Connections

Summer 2021

Cincinnati Country Day School



CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

A Virtual Homecoming

This year, the Alumni Association and the Advancement team "virtually" welcomed Country Day alumni for a weekend celebration of homecoming and class reunions in October.

The weekend kicked off with a toast from Head of School Tony Jaccaci and Upper School History Department Chair Merle Black. Throughout the weekend, alumni were invited to catch up on Zoom, peruse an online scrapbook, celebrate alumni award winners, and participate in a CCDSpeaks Tech Talk.

Hosted by Jaccaci, CCDSpeaks was led by four CCDS alumni – Zak Butler '05, Sarah Herrlinger '90, Lauren Legette '07, and René Peters Jr. '09 – who work in information technology. They held a virtual discussion about computer and communication technology and its impact on society.

"Seeing the interesting and different paths graduates take in their lives is one of the best parts of being an educator," said Jaccaci. "Listening to these four Country Day grads speak about their careers in technology and the important work they are doing was fantastic. It has me both proud to call them Country Day alumni and has me thinking about ways to keep developing our program for our students. Grads paying it forward – it doesn't get better than that!"

The panelists discussed the future impact and possible repercussions of technology, not only in the classroom, but the workplace and in communities. Perhaps the most interesting point was the connection between ethics and the use of technology.

Things may have looked different this year, but no matter the circumstances, it was good to see everyone (virtually) come together!



** To make a monetary gift to Country Day in honor of your reunion year, please visit: www.CountryDay.net/go/CCDS.*









ON THE COVER Rob Zimmerman '98 and his family - wife Rania and sons Graham '32 and Harrison '28.

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Connections is published by Cincinnati Country Day School. Photos by contributing alumni, students, parents, faculty, and staff. If you have questions or believe any information to be incorrect, please contact Josephine McKenrick at (513) 979-0215 or mckenricj@countryday.net.

Your classmates and the Country Day community would like to hear from you. Please submit **Class Notes** to Paula Brock at brockp@CountryDay.net.

Parents of graduates: If you have been receiving CCDS mail for your graduate at your home address, and they have a permanent mailing address elsewhere, please let us know how to best reach them. Contact Alumni Director Paula Brock at brockp@countryday.net or 513-979-0282 with updated information or send **address changes** to addresschanges@CountryDay.net.

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Dear Members of the Country Day Community,



We made it! While the pandemic has been an extraordinary challenge both on a global scale and to our school, there is much to celebrate as we close Country Day's 95th academic year.

Last August, we took a bold approach by opening on campus, but we knew full well we were buttressed by the collective strength of our community and its commitment to our students' learning (not to mention numerous safety practices and protocols). Your perseverance made an improbable year possible. And perhaps most remarkable about the past school year was our ability to give our students a high level of normalcy despite the disruptive conditions.

Most rewarding was watching our students deftly defy the challenges of the pandemic. They made it seem almost effortless, quickly acclimating and acquiring the skills necessary to navigate new ways of learning while staying connected with teachers and classmates. For a year that demanded staying apart, our students came together in admirable ways that has left us stronger, smarter, and even more compassionate for having endured a year of uncertainty. They have been true heroes in this chapter of Country Day's history.

In athletics, Country Day's competitive excellence remained as strong as ever. The school maintained its full slate of athletic teams across all divisions, with teams winning several league, district, and regional championships. Eleven members of the Class of 2021 will play at the collegiate level. The wisdom gained through sports remained as much as part of the learning day as time spent in class, and we are grateful to our coaches and parents for their tireless support of our athletes.

Country Day's artists, with their boundless creativity, ensured that the show would go on all year long. They continued to display their manifold talents through the performing, visual, and literary arts. Our productions were not only entertaining, but they also afforded opportunities for our students to develop new skills not typically associated with the arts.

Service continued to be an important aspect of the student experience. While the pandemic curtailed our ability to put virtue into action throughout the city and beyond, we turned our service inward and provided on-campus opportunities.

The school's institutional strength is also affirmed by its strong student enrollment for the past year and the year to come. Amid the pandemic, we enrolled 152 new students for the 2020-21 year—one of the largest new student numbers in the past 10 years. Another positive trend is current student retention with 92.5% of the student body returning for the new school year. This is the school's highest retention rate since 2005-06. The positive momentum in our school's enrollment can be attributed to school's ongoing commitment to our students' academic and personal growth that never diminished despite the challenges prompted by the pandemic.

At this time, we also say goodbye to our seniors. The 75 seniors of the Class of 2021 impressively accumulated $6.5 million and scholarships and grants and garnered 355 acceptances to colleges and universities across the U.S. While they are off to their next academic homes, Country Day will always be with them.

Most tellingly, this past school year reaffirmed the strength of the Country Day's foundation, which proved exceptionally solid, allowing us to thrive in a year when many schools struggled. And on those occasions, when we encountered our differences, we did not let them divide us. As our alma mater reminds us, we stand together. Together we weathered the unique challenges of the past year and have come through the storm stronger for having endured it.

My closing days on campus have been bittersweet. Lucia, the boys, and I will miss the school and people we adore and cherish. Our hearts will be with you next year and for many years ahead for this superlative community!

Sincerely,



Anthony T. T. Jaccaci

Scan the QR code for Tony's full letter to the community

Celebrating Our Superheroes



Match Day, Country Day's single largest day of fundraising for the Country Day Fund, was November 12. With the first $100,000 of gifts matched dollar for dollar, our Country Day community came together to raise over $385,000!

This year's Match Day celebrated our *SUPERHEROES* – the teachers who work so tirelessly to bring their subjects to life in the classroom. In this extraordinary year, our faculty members delivered learning both in-person and remotely, redesigned curriculum and lesson plans to fit our hybrid environment, reinforced health and safety protocols to keep our students safe, supported our students in their health and emotional wellbeing, and dedicated hours of their personal time to professional development learning. All this work enabled Country Day to continue to deliver on its promise of academic excellence and a superior education for our students.

A Successful and Historic CountryDate

This year's CountryDate looked a bit different from years past. On March 6, over 200 Country Day families from around the country logged on to join our virtual CountryDate 2021 Dîner en Bleu. The audience was a wonderful mix of parents, faculty, alumni, and even some students for the first time in CountryDate history. Together we raised over $200,000 to support Country Day's programs, faculty and students.

Participants gathered around their computers with their gala boxes, which were delivered to their homes and included a bottle of sparkling wine, two CCDS stemless flutes, a program book, and some tasty macarons. Together we watched and supported Country Day through a Raise the Paddle, a live auction, and a few exciting games of chance. The success of this fundraiser would not have been possible without the generosity of our entire Country Day community. We reached our CountryDate goal with the help of our tremendous sponsors, the supporters in Raise the Paddle, the incredible auction item donations, and our amazing faculty who offered their auction parties.

We are already in the preliminary planning stages forCountryDate 2022 and promise to keep you informed once the details are finalized!



Because the event was virtual this year, attendees were invited to have some fun in the virtual photo booth, celebrating in the fun together!

May the 4th Be With You

Support on Giving Day was out of this world! The Star Wars-themed day of celebration was on Tuesday, May 4th. Faculty, staff, and students dressed up and brought some well-deserved energy to campus. "It was like arriving at Disney World!" commented one parent at Lower School carline. In 24 hours, our Country Day community came together and raised over $150,000! We are deeply grateful to you – our devoted community – for giving so generously to support our school.



Students were treated to a special lunch including "Wookie Cookies and Han sandwiches."



Mark Morawski, head of lower school, Ully Marin, middle school arts teacher, and students dressed up to wave good morning to carline passengers as they arrived on campus.



Priscilla Schoeny and her second-grade students show off their lightsaber building project.

Welcome Board of Trustee Members!

The Country Day Board of Trustees is a group committed to the success and long-term viability of the school. They bring a wealth of talent and experience from our community and give freely of their time and resources. Welcome to our new Board of Trustee members!

Ariella "Ari" Cohen



Ariella (Guttman) Cohen '01 attended Indiana University and obtained a master's degree in social work from the University of Cincinnati. She worked as a children's behavioral therapist for children before starting her own family.

Ariella "Ari" has served on several boards, including the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati, and serves on the executive committee for the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati as well as Most Valuable Kids Cincinnati. She previously served as the parent teacher organization president at Rockwern Academy and was a member of the Rockwern board of trustees.

Ari is serving as a parent member of the CCDS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and has been involved in recruiting MindPeace, a mental healthcare provider, to CCDS. She is a member of the head of school search committee and has enjoyed being a part of the CCDS community both as a student and now as a parent.

She has five children, Ezra (11), Zoe (10), Sasha (9), Leon (6), and Nora (5), and her husband, Andrew, is the fourth generation to oversee his family's scrap metal recycling business.

Yvonne Cuffy



Yvonne Cuffy was born in Ghana and immigrated to the United States when she was eight years old. She grew up in New York and attended Duke University, majoring in biological anthropology and anatomy. At Duke, she was captain of the women's track and field team. After graduating from Duke, she attended SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. It was there that she met her husband, Madison. At Upstate, she was the president of the Student National Medical Association. She completed anesthesia residency at Albany Medical Center, serving as chief resident in her last year of residency. After graduating, she worked in private practice in New York.

The Cuffy family moved to Cincinnati in 2012. Yvonne is an adjunct assistant professor of anesthesiology at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. Yvonne serves on the department's quality assurance, faculty recruitment, and residency interview committees. She also serves as the department's chair of diversity and inclusion. She is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Cincinnati Medical Association, and the Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists. Yvonne has been listed in Cincinnati Magazine "Top Doctors."

Yvonne and her family live in Columbia Township. She has two children, Sasha and Alana. Alana will be in 6th grade and enjoys ballet and basketball. Sasha will be in 3rd grade and enjoys soccer and running track. Yvonne enjoys travelling, tennis, and reading.

