
THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

OUTLOOK

SUMMER 2021 • VOLUME 40, ISSUE 2





FEATURES

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In Full Bloom

A school year like no other ends with sweet farewells and wonderful new traditions.



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Culture Connection

Students share their culture, and along the way, help others think more critically about diversity and inclusion.



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Helping Hearts

Whether in school or out, students demonstrate kindness and generosity to those who most need it.



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Buckley Awards

A big year for fine arts at Oakridge as multiple students earn major recognition.



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Gifts and Goals

It's a whole new ballgame at the Oakridge Athletic Complex thanks to many generous families.



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Making an Impact

Oakridge alumni are providing critical health care to COVID-19 patients in the ER.

Outlook Summer 2021, Volume 40, Issue 2

The Oakridge School | 5900 West Pioneer Parkway | Arlington, Texas 76013 | 817.451.4994

www.theoakridgeschool.org

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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

Reasons to celebrate

As we bid farewell to an unforgettable school year, I am reminded that the Oakridge community has lasting reasons to celebrate. The highs and lows of the year were punctuated by incredibly resilient students who may have thought a time or two about giving up, but instead chose to pour their hearts and souls into school and one another. Simultaneously, dedicated teachers and coaches learned to hit pause, reboot, then start again to engage both on-campus and at-home learners. All the while, supportive parents motivated their Owls and encouraged our staff, even from a distance. From a front row seat, I had the privilege of witnessing this beautifully messy miracle unfold.

In the midst of unfathomable challenges, the Oakridge Family chose to tackle days and weeks with patience, flexibility, and grace. We adapted. We persevered. And, together, we crossed the finish line in May. I think most Owls will reflect back on 2020-2021 with a great sense of pride and accomplishment, agreeing that we indeed have many reasons to celebrate.

As you read this issue of Outlook, I hope you smile. The Class of 2021 – 81 students strong – earned in excess of \$10,000,000 in merit-based scholarships and were accepted into 146 colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. We applaud these recent graduates, and we celebrate our younger learners, too. They continue to amaze us with their curiosity, kindness, and talent. You will see this as you enjoy the colorful, beautiful photos in this edition.



Thank you students, families, faculty, and staff for enduring the challenges and embracing positivity during the 2020-2021 school year. We are... Oakridge.

*Jonathan M. Kellam,
Head of School*



Founded in 1979, The Oakridge School is flourishing today, in part, thanks to the visionary men and women who nurtured its development and stimulated its growth. Sadly, we said goodbye to one of the school's venerable leaders, Mr. Don Starnes, in April. Mr. Starnes served as a lifetime member of the Board of Regents from 1984-2021 and as Chairman of the Board from 1987-1989.



THANK YOU to our many committed volunteers, Owl supporters, and partners in the community. Despite COVID guidelines that prevented parents from being on campus as they have in years past, their support still made some pretty incredible things happen at The Oakridge School this year!

Questions about getting involved?

LAUREN MATOCHA
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
LMATOCHA@THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG
817.563.9742



SUMMER CAMP AND READINESS WORKSHOPS

HELLO
Summer

WHAT? One-week camp at the Early Childhood Center that offers an exciting sneak preview for Summer 2022! This camp will allow our youngest Owls to have some fun with their friends before school begins on Wednesday, August 18. Summer Days Summer Days Readiness Workshops will also be provided to students in grades 1-4 and 5-8. Visit theoakridgeschool.org/summerprograms for details.

WHEN? August 2-6, 9 am - 1 pm

WHO? Children, ages 3 through kindergarten, who currently attend or will be attending Oakridge in the fall.

SAVE THE DATE



9-11 a.m.

Saturday, August 14

Music | Food | Uniform Resale

Meet the Teacher & More

FALL & WINTER HIGHLIGHTS



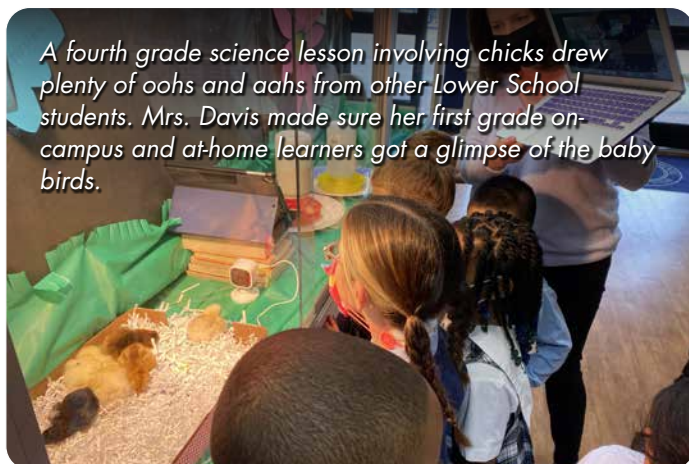
While the pandemic reshaped many activities for the Class of 2021, the Senior Breakfast in March demonstrated a sense of things returning to “normal” for these Owls.



ECC students had a blast dressing up as 100-year-olds to mark the 100th day of school. Photo by junior Taylor Handy.



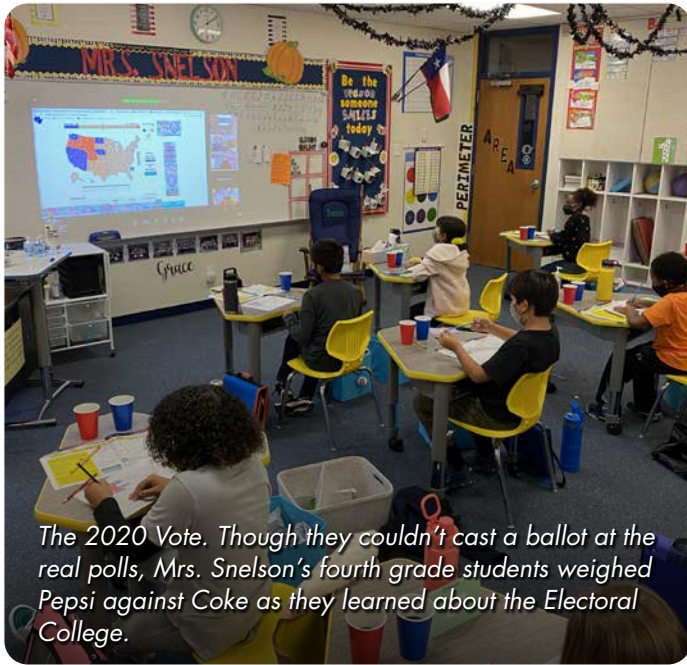
Middle School choir students spread holiday cheer during December's Caroling in the Quad. Parents watched in real-time via Zoom. Photo by sophomore Adeline Fields.



A fourth grade science lesson involving chicks drew plenty of oohs and aahs from other Lower School students. Mrs. Davis made sure her first grade on-campus and at-home learners got a glimpse of the baby birds.



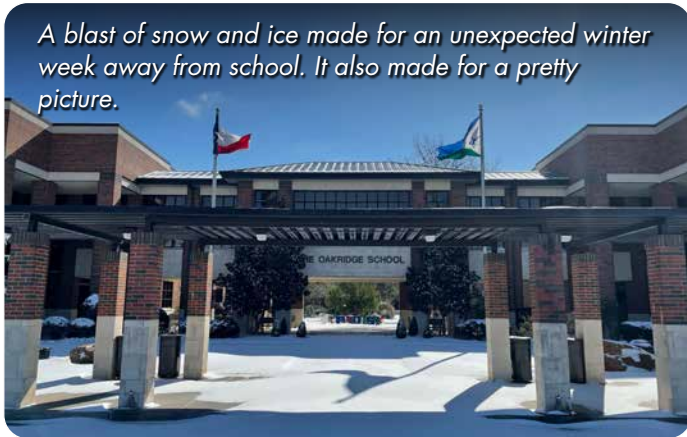
Early Childhood Center Teacher Vicki Reed led kindergarten students in a lesson that involved planting carrot seeds in a flower bed at the ECC. Photo by senior Rohma Zaidi.



The 2020 Vote. Though they couldn't cast a ballot at the real polls, Mrs. Snelson's fourth grade students weighed Pepsi against Coke as they learned about the Electoral College.



A year of many firsts produced an outdoor play in the fall. The winter musical, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, delighted audiences who tuned in online.



A blast of snow and ice made for an unexpected winter week away from school. It also made for a pretty picture.



Middle School students got creative to raise funds for Oakridge. Their Color Run was a highlight of our third annual Boosterthon.



Oakridge families, donors, and city leaders celebrated the official grand opening of the Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital Baseball & Softball Complex. It was a memorable evening for all!

A REASON TO CELEBRATE

Seated in a ballroom at Live! by Loews, family members, friends, and a small number of Upper School faculty and staff gathered May 15, 2021 to applaud a major milestone — 81 students' graduation from The Oakridge School.

