Long Ridge School.

Insect specimens and megalodon teeth, amongst other compelling collections, painted our classroom walls. The entire solar system hung from the ceiling! The curiosities which decorated science class outlined our curriculum and kindled my interest for science. But I liked leaving the classroom, too. Field trips transformed me into a real-life scientist. My favorite excursion was my 4-5 trip to Cove Island Park. I learned about the local ecosystem while interacting with resident fauna. I told everyone I knew about everything I had learned, and found out that I really liked fish. Did you know horseshoe crabs have blue blood?

I eagerly returned to Cove Island Park during my senior year of high school, this time as an intern for Soundwaters. I got the opportunity to teach students everything that I was so excited to discover years prior.

Now I'm an undergraduate student studying marine biology and ecology at the University of Miami in Florida. Organic chemistry and molecular biology are somewhat more difficult than elementary science class, but I remain driven by the same desire

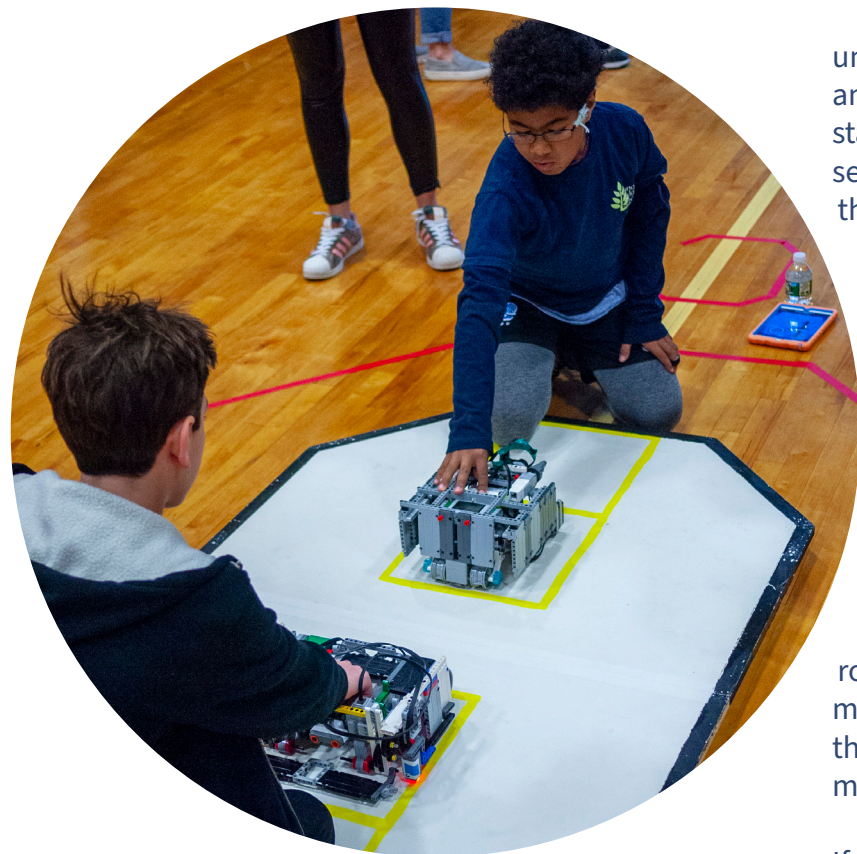


Eliana Bukai '15 participated in a multi-day shark diving expedition in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. She is free diving with a blue shark. Eliana is a sophomore studying marine biology and ecology at the University of Miami.

to explore and experiment, common to all scientists and extensively fostered by The Long Ridge School science program.

Science is dependent upon innate curiosity. At The Long Ridge School, I found an encouraging and collaborative community which nurtured curious fervor well beyond the science classroom, rendering all disciplines fascinating. As I pursue my undergraduate studies at the University of Miami, I remain grateful to the community which pioneered my ongoing scientific expedition and enriched my early experiences in both academia and life, and especially to The Long Ridge School science program!

Milan Arpino '20 Learns How to be the Best Version of Himself



Milan Arpino '20 is currently a ninth grader at The Harvey School and volunteers at many Long Ridge robotics tournaments. Photo: Heavyweight upper bracket tournament in 2019

I was in fourth grade and I remember we went to a robotics tournament. I had already won two heavyweight gold medals in the past, so I was excited. I had qualified for the heavyweight upper bracket but there was this other robot that I thought I wouldn't be able to beat. The kid's robot was just

under all the limits and barely fit in the starting box and I had to play him first. The first two times we started our robots his program failed and the color sensor failed. Both times his robot went right off the board and I was relieved, thinking that I would have an easy 3-0 sweep. However, the third time his robot didn't go off and came straight at mine. It easily pushed mine off and I realized I would not win. It was 2-2 just as fast as I was winning 2-0. In the third round, both of our robots faced each other face-to-face. This was the same thing that happened the last two rounds and both times I was just overpowered, I was expecting to be eliminated. I was backed up into my half of the board but then my strategy finally worked. My flipper on the front of my robot got under his robot and lifted him off the ground just enough for my robot to push him across the board and off. After that victory, I was so confident and went on to win my third heavyweight gold medal.

If there was one thing I took away from robotics at LRS it would be that there is always something to improve on to make better. I truly believe this and I think it also applies to people. If you continue believing in yourself and striving to improve the little things about yourself you can become a better person every day. I have also taken this with me to my new school. I have just started high school at Harvey and every day I try to think of one thing I did that day I think I could have done better. By doing this every day I feel like I'm improving and being the best version of myself I can be.