Eddie Koen



Eddie Koen serves as the president and CEO for the Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio, where he manages and oversees day-to-day operations. The Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio also serves as headquarters for the Small Business Development Center of Hamilton County. Before his role at Urban League, he served as the chief impact officer for Mile High United Way, where he directed $18 million in investment strategies and programming.

A Chicago native with roots in Alabama, he has a passion for education, equity, and criminal justice reform.

Among myriad awards and accolades, Eddie is a Livingston Fellow for 2019, and he was honored as a "Community Champion" by the City of Denver's Office of Children Affairs. He is one of Denver Business Journal's Forty under 40 for 2014 and a M.O.D.E.L. Man (Man of Distinction, Excellence, and Leadership) by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Eddie has also volunteered his time, talent and expertise on many boards, including Community Investment Network, Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise, National Pre-Law Diversity Initiatives, Colorado Latino Leadership and Research Organization, Denver Health Community Health Services, NAACP Denver, and 100 Black Men of America.

He enjoys traveling with his family, playing chess, and live music. Eddie received his law degree from Samford University, his Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and his bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama.

Lauren Legette



Lauren Legette '07 is the business lead of product marketing at Facebook, Inc., supporting advertising initiatives across Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger. Previously, Lauren has held positions at Uber, Fast Company Magazine, and Food Network.

Philanthropically, Lauren serves as a Girl Scout troop leader, technology committee chair for the San Francisco-Peninsula alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a pay equity advisor with 81cents, a volunteer organization that provides accessible, salary negotiation support for women and underrepresented minorities.

After graduating from Cincinnati Country Day School in 2007, Lauren obtained her bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism with a minor in advertising from Hampton University. In 2017, she also earned a certificate in Leadership Executive Education from Harvard Business School (HBX).

Lauren lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her three-year-old labradoodle, Bear.

Thank you for your service to our community!

Holly Mott



Holly Mott `95 is employed by the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services, where she has worked in the Major Unusual Incident Unit for the past 14 years. Through Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio, Holly is also responsible for training local law enforcement in crisis intervention, specifically relating to individuals with disabilities. She has trained over 500 officers in Hamilton County.

Holly earned a B.A. in political science and philosophy from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts. Prior to moving back to Cincinnati, she was an investigator for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In addition to being an Alumni Council member, she has served as president of the Cincinnati Country Day Alumni Council and representative for the Parents Association.

Holly is an animal lover and had the opportunity to serve as board member for the League for Animal Welfare. Mott also co-chaired fundraisers for Pets-In Need of Cincinnati & the SPCA.

Mott resides in Indian Hill with and her husband Mike, daughter, Georgina (PK1), and dog, Flo. Her personal interests include running, scuba diving, and spending time with her family.

Prioritizing Student Mental Wellness

Focusing on mental wellness is a year-round priority at Country Day, which is why we're excited about our new partnership with MindPeace – an organization whose focus is the improvement and expansion of school-based mental health services.

"This is all about taking care of the whole child," said Alexis Nordrum, school psychologist at the middle school. "Our partnership with MindPeace fits perfectly with our goal of developing a comprehensive system of care to provide students and parents easily accessible options for school-based mental health services."

Through trusted partnerships, MindPeace has co-created a sustainable system of mental health care for children and adolescents in Cincinnati. The organization works with 180 area schools and 18 mental health organizations to provide access to full-time, integrated, and aligned school based mental health services. For Country Day, MindPeace will help us achieve our vision for our students' social and emotional well-being; develop and maintain an effective referral process and protocols; and work to eliminate barriers to service.

Our school psychologists are excellent, on-campus resources, but they are not licensed to provide medicine management or mental health treatment. Our school psychologists will continue to provide social-emotional support, help students work through school-based issues, and assess if the students need further treatment. They will also continue providing individual and group counseling, through programs like ROX in the middle school, and team collaboration.

"As a school psychologist, I can provide short-term interventions, accessibility, and consistency. I can reinforce what a student might be focusing on with his or her therapist, but I am not licensed to provide treatment," continued Nordrum. "With MindPeace, we will add another choice for our families, one that allows us to work together as a team."

Ultimately, the goal is to give our students and families more options and increased access to mental health services.

Our families will always have the freedom of choice to seek other options or continue with any current treatment plans or therapists, but through our partnership with MindPeace, we are adding a layer of care by opening access to more extensive mental health treatment and counseling on campus. We can bypass long wait times for psych visits, work directly with pediatricians for medication management, and round out our system of care so our families have choices, regardless of location or socio-economic status. There are no direct costs to parents for the on-site services of the program unless there is a referral to a provider and those costs are processed through the family's health care coverage.

This service could not come at a better time. According to the American Psychology Association, seven out of 10 people ages 8-23 report experiencing common symptoms of depression. According to the CDC, there has been 24% increase for children ages 5-11 requiring mental health-related hospitalizations since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, and for ages 12-17 there has been a 31% increase.

"Mental health is a global issue that touches all of us at some point in our lives," said Susan Shelton, executive director at MindPeace. "By partnering with us, Country Day has joined a larger community of support."

MindPeace®

The Process

In conjunction with MindPeace, throughout the 2020-21 school year we collected data and did some deep listening with our stakeholders.

October: Research process began, initial meeting with our three school psychologists and the executive director at MindPeace

November: Began gathering schoolwide data needed for MindPeace's mental health needs assessment, to help potential mental health partners better understand our community's needs

December: Sent the confidential data report to MindPeace

January: MindPeace hosted parent interviews and distributed a student survey at the middle school and upper school

February: Faculty/staff meeting to discuss the MindPeace partnership and obtain input

March: MindPeace completed the assessment and shared it with the head of school and leadership team, and met with members of the board of trustees

April: Interview team convened to prep for partner organization interviews

May: Conducting interviews with potential mental health partner organizations

June: Partner selection – Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

August/September: Therapist selection announcement

COVID Reflections



We have heard it a million times – it has been an unusual year. A year unlike any other. A year for the history books. In March 2020, life as we knew it changed, seemingly overnight.



In looking back on the 2020-21 school year, we will always remember it as the pandemic year. But we should not forget the many other notable aspects that contributed to what was an extraordinary year of teaching and learning on Given Road.

We returned to campus last August, not sure if we would even remain open for more than a few weeks. But in true Country Day fashion, we did not let social distancing, quarantines or plexiglass get in the way of our teaching and learning experience. And, in some ways, the pandemic actually boosted some skills we did not even know we had.

For example, although we have always been on the cutting edge of technology, we are now more adept with digital learning tools and are much more comfortable with collaborating online. Our students, faculty, staff, and families adjusted to entire new ways of learning but did so with determination and relative ease.

We stood together, strong in our devotion to advance another year of learning and growth.

"When you look back on this year, I hope you'll remember much more than terms like contact tracing, super spreaders, and Zoom-bombing. I want you to recall a determined student body, faculty and staff; a collective who didn't flinch in the face of unprecedented challenge; of Country Day coming together to honor its tradition of academic excellence, even when the odds were stacked against us."

– Tony Jaccaci, *head of school*



"I know there are a lot of schools that were shut down more than we were. In the beginning of the year everyone was grateful to be in school in person and then you forget. I had to keep reminding myself that being in school in person was better, even when we were missing out on some things that happen during a typical year. It's a good reminder to not take what you have for granted. I think it's great we were open for all but a couple of weeks during the year. I was expecting we would be shut down in a month or two after school started in the fall. And then we kept going and I kept holding my breath and wondering when there would be an outbreak. My friends and I would text whenever there was a case and then eventually that got old…I started driving this year, which opens up the things you can do. At the same time, Covid limited that so it was a tug and pull in my social life. It's about trying to find things you can enjoy and ways to hang out with people in a safe manner, but you're allowed to recognize that you're missing out and it's not fair…For next year I'm hoping it gets back to normal somewhat – bringing back activities like our dances and a class trip, even if it's not the rafting trip we missed out on. I am very aware that Covid will still be around. Masks will probably still be around but wearing a mask is easy. I'm sure there will still be some policies in place but being able to get some of those normal high school experiences back is what I'm really looking forward to."

– **Margaret Sprigg-Dudley '22,** ***in-person learner for the 2020-21 school year, co-founder of the student health advisory council***



172
Days the school was open for in-person learning beginning August 19

355
College acceptances received by the Class of 2021

319
Individuals vaccinated at CCDS clinics

10,320
Pre-plated salads prepared by Sage Dining

413
Grade 7-12 students who participated in fall, winter, and spring sports

1

Day the campus was closed for in-person learning during the 2020-21 school year (due to a water main break)

266

Original CCDS Nighthawk keychains/backpack tags designed and printed in the Makerspace

51

Email updates sent by the Rapid Response Team

58

Books read by Head of School Tony Jaccaci during Book Time at Broadwell

25

Meetings with the Medical Advisory Board

41,925

TEAMS class meetings led by faculty to support both in-person and remote student learning

584

Outdoor education classes taught to Lower School students

125,000

Student temperature checks taking during morning screenings





"The year had its highs and lows but overall the good outweighed the bad and the year turned out really well. I didn't struggle as an online student and that is reflected in my grades…Country Day did a good job of keeping me connected to the school. At the beginning of the year, Ms. Weinheimer's videos really helped. And I still got to participate in things like the talent show, student council elections, and Bent Toward Justice. But being online took away from some of the experiences I would have had my junior year. My APUSH teacher won't be there next year, and I never got to experience her in a classroom. There are things I wish I could go back and relive inside the school. If given the choice, I wouldn't do it over again but I've come to terms with that. Being remote was the best thing for me to do. As long as I'm hopeful for next year, I can put this year…not behind me – I'm still going to acknowledge it – but I can live with this year. I'm looking forward to going back to school in person next year for my last year at Country Day. I never thought I'd want to go back to school as much as I do."

– Mimi Johnson '22, *remote learner for the 2020-21 school year*





Even though things may have looked different this year, some things remained the same – learning and traditions (like the Senior Surprises) continued. Most faculty and staff were fully vaccinated by the end of March.