Head of Upper School Jim Andersen read every name and highlighted academic accomplishments, along with the graduates' chosen college. In addition to Head of School Jon Kellam, serious and sometimes humorous words of encouragement were given by Valedictorian Kieran Barker (Carleton College), and Salutatorians Jacob Kolba (Texas A&M University), Nicholas Miller (University of Chicago), and Rohma Zaidi (University of Missouri, Kansas City).

Prior to the awarding of the diplomas, Upper School awards were announced.

Ananya Kumar received the Rotarian Award, which is given to a student who shows great concern for the community. Ananya concluded her high school career with more than 500 hours of community service.

Will Emmert received the Citizenship Award, which is given for overall excellence in citizenship. He was recognized as a model citizen and role model to the entire student body. Ayden Rodriguez received the Owl Award, which faculty and staff present to an Upper School student who has displayed character traits that don't necessarily appear on a report card. Those traits include grit, perseverance, resiliency, and grace. Emily Meadows earned the Faculty Award, which is presented to an Upper School student who best exemplifies the Oakridge 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.

Commencement was shown livestream. Visit Oakridge Information to watch the graduation in its entirety on YouTube. Our look at Commencement 2021 and a new tradition, Senior Sunset, continue on page 63 in this issue of *Outlook*.









GRADUATES GOING GLOBAL

While the majority of Oakridge Class of 2021 graduates will leave home to pursue a college education in a new city or state in the fall, four alumni are preparing to start the next chapter of life on another continent. Those four graduates are:



MEIXUAN "MAY" LI

University of the Arts, London



JOSHUA MORTON

University of St. Andrews, Scotland



MY VO THAO NGUYEN

International College of Management, Sydney



MACKENZIE YENTES

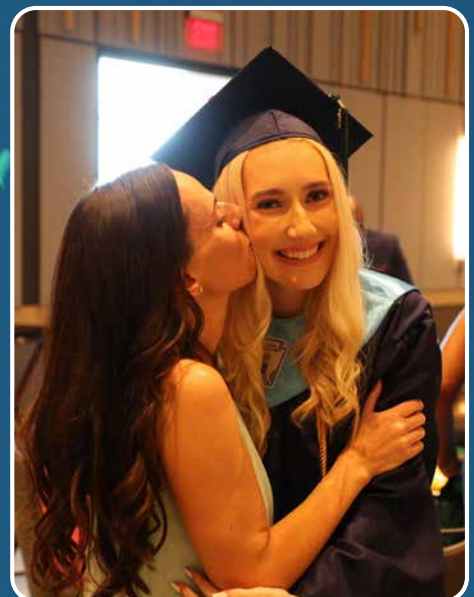
ESCP Business School, London

Though she plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin, Nicole Dombokah was admitted into the American University of Paris. Genxuan Lian was admitted into King's College London, but will attend Grinnell University.

Over the past few years, Oakridge graduates have moved abroad to study at RCSI in Dublin, ESMOD in Paris, the American University of Paris, Franklin University Switzerland, IE University – Segovia, Spain, Monash University in Victoria, Australia, and Polimoda International Institute of Design and Marketing in Florence, Italy.

According to the Institute of International Education, a growing number of college-bound students are completing their bachelor's degrees outside the country where they attended high school. Rather than just studying abroad for a semester or two, about 50,000 U.S. students pursued full degrees abroad in 2019, with a little more than half of them studying in the U.K. and Canada.





GRADS CHOOSE HBCUs

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are a top destination for some high-achieving Class of 2021 graduates. The students, all African American, were admitted into a number of competitive institutions. The HBCUs, however, offer something dramatically different from predominantly white institutions. Experts say HBCUs offer a sense of belonging and inclusiveness for black students.

The Oakridge Owls planning to attend HBCUs in the fall, include:



KIERSTEN ATKINSON,
Prairie View A&M University.
She also gained admittance into Clark Atlanta University and Xavier University of Louisiana.



ETHAN MCLEAN,
North Carolina A&T State University, where he is the recipient of the Future of STEM Scholars Initiative (FOSSI) Scholarship.



JUSTIN SMITH,
a College Board National Recognition African American Scholar, will attend Claflin University in South Carolina. He also was accepted into HBCUs: Howard University and North Carolina A&T State University.



SYDNEY WELBORN HOUSTON
will attend North Carolina A&T State University, along with her classmate and cousin, Ethan, and his older sister, Olivia McLean '19.

Madison Jones plans to attend UT Arlington, but she was accepted into two HBCUs: North Carolina A&T State University and Xavier University of Louisiana. Quentin Monette will enter LSU in the fall, but he was accepted into Howard University. Kennedy Russell will attend Samford University, but gained admission into Dillard University, an HBCU in New Orleans.

Upper School Math Teacher and Spelman College alumna, Mrs. Kymberly Ayodeji, served as advisor to the Black Culture Club this year. "HBCUs are very similar to the Oakridge community, in a sense that they are small, personal, and steeped in history and tradition based, in part, to the multi-generational family legacies of their alumni," Mrs. Ayodeji said. "Being a part of a campus that supports and encourages you is a drawing factor that allows for student matriculation success."

According to the UNCF, though HBCUs make up only three percent of the country's colleges and universities, they enroll ten percent of all African American students and produce almost 20 percent of all African American graduates. HBCUs date back to the 19th century, when many offered black students an opportunity for higher education. In addition to granting thousands of degrees each year, HBCUs also boast illustrious alumni like Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, legendary musician Lionel Richie, Vice President Kamala Harris, Oprah Winfrey, and Toni Morrison, the Pulitzer Prize winning novelist.



ACADEMICS

DIVERSITY CHAMPIONS

Black History Month 2021 looked and felt different at Oakridge, because it was. Students with the school's Black Culture Club conceived and executed Celebrate the Love of Black Culture, a monthlong program championing black history in all its diversity. Led by seniors Ethan McLean, Michelle Salako, Justin Smith, and Sydney Welborn Houston, the purpose was to create awareness and educate students, alumni, teachers, and administrators about black culture in an effort to foster greater unity and respect for one another.

Salako began brainstorming during the summer of her junior year at Oakridge on a way to showcase her leadership skills in the community. She believed Oakridge needed an organization that provided a safe space for black students and affirmed their culture. The club was born after discussions with classmates who would help give life to her vision. One of those classmates was McLean, who revealed that things felt rough before the murder of George Floyd last summer and the civil unrest and social awakening that followed.

"It was exhausting having to explain why it is such a big deal and how African Americans all over America are disproportionately discriminated against," McLean said. "Going into the 2020-2021 school year, managing the solitude of online school mixed with setting up meetings with the Oakridge administration to try to work out how the school could make minorities feel more comfortable and welcome at school was a lot. The immense success of the Celebrate the Love of Black Culture program definitely lifted our spirits."

Throughout February, the club hosted influential speakers, posted facts to social media that aligned with weekly topics ranging from civil rights, medicine, and education, to engineering, business, and arts & entertainment. One post about Anne Raven Wilkinson, the first African American woman to dance full-time with a major ballet company, went viral after catching the attention of ballet great Misty Copeland. Trivia game nights were a big hit, with winners receiving prizes including Black Panther Ty Beanie Babies. The program also provided customized tees, which many faculty, staff, and students proudly wore on a designated day.



DESIGNING WITH EMPATHY

Genxuan “Cameron” Lian wants to make life better for people who have challenges seeing, and his efforts have gained widespread recognition. The Oakridge senior earned a first place award in the Harvard University “China Thinks Big” Competition. Working with four teammates from a high school in Shenzhen, Cameron used a computer program to design a multi-functional walking cane for the vision impaired.

“One of my friends went blind when he got into an accident. He used to be really outgoing, but things went the opposite way after the tragedy happened,” Cameron said. “I got to visit him during the summer 2020 break once or twice, and it was really shocking to see how visual impairment could affect not only one’s life, but his personality and mental strength.” Through their



conversations, Cameron learned that some existing designs for the visually impaired have not advanced in decades. “It was sad for me to think about a certain group of people having their potential overlooked simply because they need help when doing the simplest thing, like walking.” Cameron and his fellow innovators set out to do something to make a difference.

and not feel isolated by physical limitations and social prejudice.

“This project was more like an exploration in advance for how empathy works between patients and physicians and researchers,” Cameron said. “We realized that understanding one’s demands is golden for both patient-physician communications and effective project development.”



The students partnered with the Comprehensive Service Center for Persons with Disability in Shenzhen to conduct interviews with the visually impaired. They investigated common scenarios that sight-challenged people encounter daily in Xiangmi Park and in nearby buildings. Through feedback related to existing designs of both traditional and technology-based assistive devices, the students designed their own version of a multi-functional walking cane. Their goal is to bring self-reliance back to the blind so that they can get involved in life, meet people,

In all, more than 5,000 students on 500 teams competed in China Thinks Big. Next up, the global finals in October. Cameron will attend Grinnell College in Iowa in the fall, where he will major in biochemistry with an eye on medicine and the health care system.

