

THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

OUTLOOK

SUMMER 2022 • VOLUME 41, ISSUE 2



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Jon Kellam

As Jon Kellam retires, we reflect on the many hats he has worn, including as Head of School at Oakridge.

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Alumni Spreading Wings

While the journey is just beginning for Oakridge's newest alumni, other alumni update us on what they've been doing and reveal exciting plans for the future.

Outlook Summer 2022, Volume 41, Issue 2

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The Oakridge School is an independent, coed, college-preparatory day school for students in preschool (age 3) through grade 12. The Oakridge School admits students of any race, color, sex, religion, physical ability, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The Oakridge School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, physical disabilities, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational and admissions policies, financial aid, and other school sponsored programs.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

"Yesterday is but a dream, Tomorrow is only a vision. But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope."

— Kālidāsa

"No matter how much time passes, no matter what takes place in the interim, there are some things we can never assign to oblivion, memories we can never rub away."

— Murakami

I memorized this quote in high school. Still embedded in my memory, it reminds me life is precious. There is no promise for longevity. Living with intentionality leads to increased productivity, fruitful relationships, and greater fulfillment. **Live well today.**

"Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it you can never get it back."

— Mackay

I had a Middle School English teacher who often said, "Class, if you're going to kill time, work it to death." She was a task master. I do believe in honest, hard work... but I have also learned that when we play we should play hard, too. **Spend time wisely.**

We all have memories – good and bad – stamped indelibly in our minds. A sobering exercise for parents and educators is to walk down memory lane taking stock of what we recall - and recognizing the number of days, weeks, even years that are blank. **Make good memories.**

On this campus, the best days and memories - the ones not rubbed away - are created in our safe, welcoming, nurturing environment. And, they are abundant because students and adults feel known and loved. This is our "secret sauce!"

Thank you, Oakridge family, for 29 wonderful years. Kristi, Cole '16, Cade '18, and I are grateful for your love and support, and we will miss you. Farewell and Godspeed.

Jonathan M. Kellam
Head of School



CAMPUS NEWS



ECC students honored Jon Kellam along with all other divisions on Mr. Kellam Day. He was surprised by the students’ posters and sweet cheers. Each child gave Mr. Kellam a high five and wished him well on his retirement.



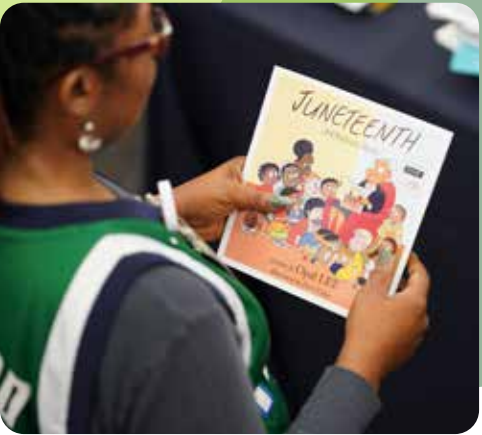
ECC students learned about bicycle riding and toy safety at this spring’s Trike-A-Thon, where \$3,822 was raised for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

CAMPUS NEWS

Oakridge Hosts Nobel Peace Prize Nominee

The Oakridge School hosted the “Grandmother of Juneteenth” and 2022 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Opal Lee, in February. Students, faculty, and staff across every division, as well as parents, had an opportunity to hear from Ms. Lee. Some families got her autograph on copies of her book, *Juneteenth: A Children’s Story*.

Ms. Lee, a longtime Fort Worth resident and retired educator, came to prominence following her decades-long efforts to get Juneteenth proclaimed a national holiday. In early February, more than 30 members of Congress signed a letter nominating her for the peace prize. The awards will be announced in October.



For Diffendofer Day, Lower School students presented what they researched and about topics they enjoy. Addy Kaitala, grade 4, opted to give facts about Alexander Hamilton.



Two members of the Class of 2022, Grant Miranda and Sana Kohli, were named National Merit Finalists.



In May, the sixth grade class participated in the Ambassadors of Culture program, filling the Student Activity Center with presentations on countries around the world. Gia Puri represented India.

STUDENT VOICES IN ACTION

In partnership with the technology team, a group of Middle School students piloted new Apple iPad technology this year for campus-wide use.



GREAT MENTAL MODELS

The Great Mental Models High School Project was the focus of a seminar at Oakridge this year. During the unit on First Principles Thinking, sophomore Olivia Parvin worked her belief that zoos should be banned through Socratic questioning. All of the lesson plans in the project are aligned with English/Language Arts standard and are meant to build decision-making skills in the classroom. Learn more on the Farnam Street blog.



WALK TO THE FUTURE

Kindergarten students walked beneath an arch formed by Class of 2022 seniors after walking from the ECC to the big school in the Walk to the Future. The walk is one of the school's most beloved traditions and provides a glimpse of what's to come for the students who will begin first grade in the fall.



JON KELLAM

Head of School Jon Kellam bids farewell to The Oakridge School this summer. He has worn many hats during his nearly three decades-long career here – as a teacher, coach, administrator, mentor, mentee, and friend – and poured his heart into the lives of countless students, alumni, faculty and staff, community members, and more. We reflect on his leadership in this special issue of Outlook.

“OAKRIDGE IS ABOUT PEOPLE, RELATIONSHIPS, AND TAKING CARE OF ONE ANOTHER. AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE’RE JUST HELPING KIDS BECOME THE BEST VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES.”

Ahead of the school’s 40th anniversary, Jon Kellam sat down for a one-on-one interview with Director of Marketing and Communications Bridget Lewis. He reflected on his time at Oakridge.

Can you talk about your introduction to Oakridge and your initial thoughts about the campus?

My first introduction to the school was through the athletic director at the time and his name was Doug Woodcock. I was quickly thereafter introduced to Andy Broadus, the headmaster at the time. I’ll never forget the first time I drove on the campus. I kind of just got this feeling that there was something special behind that white picket fence. At the time, the school was much smaller, 14 years old, but there was still a charm and kind of a humble sophistication about Oakridge that I think still exists today.

You’ve seen incredible growth in facilities over your time at Oakridge. What changes most stand out in your mind?

Oakridge has grown tremendously since I started working here in 1993. I remember an early childhood building, an upper school building, and the lower middle school building, the SAC and the MAC. That’s really all we had. Since that time, and when we actually had two double-wide trailers out in our quadrangle, we’ve built a beautiful Fine Arts Center with over 32,000 square feet dedicated strictly to the arts. We have a library, an information center and a



The Kellam family in 2021.

technology center, as well as the facilities we have built across the street that make up the Oakridge Athletic Complex. In addition, we have built a brand new state-of-the-art kindergarten center. We have a security building and all that comes along with that, and we’ve continued to renovate some of our older spaces. It’s been an exciting, exciting journey.

During your time here, in what roles have you served?

I started here in 1993 and I was an Upper School English teacher and a varsity soccer coach. I taught and coached other classes as well. Early on in my career here, I was the founder and director of the Summer in the Oaks program. For about five years, I was an administrator in our Middle School followed by Assistant Headmaster for four years, Associate Headmaster for four years, and I became the Head of School in 2007.

With all of the physical additions, what have been some other responsibilities that have come with such growth?

In addition to caring for the facilities and constantly making sure that we’re doing excellent things in these facilities, we also believe that our students and our faculty members should give back to the community. We allow the community to come to our campus and use our facilities. Like the police training center down the street, they use our track all the time to do their workouts with their new recruits and so forth. We also like to get our students out in the community and work with Mission Arlington, Tarrant County Food Bank, Lighthouse for the Blind, etc. We think it’s important for our students to realize how fortunate they are and to help those who are in great need.

At a time when we have more college prep-style schools, charter schools, etc., what do you think keeps Oakridge competitive in today’s changing world?

Well, the educational landscape has changed dramatically since 1979. There are so many choices and options. So, one of the things

about Oakridge and about our mindset here is that we just can't be complacent. If we're going to provide a top notch education for our students and help them to get what they want, a great college education and a promising life and career after college, we have to continue to provide excellence in the areas of academics, arts, and athletics. One way we've done that is to think about the skills that our students are going to need to have to compete in college and beyond. Most recently, we have spent great amounts of time and resources dedicated to helping our kids to become great communicators. We want them to be collaborators. We want our students to be able to solve problems and think critically and we also want them to be creative thinkers. So, doing those things and putting that at the forefront of our decision making helps us to design our curriculum and our Oakridge experience.