Changed for the Better...Because We Knew Him



Country Day lost an icon when beloved member of our community, former middle school head Richard (Dick) Schwab '67 passed away on March 8, 2021. He leaves a legacy that will not soon be equaled.

His life's motivation was to help others, and he was guided by a song lyric in "For Good" from the musical "*Wicked*" – "I do believe I have been changed for the better…because I knew you."

"I want to make sure that I can be, for someone else, a person who can make them better because they knew me," Schwab said in an interview for an article in a 2017 edition of Connections. "I let that song lyric guide me."

After receiving his B.A. in English from Brown University, he went to New York City and ventured into acting. He was on the popular soap opera, T*he Edge of Night*, playing a bartender. After giving acting a whirl, he attended Harvard where he received a master's degree in education.

After a stint as head of the Lexington School, Schwab returned home to serve as Country Day's head of middle school from 1986 until 2006.

Schwab was named CCDS Middle School Head in 1986, when the new middle school building opened. He did so under the tutelage and guidance of then Middle School Head Dave Walsh, who successfully grew the middle school from 1979-1986, to the point of needing a new building. Schwab watched and listened to students, faculty, and staff for a year before setting out to create a middle school in his own vision, later to become known as "Schwab World."

"He was always on the lookout for teachers who were not only academically excellent but were also passionate about other areas that could have an impact on students and colleagues," said Theresa Hirschauer, head of middle school. "In 1990, Dick read an article in a Brown University [Dick's alma mater] magazine where I was featured in a profile about athletics. The article also mentioned my major in math. He talked to then Head of School John Rauschenbush, they gave me a call me, asked me to interview, and hired me. His thoughtful approach to hiring, along with many of his leadership qualities, has guided my tenure as a middle school head, athletic director, teacher, and coach."

He enlisted the help of Lois Rust, who studied musical theater, and together they instituted the eighth grade musical. Schwab served as executive producer for 19 consecutive musicals, and Rust directs the productions to this day. The first musical was performed in 1988 on the Thesing Middle School Commons' stage. The first performance, in the then-newly-built John Whitman Keeler Theater, was "*Annie*," which opened on January 31, 2001. According to Rust, "It was a great performance by the class of 2005 and stared Mr. Schwab's dog, Humphrey, as Sandy."

Susie Lewis, former middle school teacher (1985 to 2020), recalls how Dick managed the middle school sleepovers and dances for the entire eighth grade and all of the hilarious stories that ensued. "Dick handled every issue with a sense of humor; he wanted the middle school experience to be remembered fondly by his students and teachers."

Lewis continued, "Dick actually loved it when we came into the office with a problem. He was right there with you. He dropped everything to help figure out what to do. It felt like he loved problems, because he would 'light up' at the possibility of making things better, making things right, solving problems, laughing our way through difficult moments."



Former Middle School Head Dick Schwab '67 on campus with his beloved dogs.



Dick Schwab '67 received the Virtue In Action Award in 2017.

Throughout his life, caring for others was second nature. Here are a few of the philanthropic endeavors he was involved with:

Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church

Schwab was the catalyst for starting the church's after-school enrichment program for at-risk Pleasant Ridge Montessori students. He provided the initial funding and worked with Yoda, Cincinnati Public Schools, and Pleasant Ridge Montessori staff to develop the curriculum. TEAM Works! tutors kids, serves them dinner, offers activities and sends them off with a motivational message.

Glendale Needy Family Program

The Glendale Chief of Police annually spearheads a school supplies and holiday gift collection drive. Through this program, Schwab mentored and sponsored children through their high school years into college. One year, Schwab found out that some students were not going to receive their diplomas because their families could not afford to pay their lunch fees. Schwab personally made sure every one of those kids, and future kids, had their lunch account paid.

Junior Statesman Foundation

Schwab's benevolence extended to the civic arena with the Junior Statesmen Foundation, which provides civics education support for schools. Every four years, it sponsors high school students to attend either the Republican or Democratic national convention.

"No matter what was happening, Dick never lost sight that it was all about the kids," said Andrea Rogers, middle school teacher. "And he never let his colleagues forget it either. One simply has to mention CCDS Middle School or 'Mr. Schwab' and the talk inevitably turns to the impact Dick had on the lives of his students and teachers."

Tom Block '67, a classmate of Dick's, reiterated Andrea's point in a Facebook post. "In recent years I would return to Cincinnati or meet a CCDS alum in NYC and repeatedly hear stories of how Mr. Schwab played an important role in their lives. He leaves behind a legacy that will be long remembered."



Dick Schwab '67 behind his desk in the middle school.

Schwab was honored as the Distinguished Alumnus of 2011 for his many contributions to our school and community. He was also chosen as the Virtue in Action Award (previously titled the "Chieftain Award") recipient in 2017. This honor was driven by Schwab's classmates at their 50th reunion, recognizing him for his dedication, attitude, and motivation expressed through his volunteer service and exemplifying the school's motto of Virtue in Action.

Sons Oliver and Forrest were with him at Country Day when he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award and Oliver spoke fondly of his father's time at CCDS. "He wanted the community to know that Country Day was part of his family. Many of his happiest moments involved a school event or someone connected to the school," he said. "Dad was very proud of the award he received as a member of the Class of 1967. He always kept the award near him, and it was at his bedside when he passed."

Dick Schwab will forever be a part of Country Day. His leadership–through compassion, caring and a desire to improve the lives of others–permeates the very fabric that is Country Day. The middle school was known as "Schwab World" but his influence extended beyond the walls of Country Day. He touched the lives of many in our community and around the globe, and he leaves a legacy that is inspiring to all.

We have been changed for the better… because we knew him.



Middle School students and faculty thanked Dick Schwab for his years of service during a retirement gathering.

Honor His Legacy

The Richard O. Schwab '67 Fund was created more than five years ago to support Dick's passion: nurture of his beloved faculty. Dick and his family let us know that the fund was the legacy he wished to leave to his CCDS family. Please consider a meaningful gift to the Richard O. Schwab '67 Fund in his memory and to support of Dick's commitment to recruit and support the best faculty in Cincinnati.

The school is hopeful this fall we will be able to celebrate all that Dick accomplished on behalf of decades of students and their families. We are profoundly grateful that Dick bestowed his many gifts on us and look forward to gathering with others who played a role in what we at Country Day lovingly refer to as Schwab World.

To donate visit www.CountryDay.net/go/ROS or mail a check to CCDS Advancement Office, 6905 Given Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243 and reference the fund. For any questions, please contact Paula Brock at 513.979.0282 or brockp@countryday.net.

Stadium Renovations Raise the Game



Project donors and their families, plus CCDS student-athlete representatives for all turf and field sports celebrated the groundbreaking together.

Cincinnati Country Day School has officially broken ground on a stadium renovation that has been years in the making.

"This is an important new chapter in the history of Country Day," said Rob Zimmerman '98, turf field project committee chair and next year's interim head of school. "When you go back to the history of our school, outdoor play and athletics are in our DNA from the very beginning. And you see that still today in everything our kids do. You see our kids find leadership and teamwork skills on the fields of play. You see the pride our parents have when their kids push themselves to new heights. You see it in the school spirit of alumni who follow teams well after graduation and keep up with former teammates. Athletics has the power of community that brings us together under one banner. With this facility, we will construct a foundation for athletics success that is commensurate with our rich tradition and our bold ambition. After today, I challenge our community to embark on a pursuit of a new golden age of Country Day athletics."

On Friday, May 14, 2021, the school hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to launch the construction project that will be completed in August 2021. The project, led by John R. Jurgensen Company, includes:

- Multi-sport synthetic turf field, accommodating football, soccer, and lacrosse.
- Six-lane track.
- Home stand for more than 530 spectators, with an integrated press box.
- Visitor bleachers for 130 spectators.
- Modern LED lighting and sound system.
- Digital display scoreboard.
- Remodeled athletic entryway, incorporating seating and outdoor learning spaces.
- Remodeled Lower School play area, including resurfaced playground.
- Landscaping to replace dying trees and invasive plant species with native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses.

"This project would not be possible without the commitment of our five lead donors – the Bortz, Cicchinelli, DiSanto, Hildebrant, and Jurgensen and Alf families – and the generous families who have since joined them to make this project a reality," said Tony Jaccaci, head of school. "They have given one hundred percent commitment to give us this momentum. These families represent the current generation that is ready to bring our school forward into strength, and I am grateful for their vision and support."

Brian Bortz '87, one of the leading donors to the project, explains why he felt called to support the stadium renovation.

"This project presents an opportunity for us to build the leadership advantage that so many of us alumni remember from our days at Country Day," said Bortz. "Now is the time for us to work together and do what we can to make this school the absolute best school in Cincinnati. We have a strong tradition of excellence – not only in academics but in athletics as well – and I cannot wait to see that play out on this field for years to come."

This $3.75-million capital project has been many years in the making. After decades of hard-fought contests, the stadium was now past its useful life and in need of replacement. This need was highlighted in community feedback gathered by local architects, MSA Design, as part of their work to develop a campus master plan in 2018-19.



Prior to the groundbreaking ceremony, after-school students enjoyed the Touch-a-Truck event.

"When I think about our grass field…it was built by a generation of Country Day families in the late 80s and early 90s. And that is how a school grows – families step up and they help and support the school," said Jaccaci. "Today is a historic day. Next year will not be a return to normal; rather we are returning to strength."

To follow along with the project, scan the QR code!

Introducing Our New Mascot!

On Friday, January 29, 2021, Head of School Tony Jaccaci, along with the student members of the Country Day mascot steering committee, hosted a virtual unveiling of the new mascot for students, faculty, and staff. Through a months-long selection process, the "Nighthawk" is officially the school's new mascot.

"The choice of a mascot crosses over from sports to academics, to school spirit, and to life beyond the halls of Country Day," said Jaccaci. "Because a mascot represents so much more than a name and a logo, we wanted this selection process to be as thorough and inclusive as possible. We asked those participating in the selection to seriously consider all options because it is critical that our new mascot best represents the values and spirit of our school. The Nighthawk is a fantastic choice."