*by Bridget Lewis
Director of Marketing
and Communications*

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIANS

Class of 2021 graduates heard from not one, but four highly accomplished classmates at their commencement. This year, Kieran Barker earned the valedictorian title. Salutatorians were Jacob Kolba (right), Nicholas Miller (left), and Rohma Zaidi (2nd from right). Head of Upper School Jim Andersen said the grade averages from the courses taken by the three salutatorians were so identical that it made it nearly impossible to bestow the academic title on just one student.



LUNCH AT THE PLAYGROUND



When you're an Oakridge Owl, time on the playground is serious business! After the announcement of this year's valedictorian and salutatorians, students gathered for a group photo in the quad then lunch (and a little fun) on the Lower School playground.



AMBASSADORS OF CULTURE

When brainstorming and deciding that our sixth grade project needed to become digital this school year due to on-campus and at-home learning, we learned very quickly that although our sixth graders are Children of the World, they are much more Ambassadors of Culture. Being a cultural ambassador means bringing positive light to a country for others to learn about.

This year, the students have grown from being children to teens, thriving in the midst

of a pandemic and utilizing technology in ways that have never been seen. Although it may not be in traditional Children of the World poster-board style in the SAC, many of the students used the same model as before, but added digital tools that brought to life the observer's interaction with their country of choice.

Each student was responsible for researching, creating, and recording information about a day in the life of a sixth grader

from their country. In early May, the projects were posted to a website that offered an interactive experience for people to navigate the world and explore. What is most important is that these Middle School students have learned to be flexible, patient, and have offered grace to one another as they have grown in ways they did not imagine they would. They are true Ambassadors of Oakridge and of the world.

by Mr. Clint Allen
Middle School Teacher

HOLI HOLIDAY

Throughout the year, little Owls learn about cultures around the world. ECC students made flowers and watched the colors "fly" as they delved into the Indian holiday, Holi, and read the book, *Festival of Colors*.



MODEL UN

Students in Oakridge's Model United Nations club represented the school well at conferences this year, earning honorable mentions and other recognition, as they expanded their interest in the world and explored international affairs.



- Pre-Kindergarten students made colorful lanterns as part of their lesson and celebration of Chinese New Year.
- Upper School students in Mrs. Tate's French

class created elaborate masks for Mardi Gras to highlight French culture.

- ECC students created messages of thanks to honor military veterans on Veterans Day.

- Women's History Month introduced Upper School students to women of influence, such as Dallas County Chief Public Defender Lyn Richardson and

Colonel (Dr.) Barani, the Deputy Squadron Commander and Chief of Pediatric Dentistry at 316th Dental Squadron, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

A FAVORITE TRADITION RETURNS

After a one-year absence due to the pandemic, the Walk to the Future returned to the delight of many Owls. It was the perfect day as we celebrated our Class of 2033. The popular school tradition surrounds kindergarten students' walk to "The Big School" from the Early Childhood Center. Students from every grade, parents, faculty, and staff lined up to clap and cheer for the students who will enter first grade in the fall. The event ended with fun and lots of picture-taking on the Lower School playground.





SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Salvation Army

Freshmen Dylan Yentes, Joy Lewis, and Madison Cary joined other Key Club members in December to collect donations for the Salvation Army at a local Tom Thumb.



Open Campus

Sophomore Kristina Miller talks about the fine arts with a family visiting Oakridge during the April 25 Open Campus. Miller and other students volunteered to be tour guides.



Book Drive

Senior Sydney Welborn Houston launched the "I See Me" project to help young children of color see themselves in the stories they read. Oakridge Owls donated books, which benefited Rankin Elementary.



Blood Drive

Owls rolled up their sleeves for the Carter Bloodcare Blood Drive in April. In all, 25 donors were screened and 23 units of blood were collected, impacting 61 lives.



Coat Drive

Students, faculty, and staff from the ECC to the Upper School donated coats, winter hats, gloves and scarves to help keep families this winter.



Turkey Toss

Freshman Julie Batrice and other Owls participated in the Turkey Toss at Mission Arlington during the Thanksgiving break.



Kindness Rocks

Delivering messages of inspiration to those who needed it was just one way Lower School students put others first during their Day of Giving in May.





FUN FALL DRESS DAY



LEARNING IN ACTION

Whether delighting in the discovery of a caterpillar or baby chicks, launching their very own hot air balloons, building rockets from recycled materials, carving a pumpkin, or balancing a ball, our young Owls soared this year with their never-say-never, can-do attitudes, perfect for learning in action.



SCHOOL BUDDIES

Upper School students continued mentoring and bonding with younger Owls, despite the pandemic. Seniors enjoyed lunchtime with their first grade buddies in January, virtually. Juniors connected virtually, at first, but later met face-to-face at the ECC.

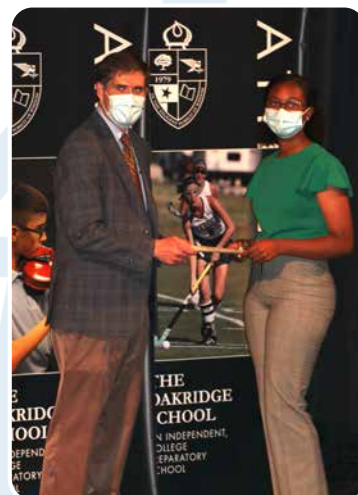


NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



National Honor Society Induction ceremonies held over two days in April recognized 48 sophomores, and 59 juniors and seniors, many of whom were unable to be recognized last year due to COVID-19. Congratulations to all of the students!

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY



National Junior Honor Society Induction ceremonies held in May recognized 51 seventh and eighth grade students. Congratulations to all of the students! Visit theoakridgeschool.org/news to view the full list of NHS and NJHS inductees. Parents may login to their Vidigami account to see all of the student photos.

IN THE CLASSROOM & COMMUNITY

Whether in the classroom or out in the community, Oakridge faculty and staff make a significant difference in the lives of our students and others.

KIM CAMPBELL-MARTINEZ, RN, BSN, SCHOOL NURSE

Nurse Kim Campbell-Martinez and healthcare teammates, Adam Campbell and Sara McMinn, went above and beyond the call of duty this year.

They responded to calls, emails, walk-ins, and virtual consultations related to the pandemic. "Some days, the calls started at 6:30 a.m. and went as late as 11 p.m., and we didn't generally escape a weekend without some school communication happening," Nurse Kim said. In a typical non-COVID year, the nurse's office sees 30-60 students and adults every day. "I honestly can't put a number on the students, faculty, and staff we cared for this year." We are so grateful for our outstanding healthcare team!



HELGA RIZZI, MS SPANISH TEACHER

Kudos to Ms. Rizzi for her service as a consumer reviewer on the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs' Neurofibromatosis Research Program (NFRP) for the Department of Defense. She had a vote in determining how the \$15 million in funds for FY 2020 were spent on NFRP research. The Children's Tumor Foundation nominated Ms. Rizzi for the role.



ALEX GARCIA, CHEF

Students gave Food 4 Life employee, Alex Garcia, a round of applause when he said goodbye in April. Chef Alex left Oakridge for Pecos because of a spiritual calling he said he felt to work

with immigrant children near the Mexico border. Immigration officials recorded a dramatic rise in unaccompanied minors in Pecos this spring.



NADIA DISTEFANO, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND KENDRA WALTON, ALUMNI RELATIONS COORDINATOR

An unexpected opportunity stemming from the pandemic meant some staff were able to serve in the classroom in areas in which they have experience. Community

Engagement Coordinator Nadia DiStefano, who is a licensed social worker, taught a seminar to students in grades 9-11 focused on the complexities of enhancing the well-being and social-emotional health of communities and people. Alumni Relations Coordinator Kendra Walton '05, who previously served as a performance specialist and senior communications consultant with Blue Cross and Blue Shield, taught a seminar to students in grades 9-12 focused on career exploration.



GIFTS OF APPRECIATION & GRATITUDE

The end of the fall semester brought sighs of relief mixed with tears of joy. As Oakridge broke for the winter holidays, faculty and staff received an unexpected gift thanks to the generosity of the Oakridge Parents' Club, The Owl Club, Board of Regents, and a few kind individuals. In a message attached to the gifts, Mr. Kellam wrote: *"Throughout the pandemic, there has been a light, a constant. You. Despite being asked to do more while also reinventing yourselves and your craft, you have shown up — every day — for others. You have provided normalcy, modeled servant leadership, and led with patience, flexibility, and grace."* What a year!



SERVICE AWARDED

The end of the 2020-2021 school year meant special service awards, goodbyes to those starting new chapters in life, and sincere wishes for a safe and happy summer!

The award for 35 years of service went to Extended Care Coordinator Kari Derrick. The 30-year service award went to Athletics and Physical Education Coach Laura Clark. The 25-year service awards went to ECC Aide Su Henderson, Ramon Huerta and Marco Salinas in Maintenance, and Karen Messer of Admissions and Technology.