If you continue believing in yourself and striving to improve the little things about yourself you can become a better person every day.

Thank You Science by Sklyer Reading '18

Dear LRS Science,

Thank you for your love and support. Thank you for your commitment and your dedication. I first met you nine years ago, on my very first visit to Long Ridge, and I am so lucky that I did. It is an indelible memory, one that remains vivid in my mind. I expressed my fascination with you the entire ride home that day, explaining how your hands-on and interdisciplinary approach set you apart from science anywhere else. I spent hundreds of hours driving to and from Long Ridge each year, but for you, it was always worth it. Thank you for making your home, my home. From the moment I first stepped inside, it was abundantly clear that the space was more than just a classroom; it was a place for inspiration and intellectual curiosity. Each and every day your vibrant atmosphere and passionate aura fueled my enthusiasm for scientific exploration. Your consistency, steadiness and love made you the heart of my experience at Long Ridge, and to this day you are still one of the most vital parts of my life. Thank you for making science fun. Thank you for making what we were learning come to life. You didn't just tell us what we were learning, you brought it to us, put it in our hands, and if that was not possible, you brought us to science. You took us outdoors and made the natural world our classroom. Thank you for teaching me ecosystems through the Mianus River and the Long Island Sound. Thank you for connecting my mind with my hands and teaching engineering through building robots. Thank you for sparking my interest in life science through Bella, the bearded dragon, and the maturation of chicks. Thank you for always encouraging thoughtful discussion, for teaching me to ask why. Thank you for employing exceptional teachers who arrived



Sklyer Reading '18 is currently a junior at Wilton High School where she serves as her grades (2025) class president since freshman year. She also volunteers at the Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corp where she just became a full service member. In addition, she competes in track and field at a state level and plays on the Wilton Lacrosse Team..

every day with smiles on their faces and a passion to teach. I've almost doubled in age since we spent our last days together, and I am a vastly different person, but my love and passion for science that you ignited still burns. I'm an AP science student and EMT working towards becoming a doctor. You may no longer be the heart of my daily life, but the flame you ignited in me continues and will forever burn on. So thank you Long Ridge Science, from the bottom of my heart, for everything.



You may no longer be the heart of my daily life, but the flame you ignited in me continues and will forever burn on.

The Class of 2023



“My friendships over my time at Long Ridge have been so important to me. These friendships formed at recess, and during class time when we were assigned group projects... As the final days of school are here, I am a bit down because I am graduating from Long Ridge. But I know that LRS will always be in my heart. I am thankful for my teachers and friends, and I support everyone that helped me through these years. Thank you!!!”

—Keon

“Long Ridge School is an amazing community, and I love it. From the moment I walked in, I knew that it was a great school. I know that all of my memories are happy and meaningful... With the amazing math projects, and the All School Performance, this year was my favorite year at Long Ridge... It’s hard to say goodbye to things that you really care about, but this isn’t goodbye, it is more like a See you later!”—Carmen





“Throughout the years, my experiences at The Long Ridge School have been wonderful and joyful. The teachers are very caring and understanding. I will take these memories with me to my new school with confidence and gratitude. Thank you!”—Spencer

“ There’s a Latin saying, ‘Omne trium perfectum’ which literally means, ‘Everything that comes in threes is perfect.’ This 5th grade class is no exception to that saying.

Kelly Falco







Carmen Perez, The Harvey School



Spencer Ray, Wilton Middle School



CHAPTER THIRI

THE ADVANT GUARD

Shacklebolt and Sturgis Podmore were examining the garden so we're ready, I think. We should probably don't break much for anything go on...
"They want," said Harry.
"That'll just depress them."
"— and you'll see them next summer."
Lupin smiled but made no answer.
"Come here, boy," said Moody gruffly, beckoning him with his wand. "I need to disillusion you."
"Disillusionment Charm," said Harry nervously.
"You've got an Invisibility Cloak, but it won't work if you're flying; this'll disguise you better. Here you go."
He rapped Harry hard on the back of the head and j...
trickles seemed to be running down his face.
"Nice one, A... said Ton...
midriff.
Harry looked down at his body, on...
for it didn't look any...
simply taken on the ex...
him. He seemed to have...
"C... said Moody...
The... outside.

...the others keep flying, don't say, don't break much. I try
ze out all of the and you arrive, Harry the new guard at reading
to take over, keep flying out and don't let you go.
"Snop being so cheerful, Malfoy, he'll think we're using the
roonily," said Tonks, as the striped Harry's took out (they'd
age into a harem hanging from his nose.
"I'm just telling the boy the plot," grumbled Moody. "Do you sit in
advice has been able to look after and if we do in the morning."
"No one's going to die," said Kingsley Shacklebolt in the top
calming voice.
"Moony your brains, that's the first sign!" said Lupin sharply.
pointing into the sky.
Far, far above them, a shower of bright red sparks had been coming
the stars. Harry recognized that from a once a week speech. He felt
right leg over his forehead as it gripped his hands, right as he
raining very slightly, as though it was as hard as he was to see it
at once more.
"Second signal, let go!" said Lupin loudly, as once again
some exploded high over them.
Harry looked off toward the ground. The red light he could
ugh his hair as the rain poured down in great gusts of rain and lightning
being equally into Harry's heavy was...
thought of the lightning, heavy was...
ly the truth of it had been to see of the...
... 91"



The 85th Anniversary was a Year to Remember!