"Nighthawks" was one of the five finalists voted on by the Country Day community. The original submission list consisted of more than 350 mascot suggestions and through a rigorous voting process, the selections were narrowed to 16 semifinalists and then five finalists.

"Nighthawks are recognized for being goal-oriented, resilient and determined," continued Jaccaci. "Nighthawks are highly tactical leaders that plan their approach with consciousness, ferocity and precision."

Additionally, the nighthawk is native to the Cincinnati area; Ohio is the first place the common nighthawk was ever recorded in the United States. The nighthawk also has a significant presence in art, film, and literature.

With more than 1,400 votes cast to select among the five finalists – bears, chargers, nighthawks, trailblazers, wolves – one mascot emerged as the winner. "Nighthawks" was the clear favorite, receiving the highest number of votes among each stakeholder group – students, alumni, and faculty and staff.

"We are always striving to create an environment that inspires and prepares students to face their lives with purpose, confidence and character," said Jody Brant, Board of Trustees president. "Our hope is that our new mascot not only reflects that sentiment but mirrors the culture of inclusivity, empowerment and joy that we value here at Country Day."



Since the unveiling, the community has embraced the mascot. Walking through the hallways and on campus, the mascot is present in art project displays, spirit wear, publications, and signage. The Nighthawks are also soaring in athletic competitions.

"This is a historic time for us as a school community and will foster a greater connection to our school for generations of Nighthawks to come," said Jaccaci. "This truly is an expression of wonderful Country Day community spirit."



Rendering of the stadium facility, which is scheduled for completion in mid-August 2021.

A Heartfelt Farewell to Tony Jaccaci



After six years of exceptional leadership, Head of School Tony Jaccaci announced in January 2021 his plan to leave Country Day to assume his new role as head of Tabor Academy—an opportunity that brings him and his family closer to family and aging parents, a need the pandemic has certainly highlighted. Tony will certainly be missed and we are grateful for his commitment to our community.

"Tony has honored the traditions of Country Day and at the same time he has been an innovator. And, while he has honored Country Day tradition, he appreciates that institutions evolve—not by cancelling the past, but by efforts to understand the past more deeply and by listening to what it tells us. Tony has loved this school without interruption… he attended every theatrical performance and art show across the three divisions. He believes in his students and takes great joy in their accomplishments. No head in Country Day's history has taken more photographs of our daily school lives than Tony…Tony has been our school's leading ambassador."

– Merle Black III, history department chair



Jody Brant '87 and Rob Zimmerman '98 presented Tony Jaccaci with a Country Day gift at his farewell gathering.



Leading the graduation ceremony procession for the class of 2021.

"A transformational leader, Tony has nurtured the school's growth in meaningful ways leaving us well-positioned as we approach our 100th year. Thanks to his visionary leadership, work ethic, and commitment, Country Day is stronger and better prepared for the future."

– Joel "Jody" Brant '87, Board of Trustees president



Tony Jaccaci catches up with the departing Board of Trustee members.



Tony and Lucia Jaccaci share a smile with Rob '98 and Rania Zimmerman '98.



A buckeye tree to remind Tony of his home in Ohio.

"To know Tony is to know someone with deep substance, commitment, character, and integrity. He always says 'It's all about the kids and this is not just something he says but something he has lived over six years. Tony is an impactful leader who has made Country Day a better place."

– Rob Zimmerman '98, interim head of school





Students show Tony some love. As he always says "It's all about the kids."

With the help of Educators' Collaborative, the search for Country Day's 14th head of school is well underway. Consistent with its responsibilities, the Board of Trustees has appointed a search committee to conduct a comprehensive national and international search for a new head of school. The search committee is busy reviewing applications, and – pandemic permitting – will invite approximately eight to 10 candidates to in-person confidential interviews with the committee. From this group, the committee will invite the top candidates to the school early next school year for two full days of interviews. For more information about the head of school search, please visit https://www.countryday.net/about-ccds/head-of-school-search.

In January, the board unanimously appointed Rob Zimmerman '98 as the interim head of school for the 2021-22 school year. His leadership experience, perspectives, and involvement with the school make him ideally suited to lead the school in the interim.

An Act of Gratitude: Serving Our Community



Rob and Rania honeymooned in Lake Como, Italy in 2005.

When asked why Rob Zimmerman '98 – a successful lawyer with Dinsmore, Cincinnati's largest law firm – is stepping into the interim head of school position for the 2021-22 school year, he might provide a fairly expected answer: The school needed an interim.

And he's right. Employing an interim head of school is a fairly common practice because independent schools typically hire heads of school a year in advance. If the school rushed the process there was a significant chance there would not be a candidate pool deep enough to find a candidate worthy of the school's reputation. So instead of taking over as board president, Rob found himself in a position in which he could take on the task of interim head of school.

But the real reason Rob will serve as our interim head of school next school year reveals his heart and speaks volumes about what kind of leader he is. Simply put – he loves Country Day.

"I care deeply about this institution," said Zimmerman. "The Covid pandemic made me realize that life is short, and one should do things that are meaningful; I have this opportunity to pay it forward and show gratitude for what this school has done for my life and for what it's doing for my kids' lives."

Although Rob is not a Country Day lifer himself, his two children – Harrison, who is entering 6th grade, and Graham, who is entering 2nd grade – have attended Country Day since pre-kindergarten. And while Rob has myriad other interests, such as golf and Victorian literature, his beloved interest is his children.

"I am an incredibly involved dad and love being a dad. I spend most of my time away from my job being a dad. The boys and I get after it in life, and I want my kids to have the same joy in life as I have had. I love kids and I think it's why I considered being a teacher in the first place – there is something special about watching kids grow, develop, and learn."

Rob, who has been named an Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Star, is taking a sabbatical from his role as a commercial litigator to serve our Country Day community next year. But before graduating from the University of Cincinnati's College of Law and Vanderbilt University, he taught at SummerBridge (now Breakthrough Cincinnati) for a summer and thought for a minute that he might have found his calling in education.

"I was not a kid who always knew what I wanted to be," explained Zimmerman. "When I was in college I strongly considered being a teacher, primarily because of my experience at Country Day and with Breakthrough. At Vanderbilt I majored in English and loved it. I'm a huge book and language nerd. Merle Black [CCDS history department chair] had an influence on that for sure. The power of someone like him takes a few years to sink in, but something clicked my sophomore year of college. I realized all I wanted to do is read books, write papers, talk and argue, which is why I fell in love with being a litigator."



Rob and the boys at the Ballinacurra House outside Kinsale, Ireland during a Zimmerman family vacation (with all 18 Zimmermans!) in 2018.



A boys adventure on the SkyStar Wheel on the Banks after a Reds game (Harrison '28 on the left, Graham '32 in the middle).

Not only did things click into place for Rob during college for his career path, Vanderbilt is also where he met his wife, Rania. Their first date – which only became so when the third person in their group couldn't make it – was to see Les Misérables at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

After graduation, they got married and settled in Hyde Park before eventually finding their way back to Indian Hill, which is where Rob lived when his family moved to Cincinnati in 1988. Rob attended school at Indian Hill through 8th grade, but it was always the plan that he would attend Country Day for high school.

"It felt a bit like I had been promoted from triple A to the big leagues. Country Day was a superior, smaller, and more challenging academic institution. I had to maximize my intellectual potential in every way."

Country Day played an important role in his parents' choice of residence in Cincinnati and in his parents' social network – many of their friends today are those they met in those first years as Country Day parents.

Rob's mom, Alison, was often a team mom at Country Day and always looked after the other students. The Zimmerman household, which was dubbed "Chez Z", has always been a welcoming place. To this day, the Zimmerman family still gathers at Chez Z every Sunday for family dinner. All 18 of them.

Yes, 18. In the 2021-22 school year, there will be Zimmerman cousins in each even-numbered grade from grade 2 to grade 12. Rob and his three siblings are Country Day alumni as are two of the spouses. To say Country Day is in the Zimmerman family's blood would be an understatement. So much so that many think the Zimmerman family has been in Cincinnati for generations, when the truth is that his parents are Texas natives, and that Rob was born in Dallas and moved to Atlanta before his family rooted in Cincinnati.

But Rob has no plans of leaving the Queen City. Quite the opposite. In his role as interim head of school, Rob plans to double down on his efforts of bringing the Country Day community even closer. "Being an alum, I hope to strengthen our ties with alumni; I hope to expand our ties with the business community because I come from that space; and I hope to deepen our ties with our families because I am one of them as well."

He also plans to continue the momentum that the school has built during a very difficult Covid year. "Success this year – and there is no doubt that Country Day has had a successful year – took a lot of hard work and sacrifice by a lot of people. My goal as interim is to ensure that we don't hit pause during this transition, that we keep moving forward, and that we capitalize on that success."



If you have had the chance to interact with Rob any time recently, you have most likely heard him say that he is most excited about working with the faculty and staff.

"The building I went to school in is long gone, the students have changed, and even some of the traditions have changed but the common thread throughout the years is the faculty and staff that know and nurture our students. The most you can ever ask for is to be surrounded by really smart people all pulling in the same direction, and that is absolutely how I would describe the Country Day faculty and staff."

When it comes down to it, Rob lives each day with gratitude, self-awareness, and intense curiosity. He's cognizant of the fact that he does not have all of the answers but promises to approach the role and all it encompasses with compassion and acute academic curiosity.

"The school has given a lot to me and I feel compelled to give back to it. I didn't want to look back in life and regret not doing something that was mission-driven. Serving this community in this role is an act of gratitude. Right now, I can offer continuity and momentum moving forward so we don't miss a beat."

In February 2020, one of the last activities the Zimmermans did before the Covid-19 lockdown was attend an Indiana Pacers game.

A Foundation for Success



Cincinnati's own BlaCk OWned Outerwear designed a limited-series retail collection called "Stripes Don't Come Easy." This campaign aims to unify the Cincinnati community through designs intended to create the healthy dialogue, represented by this partnership.

Tradition is something that Elizabeth Blackburn '11 is very passionate about.