Four faculty and staff members have given 20 years of service to Oakridge, including:

- Phillip Farhat,
Director of Facilities
- Chere Fitzgerald, Pre-K
- Chris Henderson,
Middle School Science
- Charlotte Wiseman,
Mathematics Department Chair



Six Owls have served Oakridge for 15 years, including:

- April Benjamin, Second Grade
- Cathy Butler,
Upper School Science
- Jon Godfrey, Third Grade
- Kevin Harder, Athletics
- Nathan Stephens,
Athletics & Maintenance
- Sarah Kramer,
Assistant Head of School



Upper School Theatre Teacher Brad DeBorde, Upper School Science Teacher Jean Grant, and Kindergarten Teacher Emily Sweeney have been part of the Oakridge family for one decade. Middle School English Teacher Shawna Wright and Middle School Science and Athletics' Kerry Kajihiro were thanked for their five years of service. In all, the honorees have served Oakridge for a total of 375 years.



Ashley Read '05, Assistant Director of Modern Learning and Technology, received the third Point of Light Award that honors the memory of late Oakridge staff member Stephanie Pham. Stephanie, who passed away in 2018, was a shining light to all who knew and worked with her.



Oakridge retirees this year include: Chere Fitzgerald, Alisa Hunter, and Karen Messer. Lower School Spanish Teacher Marlana Palmer retired last year, but no ceremony was held due to the pandemic. Faculty and staff also said farewell to Sarah Kramer, Shawna Wright, Kymberly Ayodeji, Wesley Irons, Melissa Triebwasser, and Eddie Cantu. We wish them all the very best.



CELEBRATING CULTURES DAY



MEXICO



PAKISTAN



TEXAS



IRAN



ZIMBABWE



ISRAEL



VIETNAM



TEXAS



LOUISIANA



PALESTINE



INDIA



PHILIPPINES



JAMAICA



KAZAKHSTAN



MEXICO



ARTS



THE SHOW MUST GO ON... ONLINE

While many schools postponed or canceled their 2020-2021 theatre performances due to COVID-19, Oakridge fine arts students performed their spring musical, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, via livestream. Three casts presented the musical over three days in February, to the delight of Oakridge families and friends.



BETTY BUCKLEY AWARDS

Congratulations to the Oakridge fine arts students nominated for the 2021 Betty Lynn Buckley Awards, which recognize the best in high school theatre.

2021 Buckley Nominations

Best Male Lead Actor in a Play
Tripp Galier, *Beast, The Masque of Beauty and the Beast*, The Oakridge School



Best Male Supporting Actor in a Musical
Landon Hodges, *Schroeder, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, The Oakridge School



Best Female Supporting Actor in a Musical
Lauren Scott, *Sally, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, The Oakridge School



Best Male Lead Actor in a Musical
Will Emmert, *Charlie Brown, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, The Oakridge School



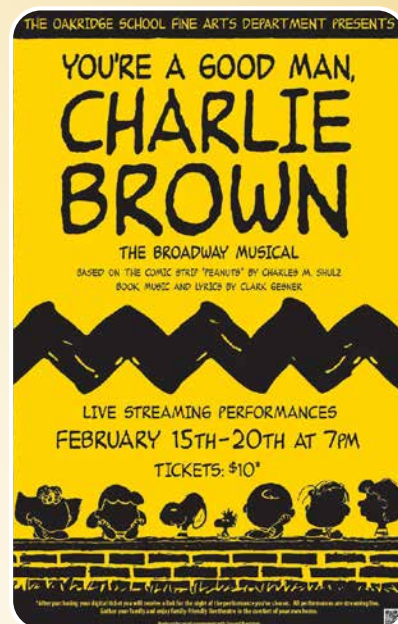
Best Female Lead Actor in a Musical
Kristina Miller, *Lucy, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, The Oakridge School



Best Play
The Masque of Beauty and the Beast, The Oakridge School



Best Musical
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, The Oakridge School



CAROLING IN THE QUAD

Musical Owls delivered holiday spirit with carols in the quad in early December. Middle and Upper School choir and orchestra students, some wearing fun costumes, performed festive music that was broadcast to parents and at-home students via Zoom. Our thanks to sophomore Adeline Fields for the photography assist.



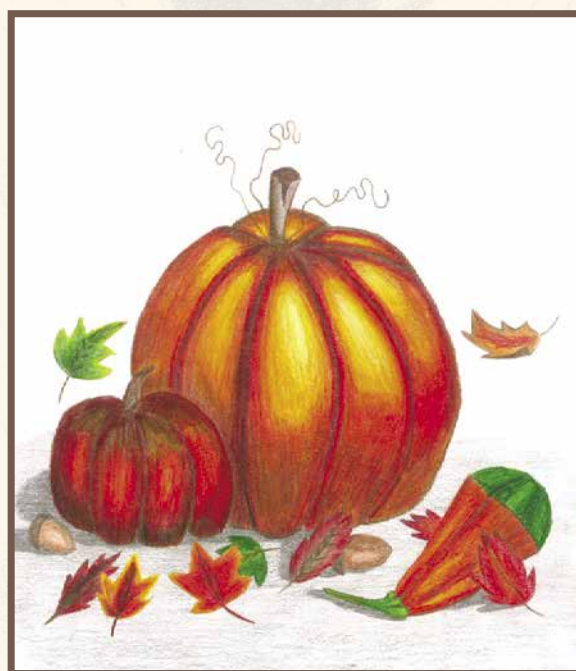






FEATURED STUDENT WORK

Upper School art students submitted designs for the annual Fall Card that families received in November. The designs chosen for the front and back of the card came from senior Victoria Pflanzer and junior Greg Brown. The cards were sent to Oakridge families during the Thanksgiving season.



Greg Brown '22

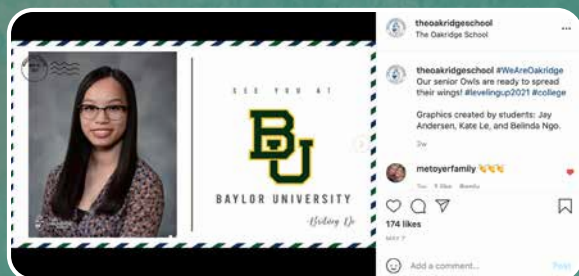
GETTING SOCIAL IN 2020-2021

You like us; you really like us!

Thanks for following, liking, sharing, and commenting on #OakridgeOwl posts this school year. If you aren't connected with us yet, what are you waiting for? Join us now!



THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL



MAY 7, 2021
174 LIKES
1,360 REACH
1,812 IMPRESSIONS



OAKRIDGEOWLS



MAY 10, 2021
3,661 IMPRESSIONS
344 ENGAGEMENTS



THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL



FEBRUARY 8, 2021
165 REACTIONS, COMMENTS, SHARES
2,855 REACH
396 ENGAGEMENTS



OAKRIDGE INFORMATION



MAY 15, 2021
WATCH TIME: 40.8 HOURS
AVERAGE PERCENTAGE VIEWED: 11.9%
AVERAGE VIEW DURATION: 17:04

FINE ARTS SHOWCASE

Each year in May, we celebrate our scholar artists with a night full of exhibits and performances from every division. Though we couldn't gather on campus this year for our annual Fine Arts Night, we highlighted the incredible talent of our students online. Here are just a few snapshots from the collection.





ART AND DESIGN SCHOOLS WELCOME OAKRIDGE STUDENTS



Berner



Sims



Jin



Li

Oakridge has long been known as a leading independent school that prepares students to excel in college and life beyond. In addition to the many institutes of higher education that annually admit our seniors, an increasing number of art and design schools are tapping into the vibrant and creative minds blossoming at Oakridge.

The Class of 2021 is sending four graduates to art and design colleges. Those students include: Morgan Berner is heading to LIM College in New York; Rylee Sims, who will study at the Savannah College of Art and Design; Yucheng Jin, who will study this fall at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and, Meixuan Li, who will study at the University of the Arts London. Li also was accepted into the The New School at Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute, Savannah College of Art and Design, and School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Rachael Bigham will enter Baylor University in the fall, but gained acceptance into Savannah College of Art and Design. Kate Nhu-Quynh Le was accepted into the Savannah College of Art and Design and School of the Art Institute of Chicago, but will attend Chapman University.

Over the past four years, Oakridge graduates have been admitted to top art and design schools that include: California College of the Arts, Fashion Institute of Technology, Otis College of Art and Design, Rhode Island School of Design, and Polimoda International Institute of Fashion Design & Marketing in Florence, Italy.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTISTS

Middle School students in Mr. Allen's class grew as artists while studying sculpting, as well as a variety of other media and techniques.