For those who might not know anything about Oakridge and what we mean when we say we are family, describe the unique sense of connectedness here.

To me, the Oakridge family is about relationships. The family is just about the people in this community who developed strong bonds with one another. Our community is made up of students, it's made up of faculty and staff, it's made up of alumni, and grandparents, and aunts and uncles, as well as other partners we have in our community who work with our students and we work with them. This Oakridge family that we have is about taking care of one another. It's about looking out for one another, supporting one another, encouraging, being there during good times and bad. One way that that can happen here at the school



Jon Kellam and other leaders gathered May 23, 2019 for the official groundbreaking of the Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital Arlington Baseball and Softball Complex.

is that we have preschool through grade 12. A child can enter here when he or she is three-years-old and go 15 years to graduation as a high school senior. The neat thing is after they graduate and go off to college, they always come back.

Talk more about family. What has it meant to be a parent while serving at Oakridge?

Again, I'm a really blessed person. I started working at the school when I was 29-years-old. My first year here I got married and several years after that Kristi and I had our first son, Cole. Not long after that we had our second son, Cade. While I've been here 26 years, each one of my boys entered this school as preschool students and now they've both graduated.

You've talked about Oakridge helping children become the best version of themselves. Instrumental to that are the teachers in their lives. What did you look for when hiring faculty and staff?

Number one, we want to hire happy, passionate, interesting people. You know, those who will have a great impact on the young people they teach, guide, and lead. It's a given that we want those who are masters of their content area.

But really what we're trying to find out in our interview process is this: is this a quality human being who moms and dads would want in front of their child either part of the day or all day long.

What do you think your legacy will be?

When I'm asked about legacy, I really think about Andy Broadus and the impact that he's had on me and on the school. I've learned so much. He's taught me so many things. When it comes to caring for the school, we've learned that we should always strive for excellence, that we should never be complacent, and that we should treat everyone well. Relationship building and education go hand-in-hand. If we're going to continue to be a strong Oakridge, we really need to have a school where all students and faculty members are valued, people are allowed to be individuals, and understand that education won't look the same for every student. Everyone wants the same thing – they want a quality education, a college education, and a good life. We're fortunate here that we work with families who love children and value education just like we do.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

We asked some special members of the Oakridge family, past and present, to reflect on their time with Jon Kellam.

I first met Jon Kellam when he came to Oakridge as a teacher and coach. Through the years he has served the school in several positions. One you may not know about is an architect and construction supervisor. When The Oakridge School received a generous gift from the Quinn Family to update the original Early Childhood Center building and build The Quinn Kindergarten Building, Jon and I became the "project managers!"

Over spring break in 2010, we began the updates on the Early Childhood Center. We worked together with a small construction team knocking down walls, redesigning the office area, constructing a super playground structure, enlarging the playground, building new fences, installing new countertops in the classrooms and much more. Jon was there on a daily basis to see the project completed on time.

We then began meeting with the architects on The Quinn Kindergarten Building. During these months I saw a man dedicated to the true mission and vision of the school. I have seen evidence of this so many times. He has always been a leader that walks with others to lend a hand. I observed this recently at his retirement celebration at Oakridge. As the crowd was leaving and the crew was cleaning up, Mr. Kellam was folding chairs and stacking them on racks. I am sure the future will provide many more hats for Jon to wear creating more memorable moments!

— Betty Garton, Director of Early Childhood Center
Years at Oakridge: 1982-2019





Jon, thank you for your leadership and dedication to The Oakridge School. I watched with pride as you successfully served the school in many different roles while preparing to be Head of School. Congratulations on a fine career, one of which you should take great pride. I, and I know the entire Oakridge community, will miss you and wish for you a wonderful and relaxing future.

— Andy Broadus, Retired Head of School and President
Years at Oakridge: 1981-2007

Whether directing Summer in the Oaks, Middle School, or the Office of Headmaster, Jon's encouraging leadership style often took the form of questions: How can we bolster Ivy League interest, he asked me as college advisor. How can we promote an open house, he asked me as admissions director.

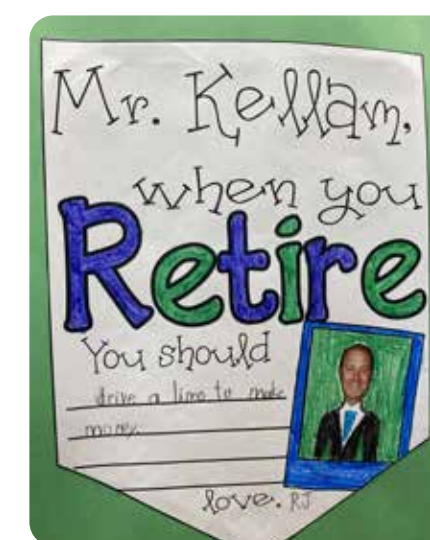
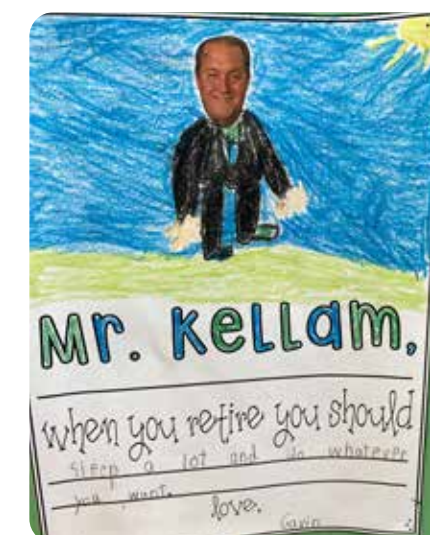
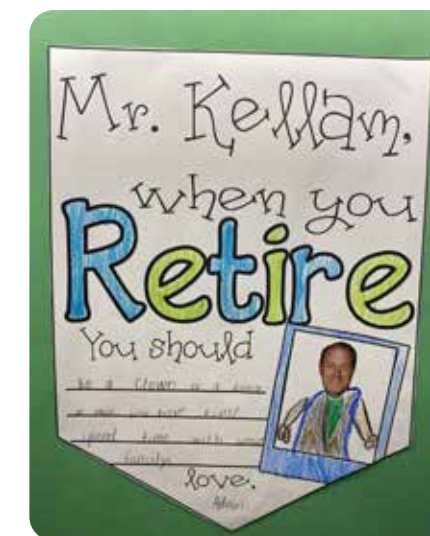
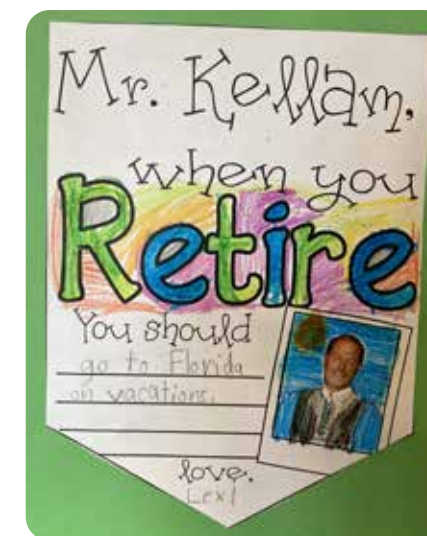
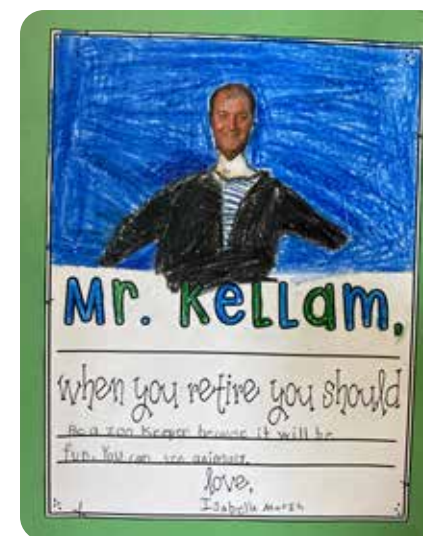
Jon's collaborative approach dates back to his St. Louis youth when he often leaned into support his mom and siblings. When he joined Oakridge's faculty class of 1993 – the school's 15th anniversary year – Kristi readily joined him and soon their two sons. Meanwhile, Jon rose through the ranks as an outgoing personality who dared to ask questions like, "How can we be a school not just of today, but tomorrow, too?"