"I was nervous about going to college, but as soon as I arrived at Dartmouth College, I never looked back – I loved the people and the small size," said Blackburn. "There were a lot of similarities with Country Day and that was comforting; it's a small school, with a tight community and academic focus, in this idyllic, beautiful setting."

In keeping in line with her passion for tradition, Elizabeth said the needle-moving point for choosing Dartmouth over her other choices was the legacy component – both her mom and grandfather also attended Dartmouth. Elizabeth's mom, Katie (Brown) Blackburn '82, was also a graduate of Country Day.



Elizabeth and a friend cheering on Cincinnati Country Day School.

"Having rich traditions demonstrates a strong culture. It's what people love about sports and there has never been a more important time for culture, traditions, and community than coming out a pandemic and reengaging the community."

And that is exactly what Elizabeth is doing. As director of strategy & engagement for the Cincinnati Bengals, when she stepped into the role in February 2020 she was initially charged with executing high-level strategic projects and engaging fans and key stakeholders.

Them the Covid-19 pandemic and social unrest of 2020 quickly changed that.

"Right off the bat, I began engaging with fans on social media platforms, but then we saw this need and desire to focus more on the player engagement piece to help organize community outreach and business engagement," explained Blackburn. "What started as fan engagement expanded to engaging people however makes sense given whatever is going on in the world."

Now, she is expanding her efforts to focus on getting people excited about games this fall.

"I don't think there is a better place in the universe than at a football game on game day," said Blackburn. "We're revamping the game day experience this fall, and I'm so excited to see how it comes together. I know people are looking forward to coming back to the stadium and we're looking forward to providing them with an elevated experience." Blackburn hopes to see Country Day alumni, faculty and staff, and current students and their families at Paul Brown Stadium this fall.

Although Elizabeth said she knew as a little kid that she wanted to come back to Cincinnati to work at the Bengals, she also knew that she wanted to get job experience before doing so. She said Country Day gave her the confidence and experience to do so.



"The small school provided opportunities to develop deep friendships, which gave me the safety net and confidence to try new things.

"I grew up around football and I'm a huge fan! Being a Bengals fan outweighs being a football fan but being football fan outweighs anything else with any other sport."

Even academically, some people were overwhelmed and intimidated during our freshman year at Dartmouth but I was so prepared. I didn't go through that feeling of being unstable because Country Day gave me such a solid foundation."

She also credits her experience at Country Day with some choices she made along her career path.

"Because Country Day is small, I could play two sports every season and be the social chair and participate in a bunch of clubs, giving me exposure to so many things. It's one of the reasons I was drawn to consulting – I like staying busy and diversifying what I'm doing."

After Dartmouth, Elizabeth worked at Bain and Company in San Francisco. Through Bain she sought an internship with the NFL in New York City. In 2018, she accepted a position at KKR, a leading global investment firm in New York City, securing her residency in the same city as her fiancé.

Her role with the Bengals built on her experiences at Bain and KKR and gave her the opportunity to focus on cross-functional projects and strategic processes while also focusing on engagement, which she is also passionate about.

As a Country Day lifer, it is not lost on Elizabeth that her life's trajectory was greatly influenced by her experience at Country Day.

"I think so fondly of Country Day. The teachers were so impactful. I remember my kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Childs, teaching me that if you make a mistake you can turn it into something beautiful. Every year there were so many of those big, life-changing lessons that I took with me. I am grateful for my time there."

Cincinnati Country Day School Establishes Arts Hall of Fame

To celebrate Cincinnati Country Day School's strong and vibrant tradition in the arts, the school introduced the Arts Hall of Fame this year.

Inductees are recognized for their contributions in the fine, musical, performing, and literary arts. Although we want to recognize these individuals now, we hope to celebrate this inaugural class in person during the 2021-22 school year.

"The Country Day Arts Hall of Fame is designed to celebrate our artistic history and community as well as create learning opportunities for our current students," said Peter Niehoff '05, CCDS Board of Trustees member and Arts Alliance chair. "Our inaugural class celebrates the beginning of our upper school program, which was founded in the early 1960s, as well as the important social activism art can play. Congratulations to our first inductees and thank you for sharing your passion with us."

The 2021 Hall of Fame Award recipients are:

William Messer '66



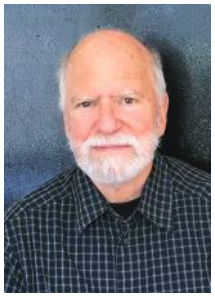
- Bill is credited with creating the Country Day Upper School fine arts program with faculty member Phyllis Pierce.
- During his time at Country Day, he photographed for *The Scroll* and received the school's first art award upon graduation.
- He is a U.S.-based curator, critic, and photographer and has curated over 100 exhibitions in over 40 countries.
- He is a vice-president of l'Association International des Critiques d'Art (AICA) in Paris and founded its Commission on Censorship and Freedom of Expression.
- Since 2008 he has curated exhibitions gratis for the Iris BookCafé and Gallery in Over-the-Rhine.
- William is also an activist in First Amendment issues and those related to climate change. He served on the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio and the Environmental Advisory Council of the City of Cincinnati.
- Philanthropically, he designed and donated Country Day's Messer Art Gallery, and established the William Messer '66 Award in photography for Upper School students.
- Locally, Messer taught a history of photography course at Northern Kentucky University and photography and the graduate fine arts seminar at the University of Cincinnati.

Phyllis Pierce



- Phyllis was a longtime Country Day art faculty member, and by putting students first, teaching was her ultimate art.
- Phyllis is credited with creating the Country Day Upper School fine arts program with then-student Bill Messer '66.
- Crompton Brock '72 once said, "Her role in advancing art education encouraged a generation of students to explore outlets for their creativity and take pride in the expression of imagination through routine exhibition. She recognized not all art comes in front of an easel or pottery wheel but on stage as members of stage crew as well."

Robert Shetterly '65



- Rob is best known for his portrait series "Americans Who Tell the truth" - a collection of portraits of iconic American figures. Pieces from the collection tour across the U.S. in museums, galleries, and libraries.
- He wrote and illustrated a book entitled "Americans Who Tell the Truth" and was noted by the nonprofit Children's Book Council, which listed the book among the "2006 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People."
- New Village Press in New York is currently publishing a series of "Americans Who Tell the Truth" books on various themes. The first book "Portraits of Racial Justice: Americans Who Tell the Truth" will be available in September 2021. A documentary about this work, called Truth Tellers, will also be released in September 2021.
- His works depict many important figures and activists from American history from Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony to Dwight Eisenhower and John Lewis. For Shetterly activism and art work hand-in-hand

Kellen Pomeranz '07 is this year's Rising Star Award recipient. This award recognizes those alumni that are emerging as powerful voices in their art.



- Kellen is a producer/songwriter based in New York City.
- She won a Grammy Award in 2021 as cowriter and producer of John Legend's album "Bigger Love" which won the Grammy as best R&B album of the year.
- Kellen co-penned the song "Velvet" which was selected by Adam Levine to be performed during the season 7 finale of The Voice and reached #3 on iTunes after its release by finalist Chris Jamison (Republic Records).

Congratulations to these alumni and former faculty who have contributed so much to the world of art. To submit a nomination for future consideration, please scan the QR code:



Our Purposeful Connection to the Natural World

Kaki Scheer, director of outdoor education, and Lee Ann Bertsch, kindergarten teacher and Environmental Council chair, sat down to talk about how we make the natural world an essential part of the campus learning experience, how – because of our campus – we not only survived but thrived during the pandemic, and unveil one of the biggest things they learned this year.

"All of our teachers have been dedicated to incorporating the campus into the students' learning experience well before the Covid-19 pandemic hit or even before it was part of our strategic plan," said Scheer. "This commitment is deeply rooted in our history and culture. While many other schools have gone inside, we're still using the outside as our classroom."

All divisions, grades, and classrooms use the campus – from organized classroom activities like tagging monarch butterflies as part of the Monarch Watch program to playful opportunities, like sledding on Mt. Country Day in the winter months. Rain, snow, or shine, someone passing by campus any time of day will see students outside engaging with the world around them. ^



Lower School students created artwork to celebrate Earth Day.

Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, outdoor education is a special in kindergarten through 4th grade and we have expanded the middle school outdoor education curriculum to include 8th grade.

Through fiber art projects, visits with the animals, team-building activities, photography projects, and creative writing, the middle school curriculum is designed to connect the students to their campus and to each other.

"Not only do we use our 62-acre campus as a dynamic, living laboratory to provide creative opportunities for environmental education, but we also use it as a healing place, which has been especially important during this pandemic," continued Scheer.

Both Bertsch and Scheer agree that our outdoor space and animals have provided comfort and distraction during stressful times. Outdoor education gives the students what they have been missing during Covid – a chance to walk around outside with their peers, talk about their lives, experience nature, and unwind together.

"Being outside with one another provides some semblance of normalcy even though it might not seem normal to those outside of our school community," said Bertsch. "And because our campus is an expansive yet safe place, it also gives our students the chance to safely take risks. It's not just playing, it's everything."

Bertsch recently took her students outside where they reenacted the "Three Billy Goats Gruff" story in the woods. The kids walked across the bridge like goats and acted like trolls under the bridge, bringing the book to life. The kindergarten class also partakes in Farm Fridays, in which they eat snacks and hang out at the 7125 House. We added chickens last year, and new this year to our farm family is Lola the bunny and the mini ponies.

"One of the biggest things we learned this year is that we don't need a playset," joked Bertsch. "The kids are happy interacting with the animals, playing in the fields, exploring the woods, and running through the native flowers pollinator gardens. As a safety protocol during Covid, we do not allow multiple classrooms on the same playground in the primary level this year, and we've been fortunate that we have more than enough space for students to be outdoors."

In addition to the outdoor learning that occurs naturally on our campus, the school also erected tents enabling teachers to bring their lessons outdoors in a more focused space.