LOWER SCHOOL ARTISTS

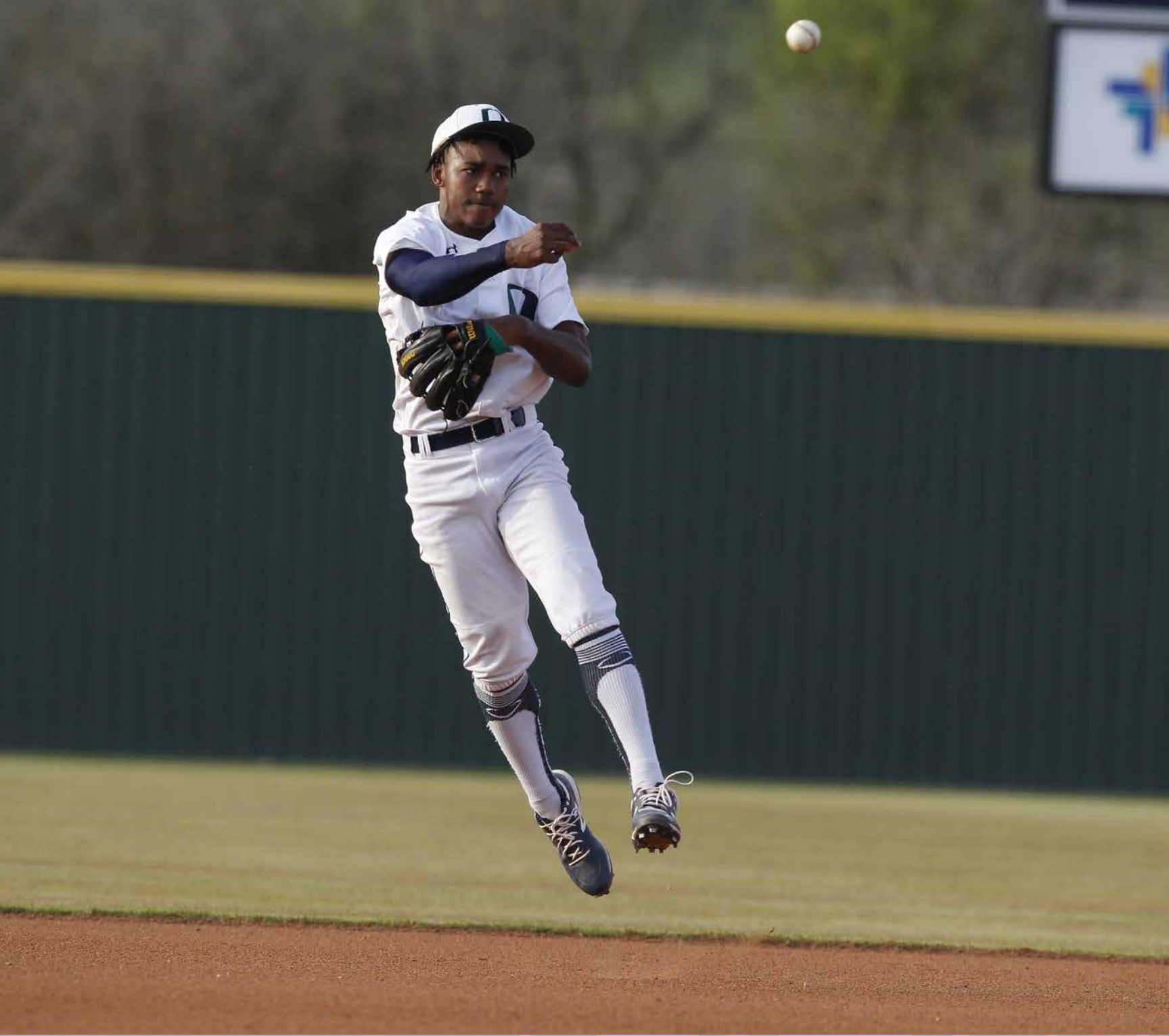
Lower School art students in Mrs. Levisay's class demonstrated their creativity in fun ways as they made and modeled masks in December.



WINTER WONDER

Record snow and ice made for an unexpected break from school in February. The winter weather also created picturesque scenes on campus. Prior to the break, students and teachers were already filled with winter wonder judging by their snowmen and decorated doors.





ATHLETICS



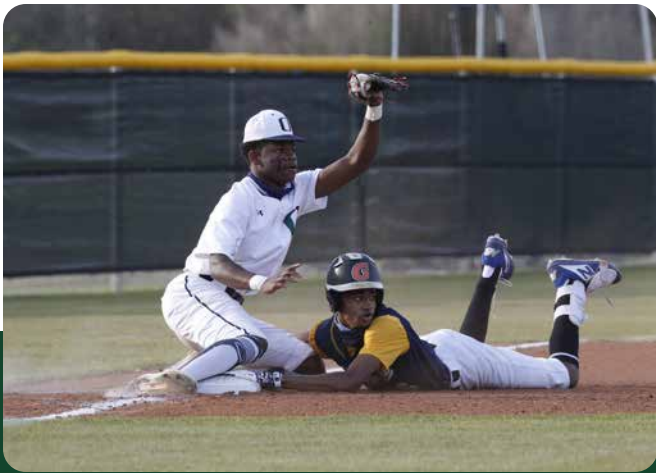
A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME

It was a truly special moment as Oakridge celebrated the grand opening of the Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital Baseball & Softball Complex on March 30, 2021. The festivities included a warm welcome from Head of School Jon Kellam, remarks by Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital CEO Allan Beck and Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams. After sophomore Lauren Scott sang the national anthem, Beck and Williams each threw out a ceremonial first pitch. Our thanks to these local leaders, and especially to the Mahrouq and Pierson families, who played a major role in making “The Greatest Names in Sports” dream come true!









**PAVE THE WAY
FOR THE OWLS...**



**GREATEST NAMES IN SPORTS
BRICK CAMPAIGN**

Purchase your personalized brick
at the new Baseball/Softball Complex.

4" X 8"	BRICK	\$300
8" X 8"	BRICK	\$500
12" X 12"	BRICK	\$2,500

Go to www.theoakridgeschool.org/makeagift today!



BASEBALL MILESTONE

Hats off to Oakridge baseball coach Kerry Kajihiro on his 500th career win as a varsity high school coach. The milestone victory came April 19 in the match-up with Episcopal School of Dallas. Our thanks to Pete Novak (PJ '21) for capturing these images on an exciting Senior Night.



SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Baseball seniors following the team's 14-4 victory over Temple.



Softball seniors after their 11-1 victory over Pantego.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED



Nothing but love for these senior tennis players.



Senior swimmers know how to make a splash!



Senior track and field athletes are ready to chase their dreams!



Congrats to Vikram, Eshan, Greg, and Bryce on their 3rd place finish in the 200 medley relay at the SPC North Zone meet.



Congrats to Ananya on her 1st place in the 100 butterfly at the SPC North Zone swim meet.



Kudos to Bryce on his 3rd place finish in the 100 backstroke at the SPC North Zone swim meet.

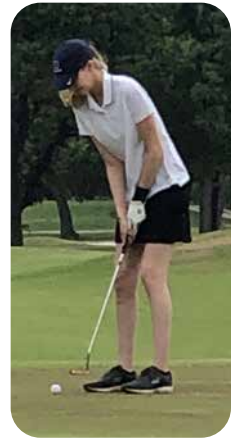


Soccer seniors on their special night.



Girls' basketball finished their season with a 42-36 victory over Trinity Valley.

Congrats to Oakridge golfers who competed in the North Zone tournament.



Congrats to Madison for earning 2nd in the shot put; Isa took 2nd place in the discus; Tank won the shot put at the SPC North Zone meet.



Way to go, Grant, Tyler, Ethan, and Henry, who took 2nd place in the 4x100m relay at the SPC North Zone meet.



Senior volleyball players were celebrated in October.

Congrats to Tank and Isa for earning All-SPC status by finishing 3rd in the shot put and discus.



Senior football players following their 42-14 win against Fort Worth Country Day.



Senior Blu Crewe members were feeling the love Nov. 6.

FOR THE RECORD

With a three-pointer late in the first half of the January 29 game against Fort Worth Country Day, Rytis Petraitis crossed the 2,000 point mark for Oakridge basketball. The dunk gave him 2,004 points. Congratulations, Rytis!



A great moment as junior Taylor Handy recorded her 2000th assist! The honor came during Oakridge's November 5 game against Episcopal School of Dallas. Congratulations, Taylor!



COMMITTED TO COLLEGE ATHLETICS

The NCAA will welcome three Oakridge Class of 2021 graduates to its ranks in the fall: Kiersten Atkinson, Rytis Petraitis, and Ayden Rodriquez.

Kiersten will play volleyball at Prairie View A&M University; Ayden will play football at Southwestern University; and, Rytis will play basketball at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

“We are so proud of these students, who each represent what it means to be a leader in and out of the classroom,” said Athletic Director Shawn Meadows. “These students are three examples of the way our students overcome the various challenges that arise daily in their lives. They are well-prepared to continue to rise above any hindrances on their future paths.”

In the past three years, more than 20 Oakridge Owls have gone on to play athletics at the collegiate level. Nationwide, only seven percent of high school athletes advance to play a varsity sport in college, which is about 1 in every 14 athletes.



Congratulations to Rodriquez, left, Petraitis, center, and Atkinson, right, who plan to play college athletics.