There were many events throughout the year to celebrate our 85th Anniversary. A special birthday assembly kicked off celebrations followed by an interactive and educational Mad Scientist show and birthday cake. We held our first mini reunion for alumni in middle school with a night of bowling.

Many current and alumni parents and grandparents attended and supported LRS Fest 85th Celebration & Auction. Springtime brought our beloved all-school picnic, field day and spirit week. We welcomed many alumni and families to the 85th Reunion and Family Celebration. We ended the year with our 85th graduation.







Jere Rowland, LRS founder
Harriet Rowland's son



Brooke Santiago and Abe Santiago '31



Aditi Shrikam P '17, '20,
Christine DeSantis P '17,
'21, Ratna Subrahmanyam
Basu P '18



Patty Litzen P'17 '19, Harry
Kreeger '19



Charlesanna Ecker P '03, '10, Terran
Whittingham P '07, Meira Rosenberg P '03, '05,
Kathy King P '96



Annette Aspillaga P '15, '18*, Mary
Singleton* P '21, Hayate Boujid
P '21, '28



Kris Bria, Former Head of School
1989 -2018, Guy Bailey, Former
Head of School 1985-1989



Rowland Family: Janet Rowland Chakwin, Jere Rowland



Viktoria Cooper P '16, Virginia
Burton P '16, Fiona Burton '16



Jamie DeNatale P '19, '21,
Christen DeSantis P '17, '21

Ken Myers P '26



Sarah Volpitta* '16,
Alexandra Mathews*
'15, Liz Fleischer '15

85th Reunion & Family Celebration

On Sunday, June 4, over 160 people attended the 85th Reunion and Family Celebration, setting a new record of attendees. Alumni and current families enjoyed gathering together talking about Long Ridge, reminiscing, playing gaga ball and having lunch. We were honored that so many of Harriet Rowland's family were able to attend.

Jere, Harriet's son presented a gift of a photograph of an owl and told a few stories about his mother and the early days.



Gus Aspillaga* '18,
Carlos Aspillaga P '15, '18



Nicky Mehan '21, Wes DeNatale '21, Cooper DeNatale '19



Owen Black '20, Dev Shrikam '20,
Alex Tom '20



Aran Basu '18,
Oliver Kreeger '17,
Carissa Lewis,
Head of School,
P '12



Terran Whittingham P '07, Kisha Mitchell
Richards P '24, '26, Aditi Shrikam P '17, '20



Peter Ebstein P'96, '98
Rebecca Ebstein '98
and Asher



Matt Maonis '79, Guy Bailey P'96,
Former Head, Jeff Rose '80



Carissa Lewis P '12, Donna Volpitta P '13,
'14, '16, '18, Kelly Falco



Om Shrikam '17, Luke Mathews* '20,
Asa Fleischer '17



First Mini Reunion Held for LRS '20, '21 and '22

Reunions only happen every five years which means, it can be a long time until we gather after your graduation. So we thought it would be fun to have mini reunions. We first started with our alumni in middle school last year. We invited them for an evening of bowling. It was so successful that we were asked to do it again which is scheduled for early December. Older siblings heard about the event and inquired about alumni in high school. We were happy to organize an event for LRS '17, '18, '19 and '20 that will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2024. We hope to add more mini reunions in the future. We will be reaching out to alumni in college next year for ideas and venues. If you would like to get involved, please contact alumni@longridgeschool.org.



Jackie and the Beanstalk

The Friday activities drama group performed a humorous and musical retelling of the classic fairytale *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The LRS actors entertained and dazzled all in their performance.





A “ R

Where loving kindness prevails

Harriet Rowland,
Long Ridge Founder



The Long Ridge School Parents Group



2022–2023

Co-Chairs

Liz Keane
Michael and Evin Maione

Class Parents

Beginners	Brenda Gambaccini
Nursery	Andrew Damon
K–1	Mary Beth Peluso Anthony Keane
2–3	Meredith Oram Maria Sanchez
4–5	Maureen Chiodo Kerry Ray

Events

- Ice Cream Social
- New Parent Reception
- Cove Island Beach Clean-Up
- Apple Picking
- Holiday Cookie Swap
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- All-School Picnic
- Family Movie Night
- 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.

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 with one of our favorite traditions—the Ice Cream Social. Students were able to join in the fun with apple picking, a local beach clean-up, family movie night, all-school picnic, and an end-of-year playdate. The Parents Group organized a fun moms night out and a holiday cookie swap. Teachers and staff enjoyed being celebrated during teacher appreciation week.



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 over 85 years.

We can't do it without you! Thank 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.

PayPal Donations— Please add “Annual Fund Donation” into the “Add a note” section.

Venmo Donations— Please add “Annual Fund Donation” into the “What's it for” section.

Zelle Donations— Please add “Annual Fund Donation” into the “Add message” section.