Our environmental commitment efforts, though, extend beyond our outdoor space and field trips to the 7125 House. Launched last year, the school now participates in a school-wide composting program. Added to that, the 4th grade leads a recycling program, collecting, emptying, and returning the bins across campus. And we would be remiss if we did not mention the Environmental Council, an endowed committee of faculty and staff stakeholders that promote environmental literacy and advocacy in our school community.



Our Environmental Council encouraged an all-school campus cleanup in honor of Earth Day. Teachers took their classes outside to walk the woods and fields and beautify our space.

"Our goal is to develop and lead curriculum innovations and programs based on deeper connections with nature," said Scheer. "This year has been an unusual one, and I am grateful for the countless health and wellness benefits we have been able to experience through environmental commitment. We use the campus for everything, which hasn't stopped since our founding. I don't imagine that will ever change. It's one of the magical things about Country Day."

Nearly 100 years ago, the founders of Cincinnati Country Day School were committed to outdoor education and the study of nature. Students devoted the afternoons to outdoor play, sports, or to study in the fields and woodlands. Today, an environmental commitment remains one of the key pillars of our strategic plan. The initiatives of this pillar center on teaching students and the community the importance of being knowledgeable about and acting in union with the environment.

And while the past year has certainly been one like no other, one thing that has remained the same is our vision to instill a culture of sustainability and purposeful connection to the natural world that empowers and inspires our students.



Minding the Minis

Although Lucia Murdoch '25 has only recently begun helping with the farm animals on campus, she has been around farm animals nearly her entire life.

"I have a picture of her sitting on a horse when she was nine months old and the rest is history," said Grace Murdoch, Lucia's grandmother. "When she was five years old, I got a mini pony on my ranch and she would ride it around. She has been taking riding lesson since she was eight years old. She has always been so comfortable around animals."

At the beginning of the school year, Lucia began working with the chickens and earned the responsibility and trust to then begin helping to take care of the minis.

"She did a consistent, thorough job right from the beginning, demonstrating compassion and responsibility with the chickens," said Kaki Scheer, director of outdoor education. "It was an easy yes when Lucia asked about taking care of the minis."

Throughout the school year, Lucia stops by two or three days a week after school to feed and groom the two mini ponies (Biscuit and Poppy) and mini donkey (Burrito) on campus. She also helps to muck the stalls and pick their hooves, which is all about precision and trust.

"Animals are my passion," said Lucia. "I have always really liked animals and horses. They're comforting to me. I like getting to know each animal's personality and taking care of them. Biscuit has become so much more confident during her time at Country Day. She used to not even let me get close to her. Now I can walk around with her without a lead, and she'll follow me. She's still sensitive but I really like that she trusts me now."

Recently, Lucia was accepted into the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's competitive ZooTeen program.

"She's been incredibly responsible and diligent with the animals on campus, the zoo is lucky to have Lucia participate in their program. She is a remarkable person," continued Scheer.



Biscuit – pictured here with Lucia – has become so much more confident during her time at CCDS.

Biscuit, Poppy, and Burrito have been on campus since spring 2020, when their owner Katie Heekin asked the school if it would like keep the minis here.

Students stop by every day with their advisory, for a class field trip, or just for a mental wellness break during a walk around campus.

"The minis are so happy here; they love the social aspect of having visitors throughout the day – they're herd animals and the herd can extend to people," said Scheer. "They walk over to the fence and nicker when kids come over. As much as the kids are excited to see them, they are always excited to see the kids."

Country Day Students Deepen Their Understanding of Our Country's History, Contribute to Civil Rights Museum

This year, we unveiled our inaugural civil rights museum, Bent Toward Justice.

In February 2021, the school began its all-school project entitled "Bent Toward Justice" – a phrase popularized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students in all grade levels spent weeks deepening their understanding of our country's path toward becoming a more perfect union, starting with the roots of West African slavery to the present-day state of racial relations. The project culminated with the school-wide, in-person, and digital civil rights museum, "Bent Toward Justice."

According to an article by Pooja Kantemneni '22 in the February 2021 online edition of school's student publication, *The Scroll*, Dr. Marygrace Tyrrell, who is a history teacher at the upper school and has spearheaded this school-wide collaborative effort, said that the objective of the museum is to "facilitate more discussions within our community about culture of our country, and about the culture of the school. We want to create a warm and welcoming environment, and the best way to do that is to educate people on how to understand different backgrounds."

The museum included exhibits from students in all divisions to "have students engage in the process of teaching others about their American history," continued Tyrrell.

Exhibits were broad in topic and presentation. Upper School geometry students created a mosaic of African American STEM leaders. A statistics class contributed a discussion of NFL player statistics and equity. To provide the beginning of the narrative, one middle school class's exhibit focuses on West African life and slavery. Second graders submitted some of their biography projects from their recent wax museum. Kindergarteners provided two interactive exhibits – one in which museum visitors are invited to share dreams for the future, and another in which museum visitors take a selfie with a friend as a celebration of similarities and differences.

"We cannot constructively address the issues of the present without knowing our past. It is exciting to see the school come together to bring the light of history into our lives," said Merle Black III, history teacher.

While the museum is a way to highlight and create a narrative thread of the work already embedded in established curriculum, projects were entirely the product of students' choices.

As her contribution to the museum, Kantemneni recreated a dress sewn by designer Ann Lowe. "Making this dress made me appreciate how much effort it takes to make something beautiful. Reading about Ann Lowe's journey gave me a better understanding of the discrimination she



Kindergarteners provided in exhibit that prompted visitors to take selfies with a friend as a celebration of similarities and differences.



faced – despite her talent. It wasn't easy to sew this dress – it's been a long time since I've sewn anything! – but I'm glad I did it, and I think it will be eye-opening to see how other students have explored our civil rights history in the Bent Toward Justice museum. ^

The in-person collection of the museum was displayed in the upper school, where Lower and Middle School faculty brought their students on field trips led by student docents and upper school students were welcome to take self-guided tours.

"The museum is not meant to be a comprehensive look at everything that has happened in American history," said Tyrrell. "Rather, the museum, as a form of public history, was created to meet the needs of our community and provide our students with an opportunity to have a greater role in understanding the summer of 2020. We have highlighted inequities, celebrated triumphs, and provided ideas on how to best move our own community forward towards freedom, equality, and justice. Providing students with a knowledge of the past – both good and bad – provides the foundation of progress in the future."

From the Perspective of a Polish Girl

by Laura Ann Rodzen



Laura's host family took her skiing at Snowshoe in West Virginia.

I am happy to tell you about the American high school experience from the perspective of Polish girl. I have dreamt about coming to the United States since I was a little child. When I found out about an opportunity for a high school exchange for the entire school year I was on cloud nine. From the very beginning, I knew this experience was going to be unique. It turned out to be even more so because of the Covid-19 global pandemic.

As August came, I packed all necessary things in two big suitcases and my parents and my best friend took me to the airport in Warsaw. It was hard for me to say goodbye, but I knew I really wanted to go.

Although my actual in-person high school experience started a little bit later than it was supposed to because of quarantine reasons, I immediately fell in love with Country Day.

There were a lot of things I had to adjust to, but one of the biggest was it was the first time I used a computer for taking notes or doing homework. For most of American teenagers, having a computer seems to be obvious, unlike for the Polish teenagers – we still use paper notebooks for every single class. What is more, most of the teachers in Poland write all the notes on a blackboard using a chalk or dictate the notes. The second nice thing was having a locker. In Poland all the students keep their textbooks in their backpacks the entire day – there is no place to leave them for even one break. It also surprised me to have a lunch at school. In all the Polish schools we don't get a lunch break. If somebody wants, he or she can bring a snack to eat during the 10-minutes break in between classes. When it comes to the classes themselves, I was surprised by having five or six classes each week, instead of 15-21 classes. In Poland, we don't get to choose the classes, so we spend the entire high school experience with the same group of people going through every single subject.

For these reasons, on top of being in a new country with a new language, I was shocked, excited, and somewhat lost in the beginning. But all the teachers and students around me were very helpful. They were always happy to show me where to go or explain anything in case I didn't understand the phrase or the word. Thanks to their kindness, I started to quickly feel a sense of belonging to the CCDS community.

As it was "my year," I wanted to try as many new things as possible. In the fall I decided to join the Investment Club and join our school newspaper *The Scroll*, and I got involved in the school show as a member of the building crew and as assistant stage manager. I knew that it might be a good idea to join a sport – I chose golf. As I have never played before, it seemed to be a good time to try. >

Before I knew it, winter had started and with it a few more possibilities. I was happy to participate in Model UN, and even successfully received a prize for the best position paper. I also got involved in cheerleading. Although I was a little bit sad that I didn't get to cheer during games, it still felt wonderful going to every practice. I definitely felt like I was in the movies that I used to watch as a little girl – there is nothing more American than experience than this.

January came faster than I expected, and it meant that half of my exchange was over. I didn't want to waste too much time being sad about it, so instead I planned on living up every single moment in the upcoming semester. I became more confident in terms of learning skills, as I finally had no barriers. Luckily with the vaccinations, we all got to the point where we could be still apart but a couple feet closer to each other. My host family was not so afraid to travel with me, so I got to see some other places. We went skiing at Snowshoe in West Virginia and we went to Universal in Orlando, Florida. In both places we had a wonderful time together.

By the time you read this, my exchange will be over and I'm already crying when I even think of leaving it all. This year was definitely unique for me – it positively affected me as a person; I became a more independent, responsible teenager. Not to mention that my language skills improved like never before. I know I will keep in touch with as many people as possible, but I will miss what used to be my daily life for 10 months. I wish Covid-19 never happened so I could eat 'more normal' lunches, have experienced homecoming or prom. But I wouldn't trade this experience for anything!



Reading – and Publishing! – Books Together

Every week beginning in January 2021, Country Day second grade students – the "ACORNs" – and middle school students – the "OAKs" – met to read books together.

"The books cover everything from self-awareness to awareness of others and awareness of our environment," said Tresonne Peters, second grade teacher. "We select books that focus is on how our character virtues are related to ourselves and others."