LEAPING FOR JOY OVER THE ECC'S 2021 TRIKE-A-THON KICKOFF AT THE DUGGAN-SCHOENING TRACK. THE EVENT TEACHES RIDING AND TOY SAFETY WHILE RAISING FUNDS TO BENEFIT ST. JUDE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, ONE OF THE WORLD'S PREMIER PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH CENTERS. THE ECC RAISED NEARLY \$5,000 DURING THE EVENT.

FIELD DAY FUN

Epic. Super. Stupendous. Just plain fun! Students from the ECC and Lower School took part in Field Day games May 7 that left them exhausted but excited! There were individual and team competitions. Our thanks to faculty and staff and National Junior Honor Society members who helped make the day special.





2021 GOLF CLASSIC

The Oakridge School held its 36th Annual Oakridge Classic on Monday, May 3 at Walnut Creek Country Club in Mansfield. On behalf of our Owl Club, thank you to the sponsors and players who enjoyed a beautiful day of golf. Your support is appreciated!

The Classic was won by Team Buckalew: Chris Buckalew, Matt Buckalew '05, Kaci McCartan, and Mitch Pagel.

Closest to the Pin on Oak #4 - Ben Hicks

Longest Drive on Oak #1 - Alex Schies '14

Proceeds from the golf tournament are used to purchase needed equipment and necessities for our physical education programs for ages 3 through grade 6, and our athletic teams for grades 7 through 12.



THANK YOU

Title Sponsor | **Turf and Soil T & S Mgmt, LLC**

Pin Flag Sponsor | **Broadus Services (Alec Broadus '89)**

Beverage Sponsor | **The Derrick and Mitchell Families**

Driving Range Sponsor | **Boyd, Inc.**

Registration Sponsor | **Tom's Mechanical, Inc.**

Player's Reception Sponsor | **B2M Enterprises (Dennis Brown)**

Blue and Green Sponsors | **Frost Bank, HUB International,
The Queenan Law Firm, P.C., SeyTec, and BSN SPORTS**

Lunch Sponsor | **J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill**

Hole Sponsors | **Biopure Arlington, BMW of Arlington,
Empire Roofing Inc., The Galier Family, RGL Construction And Restoration,
Stripe-A-Zone, Inc., and Worthington Monuments**

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

While the Oakridge Parents' Club is very much looking forward to greater engagement in the 2021-2022 school year, we are so excited about the success of our second Boosterthon Fun Run. I am so proud of every student who gathered pledges and ran hard. One of the things I love about the Boosterthon program is the fact that it is all-inclusive. One of the main components of the program is character development. This year, through a sports theme, students learned about teamwork, care, courage, grit, and celebration.

Organizers use creative storytelling and real-life youth athletes to demonstrate a variety of character traits everyone can benefit from. Another all-inclusive aspect of the Boosterthon program is the Fun Run event itself. Despite any child's ability to raise funds, every child has the opportunity to be a part of the Fun Run and all the celebrations. We are all part of the same team; everyone plays an important role.



full of challenges and obstacles. This will allow the OPC to fulfill its spending budget and will allow us to offer end-of-year allocations to the teachers and staff. In previous years, we have provided an average of \$40,000 back to the campus at the end of the year to help support each of the divisions with things like flexible classroom seating, updates for the library, additional umbrellas for the quad, digital equipment for classrooms, etc. We even provided funds to begin a farm-to-table program last year. I am looking forward to helping the school with allocations this year.



Not knowing what to expect as we joined with Boosterthon for our fundraising again this year, with all the uncertainty and the campus still in a no-visitor status, we set what we thought would be a reasonable

goal for a year like this, despite being much lower than years past. We were aiming for \$15,000 and a reach goal of \$20,000. I am beyond happy for the hard work and efforts everyone put in to make this year a huge success. With pledges from 38 different states and 7 different countries, not only did we meet our goal, but we met it halfway through the program. We continued to challenge the students with nightly fundraising challenges and lots of encouragement. By the end of the program, not only did we meet our REACH GOAL, but we DOUBLED IT, and then some! I am proud to say, the Oakridge ECC, Lower School, and Middle School students have raised over \$44,000 for the OPC. That is a huge feat in a year

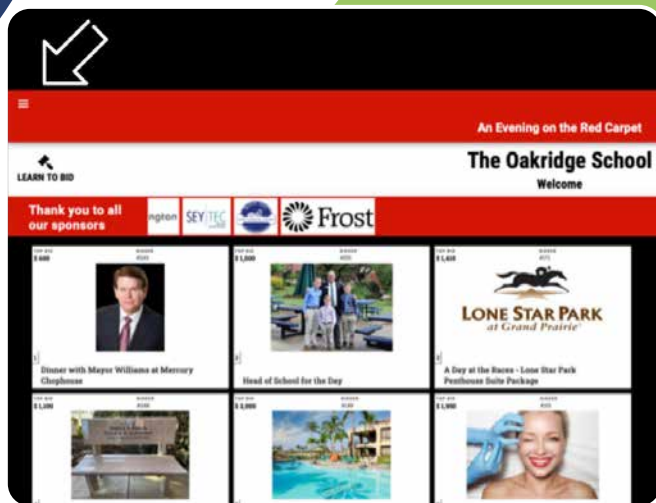
Congratulations to our top fundraising students: the Class of 2029. They raised over \$11,000.

Go Owls!
Shelley Hodges
2019-2021 OPC
President



2021 SUPER SUPPER & AUCTION

While the May golf tournament took place on the green, this year's Super Supper & Auction in February took place online. Auction Chair Jeanne Curtis kicked off the livestream Saturday, February 27 from the Fine Arts Performance Hall with auctioneer Keith Pressley and emcee Tim Eaton. Hundreds of items and packages in 20 different categories were up for grabs, including dining packages, numerous gift cards, and travel experiences. We also auctioned a 30-month car lease for a 2021 BMW x5 SUV from BMW of Arlington. Thank you to Jeanne, our bidders, and sponsors for a memorable evening.



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021

**Our senior class
has been offered
a combined
\$10 MILLION IN
SCHOLARSHIPS**



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OAKRIDGE
SCHOOL**

www.theoakridgeschool.org



Left to right: Valedictorian Kieran Barker plans to attend Carleton College. Salutatorian Jacob Kolba plans to attend Texas A&M University, Salutatorian Nicholas Miller plans to attend University of Chicago, and Salutatorian Rohma Zaidi plans to attend University of Missouri-Kansas City, BA/MD Program.

100% of our 81 graduates accepted by 146 colleges & universities

Abilene Christian University
Adelphi University
Alabama A & M University
Arkansas Baptist College
Auburn University
Austin College
Avila University
Baylor University
Belmont University
Benedict College
Bethune-Cookman University
Birmingham Southern College
Bluefield State College
Boston University
Bradley University
California Polytechnic State University,
San Luis Obispo
Carleton College
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Clafflin University
Clark Atlanta University
Clemson University
College of William and Mary
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University-Fort Collins
Dallas Baptist University
Dillard University
Drake University
Drexel University
Eckerd College

Elon University
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Emory University
ESCP Europe Business School-London
Franklin University Switzerland
Furman University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Grambling State University
Grinnell College
Hampton University
Harding University
Harris-Stowe State University
Haverford College
Hawaii Pacific University
Hendrix College
Hofstra University
Howard University
International College of Management,
Sydney
Iowa State University
King's College London
(University of London)
Lafayette College
Lane College
Lewis & Clark College
LIM College
Louisiana State University
Lynn University
Maryville University of Saint Louis
Michigan State University

Midwestern State University
Millikin University
Montana State University
Morehouse College
Morris College
New York University
North Carolina A & T State University
Northeastern University
Oklahoma State University
Ouachita Baptist University
Pennsylvania State University
Prairie View A & M University
Pratt Institute
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Richmond, The American International
University in London
Rust College
Samford University
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seattle University
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
Spelman College
St. John's University
St. Mary's University
Stephen F. Austin State University

Syracuse University
Texas A & M University
Texas Christian University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
The American University of Paris
The New School
The University of Alabama
The University of Arizona
The University of Oklahoma
The Ohio State University
The University of Tampa
The University of Texas
The University of Texas, Arlington
The University of Texas, Dallas
The University of Texas, Tyler
Tougaloo College
Trinity University
United States Air Force Academy
Preparatory School
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, San Diego
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Dallas
University of Georgia

University of Houston
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign
University of Indianapolis
University of Kansas
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
University of Miami
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri-Kansas City
(School of Medicine)
University of New Mexico
University of North Texas
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Puget Sound
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
University of the Arts London
University of Washington
-Seattle Campus
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Valparaiso University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University
Wellesley College
Wichita State University
Wilberforce University
Xavier University of Louisiana





SENIOR SUNSET

A new Oakridge tradition called Senior Sunset made for a sweet memory on the eve of the seniors' graduation. The Class of 2021 arrived on campus just before dusk May 14, thinking they were there simply to take a group photo in their gowns and colorfully decorated graduation caps. They later listened to announcements and shared laughs while watching a senior video in the Fine Arts Performance Hall. Upon walking out of the building, they were surprised to see faculty and staff waiting in the quad and excitedly cheering for each of them one final time. The seniors then made their way to the Oakridge Athletic Complex for food, fun, and a beautiful sunset.