Financial Breakdown*

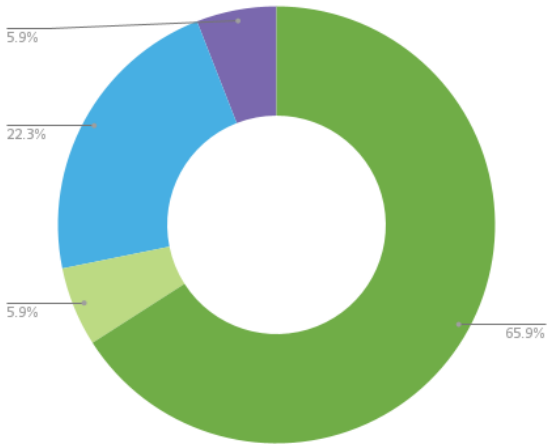
Contributions



Unrestricted Annual Fund	\$152,681
Restricted Annual Fund	\$ 788
Unrestricted Annual Benefit	\$ 41,570
Restricted Annual Benefit (Fund-A-Need)	\$ 20,882
Small Events/Misc.	\$ 585

Total **\$216,506**

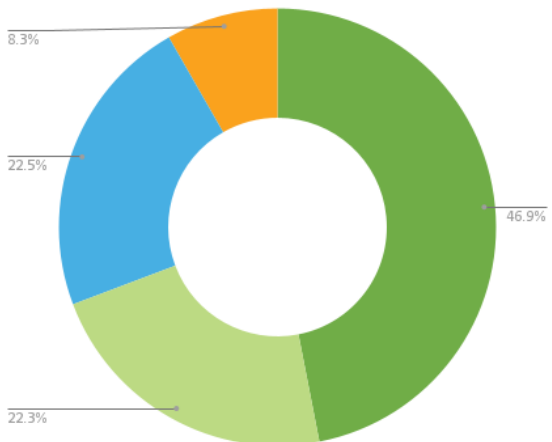
Revenue



Tuition	\$2,429,120
Contributions	\$ 216,506
Camp	\$ 820,819
Other	\$ 218,436

Total **\$3,684,881**

Expenses



Salaries & Benefits	\$1,729,278
Financial Aid	\$822,580
Operating Expenses	\$827,944
Change in Net Assets	\$305,079

Total **\$3,684,881**

* based on unaudited financial results

Thank You to our Donors

Individual Donors

Great Horned Owls, \$10,000+

Anonymous • •
Paola & Chris Ferraro •

Great Gray Owls, \$5,000–\$9,999

Anonymous(2) •
Anne Mengden •
Shanti & Kyde Sharp •
Suzanne Deschamps & Eric Wenberg •
Guliya & Aric Wu •

Snowy Owls, \$2,500–\$4,999

Anonymous •
Guy Bailey, Kathy King, & Andrew Bailey ('96) •
Ellen Caputo •
Rebekah Mate • •
The Mitchell Family •
Evelyn and Ken Myers •
The Estate of David Rowland •

Hawk Owls, \$1,000–\$2,499

The Akinla Family •
Anonymous •
Annette & Carlos Aspillaga •
Lise-Kate and Marc Campbell •
Christa Halby and Robert Colangelo
Raquel & Craig DeMaio • •
Michelle & Peter Ebstein •
Abby & Scott Handelman •
Meryl & Ronald Japha •
Kerry & Adam Ray •
Deborah & Alan Steckler • •
Rebecca and Salvatore Zarrella •

Screech Owls, \$500–\$999

Maureen & Timothy Chiodo •
Christine and Kevin Costello •
Charlesanna & Bill Ecker •
Brenda and Jacob Gambaccini *in memory of*
Joanna Merlen •

- Annual Fund Unrestricted
- Annual Fund Restricted
- In-Kind Gifts
- Corporate Matching Funds

Blake & Charles Giffin •
Jamie Anzellotti Hein & Ken Hein •
Eileen Juico & William Knauer •
The Lewis Family •
Indrani Bagchi and Devapriya Mallick •
Michael and Evin Maione •
Adaobi Odili •
Kisha Mitchell Richards & Maffy Richards •
Teri & Morton Salomon •
Garyfalia Papadopoulou & Avraam Sidiropoulos •
Karen and Warren Tom •

Tawny Owls, \$250–\$499

Michael Adatto ('75) •
Amazon Smile •
Anonymous •
Mariann Kis-Balogh & Istvan Balogh •
Kris & John Bria •
Celine & Jarlath Carbin •
Vikktoria and Douglas Cooper •
Irene Eddy & Terence Donohue •
Alexandra Ebstein ('96)
Anne-Marie & Dominick Friello •
Randi Diamond & Howard Eison •
Kay Carroll and J. Mark Harran •
Louise Harris •
Donna Zalichin ('62) & Barry Kramer •
Nicole Vigue & Rishi Kumar •
Patti & Steve Lesando *in honor of Sam ('19) &*
Charlie ('22) Dulski •
Karen & Geoffrey McNicoll •
Nicholas Mehan ('21) •
Kevin Muzin •
Mary & Mark Singleton •
Melinda & Christopher Smith •
Donna & Richard Volpitta •

Barn Owls, \$100–\$249

Anonymous (2) • •
Deena Merlen ('76) & Joe Bell •
The Barringer Family •
The Black Family •

Lizbeth Blasio •
 Renee & Hank Bornstein •
 Delaney Brock •
 The Campisi Family •
 Ann Horwich & Andrea Celli •
 Lisa McConnell & David Cockcroft •
 Christine & Paul Crotty •
 Jamie and Brandon DeNatale •
 Patti and Jim Dormer •
 Nicole Raucher & Steven Finkel •
 Mari Okie-Fouracre & Anthony Fouracre •
 Chris Gatty •
 The Holway Family •
 Rosemarie & Thomas Hartnett *in honor of Christian,
 Alexandra & Jonathan Hartnett* •
 Maureen Husing *in honor of Silas Maione* •
 Margery Irish *in memory of Dale Melikan* •
 Liz and Anthony Keane •
 Caroline Lesando •
 The Litzen & Kreeger Family •
 Gretchen & Carl Mezoff •
 Ewa Mazur & Tomasz Micewicz •
 Ronnie Nair ('76) *in memory of Koky Kohler,
 Joanna Merlen, & Dale Melikan* •
 Network for Good •
 Deborah & Robert Neiman •
 Nadine & Peter Oundjian •
 Mamta and Yatin Patel •
 Mildred Peralta & Ervin Perez •
 Susan & Richard Plutzer •
 Ruth & Mian Qadrud-Din •
 Jennifer & Dan Rashin •
 Heather DiBenedetto-Reading & Daniel Reading •
 Robin & Rick Redniss •
 Maria & Christian Sanchez •
 Adriana Sbardelotto •
 Mary A. Snyder •
 Renee & Charles Tribie •
 Bonnie Wattles •
 Shue-Chen Wu •
 Ekaterina Yarmolovich & Michael Mehan •
 Antoaneta Knezevic & Harry Zemon •