Recently, ACORN and OAK published a book of their own – "Black History is Our History." The book incorporates the second graders' research projects and perspectives from the middle school students. The older students explored themes and the younger student provided the biographies.



Every week beginning in January, second grade and middle school students met to read books together.





The second grade and middle school students published a book of their own – "Black History is Our History."

ACORN ("All Children's Out and Reach Network") and OAK ("Outreach and Knowledge") are not new concepts at Country Day. "Years and years ago, parents would come to school toward the end of the school day and we would have a collection of diversity-related books for the parents to select to read with the children," said Peters. "Because of Covid, this year was different but the goal is to incorporate the parents' involvement again."

For now, the students seem happy to simply enjoy reading books together, giving the older students a chance to lean into natural leadership roles and the younger students the chance to interact with their older peers.

"One thing we're noticing as a positive result of this program is the students' growing ability to open up and share their stories while also staying open to new concepts and perspectives," said Dan Wood, seventh grade teacher.

Peters and Wood created the ACORN and OAK program after the school reinstated SEED last summer. SEED ("Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity") is a national program through the National Association of Independent Schools.

Power of the Pen

The 2021 Power of the Pen State Tournament, hosted virtually by Otterbein University on Saturday, May 15, was the culminating event of the year for Ohio's 7th and 8th grade Power of the Pen writers. Students earn a spot in the state tournament with exceptional writing at the district and regional events. This year, Country Day proudly sent four 8th grade students to the state tournament: Brina Crellin, Abby Miller, Adelaide Morales, and Ashley Odom. Brina, Abby, and Adelaide have been members of the team since 7th grade, and each writer has earned a top 12 score in either a district or regional tournament this year. Ashley formally joined the team as an 8th grader; her commitment to her craft and her ability to earn a state qualifying score in her first year are impressive. At state, the 8th grade team placed 10th out of 168 teams!



Country Day sent four 8th grade students to the state tournament: (left to right) Abby Miller, Adelaide Morales, Brina Crellin, Ashley Odom.

The Show Must Go On *by Nick Rose, theater director*



Students working on the set of Comedy of Errors.

Even during socially distant times, Country Day found ways to creatively stay safe and in person. As a new theater teacher tasked with the possibility of putting on a production, I knew I must meet the level of creativity and dedication inspired by our administration to make a production happen. And so, *Comedy of Errors: The Web Series* came to be.

It was an idea which I am sure has been thought of by others around the world, but still novel all the same. To keep everyone safe, we individually filmed each actor then edited the recordings together to make it seem like they were acting together on the stage. It was a concept we were all very excited and nervous about. While I had some movie experience, there was much that I, or any of us, did not know about filming.

And so, we learned quickly as went. The crew, led by Evan DiTullio, quickly set to work on making everything run smoothly. I learned how to plan all the shots creatively so that it made sense where each actor was on stage when the final episode was edited. And the actors came ready to play and pretend they were interacting with others around them, when, in reality, they were simply standing there speaking to empty air.

And so, for one school year, instead of putting on a theatrical live production, Country Day learned how to produce a film. I am so proud of our students. Those behind the cameras were invaluable because they were there day after day, keeping the filming running smoothly. Those in front of the cameras were practicing a performance style they had never done before. We were in new territory as a theater department, and everyone shined in the process.

As I finish my first year here at Country Day, there is much I have fallen in love with as a new member of the community. But this production of *Comedy of Errors* and the dedication, hard work, and fun created by our students will always remain a cherished memory of the school for me.

We saw the challenge. We met the challenge. And the show went on.

A New Under the Sea Adventure! *by Lois Poe Rust, director & producer*

This year the 8th grade musical was a Disney classic – *The Little Mermaid Jr.*

The 8th grade musical began in 1988 when the middle school head, Mr. Schwab, desired to make something special for the 8th grade. He was quoted in *The Scroll* about the 8th grade musical, "It stretches them and gets them a little out of their comfort zone. The public speaking aspects of it are immense."

The musical has gone from performing on the MS Commons stage to opening the John Whitman Keeler Theater with "Annie" in 2001 performed by the class of 2005. Who would have thought that in 2021 the 34th 8th grade musical *The Little Mermaid Jr.* would be made into a streaming musical!

Life behind the scenes has been like something we have never experienced before. This year the Keeler Theater was turned into a filming studio where the lines and songs are filmed according to Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines.

Mr. DiTullio's 8th grade tech students took on the role of filming, sound and special effects. They are amazing and very conscientious. Mrs. Wietmarschen and Ms. Elmore taught the cast and ensemble the songs and recorded all the vocal tracks. Mr. Marin put together the art team that has helped make cardboard set pieces and created a school of awesome fish puppets. Some of these fish will be on display in the Madeira public library this summer.

Through this endeavor, Hirsch – our MS head and executive producer – has supported us and encouraged our many talents. I personally want to thank Mrs. Wietmarschen for being our editor and bringing sight and sound together. It has been my pleasure to work with the wonderful actresses, actors, artists, and tech students. We all have embraced some very sophisticated technology and have come to appreciate the importance of working as a team.



PHOTO (left to right): 1st Row - Nathan Hetzler, Anderson Brandenburg, Nik Shah, Alex Back, Shayon Choudhury 2nd Row - Addie Robillard , Kenzie Zimmers, Nickiah Walker, Adam Arebi 3rd Row - Jude Raterman, Ben Graff, Elijah Guttman, Nate Paumier

Scan here to catch *The Little Mermaid Jr.* streaming UNDER the SEA at Country Day!

Girls Soccer Dynasty in the Making



In fall 2020, the girls soccer team earned their third consecutive trip to the state championship finals at Mapfre Stadium in Columbus after having won the state championship in 2018 and 2019. It was the team's 4th trip in five years to the state finals. The team finished with a 17-1-4 record with the lone loss occurring in the state championship game.

The team, led by captains Jenna Setters and Sarah Zimmerman, set the bar high with a goal to return to state. Junior Jada Moorman led a balanced scoring attack with 29 goals and 10 assists while sophomore CJ Debra anchored the defense with 14 shut outs and only giving up 12 goals. In a true tribute to team play, 11 players scored or assisted on goals during the regular season.

During the season Theresa Hirschauer, head coach and middle school head, recorded her 400th career victory since she became the head coach in 1990. In 2019 she was recognized as State and National Coach of the Year. Coach Hirsch and the girls soccer program is helped by a group of talented assistant coaches: Brady Brandt, Brittany Woods, and Olivia Robinson.

Basketball: Strong on All Fronts

Girls

The girls varsity basketball team ended the regular season undefeated in the league, winning the MVC Scarlet Championship for the third year in a row. The 2020 team advanced to the regional finals – further than any girls basketball team had ever gone.

Boys

The boys basketball team had an outstanding season finishing with an overall record of 18-4. The team finished as MVC Gray Division Champs with a 9-0 MVC record. The last two seasons the teams have been led by an incredible senior class and an unselfish group of teammates who went 19-0 in league play.

Congratulations to our OHSAA division III baseball regional runner-up Nighthawks! They had an incredible season and we loved cheering them on!



(Photo courtesy of The Cincinnati Enquirer)

Theresa Hirschauer Inducted Into the SWOADA/OIAAA Hall of Fame

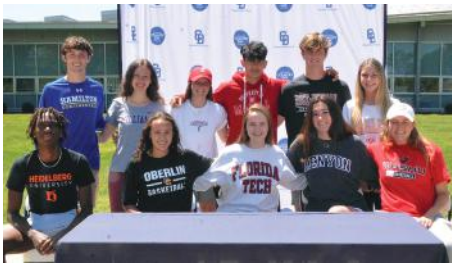
Each year, the Southwest Ohio Athletic Directors Association recognizes and honors individuals within the association for their dedication to the student/athletes, schools and communities they serve. This year, Theresa Hirschauer, who is not only middle school head but also coaches softball and soccer, was inducted into the SWOADA/OIAAA Hall of Fame for exceptional service in athletic administration.



Eleven Student – Athletes Commit To Collegiate Athletics

Signing Day is a great tradition at Cincinnati Country Day School and this year we recognized 11 student-athletes and their commitment to participate in athletics at the collegiate level.

"I'm not a fan of any one team but I am a fan of all of you," said Dennis Coyle, athletics director. "The rigorous academic expectation here at Country Day balanced with your dedication to your sport has prepared you to succeed at the next level. I know you will work hard, you will be successful, and you will be missed. The support you have from me, your coaches, and the school will be with you always. We know you will continue to be extraordinary on the field and in life."



Top row (left to right): Sam Pettengill (Indian Hill), Nora Brant (Amberley Village), Sophie O'Brien (Indian Hill), Reese Carlow (Mason), Michael Noack (Indian Hill), Jenna Setters (Liberty Township); bottom row (left to right): RT Adkins (Hartwell), Marley Cox (Amberley Village), Eliza Osborn (Loveland), Grace Ramirez (Indian Hill), Sabrina Delbello (Indian Hill)

RT Adkins:
Heidelberg University – Basketball
Nora Brant:
Williams – Squash
Reese Carlow:
McGill University – Soccer
Marley Cox:
Oberlin College – Basketball and Lacrosse
Sabrina DelBello:
Washington University St. Louis – Basketball
Michael Noack:
Rose Hulman Institute of Technology – Football
Sophie O'Brien:
University of Cincinnati – Lacrosse
Eliza Osborn:
Florida Institute of Technology – Rowing
Sam Pettengill:
Hamilton College – Golf
Grace Ramirez:
Kenyon College – Swimming



Grace Ramirez '21, Caroline Ramirez '24, Izzy Ramirez '24, and Mia Latimer '23 set a new school record in the 200-medley relay.

Swimming and Diving Strong at CCDS

On most days, the Leonard Family Athletic Center (LFAC) is buzzing with activity from early morning until late in the evening. During winter semester, a great deal of this is generated by Country Day swimmers perfecting their craft. Whether they are swimming for Country Day, the Cincinnati Aquatics Club, which is a USA competitive swim team that operates out of the LFAC, or both – they practice! And practice makes perfect.