ALUMNI



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 1991

JAY FITZGERALD '91 reached a coaching milestone with his 400th career win as Nolan Catholic girls' soccer coach. This season marks his 22nd year as a head coach at Nolan Catholic High School. His accomplishments include thirteen trips to the state championship game, state final four in fifteen of the last nineteen years, eighteen regional titles, and nationally ranked every year since 1999.

.....



KYLE CLAYTON '04 and Shaina Clayton welcomed their second daughter, Reagan Rae Clayton, on May 10, 2021. The Clayton family resides in Godley, Texas.

.....



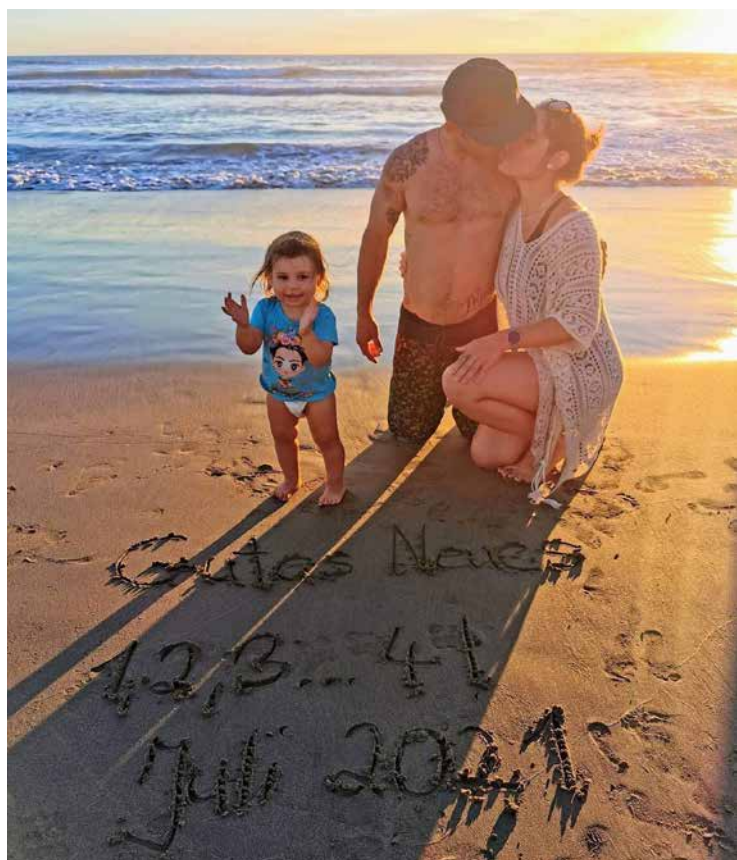
CLASS OF 2005

KENDRA WALTON GRIFFIN '05 earned her Master's Degree in Leadership Communications from Purdue University in December 2020 and married David Griffin on January 14, 2021, in Fort Worth.



CLASS OF 2004

JUAN MACIAS '04 and Julia Maier have a beautiful daughter Jamila Sophia Macias Maier and are expecting their second child in July 2021. The Macias family split their time between Germany and Mexico.



BRUNO GUARDA '05 is the manager of Dallas entertainment venue, VIVO. Vivo was created to bring Dallas a Latin experience in the United States. VIVO offers a fantastic facility and the best in live music and DJ entertainment in Dallas that parallels nightlife Miami, New York, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas. Follow Bruno on Instagram @bruno_guarda8.



KATHY NGUYEN '05 and her husband Hien Vo celebrated their son, Tatum Anh Tuan Vo, first birthday! Tatum was born on May 29, 2020 at 1:12am weighing 6lbs 5oz.



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 2006

TAYLOR WRIGHT '06 RN, BSN, CCRN, CEN, CPEN, CPN, TCRN is a Trauma Certified Registered Nurse, with multiple certifications, including Certified Pediatric Emergency and Acute Critical Care Nurse. Taylor has been on the front lines of COVID-19 in the Emergency Room with an escalated number of critical patients. Taylor strives to advocate for her patients and their families and uses her talents learned from the Oakridge stage to aid with quality care for her patients by singing, dancing, or whatever is necessary to provide her patients with the care they need to heal. Taylor moved to Myrtle Beach, SC, in 2016 and is on the nursing faculty and staff at Horry-Georgetown Technical College teaching Family-Centered Nursing.



CLASS OF 2009

JOHN WRIGHT '09 works as Quality Control at Martin House Brewery. He works with beakers, worts, and high-end testing machines that develop hundreds of new flavors each year for Martin House. He started as a driver and worked hard to reach his top position. He considers the Martin House Best Maid Pickle beer flavor his ultimate seller and achievement. What began as a hobby while searching for Med School post-graduation from the University of Oklahoma with a Biology degree has turned into the best job John could ever have.



CLASS OF 2010

JORDAN HAPEMAN TERRY '10 and husband Josh welcomed their daughter, Palmer Jaymes Terry, August 25 at 7 lbs 10 ounces. Jordan is a third grade teacher at Carroll Elementary in Southlake.



SARA EATON WEEKS '10 graduated in May 2021 from the University of North Texas with a Ph.D. in Counseling with Play Therapy and Child Assessment specialties. Sara celebrated with **SHELBY LAMON '11**, **SARA WEEKS '10**, **CORINNE ALLEY '10**, and **HAYLEY COX '10**.



CLASS OF 2007

COLLIN ASHWORTH '07 and Lauran Taylor were married on September 25, 2020, in Dalworthington Gardens. Their wedding party included groomsmen **ZAC FARRAR '07** and **EDDIE O'CONNOR '07**. Collin works as an attorney at Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office.



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 2011

SEAN DAVIDSON '11 graduated from Internal Medicine residency at HCA Midwest Internal Medicine at Overland Park Regional Medical Center in June 2021. He will be starting a Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship on July 1 at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA.



of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and Charles was finishing school at Texas A&M University at Galveston. Their wedding party included **LANDRY PETERSEN '14**, **HAYMEN TU '14**, **SHELBEЕ GILMORE '14**, **JEFFREY WINGATE '13**, and former students Matt Floyd and Daniel Goodwin. And, of course, Becky Hoefar (was Hapeman).



CLASS OF 2012

KOLBY KELLER '12 graduated from South Texas College of Law in May 2020. Kolby married Mary Elise Keller on September 12, 2020 took the Bar Exam in October 2020 and received passing results in December 2020. He recently accepted an associate position in Dallas at Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons. More importantly, Kolby and his wife are expecting their first child in June 2021.



JACOB WALL '13 graduated magna cum laude from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law with a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree in May 2021. Jacob and wife, Shelley, live in Dallas.



Wall



Green

CLASS OF 2013

CHARLES HAPEMAN '13 and **MEAGAN WILSON HAPEMAN '14** met at the Indian Sleepover in the 7th and 8th grade at Oakridge and married on May 15, 2021, at Stonebridge Wedding & Event Venue in Blum, Texas. The couple reunited while Meagan was attending graduate school at the University

CLASS OF 2014

SHELBY GREEN '14 got engaged to Will Humber September 29, 2020, in Lake City, Colorado.

ALUMNI NEWS

CLAIRE SMITH MCCREARY '14 married Pearson McCreary in a small ceremony with their parents and siblings in Florida on April 8, 2021. Claire and Pearson met at Texas A&M and graduated together in 2018. Pearson is a pilot in the US Navy.



CLASS OF 2016

NICK KEATHLEY '16 proposed to Bailee Jenkins in the snow on February 17, 2021. The couple met in 2018 on a camping trip.



CLASS OF 2017

GRACE ANDERSEN '17 graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Distribution and a minor in Business. Grace is excited to join BNSF Railway as a Transportation Management Trainee in Belen, NM.



KYNDALL BERTRAND '17 graduated summa cum laude from the University of Mississippi with a Master of Science in Exercise Science and Nursing with a minor in Psychology. Kyndall will continue her studies by pursuing a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) degree.



JACOB PAKELE '17 graduated from Abilene Christian University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ministry and Vocation with a focus in Youth and Family Ministry. Jacob started his new position as Youth Pastor at Fellowship Church in Fort Worth. "What I'm most excited about is that I get to impact someone's life and see God work in some miraculous way every day," says Jacob.



CLASS OF 2015

LAUREN DAVIDSON '15 just graduated medical school on May 15 at the UMKC School of Medicine's 6-Year BA/MD program. She will be starting an Internal Medicine residency at the University of Rochester School of Medicine in Rochester, NY.



DAYLEN JOHNSON '15 and **TRINITY PETTIGREW '15** became engaged May 19, 2021. Their son Bane Carter LaVirl Johnson was born on September 18, 2018.