Determined and detail-oriented, Jon helped shape a litany of Oakridge experiences, ranging from a beautiful arcadian campus grounds and gardens, up to that moment of rarified oration at the close of the show. What a privilege it has been to collaborate with such a multi-faceted leader.

— Dr. Jerry Davis, Upper
School History
Years at Oakridge:
1998-present



A spring display in the Lower School contained advice from first graders for how Mr. Kellam should spend retirement. They encouraged him to do everything from learning to "make" crops as a farmer to getting a job at Great Wolf Lodge.



ALUMNI REFLECTIONS



It has been a blessing to know Jon Kellam first as my coach, then as my teacher, next as Head of School, and now as a truly dear friend.

Coach Kellam (as I first learned to address him and still do today) would be disappointed if I didn't get this story in writing, so this is for you, Coach! His first year at Oakridge, Coach Kellam taught my 7th grade Texas History class. Back then, we used to practice soccer before school. So many times throughout the school year, Coach would show up to class in his crisp button-down shirt and sweater vest, sit down on the teacher's desk to give his lecture, lift one leg to cross it over his freshly pressed trousers – and crammed into his shiny penny loafers – would be his bright white athletic socks from that morning's practice. We all used to get a kick out of that!

I know the entire Oakridge community will join me in wishing Jon, Kristi, Cole, and Cade the best in their future endeavors.

"May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

May the rain fall soft upon your fields,

And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

-Ryan Brentlinger Worthington '99

My stories about Jon Kellam as a soccer coach will forever bring laughter to my soul, as I realize what a ridiculous teenager I was and the ease in which he encouraged me. I always knew that Jon Kellam was a great coach, but what I came to learn over the next 40 years was the amazing headmaster, educator, and person he was, as well. It took 40 years, because I had to grow up and have children myself to understand this. I'm grateful that he was my coach, but I'm more grateful that he was my daughter's headmaster. Thank you, Mr. Kellam.

-Karis Pasley '96

Mr. Kellam always made Oakridge feel like home to me - through the culture, the faculty, and the traditions. When Mr. Kellam would check into whatever classroom I was in, I would make sure that I maintained my good behavior, and when I would see Mr. Kellam at my soccer or football games, it would give me so much pride to wear the Oakridge crest on my jersey. I will forever be thankful for everything that Mr. Kellam meant to not only me as an individual student, but to the entire Oakridge family.

-Andrew Read '12

JON KELLAM SAID DURING HIS ADDRESS TO THE CLASS OF 2022, THAT, "LIFE IS A SERIES OF SUNRISES AND SUNSETS, COMPLEMENTED WITH LOTS OF LIVING IN BETWEEN." THOSE GOLDEN HOUR MOMENTS HAVE INCLUDED GRADUATING HUNDREDS OF OAKRIDGE OWLS. AMONG THEM, MR. KELLAM'S TWO SONS.



Cole Kellam '16 graduated from Texas Christian University in 2020 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. In the last few years, he has concentrated on music, taught math and visited many national parks. Spending the first part of this summer on a west coast tour with One Big Family, an indie Christian artist group, Cole will later travel to Scotland and return to teach math while continuing to focus on music endeavors.



Cade Kellam '18 graduated from Dallas Baptist University in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Music Arts — with an emphasis in music ministry/worship studies. He is spending the first part of the summer on a west coast tour with his brother, Cole, and One Big Family, an indie Christian artist group. Upon his return he will continue to work on his upcoming album while pursuing a teaching job in Biblical Studies.

Thank you, Oakridge, for 29 years full of beautiful memories and friendships we've made, both of which will last a lifetime. Thank you, Jon, for 29 years of this beautiful life I've been blessed to share with you — your ever-growing faith, the family we cherish and the friendship we still share after these first 29 years together — can't wait to see what the next 29 hold for us!

***Love you so much,
Kristi Kellam***



I loved the way you could work a crowd without getting trapped, LOL. You were so good at listening to everyone - you were the Middle School headmaster when our son joined Oakridge. Well done... you set a high standard for all who follow. Thank you.

-Lynn Fraser, Alumni parent

My first memory of Mr. Kellam is from 1999 when he was Head of Middle School and took our 7th-grade class to Austin and San Antonio. On the way back, the bus pulled over, and Jon made the big reveal that our long-awaited "special dinner" would be at Luby's cafeteria. I remember everyone hysterically laughing as we unloaded the bus and grabbed a tray. Mr. Kellam is a remarkable – extremely professional, charismatic, respectable leader with the utmost integrity. He is genuinely interested and committed to each student, graduate, and friend of the school. When you talk to Jon, you feel seen, heard, and feel you belong at The Oakridge School.

-Kendra Walton-Griffin '05

Coach, has it been 29 years of service?! Thanks for all that you've done for me and all the students that have come through Oakridge since you started there.

-Joseph Compton, IV '99

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT



2007
Andy Broadus was appointed President.
Jon Kellam was appointed as Head of School.



2011
The Quinn Family Kindergarten Center was completed.



2012
The campus is named the Andy J. Broadus Campus.



2014
Frank Field, the new football field, opened at the Oakridge Athletic Complex.



2022
The administrative building is named the Jon Kellam Information Center.

2007
The Security Center was completed.



2011
The Early Childhood Center is named the Betty Garvin Garton Quinn Family Kindergarten Center.



2012
A new campus building housing a performance hall, fine arts classrooms, and galleries is named the John P. Flavin Fine Arts Center.

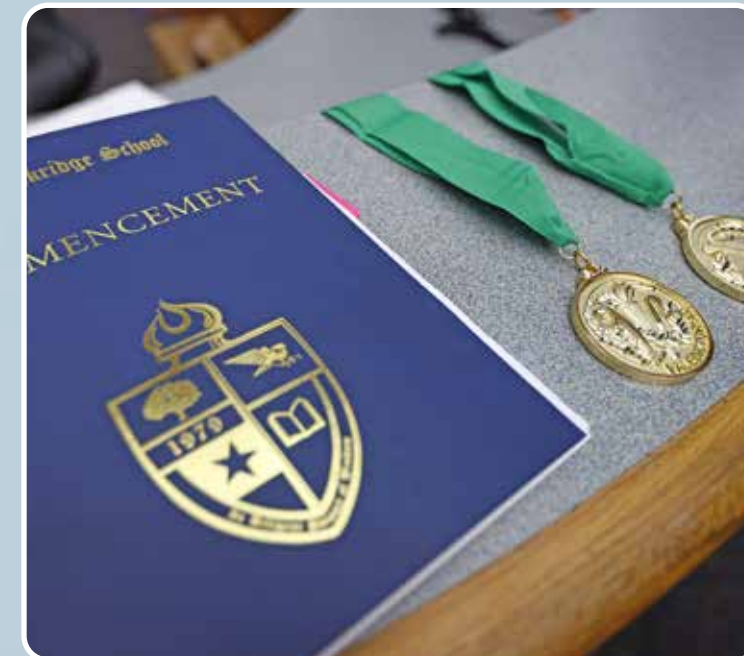


2020
The Baylor Orthopedic & Spine Hospital Baseball/Softball Complex is completed.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2022!



Whether surprising their schoolmates with goat yoga during a day now known as “Ridge Rage,” or pursuing their studies with excellence, Student Body President Mia Petersen and Vice President Sana Kohli exemplify what it means to be Oakridge Owls! In addition to being leaders in the classroom and empowering young women to “lean in,” Sana and Mia, valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, have been best friends since first grade. They’ve encouraged each other and their fellow Owls to spread their wings and to soar high! In the fall, Sana will head to the University of Texas at Austin. Mia plans to attend the University of Virginia.