Spotted Owls, \$1–\$99

Anonymous (4) •
 Niina & Daks Armstrong •
 Simone Darroux & Hassan Bilal •
 Sara & Justin Brown •
 Virginia and Bob Burton •

Danny Cepeda •
 Janet Rowland Chakwin •
 Pam Chin •
 Sasha & Chillion Davis •
 Vanessa Diaz •
 Kelly Falco •
 General Mills-Box Tops for Education •
 Kathy & Anthony Gesualdi •
 Faith & Seth Glassman •
 Sabrina Buckwalter & Ramon Gonzalez •
 Leslie Hammond •
 Nicole & Adam ('98) Japha •
 Elizabeth Joseph •
 Marty-Ann Kerner •
 Carole & Kenneth Kirk •
 Izzy Leahy •
 Zoe Lewis ('12) •
 Davina Lilley •
 Morelli Family •
 Susan & Tim O'Halloran •
 Susan & Kurt Ostheimer •
 Sarah & Matt Paquet •
 Mary Beth & Michael Peluso •
 Erika Preyer •
 Susan Seiler •
 Anne Sexton •
 Ruth & John Sheehan •
 Julian Shettler •
 Danielle Jean-Guillaume Sittol & Shelton Sittol
in honor of Onide Jean-Guillaume •
 Rachel Wagle •

Matching Corporation Donors

Kyndryl Inc.
 Morgan Stanley Matching Gift Program
 Splunk Inc.
 Synchrony Financial

**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 Advancement Office
 at: Development@LongRidgeSchool.org
 with any questions or concerns.**

Strong preparation for whatever comes next

From Kindergarten to middle school; Long Ridge has a proven track record of getting students into desired placements



Thank You to our Volunteers

Parent Group Chairs

Liz Keane
Evin and Michael Maione

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

Annual Benefit

Andrew Damon, Benefit Chair
Sabrina Buckwalter,
Auction Chair
Lizbeth Blasio
Ewa Mazur

Holiday Cookie Swap

Andrew Damon
Shanti Hageman
Liz Mair
Lisa Mitchell
Mary Beth Peluso
Evelyn & Ken Myers

Grandparent and Special Friend Day

Alison Black
Andrew Damon
Lisa Mitchell
Rebecca Zarrella

Ice Cream Social

Jamie Anzellotti
Hayate Boujid
Shanti Hageman
Rebekah Mate

Family Movie Night

Jamie Anzellotti
Hayate Boujid
Lise Campbell
Aysha and Mac Caputo
Abby Handelman
Patrick Holway
Rebekah Mate
Mary Beth Peluso
Adam Ray

Moms Night Out

Lisa Mitchell

Teacher Appreciation Week

Indrani Bagchi
Hayate Boujid
Sabrina Buckwalter
Maureen Chiodo

Irena Dragan
Molly and Patrick Holway
Nicole Japha
Antoaneta Knezevic-Zemon
Nicole Raucher
Maria Sanchez
Guliya Wu
Elizabeth Yates

Yearbook

Kerry Ray

Annual Fund Chair

Mac Caputo

Admissions

Devapriya Mallick & Indrani Bagchi
Aysha Sheikh & Mac Caputo
Andrew Damon
Sabrina Buckwalter & Ramon
Gonzalez
Shanti Hageman & Kyde Sharp
Liz & Anthony Keane
Evin & Michael Maione
Inka and Paul Mellon
Ewa Mazur & Tomasz Micewicz
Gwendolyn Morris, Alumni Parent
Mamta and Yatin Patel
Mary Beth & Michael Peluso
Savanna Shettler
Thomas Shettler
Guliya & Aric Wu

Library Help

Elizabeth Yates

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 All-School Picnic, the Annual Auction, Ice Cream Social and many family events.

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

IT'S GOING TO BE A SCREECH!



LRS FEST

85th

CELEBRATION & AUCTION



Volunteers

Lizbeth Blasio
Sabrina Buckwalter, Auction Chair
Andrew Damon, Benefit Chair
Shanti Hageman
Abby Handelman
Liz Keane
Rishi Kumar
Ian Lewis
Evin and Michael Maione
Ewa Mazur
Evelyn and Ken Myers
Garyfalia Papadopoulou
Guliya Wu

Many current and alumni families along with grandparents celebrated the School's 85th Anniversary with hors d'oeuvres, dinner, desserts, dancing, live music by Four 26 with Becki Fleischer, alumni parent, and a lively auction full of fantastic items and experiences. The Big Room was transformed into an indoor tent with outdoor seating and a firepit. The Auction raised over \$63,000 including over \$20,000 for Fund-a-Need, that will enable a science room renovation.