ALUMNI NEWS

ALEXA

PRESSLEY '17

was an Alpha & Omega and “a teacher’s kid.”

Alexa graduated summa cum laude and University Honors from Lindenwood University in May 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising. Alexa was also awarded two national honors society recognition

from the National Society of Leadership and Success and the American Advertising Federation’s AΔΣ Honors. Alexa started her new position as Advertising Assistant Account Executive at Rodger’s Townsend in St. Louis in May 2021.



MARK WRIGHT '17

graduated on June 4, 2021, from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering. Mark accepted a software engineer/robotics internship at the first dental robotics company, Neocis, onsite in Miami. Mark was a kicker on the MIT football team and was named the 2019-2020 Football Special Team Player of the Year. He kicked the winning field goal against Springfield for MIT to win its second consecutive NEWMAC conference championship. Mark was also named the NEWMAC conference Special Teams Player of the Week three times. Mark will continue his studies at MIT in the fall to earn a Master of Science in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.



ALUMNI NEWS

AMY ZHANG '17 graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.



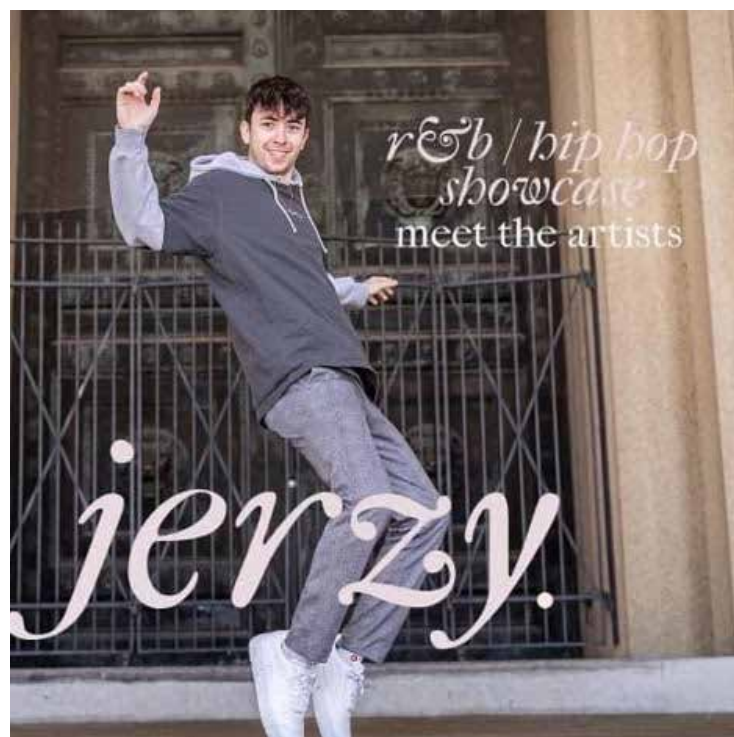
Amy. Additionally, Amy celebrated her Etsy shop, Pin Town Shop's first anniversary! Pin Town Shop has been a successful passion project where she sells originally designed enamel pins and stickers. Amy lives in Fort Collins, Colorado, and will be a senior at Colorado State University in the fall, where she is studying Communications with a minor in global environmental sustainability. Follow Pin Town Shop on Etsy at www.etsy.com/shop/pintownshop



GEORGE MOSS '18 performed in the Belmont University 2021 Showcase Series: Best of the Best Live Stream Event R&B Showcase 0under his stage name JERZY. JERZY writes and produces his own music and enjoys having full creative control. George is a Senior at Belmont University and achieved the Spring 2021 Dean's List. You can watch his live performance at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gv7lTdcWDYE

CLASS OF 2018

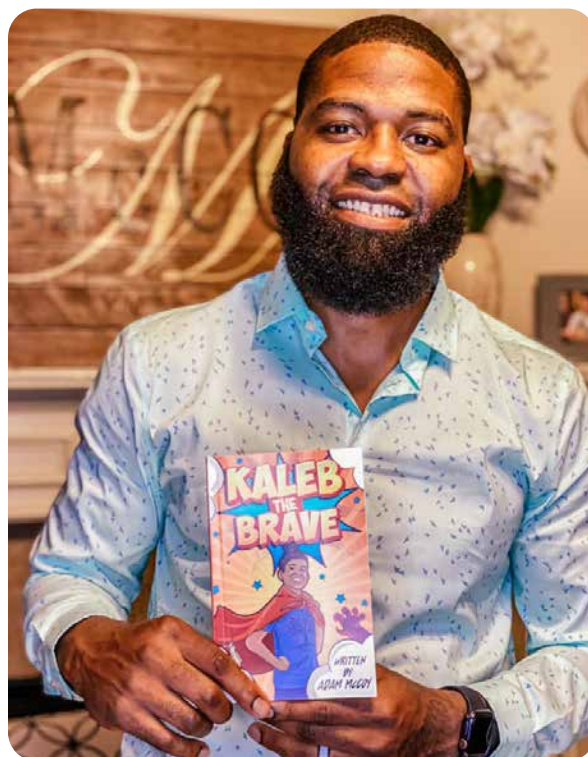
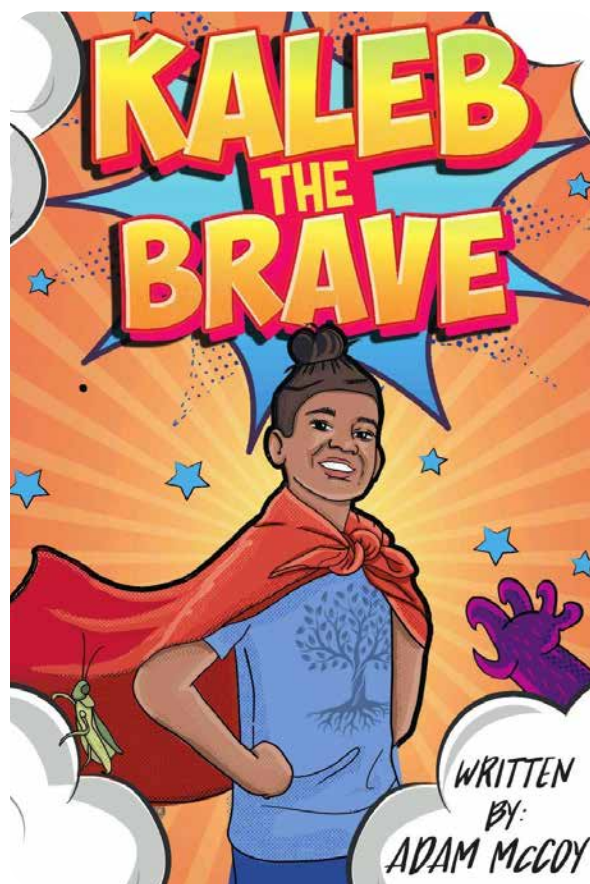
AMY MEREDITH '18 started working as IMA Financial Group's full-time communications intern specializing in corporate communications and event planning on May 24, 2021. "So excited for this opportunity to learn from others in my field and to finally get a real internship under my belt," said



MAKING AN IMPACT

ADAM MCCOY '04 launched his self-published book, *Kaleb the Brave*. During quarantine, Adam was empowered to write a book inspired by his son Kaleb, who is terrified of the dark, to help him overcome his fears and turn them into a superpower. "I hope to inspire kids to look past their limitations and change their mindset from fear to superpowers," McCoy says. *Kaleb The Brave* is about a young boy that struggles with his fears but finds the courage deep inside to overcome them. Adam and his wife, Michella, live in Mansfield with their two sons, Kaleb (3rd grade) and Jaxon (Kindergarten).

Adam's book, *Kaleb the Brave*, can be purchased at theboutique.com



MAKING AN IMPACT



GRACIE SNYDER '20 traveled with World Race Semesters to Medellín, Colombia, in June 2021. There she will be working alongside Ciudad Refugio, serving the people of Medellín. The team she's a part of will be aiding Venezuelan refugees and families in poverty, providing food and water to women, children, and the homeless population, and additionally putting on a vacation Bible school for the youth. "I am in love with this country, I adore these people who have become my family, and I am in absolute awe of what God is doing here," Snyder says.

Gracie is double majoring in Art History and Psychology and minoring in Religion, Spanish, Studio Art at Texas Christian University.

Follow Gracie's
blog at
[graciesnyder.
theworldrace.org](https://graciesnyder.theworldrace.org)





ONCE AN OWL, ALWAYS AN OWL.

Stay connected through all of life's best moments.

Do you have news you'd like to share?

Submit information for Alumni News to theoakridgeschool.org/alumni/updateinfo
or email alumnirelations@theoakridgeschool.org.



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@OAKRIDGEALUMNI

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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Mr. Charles Pierson

Mrs. Dana Queenan

Mr. Ron Widup

Mr. Matt Worthington

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Mrs. Sarah Kramer,
Asst. Head of School

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Mrs. Lori Lane

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