FACULTY AWARDS & RETIREMENTS

The Oakridge School celebrated the many contributions of faculty and staff members at a year-end program in June, which included lunch, service awards, gifts, and heart touching words of appreciation. The individuals below received awards for what combined for 260 years of service to Oakridge:

5 Year Awards

- Nadia DiStefano - Community Engagement Coordinator
- Katy Hoffer - Technology and Modern Learning Assistant
- Arthur Ivo - ECC Spanish & Soccer Coach
- Bridget Lewis - Director of Marketing and Communications
- Shandy Shumaker - LS Music
- Michelle Vaughn - Director of Technology and Modern Learning

10 Year Awards

- June Boller - Varsity Volleyball Coach
- Adam Campbell - Athletic Trainer
- Teri Foster - Development Information Coordinator
- Melanie Hartsell - US Math
- Andy Stewart - Director of Choirs, Chair of Fine Arts
- Beth Wetzel - MS Administrative Assistant
- Amy Wilson - Director of Admissions

15 Year Awards

- Marilyn DeVore - Athletics Administrative Assistant
- Renay Levisay - LS Art
- Belinda Nemec - LS Reading Specialist
- Helga Rizzi - MS Spanish, Chair of World Languages
- Missy White - LS Aide

25 Year Awards

- Lori Lane - Assistant Head of Middle School, Chair of Science

30 Year Awards

- Lidia Abbott - MS Spanish
- Jim Teague - Maintenance Supervisor

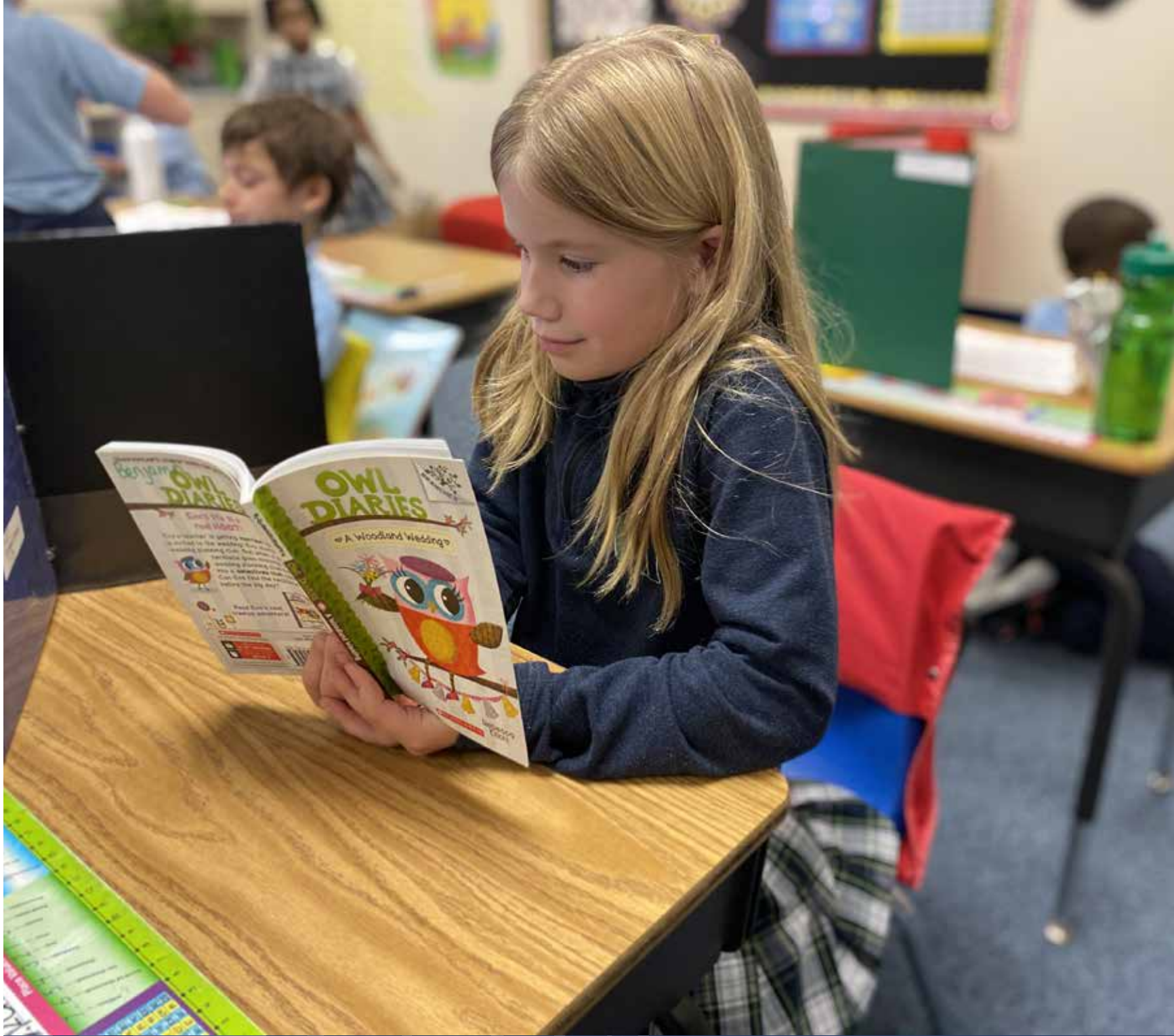
The Point of Light Award is given to a faculty or staff member who promotes a positive work environment and possesses a generous willingness to help others. Middle School English Teacher and Writing Specialist Claire Reddig is this year's recipient. Among other things, one nominator cited Reddig for demonstrating kindness on the toughest days. The Point of Light Award honors Stephanie Pham (Nicholas '17 and Eric '19), who served in the business office until her passing in 2018. Stephanie is remembered for her dedication to colleagues and school constituents, ever-ready smile, and energetic disposition.

Retirees this year include Varsity Baseball Coach and Middle School Science Teacher Kerry Kajihiro (2016-2022), Middle School History Teacher William Ray (2010-2022), Accounting's Cheryl Cornwell (1999-2022), and Head of School Jon Kellam (1993-2022). Assistant Heads of School Britt Robinson and Kathy Gamill shared serious, sometimes funny, but sincere reflections about the retirees, lauding their service to Oakridge and wishing them well in their next chapter of life.

Gamill and Robinson presented Mr. Kellam with a framed photo of various images of campus that he was instrumental in building or that, in some way, served as a reminder of his legacy. While affirming his admiration for the beauty of the campus, he told faculty and staff members preparing to break for summer vacations, that Oakridge's people are everything. "We don't exist without our people."



Retirees, including Mr. Kellam, each received a beautiful modern rocking chair as one of their parting gifts.

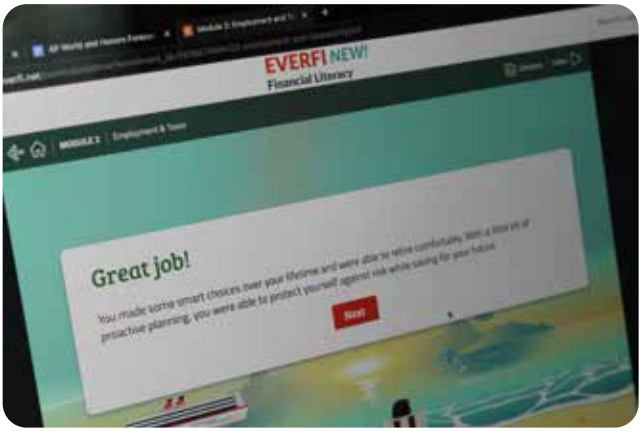


ACADEMICS

MAKING SENSE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

Financial Literacy. Two small words with large implications! A seminar taught this year by Upper School Math Teacher, Mrs. Melanie Hartsell, exposed students to real world learning about personal finance and how math and money affect our lives and world economy.

“Because of the seminar, my students better understand how to manage their money and are better equipped to make good financial decisions,” said Mrs. Hartsell. The students completed three modules and became certified in Financial Literacy (personal finance - budgeting, credit cards, home mortgages, employment, insurance, taxes, banking, college, etc.), Marketplaces, and Data Science, which Hartsell called a hot career field right now.



During one of their classes, a guest speaker discussed data science as a future college degree and career. Sophomore Marco LaRovere said the seminar helped him better understand and develop skills that aren't commonly taught in school.

“The essential skills have prepared me for the future and placed a variety of tools under my belt,” he added. “I’ve learned how to file taxes, complete W-4 and W-2 forms, insurance, economics, credit, banking, and many more basic finance skills. This class has definitely made me feel more prepared for the future and I’m grateful for the opportunity.” LaRovere landed an internship with a data scientist in the northeast and said he never would have been introduced to this field without the seminar.



Freshman Aadit Mehta said, overall, he learned valuable information that he previously hadn't considered. “We learned about the differences in credit and debit, loans, marketing, insurance policies, and so much more. I have chosen to take a job in data analysis this summer and I feel this seminar helped me.”

According to Forbes, a widely cited study by Standard and Poor's in 2016 found that only 57 percent of adults in the United States are financially literate, meaning they understand three out of four fundamental concepts for financial decision-making.