Special thanks to Andrew Damon, Benefit Chair, Sabrina Buckwalter, Auction Chair, and Rishi Kumar, Auctioneer



Thank you to the many auction donors and supporters

- Gayle and Geoff Alswanger •
- Anonymous •
- Niina Armstrong ••
- Guy Bailey •
- Mariann Kis-Balogh & Istavan Balogh ••
- Alison & Jeffrey Black •
- Lizbeth Blasio •
- Emily Wilcox & Cormac Bluestone •
- Kris Bria •
- Samantha & Aaron Brown ••
- Sara & Stellan Brown •
- Ann Horwich & Andrea Celli •
- Danny Cepeda •
- Maureen Chiodo ••
- Lisa McConnell & David Cockcroft •
- Christa Halby & Robert Colangelo •
- Sara & Andrew Damon •
- Vanessa Diaz •
- Irena Yonyk-Dragan & Stepan Dragan •
- Amy & Jared Dulski •
- Michelle and Peter Ebstein •
- Kelly Falco •
- Paola & Chris Ferraro •
- Elyse Gallagher •
- Faith Glassman •
- Leslie Hammond •
- Hope & Al Hageman •
- Abby & Scott Handleman ••
- Jamie Anzellotti Hein ••
- Maureen Hussing •
- Elizabeth Joseph •
- Liz & Anthony Keane ••
- Ann & Kenneth Keane *in honor of Angler & Lyla Keane* •
- Sopong Kim •
- Eli Zalichin Kramer ('95) •
- William Knauer •
- Nicole Vigue & Rishi Kumar ••
- Juliette La Greca •
- Izzy Leahy •
- Caroline Lesando •
- Patti & Steve Lesando •



• **Annual Benefit Donor & Supporter**

• **Fund-A-Need Donor**

- Carissa & Ian Lewis ••
- Davina Lilley •
- Evin & Michael Maione ••
- Vivian & James Maione ••
- Rebekah Mate •
- Timothy Mate •
- Anne Mengden ••
- Ewa Mazur & Tomasz Micewicz ••
- Lisa Mitchell •
- Marietta Morelli •
- Susan & Tom Murphy •
- Evelyn & Ken Myers ••
- Adaobi Odili •
- Maureen & Robert Oram •
- Mary Beth & Michael Peluso ••
- Susan Plutzer •
- The Ray Family •
- Kisha Mitchell Richards & Maffy Richards •
- Maria Sanchez •
- Adriana Sbardelotto •
- Shanti Hageman and Kyde Sharp ••
- Kelly Sheehan ••
- Liz Mair & Mark Strong ••
- Karen & Warren Tom •
- Rachel Wagle •
- Sara Welter ••
- Guliy & Aric Wu •



Thank you to the following companies who made donations

- Animal Embassy
- Avon Theater
- Awesome Toys & Gifts
- Bedford Candy Bar
- Best Time Ever
- BETA Climbing and Fitness
- Andrew Carney Photography
- Classic Kids Photography
- Club Kung Fu
- American Portrait Artist, Richard J. Cook
- Curtain Call Inc
- DB Fine Wines
- Designs by Lee
- Dodo Banana
- Farmhouse at the Crossroads
- Fjord Fish Market
- Grand Prix New York
- Greenwich Orchids and Fine Flowers
- Greenwich Water Club
- Hands on Pottery
- Heart of Gold Fine Jewelry LLC
- La Rocca's Country Wine and Spirits
- Lake Compounce Amusement Park
- Learn 2 Fly CT
- Legoland New York Resort
- Long Ridge Volunteer Fire Department
- Maison D'Alexandre
- Manfredi Jewels
- New Canaan Dance Academy
- Nora's Ovenworks
- Peak Wellness
- Pinot's Palette
- Pinstripes
- Restore Hyper Wellness
- Romalo Landscaping
- Salt Cave of Darien
- SkinLab by Nichols MD
- Splash Car Wash
- Stamford Museum & Nature Center
- Stepping Stones Museum
- Sterling Farms Golf Course
- The Long Ridge Camp
- View & Vine



In Memoriam by Kris Bria

Remembering Ian Falconer '73

Everyone who was inspired, amazed, and entertained by Ian Falconer's creativity was saddened by losing him in March. Ian was a gifted artist and author whose Olivia books are read and loved by so many children and adults as well. His illustrations graced thirty The New Yorker covers, and he designed sets and costumes for many international ballet and opera companies.

Ian was a loyal LRS alum who returned several times to sign his best-selling books. Ian is truly missed by his family, friends, and fans. His wonderful books and other creations will continue to live on and be enjoyed and admired forever.



Ian Falconer autographing one of his *Olivia Forms a Band* books at Long Ridge in 2006.

Noriko Prince, former Long Ridge Art Teacher Passes at 97



With sadness, we report that Noriko Prince, LRS art teacher in the 1970's and mother of LRS students Lisa Tatsuko Prince '78 and Boku Prince, passed away last October at the age of 97. She studied art in her native Japan, and received a BFA and MFA from California College of Arts and Crafts. She also taught art at Manhattanville College, Sacred Heart Greenwich, and the Silvermine School of Art. Lisa says her mother's paintings reflected her personality and were "gutsy, bold, colorful, clever, cosmopolitan, and abstract..." and are found in collections worldwide.