SPELLING SKILLS PUT TO THE TEST



With the correct spelling of “desperate,” seventh grade student, Coco Blackwell, became the champion of the Oakridge Spelling Bee in January. Her victory came just under an hour after the competition began with the word “caverns.” In all, 15 Lower and Middle School students competed. Sixth grade student, Will Ketchel, took the first runner-up spot.

Congratulations to the 38 Middle School students inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in 2022. These students have worked hard to uphold the values that define NJHS membership - citizenship, character, scholarship, leadership, and service.



- Natiqa Ali
- Alex Barley
- Blake Bauer
- Coco Blackwell
- Rigley Bonner
- Alexa Brunn
- Lilly Childs
- Diana Daka
- Joshua Dees
- Lydia Fain
- Ford Farhat
- Sarah Jayne Frank
- Clelie Germain

- Dylan Goodrich
- Brayden Gray
- Clint Hagen
- Maybellene Heidelmeier
- Kimberly Hey
- Easton Jefferson
- Austin Jones
- Connor Karazissis
- Evan Krum
- Devin Le
- Henley McCracken
- Brady McGraw
- Skye McGraw

- Celianne Njie
- Ashwin Persaud
- Mia Pinette
- Julia Robinson
- Zachary Rogers
- Khaleb Sexton
- Layla Shelton
- Noor Sidhu
- Willem Smelt
- Lucas Wang
- Riley Wilhelm
- Zayd Yunus

EXPLORING THE WETLANDS

Students at the Early Childhood Center enjoyed exploring the Wetlands right outside of their school. This year, they saw dragon flies in the damp grassy area near the buildings, butterflies, anoles, skinks, and Texas spiny lizards. "They love the crunchy sound and feeling of stepping on acorns and pecans as they cross the wooden bridge and the carpet-like thick layer of leaves," said Vickie Reed, ECC Teacher. "The last trip the children took into the wooded Wetland area was right after a rain, so they jumped and stomped in lots of puddles." Crossing the wooden bridge is a highlight for the children. It is a stopping point where they can tell each other what they see.



YOUTH AMBASSADOR



Sophomore Henry Tincup has been named an International Youth Ambassador for Fort Worth Sister Cities International (FWSCI). This June, he will represent FWSCI in Trier, Germany, while residing with a host family and immersing himself in the culture. FWSCI's mission is to promote Fort Worth globally and enrich the community through international education, exchange and commerce, creating a more peaceful and prosperous world.



ROBOTICS STUDENTS SET RECORD



All is quiet in the Think Tank. Click. Hum. Rattle, clank,...Cheer! OakDemo-3, a robot made of plywood, pvc, electronics, and Owl sweat, vibrates to life. It's GAME TIME! Master roboteers, Eshan Singhal and Matthew Hwang, ready the machine for eight performance trials. OakDemo-3 must carefully navigate around a meticulously designed field avoiding blocks and trees as she completes the challenges set by the BEST Robotics organization.

The timer starts. The machine lurches. A building is handily demolished. The remnant materials are lifted, transported and balanced on a trailer. Robotics team members and spectators watch in anticipation as Tanish Kothapalle's "Light Pole Installation Apparatus" is put to the test. "Awesome!" "It worked!" "Perfect!" Three light poles are flawlessly set around the field. Wait. "OH, NO!" A miscalculation has set the stage for the now rogue OakDemo-3 to drag a pipe bundle past the boundaries of the playing field. The test of her autonomous abilities ends with a PENALTY! Regroup. Grab the bundle, "Go!" Eight trials later and the results are an Oakridge School

record beating score. (Note: Also a Martin High School beating score).

The 2021 BEST Robotics DemoDaze Competition was held November 6. The Oakridge School's Robotics Team competed in the BEST Classroom 2021 portion of the event. In this section of the event, the team's efforts were broadcast virtually to the judges for scoring. Game day brought an end to a six-week endeavor that began September 11, 2021.

In addition to the physical robot development and performance, the competition included engineering and marketing components. The entire process was memorialized and published in an Engineering Notebook. The finance, cost, application and marketing of the robot's capabilities were documented and presented to the Best Robotics Judges.

The Owl Robotics Team plans to compete in the 2022 BEST Robotics competition. Membership on the team is open to all Upper School Students. Contact Mr. Farley or Mrs. Vaughn for more information.

Third grade students in May presented the Lower School's annual State Fair. Paul W.'s presentation on Florida included dressing up as Bob Ross, the late painter from Florida. Ross created and hosted the popular PBS program, "The Joy of Painting."



Thirty Upper School students were inducted into the National Honor Society in 2022. Congratulations to all of the students for their commitment to Oakridge and the community.



- Seniors**
 Jaidyn Watkins
- Juniors**
 Numa Ali
 Micaiah Brantley
 Jacob Pasteur
- Sophomores**
 Sophia Anderson
 Isaac Baeza
 Fiona Bagley

- Julie Batrice
 Jessica Batrice
 Jai Bhakta
 Sammie Cleveland
 Shavaughn Dunson
 Emma Foster
 Julian Fowler
 Hunter Godfrey
 Tyler Hall
 Landon Hodges
 Annaliese Joiner
 Aaron Jones

- Bryce Key
 Marco LaRovere
 Joy Lewis
 Lucas Long
 Sophia Mirzaei
 Jacob O'Connor
 Marie Perdue
 Audrey Pettigrew
 Marissa Robertson
 Matthew Rogers
 Henry Tincup

ARTS

MAKING MUSIC



Congratulations to 8th grade cello player, Anna Trimble, for a job well done at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Middle Orchestra concert. In the fall, she competed against several dozen middle school cellists from Region V, which includes Fort Worth ISD, Arlington ISD, Mansfield ISD, parts of Grand Prairie ISD, as well as all private schools and homeschools that are members of TMEA. Oakridge Orchestra Director Daniel Jamieson commended Anna on the competitive audition and called it “quite an honor to be selected.” The concert, seen on page 29, took place at Fort Worth’s I. M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA.

MUSIC IN EDUCATION

The Oakridge A Capella Choir got to perform at the world-famous Carnegie Hall, as part of the National Festival Chorus in March. A planned trip in 2020 had to be canceled because of the pandemic. Students who participated in this year’s concert and tours of New York called the experience unforgettable.



FINE ARTS NIGHT

Families and friends of Oakridge students filled the SAC, Fine Arts Performance Hall, and other spaces on campus for the May 6 Fine Arts Night. Here are a few photos from the evening of song, music, acting, visual arts, and integrated media. Parents may login to their Vidigami account to see more photos.





Oakridge Lower School students made a big impression at the 2022 Mayfest Art Contest in Cowtown. Their work led to six wins for Isla R. 3 - 1st Place - 2D and Mixed Media, Nathaniel T. - 2nd Place - 2D, Audrey S. - 3rd Place - 2D and 1st Place - 3D, Gavin R. - 1st Place - 2D, Sophie J. - 2nd Place - 2D, and Caden R. - 2nd Place - 3D. Congratulations to all of the students and Lower School Art Teacher, Mrs. Levisay.



A big honor for Cinderella's "Marie." Kristina Miller played that role in the Oakridge presentation of Cinderella. Her spirited performance earned her a Betty Lynn Buckley Award for Best Female Supporting Actor in a Musical.



The Middle School production of "The Sound of Music" received rave reviews from families that packed the Fine Arts Performance Hall in April. Izzie Guevara played the lead role of Maria Rainer. In May, Guevara earned Most Dedicated 8th Grade Drama Student at the UHMS Awards ceremony.





Families enjoyed the spring musical, Wing It! First and second grade students spread their wings in the delightful performance, demonstrating what they've learned in Ms. Shumaker's class.

Upper School students learned everything from how to develop a business plan and pitch it to investors (think "Shark Tank"), to how to apply make-up to make them appear much older! It was a unique experience for students in Ms. Rachel Filbeck's technical theatre class.

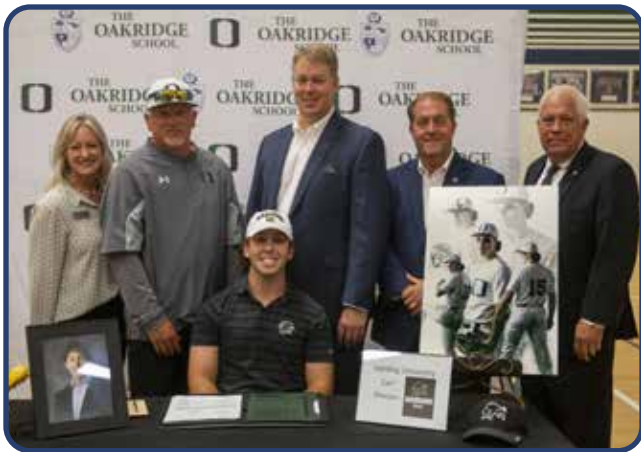


ATHLETICS



ATHLETICS BRIEFS

Oakridge athletic faculty, staff, classmates, and family members gathered in May to celebrate seven seniors who signed with universities and colleges to play NCAA athletics. Congratulations to Zoe Bahjat who signed with Hendrix University to play basketball. Jack Haddock will play hockey at Arizona State University. Jamal Jordan signed with Mary Hardin Baylor University to play football. Dawson Lamphere will compete in lacrosse at Piedmont University. Cooper Long signed with Carleton College to play football and Carl Pierson will play baseball at Harding University. Kenyon Randall committed to East Central Oklahoma State University to play football.



ATHLETICS BRIEFS



ECC and Lower School students enjoyed a variety of fun activities during the May 6 Field Day at the Oakridge Athletic Complex. National Junior Honor Society students helped the younger Owls learn the different competitions, throws, and jumps!



ATHLETICS BRIEFS

We are proud of all our spring sports teams for the hard work they put in this season. A special congratulations goes out to sophomore Tank Thomas following the SPC Spring Championships. He was not only crowned SPC Track Champion for the shot put, but his throw of 52.6 also set a new Oakridge school record.



Congratulations to the boys 4 x 400m relay team for breaking the school record in Houston.



ATHLETICS BRIEFS

All of the hard work the girls golf team put in this season paid off at the SPC Golf Championship at Pecan Valley. The Owls took sixth place in an incredibly strong field where numerous players from Kinkaid and John Cooper shot under par. The tournament was capped off by four-year starter, Sana Kohli, shooting a personal best of 84.



ATHLETICS BRIEFS

Some familiar faces returned to the nest to coach Oakridge’s varsity field hockey team in their spring workouts. A recent Smith graduate, Channy Cornell played for the college’s field hockey team after graduating from Oakridge in 2018. Coco joined her big sis and the Pioneers in 2020. Haymen Tu ‘14, another Oakridge alumna, also helped with coaching. The varsity field hockey season kicks off September 22 against Hockaday.



Sophomore Sasha Welborn-Houston has been selected and invited to train at the 2022 Nexus Regional Selection Camp at Ball State University for age group U-19. She was named a top female Nexus player across the country to train in the USA Field Hockey’s Olympic Development Pathway Program. It’s designed to help players take their game to the next level and develop the next Team USA Olympians.

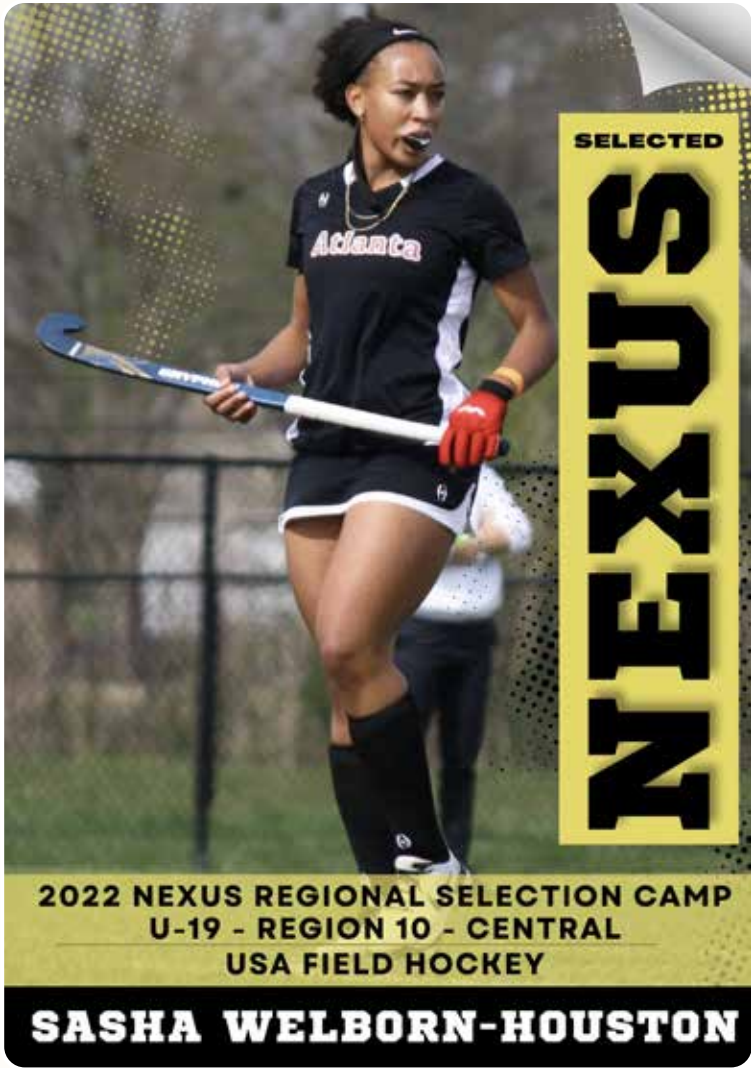


Photo credit: Instagram: @CollegeConnection

OAKRIDGE GOLF CLASSIC

The Oakridge Golf Classic provided plenty of fun and philanthropy this spring! More than 30 teams participated in the May 2 tournament held at Walnut Creek Country Club in Mansfield and raised more than \$40,000. All proceeds benefit Oakridge physical education and athletic programs. A huge thank you to Golf Classic chairs Liz and Ben Hicks, Owl Club president Dennis Brown, our volunteers, and sponsors (below).

- Title Sponsor**
Turf and Soil Management, LLC
- Beverage Sponsor**
Derrick-Mitchell Families
- Driving Range Sponsor**
BSN Sports

Player’s Reception Sponsor
Tom’s Mechanical, Inc.

- Blue and Green Sponsors**
BioPure Arlington
Liz and Ben Hicks
HUB International
Queenan Law Firm

Lunch Sponsor
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- Hole Sponsorships**
Blaylock Industries
(Lorraine and Ralph LaRovere)
Fast Signs - South Arlington
Richardson Greenlock Construction
(Rachel and JMac ‘05 Richardson)
(sponsoring 3 holes)
SeyTec
(Ronnie Childs)
ThirtyFive20 Realty
(Cathy Handy)
Worthington Monuments, Inc.
(Ryan ‘99 and Matt ‘98 Worthington)



FINISH STRONG



We continue our FINISH STRONG Annual Fund campaign by honoring Mr. Kellam's retirement. Any gift ending in 29 made through July in honor of Mr. Kellam's 29 years at Oakridge will be matched. For example: \$129, \$229, \$529, etc.

DONATIONS MAY BE MADE VIA
CASH, CHECK, ONLINE AT
WWW.THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG/MAKEAGIFT,
OR THROUGH PAYPAL: @THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.

Thank you in advance for your gift!

OAKRIDGE PARENTS' CLUB

What a year our Oakridge Parents' Club experienced under the leadership of Mr. Keith Bird, the first man to serve as president of OPC. This spring, he passed the gavel to his successor, Mrs. Noel Slater. We thank them both for their commitment to Oakridge.



SUPER SUPPER & AUCTION

Glamour and joy filled the room as more than 400 bedecked and bedazzled guests attended The Oakridge School's 43rd Super Supper and Auction at Live! by Loews in Arlington. The biggest fundraising celebration of the year generated more than \$230,000, which will go toward campus improvements and educational enhancements across all grade levels.

Jeanne Curtis, parent of Jacob '17 and Cooper '29, chaired the themed, "A Return to the Red Carpet." A huge thank you to Jeanne, her team of exceptional volunteers, Development Director Lauren Matocha, attendees, auction donors, and sponsors.

Diamond Celebrity Sponsors

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Academy Nominee Sponsors

Carencia Mental Healthcare/TDT Realtors
Derrick-Mitchell Families
The LaRovere Family
Ed O'Connor '07
Worthington National Bank





ALUMNI

CLASS OF 1993

DR. TRAVIS CRUDUP '93 became Chief Department of Surgery at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth in January 2021.