Faculty and Staff News



Monae Cherry — We are thrilled to welcome Monae to our 2-3 teaching team and the LRS community. Monae holds a Masters in Education and has several years of experience in education. Last year, she taught Kindergarten at Waterside School. Before that, she was part of the Associate Teacher Program at New Canaan Country School in grade two. For five years, she worked as a special education paraprofessional in Stamford Public Schools. Additionally, Monae is currently the lead Kindergarten teacher and Assistant Teacher Supervisor at the Horizons summer program at New Canaan Country School, where she has worked since 2007. She brings a wonderful range of experiences to the 2-3 classroom as well as her contagious warmth and passion for teaching young children.

Welcome **Melanie Chiari** to our Nursery program. Melanie is a recent graduate of the Early Childhood Education program at Norwalk Community College and has worked with young children for over nine years.



Kelly Finland received her Masters in Education at Manhattanville College that specialized in literacy while teaching. Kelly brought her skills to the classroom for the past few years. This year, she is working with students individually and in K-3 classes as a literacy specialist

A big congratulations to **Elyse Gallagher**, Nursery teacher, and her husband, Michael, on the birth of their daughter, Emma, born February 6, 2023. Lilly is thrilled to be a big sister.



Izzy Leahy, 2-3 teacher, her husband, Andrew, and their first child, George, are excited to share their happy news of the arrival of Theodore Andrew on September 28, 2023. Congratulations to all!

Karen McNicoll is Izzy Leahy's leave replacement and started the school year with Izzy and Monae to ensure a smooth transition. Some of you may know Karen. She currently serves as our Math Learning Specialist, but what you may not know is that Karen was a 2-3 teacher here for nearly 30 years.





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

Class Notes

* honorary – left before graduation.

Class of 1973

Paul Frank has been working at Trader Joe's for 4 years, after a long career at Klaff's in Norwalk. Paul enjoyed seeing former classmates and former teachers at the reunion in June.

Class of 1973

Congratulations to **Lissy Newman** who affectionately curated a beautiful oversized photo book about her parents, *Head Over Heels: Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman: A Love Affair in Words and Pictures*.



Class of 1982

Katherine Mulhern is living and working in London. She stopped by with her mother, Eileen, last fall.

Class of 1987

Stephanie Hagyard celebrated her 50th birthday with a trip to Italy with her husband in May. She also celebrated a year of sobriety on July 26. She works at North Shore Community Health and Destination Salem.

Class of 1996

Andrew Bailey and his band, DIIV, have been the warm-up for Depeche Mode for the North American

part of their world tour. His parents, Kathy King and Guy Bailey recently saw them play at Madison Square Garden.

Alex Ebstein recently accepted a new position as the Senior Program Manager of the Rubys Artist Grants at the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation in Baltimore, MD. In her new role she revitalized and expanded a previous grant program for individual artists working in Baltimore city and Baltimore county, distributing over \$250,000 in grant funding annually, and working with the cohort to provide tailored artist services and professional development. The foundation just announced the first cohort under her direction.

Megan Loughran's "funny and wise" play "The Silverfish" was presented as a staged reading at Urban Stages on Sept. 18.

Class of 1999

Kaile Eison* and Anthony DeVivo welcomed Delphinea Massiel "Phinn" DeVivo, joining older brother Aelios Ori, to their family on July 11. Kaile is a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician at Columbia University Center in Washington Heights where she is the medical director of global health for the department.

Nicholas Theuerkauf is Manager Partner of SilverTree Equity, a hedge fund, in London.

Class of 2000

Rosie Glassman has been busy touring with Torres, Darlene Love, and Thick. Alex Morelli '02 caught one of Rosie's shows at The Beat Kitchen in Chicago this summer.



Class of 2001

Lauren Sakin and Dave Fegan welcomed David Jay Fegan to their family on August 21.

Class of 2002

Andrew Jamieson was recently named Director of The Harvey Fund for Annual Giving at The Harvey School, after serving as the Associate Director of Development since 2022.

Alex Morelli wed Barbara Sostaita in a small ceremony with their families on June 23, 2023. The couple currently lives in Chicago, IL, where Alex works as a documentary filmmaker and Barbara serves as an Assistant Professor at University of Illinois-Chicago.

Class of 2003

Laura Christie married Larry Brown on Aug. 12 at Keeler Tavern Museum, Ridgefield.

Catey Condit married Chris Darrow on Aug. 19 in Fairfield, CT. Catey is Senior Manager, Client Strategy at Stella Rising.

David Ecker joined Exceleration Music as Label Development Manager in May, managing day-to-day relationships with the company's label and artist partners. He left an executive position at Spotify where he began working in 2014 as a paid intern during his senior year at Columbia University. He continues to write and record his own music that can be heard on Spotify, Hip Joint Radio, etc.

Marissa Friedman wed Will Gamber on Aug. 12 at Seminary Hill Mountain House, Callicoon, NY. Marissa is Director at Kitamba, Washington, D.C. and Chief of Staff at PA Youth Vote, which she co-founded.

Class of 2004

Stephen Sollami and Danielle Nelson were married on Nov. 12, 2022 in Voorhees, NJ. The couple met in 1996 when their families both vacationed at the same New Hampshire inn. Stephen is a Client Success Specialist with Oracle.

Class of 2005

Nicholas Morelli, son of Marietta, LRS Librarian, was recently awarded the 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award for his work as a Youth Mentor for San Diego County Child Welfare Services. Nick has been a mentor to two young siblings since December 2021 and continues to be an important part of the children's lives, working closely with his mentees and their family, contributing 300 hours of volunteer work while working on his graduate degree from SDSU/UC San Diego in child clinical psychology (PhD) and public health (MPH).