CLASS OF 1997

JENNIFER SMITH KRAJCIROVIC '97, a creative design director in Mansfield and graphic designer for the past 20 years, is now also leading graphic design and marketing for her family's new craft brewery. Ash & Ember Brewing, a small, family-friendly brewery in Cedar Hill focuses on traditional true-to-style brews and has been named by Untappd as one of the top 10 highest-rated breweries in Texas. Her Legacy Owl daughter, Zoey, a sixth grader, enjoys helping her parents on brew days.



CLASS OF 2001

CATHLEEN DEPONTE MEAD '01 is the founder of CAS curate.admire.style, a full-service women's boutique in Arlington, specializing in personalized shopping experiences, tailored by clients with carefully selected items that will make women feel and look great. Additionally, CAS features Double Dog Candle Co., an in-house



candle company that offers a signature soy/paraffin blend that can be customized to fit a client's needs. Follow CAS on Facebook and Instagram @cascurateadmirestyle and visit www.cascurateadmirestyle.com.



CIJI TATUM TOWNSEND '01 and her husband, Travis Townsend, Jr., welcomed daughter, Trinity Lacey Townsend, on October 8, 2021. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces. Trinity is the little sister of proud big brother Travis "Tripp" Townsend, III. The Townsends live in Atlanta, Georgia.



CLASS OF 2002

KATY (CHAPMAN) TRICK '02 has been appointed as a quarter-time Licensed Local Pastor in the United Methodist Church as of November 1, 2021. Katy is currently serving as Assistant to the Pastor and the Director of Student Ministries at Epworth UMC- Arlington. She is also a full-time grad student at TCU's Brite Divinity School, where Katy is pursuing her Masters of Divinity. Katy Trick and husband, **PHILIP TRICK '03**, are the parents of Legacy Owl, Zibby, who is in second grade.



CLASS OF 2003

NICK RIOS '03 and wife Ashley welcomed their fourth child, Carter Wade Rios, on September 13, 2021. Wade joins sisters, Adelyn, Scarlett, and Eden. The Rios family resides in Forney.



REAGEN ANDERES '03 is a Southern Methodist University graduate who was in digital marketing and advertising for ten years at agencies and then Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. She left to start a company with her brother, **RYAN ANDERES '09**, who was in commercial real estate at the time. Reagen and Ryan are residential builders and developers who started their company RA Millennium Properties in 2016. Reagen and her spouse Juli Anderes, a Dallas Police Officer and firearms instructor for the department, live in Dallas with their children, Hutchison Anderes (4) and Jaxie Ray Anderes (2). Follow the alumni brother/sister team on Instagram @ram.properties.



CLASS OF 2005

BOBBY ANNAS '05 is a Chief Pilot for a private company and a captain pilot at University Air Center (UAC) in Gainesville, Florida. At UAC, Bobby transports life-saving organs from donors to recipients and the teams responsible for harvesting the donor organs in flight. Bobby lives in Gainesville with his spouse Samantha, a dentist, and their two sons, Caleb (5) and Liam (3).



ALUMNI NEWS

NICK BURKETT '05 and his wife, Kristin, welcomed their first child, Charlie Ryan Burkett, on December 17 at 8 pounds, 4 ounces. Nick is a Senior Loan Officer at Premier Mortgage Group and licensed to originate in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Texas! The Burkett family resides in Centennial, Colorado. Follow Nick on Facebook @NickBurkettMortgages.



CHANCE CHAPMAN '05 and his wife, Alex, welcomed their first child on July 14, 2021. Imogene Avery weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces. Chance is president of Chapman Propane in Haltom City and Alex is a nurse practitioner in Dallas.



KAYLEE PERRY LAND '05 and her husband, Christopher, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Bronx McCall, on July 31, 2021. Bronx weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces. The family lives in Arlington.



MAGGIE BRENTLINGER LOUDERMILK '05 and her spouse, Taylor, welcomed a son, Gabriel Everett, on May 2, 2021. Gabriel is the little brother of proud big sister, Eleanor Rose. The Loudermilk family resides in Burleson.



AYESHA SHAFI '05 recently began a new position as an Assistant Professor and Scientist at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine in support of the Center for Prostate Disease Research and Murtha Cancer Center Research Program. Additionally, she has an academic appointment at the Uniformed Services University (USU) and Walter Reed National Military Medical Hospital in the Department of Surgery and a secondary appointment in the Molecular and Cellular Biology Graduate Program at USU. Lastly, she holds an adjunct faculty position in the Genitourinary Malignancies Branch at the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health.



Dr. Shafi earned her doctorate in molecular and cellular biology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston in the laboratory of Dr. Nancy Weigel in 2015. She completed her post-doctoral fellowship at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University (Philadelphia, PA) in the laboratory of Dr. Karen Knudsen. Dr. Shafi joined CPDR as a faculty member conducting her independent work in 2021.

Dr. Shafi's expertise in molecular biology and translational cancer research, alongside her ability to collaborate with basic and clinical investigators, qualified her to run an independent molecular and translational research program that will directly impact the PCa field and advance clinical practice.

CHANCE TALBERT '05 and Dr. Pembe were married November 6, 2021, in Maui, Hawaii.



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 2008

NICK LANE '08 and his wife Lindsey Lane, Oakridge Upper School Art Teacher, welcomed their son, Finley Ryan Lane, on November 16, 2021.



ARTHUR IVO '08 and **MARISSA BELSKE IVO '07** welcomed their son, Andre Belske Ivo, on March 8, 2021. Andre joins big sister Lexi, a Legacy Owl in pre-kindergarten.



CLASS OF 2009

NATALIE BROWN RATLIFF '09 and her husband, Robert, welcomed their first child, Robert Wyatt Ratliff, on March 26, 2021.



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 2010

SARAH CHANDEL TRIPLETT '10 and her husband, Buddy, welcomed their daughter, Anya Triplett, on April 16, 2022. Anya weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces at birth. "She's happy and healthy and has made mom and dad so happy," Sarah said.



JAMES VINSON '10 and **HANNAH OGLE VINSON '13** welcomed their daughter, Amelia James, on August 10, 2021. Amelia loves to laugh, smile, and be outside. The Vinson family lives in Venus.



CLASS OF 2012

ANDREW READ '12 graduated from the University of North Texas G. Brint Ryan College of Business in December 2021. He received a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Strategic Management. Andrew is an Enterprise Account Manager at Palo Alto Networks. He is pictured at graduation with his wife, **SAMANTHA READ '13**.



CLASS OF 2013

NATHANIEL PLEMONS '13 has been busy since graduating from Oakridge. First, he went to Rhodes College in Memphis, where he ran track, sang, and traveled for an a capella choir, and presented original historical research at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research before graduating on the honors track, cum laude, with a



Bachelor of Arts in History in 2017. Next, Nathaniel attended law school in Nashville at Vanderbilt University School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor degree in 2020. Last summer, he returned to Dallas-Fort Worth, where he clerked for United States Federal District Judge Mark T. Pittman in the beautiful art deco federal courthouse in downtown Fort Worth. In September, Nathaniel joined the litigation boutique Lynn, Pinker, Hurst & Schwegmann in downtown Dallas as an associate, focusing on complex commercial litigation, trade secrets, and appellate advocacy. He will return to federal service in 2023 when he will clerk for United States Federal Circuit Judge Kurt D. Engelhardt in New Orleans. Nathaniel would like to thank all of his Oakridge friends and family, particularly Mrs. Jennifer Bonner, for their guidance and support. Go Owls!

JUSTIN WALL '13 and **HAYMEN TU '14** were married March 5, 2022, in Tulum, Mexico. Haymen will join the Oakridge faculty in 2022-2023 as a second grade teacher in Lower School.



CLASS OF 2014

CHELSEA ABII, ESQ. '14 passed the bar exam in October 2021. She earned her Juris Doctor in May 2021 from Emory University School of Law. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Texas in May 2018.



SHELBY GREEN HUMBER '14 and William Humber married on December 11, 2021 at the Dallas Arboretum. Fellow alumni owl, **KHUSHBOO JAISWAL '14**, attended the wedding.



THANH NGUYEN '14 married Isaac Lill on June 26, 2021. The couple met at Baylor University where Thanh graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. Thanh attended medical school at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. She will begin her residency in family medicine at UTHealth Houston.



CLASS OF 2016

DRAKE LOGSDON '16 earned his Master of Business Administration degree in May 2022 from the University of Texas at Arlington.