Class of 2006

Michelle Menacho and her mother, Pilar, former Long Ridge Spanish teacher, have been working together as Spanish teachers for four years at The Harvey School. Michelle enjoys teaching upper school students. Photo: Michelle and Pilar dressed up in robes for Harvey's graduation for the class of 2023.



Claire O'Halloran, Villanova graduate, is a Senior Digital Manager for the Lifestyle Brands at Dotteddash Meredith in NYC. Her love for writing began at LRS and continues to write in her spare time!

Kirk O'Halloran graduated from the University of Vermont and works in cyber security. He currently lives in Boston and likes to ski and surf whenever he can.

Tessa Tookes became engaged to Joey Kirchner of Alberta, Canada, on the season finale of Bachelor in Paradise Canada on July 9. They actually became engaged much earlier, but had to keep it a secret until the episode aired. (Tessa made “Bachelor” franchise history by being the first woman to propose on a “Bachelor” show. Joey followed up by proposing to Tessa.)

Class of 2007

Will Richner married Mary Jean (MJ) Budebo on December 22 in Miami, FL. Will is a student at St. George’s School of Veterinary Medicine. MJ is a Physician’s Assistant in Miami Beach.

Class of 2009

Maddy Culpepper, a graduate of Barnard, is beginning a PhD program in military and gender history at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Aaron Miller is Special Assistant to the Mayor of Stamford, Caroline Simmons, and the Arts and Culture Program Manager. Aaron majored in Government and Legal Studies at Bowdoin College, pursuing an interest in government that began at LRS.

Annie Morelli is in her third year working for YEXT, a New York-based online marketing and search company.

Andrew Muzin* is a photographer and cinematographer based in Norwalk, CT. He works with hundreds of clients, producing content ranging from commercial advertisements, documentaries, and real estate, to weddings, portraits, and fashion photography.

Are you Getting our Emails?

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

Class of 2010

Will O’Halloran* graduated from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University as a percussionist. He works for Waterfront Branded Solutions as a National Accounts Manager. He lives in NYC where he plays with various bands. His love of music started at LRS!

Class of 2011

Reid Gesualdi* graduated from Gettysburg College in May of 2022. He then worked in the financial district in NYC at an investment firm for the past year. Reid has recently moved to Boston.

Justin Hone graduated from Marquette University studying International Affairs and Global Healthcare Policy. He is working in Chicago as a Procurement Rotational Associate at Walgreens ·

Eric Ochsner* is going back to college to study Not for Profit Management after taking a year to work in the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. He recently got promoted and will be running the volunteer division as well as liaison to the City of Boulder.

Class of 2012

Nina Bakuradze graduated from New York

University and is applying to dental school.

Jody Bell graduated this year from the College of Charleston with a International Business major and International Studies minor. Jody is a Sustainable & Transition Solutions Analyst at Blackrock.

Isabel Daniele graduated from Hobart William Smith College in May.

Zoe Lewis received her BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from the University of Vermont.

Alex Catterson (nee Ochsner)* is in her 3rd year of Colorado University LEEDS Business school, in the fields of Entrepreneurial Studies and Sustainability. She has made Boulder her home, along with her two siblings, Eric and Emelina.

Emelina Catterson(nee Ochsner)* transferred from the University of Denver to University of Colorado, Boulder and is studying linguistics and art. She has made Boulder her home with her cattedog, Presley, and her siblings, Eric Ochsner, and Alex Catterson.



Class of 2014

Alexy Theurerkauf attends TUM (Technical University of Munich) School of Management in Germany after graduating from Blind Brook (NY) High School in 2021.



Class of 2016

Rachel Akinla graduated from Fox Lane High School where she participated in the Science Research program, played violin in various musical groups, and ran on the track team. She received a National Merit Scholarship Program Commendation and attends Harvard, studying Environmental Engineering.

Sebastian Akinla graduated from Fox Lane High School and attends Babson College, studying real estate. He is applying to take the NY State EMT certification course.

Haley Bembridge graduated from Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance, CA, where she was a member of the Spirit Squad.

Fiona Burton graduated from Greens Farms Academy where she starred as Frenchy in “Grease” and performed in other productions. She is spending/ taking a “gap year” with internships in Costa Rica and Sweden before attending Denison University.

Bradford Cooper is a senior at St. Luke’s.

Christopher Gatty graduated from Masters School and attends Syracuse University where he plays basketball on the Syracuse Orange team.

Evan O’Connell graduated from Cary Academy (NC) and attends the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Jacob Silver is a senior at King and a captain on the school baseball team.

Yabi Segalla* graduated from Wooster School where his Ultimate Team won the CT state championship. He attends the University of Vermont.

Grace Wearing* graduated from St. Luke’s and now attends Tulane University.

Sarah Volpitta* will attend the University of Vermont this fall.

**Did you hear
about our Mini Reunions?**

**Middle School Bowling Night for
LRS ‘21, ‘22, and ‘23 on December 1,
2023**

**High School Bowling Event for LRS ‘17,
‘18, ‘19 and ‘20 on January 7, 2024**

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.

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.



Stay Connected - Follow us on Social Media



facebook.com/LongRidgeSchool



instagram.com/Long.Ridge.School/



The Long Ridge School, Stamford CT



linkedin.com/company/the-long-ridge-school-lrs







The **Long Ridge** School

478 Erskine Road
Stamford, CT 06903

Parents of Alumni
if your child has moved,
please email us at
Alumni@
LongRidgeSchool.org

THANK YOU
for Supporting
LONG RIDGE!