ALUMNI NEWS

SHANNA LUCAS '16 graduated from Southwestern University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications Studies in May 2022. Prior to commencement, Shanna presented at Southwestern's 2022 Research & Creative Works Symposium. "The Stillborn Polaroids: Picturing Liminal Space & Material Afterlife" served as an introduction to Shanna's summer 2021



Independent Study and spring 2022 Capstone research. In partial fulfillment of her degree, she defended her Capstone research with the submission of her paper, "Exposing Forced Exposure Therapy: The Endless Repetition of Images of Trauma, Suspended Liminality, and the Politics of Forgetting in Post-9/11 America." In her next chapter in life, Shanna welcomes work as a communication studies scholar, photographer/purveyor, and lens-based artist.

CLASS OF 2017

JORDAN ANDERSON '17 graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in May 2021 and began teaching first grade at La Villita Elementary in Irving.



WALKER EMMERT '17 graduated from Texas A&M University in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Statistics and a Master of Science degree in Statistics. Walker has accepted a data modeling position at the Texas A&M Foundation, a nonprofit organization responsible for the primary academic fundraising institution for Texas A&M.



LOGAN MUZYKA '17 graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio in May 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and English and a minor in Chemistry. She is now in her first year at the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. She says her first year has been challenging, but she loves it. Logan hopes to specialize in pediatric neurosurgery.



MADISON RUSSELL '17 graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Childhood Education. She will launch her teaching career at Old Wire Road Elementary School in Rogers, Arkansas.



SUPAKJEERA "NIKKI" THANAPAISAL '17 graduated summa cum laude in 2021 from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a minor in Business. She is a Software Development Engineer I for Expedia Group in Austin.



MARK WRIGHT '17 graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in May 2022 with a Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Mark will begin work in the fall at Meta (formerly Facebook) in the Boston area.



CLASS OF 2018

ANDREA ACCOSTA '18 graduated from University of Texas at Arlington in December 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Psychology.



CHANNY CORNELL '18 recently earned her Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature with a Book Studies concentration from Smith College. In 2021, she was named to the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Academic All-Conference team. This year, she will begin working for literary management firm, The Nominate Group, and coaching field hockey at Oakridge.



RHEA FAZAL '18 will begin studying at St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine in Grenada, West Indies. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science from Tarleton State University.



CHRISTOPH HENLE '18 graduated from Baylor University in May with a Master of Business Administration degree. While at Baylor, Christoph played tight end for the Baylor Bears football team, which won the 2022 Sugar Bowl.



In March, Christoph proposed marriage to fellow Bear, Haley Sheridan, while visiting his home in Innsbruck, Austria. She said yes!

MEGAN MUNDAY '18 graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.



ALUMNI NEWS

JORDAN TOMPKINS '18 graduated magna cum laude from Auburn University in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and Exercise Science. Jordan plans to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy.



CLASS OF 2019

LAURA DOWNEY '19 began working in a lab in the Department of Drug Discovery and Development in the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University in 2020. She has been researching the effectiveness of proteasome inhibitors for treating tumors. "Proteasome inhibition is one theory of destroying cancer cells," Laura said. "However, current proteasome inhibitors are limited by their toxicity to normal tissues." She is currently working with brain and breast cancer cell lines to see if packaging the drug in liposomal nanoparticles will penetrate the tumor better than normal tissues, resulting in selective delivery of encapsulated drugs to primarily cancer cells. In March 2021, Laura was awarded a year-long fellowship for her research through the Office of Undergraduate Research.



AUSTIN FOSTER '19 recently addressed the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Board of Trustees about his undergraduate experiences at SMU. Following his speech, he met former President George W. Bush. Last year, Austin served as president of SMU's Interfraternity



Council. In addition, he established a \$100,000 endowed scholarship fund and started a campus-wide meal packing event that provided nearly 150,000 meals to people worldwide. SMU's Administration also recently recognized Austin as the Greek Leader of the Year.

CAZIAH FRANKLIN '19 completed his first 50K ultramarathon (31.1 miles) at the 2022 Yamacraw Trail Runs, which traversed the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and Daniel Boone National Forest in McCreary County, Kentucky. "Definitely THE most challenging and physically demanding thing I have ever done in my life," Caziah said. "It was worth every step." Additionally, Caziah released his new single, *Home*, which is available on Spotify or Apple Music. Follow Caziah's adventures and music on Instagram @caziahfranklin.



BONNI HOLLOWAY '19 graduated in May from Chapman University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.



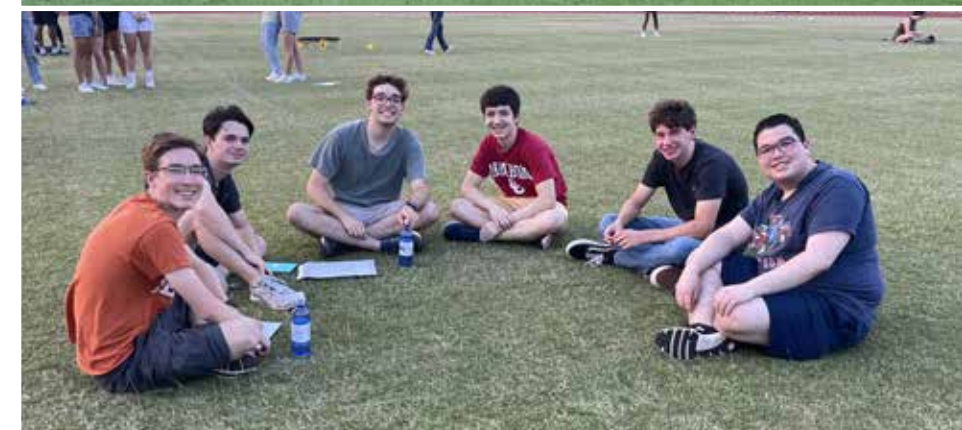
CLASS OF 2020

MADISON FUSSELL '20 is a sophomore majoring in Pre-Profession Applied Exercise Science at Oklahoma State University (OSU). She is also on the OSU Cowgirl Equestrian team, which for the first time in program history, is No. 1. The Cowgirls won the overall National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) National Championship after defeating No. 3 Texas A&M University, 11-9, at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, Florida. Madison scored a point for the team in two of the three final championship rounds and received an award for Horseman of the Year.



SENIOR SUNSET – CLASS OF 2022

The Class of 2022 greeted their senior year together at Oakridge with a Senior Sunrise—an early morning gathering at the Oakridge Athletic Complex to welcome a remarkable senior year. Then, on the eve of graduation, it was time to reflect on the end of senior year with the Senior Sunset. As the sun began to set, the seniors opened the letters they wrote to their future selves at Senior Sunrise, listened to music, played lawn games, and came together for one final group photo as the school's alma mater played. Congratulations to the Class of 2022!



SENIOR SUNSET – CLASS OF 2022



OUR MISSION

To inspire students to seek their full potential in academics, the arts, and athletics in a challenging and nurturing environment that cultivates social responsibility, mutual respect, and personal integrity.

OUR VISION

To attain national recognition as a college preparatory school that provides educational excellence grounded in responsible character development and ethical leadership.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe the role of The Oakridge School is to provide a challenging educational program that emphasizes the total development of each child, encompassing intellectual and social skills as well as cultural, emotional, and physical development, thus preparing students for higher education and life.

We believe an environment that employs a variety of teaching techniques and learning activities best enables each student to succeed as an individual and as a member of a group.

We believe an orderly environment, stressing personal and academic self-discipline, provides an atmosphere most conducive to success.

We believe in academic excellence and in the pursuit of knowledge as a lifelong experience.

We believe in high moral and ethical standards, honor, and mutual respect.

We believe The Oakridge School functions most effectively with the involvement of students, parents, faculty, staff, and members of the community.

We believe the graduates of The Oakridge School should be men and women of good character who have developed a healthy respect for self, an awareness of the privileges and obligations of citizenship, and a keen sense of empathy for and responsibility to fellow human beings.



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To Parents of Alumni:

If this magazine is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer uses your home as a permanent address, please email his or her address and contact information to kw Walton@theoakridgeschool.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OAKRIDGE CLASS OF 2022



100% OF OUR 69 GRADUATES ACCEPTED TO 123 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

\$6 MILLION IN MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

2 NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

1 NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOLAR

3 NATIONAL HISPANIC SCHOLARS

5 NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED

7 COMMITTED COLLEGE ATHLETES



THE
OAKRIDGE
SCHOOL