During the OHSAA tournament competition, Mia Latimer '23, Grace Ramirez '21, Caroline Ramirez '24, and Izzy Ramirez '24 set a new school record in the 200-medley relay and finished in second place in the 400-free relay and overall at the 2021 southwest district meet, qualifying them for the state competition. (Scan the QR code below to see the story on the Ramirez sisters published earlier online). V

Senior Sam Pettengill '21 ended a stellar season, breaking the school record in three events. In his third consecutive trip to the state finals, he finished third in the 50 free. (Sam is a three-sport athlete, helping the team to the MVC golf championship while being named Player of the Year in the MVC for 2020 and recording three consecutive trips to the state championships for golf. In addition, Sam is poised to set a school record in the 800m race in track and qualify for the state meet (as of this writing).

Both the boys and girls teams turned in dominant performances at the MVC and sectional meets. The girls team won nine of 11 events. And at sectionals, CCDS qualified nine swimmers to districts in 11 individual events and four relays and diver Camille Huxol '22 qualified for state for the second consecutive year.

MVC League Champions:

- Girls 200 Yard Medley Relay
- Girls 200 Yard Freestyle Relay
- Girls 400 Yard Freestyle Relay
- Annie Gammon—200 Freestyle
- Mia Latimer—200 IM, 100 Freestyle
- Caroline Ramirez—100 Butterfly, 100 Backstroke
- Grace Ramirez—500 Freestyle

District qualifiers:

Girls

- Camille Huxol—1 Meter Diving (State qualifier), 200 Yard Medley Relay, 400 Yard Freestyle Relay
- Grace Ramirez—200 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle
- Caroline Ramirez—50 Freestyle, 100 Backstroke
- Mia Latimer—50 Freestyle, 100 Backstroke
- Annie Gammon—200 Freestyle
- Isabel Ramirez—100 Breaststroke (alternate qualifier)

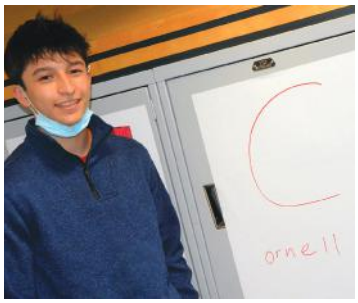
Boys

- 200 Yard Medley Relay
- 200 Yard Freestyle Relay
- Sam Pettengill—50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle
- Griffin McAndrew—100 Butterfly
- Reese Hettinger—200 Freestyle (qualifier), 100 Freestyle (alternate qualifier)
- Christopher Langenbahn—100 Backstroke (alternate qualifier)



Sam Pettengill '21 ended a stellar swim season, breaking the school record in three events.

Prepared for Success



Although his locker sign could lead you to believe otherwise, Melvin Van Cleave '21 might be on track to prove one of humanity's greatest theories one day. At least that is the goal.

"Ever since I was five years old, I have asked questions about the origination of the universe and have been frustrated that the answers aren't out there," explained Van Cleave. "It's why my ultimate goal is to discover the unified theory of everything. It's a good thing to chase."

This curiosity is what also drew him to Cornell University, where he was recently offered a full, four-year scholarship through the school's ROTC program.

"Cornell was my top choice, a reach school," said Van Cleave. He explained that he has been in love with the school ever since he saw a video about the university in which the theme of curiosity prevailed.

Van Cleave plans to study astrophysics at Cornell as an astronomy major with a concentration in astrophysics. He would like to get his PhD in astrophysics and become a cosmology researcher.

"I would be down with contributing to the government – working for the Space Force or the Air Force – but doing what I want in my field," said Van Cleave.

Melvin joined Cincinnati Country Day School in 8th grade after his family moved to Cincinnati from California. He feels the rigorous homework, assignments, and schedule prepared him to succeed at such a demanding and competitive university.

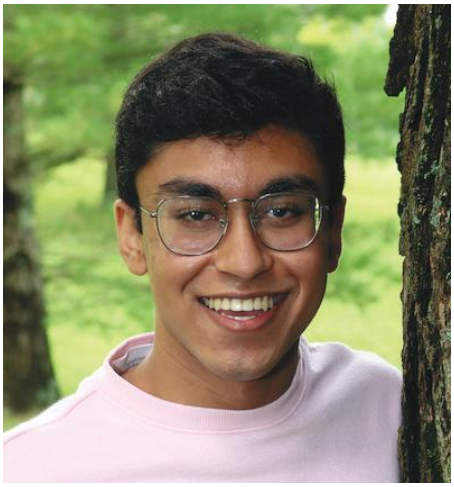
"Because Country Day is a college prep school, being a student here has prepared me to stay on top of my work and balance my schedule. The assignments…the workload is a lot. What my friends from other schools went through their junior year is what I went through as a freshman."

Although Melvin looks forward to being more independent in college and discovering the key to unlock the universe's secrets, he will carry Country Day with him forever. "I am going to miss the teachers the most. Mr. Faulhaber [math department chair] has been like a second dad to me. There are so many teachers who have made a difference in my life. I have genuine bonds with them, almost like friendships. It's been a great experience."

Senior Offered College-Sponsored Scholarship

Abhimanyu Jetty '21 recently accepted a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship® award: the National Merit Carleton College Scholarship.

"Abhi has a deep desire to use his talents for good, doing research in order to explain things to people—the effectiveness of a psychiatric drug on bipolar disorder, the economic fallout from a government policy," said Sarah Beyreis, director of college counseling and external opportunities. "This is a recognition that is well deserved and I am certain he will continue to accomplish great things during his time at Carleton and beyond."



Lila Weizer's Character And Academic Curiosity Leave Indelible Mark



Lila Weizer '21 was offered the National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship to apply to her pursuits at The University of Chicago. In addition to this college-sponsored, $2,000-per-year award, she was offered a university scholarship for $10,000 and was named a Pritzker Scholar through the university's Pritzker School of Medicine, which will provide her with $5,000 each summer for two summers to pursue research or independent projects.

During her tenure at Cincinnati Country Day School, she has won or shared the Class Scholar Award each year in upper school, which means she enrolled in the most difficult courses and earnest the highest GPA. She also won the Peter Levinson Award in 2020 as the junior who best embodies the spirit of the school.

"Lila has been the top student in every one of her classes – both academically and in character," said Chuck McGivern, associate director of college counseling and Upper School English teacher. "Lila has always been the scholar of her class; it's how she wired – one who learns quickly and wants to learn more. She gets straight As and scores high on every standardized test. But that's not what makes her stand out. It's her love for learning and the fact that she knows you can never learn enough."

Lila plans to double major in molecular engineering and computer science at the University of Chicago, and there is no doubt that her pursuit of knowledge and incredible character will continue to shine through.

Senior Named Among Some Of Our Nation's Most Academically Talented Students



In May the National Merit Scholarship Corporation released the names of the corporate-sponsored merit scholarship winners in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. One of only approximately 1,000 distinguished high school seniors from across the country who have received this award is Skandda Chandrasekar '21.

In the Country Day classroom, Skandda's powerful intellect is well-known: "He's driven and curious and he loves a good mystery," as his computer science teacher said. "He's a go-getter."

Chandrasekar's annually reoccurring $1,000 scholarship is sponsored by the TeleTech Community Foundation. Scholarship recipients can use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university of their choice. Chandrasekar plans to study computer science at Harvey Mudd College, in Claremont, CA. Harvey Mudd was recently ranked top by U.S. News and World Report for computer science at undergraduate institutions.

CCDS Senior Celie Hudson Recognized For Her Outstanding Community Service By The American Jewish Committee



The American Jewish Committee Cincinnati (AJC) announced that Celie Hudson '21 is one of five senior finalists for this year's Simon Lazarus, Jr., Human Relations Award for her commitment to performing acts of kindness through community service.

According to the AJC's website, "for 56 years…AJC has recognized with pride those outstanding high school students whose daily lives, activities, and behavior exemplify a concern for others and a desire to bring about betterment in their schools, in their communities, or in their personal lives." At school, Hudson holds many leadership positions as vice president of the student council, editor in chief of the literary magazine, and peer mentor to freshmen students.

"She has improved children's lives in our community and human relations in our school with her own hard work and empathy and her skills as a leader," said Sarah Beyreis, director of college counseling and external opportunities.

In the community, she has been a volunteer at Saturday Hoops, a basketball and academic enrichment program in downtown Cincinnati, for eight years, devoting most Saturday mornings to the program since she began volunteering in middle school. She has also recruited other students to volunteer with her.

Last spring, when Covid-19 temporarily shut down the program, Hudson worked with an adult organizer to create a seven-week summer camp in North Avondale. She worked at the camp all day, five days a week, for seven weeks, and said she relished the deeper relationships she formed with some of the kids from the Saturday program.

Hudson also solicited businesses for donations for the camp. On the last day of the camp, she gave a backpack to each camper, filled not only with supplies, but also with a personalized item (which each camper had wished for) and a hand-written note.

Additionally, she collected over 400 backpacks and filled them with toys and supplies she had collected. She then distributed the backpacks to people in need throughout parks and other spots around the city.

"I cannot think of any other student who responded so directly to the unusual needs that opened in the city this past year," continued Beyreis. "Celie did so out of love, and she still keeps up with her campers."

Molly Taylor '21 Awarded Clermont County Bar Assoc. Scholarship



Congratulations to Molly Taylor '21 who was awarded a $3,000 scholarship from the Clermont County Bar Association. The scholarship rewards a senior who resides in Clermont County for her or his outstanding scholarship and community engagement.

"Molly's energy and enthusiasm have brightened our hallways for four years—as a wonderful peer mentor to our freshmen, a cast member in our musicals, and a leader in our classrooms," said Sarah Beyreis, director of college counseling and external opportunities.

Taylor has not yet decided which institution she will matriculate to after graduation but has narrowed her selection to Ohio University or Saint Louis University.

"It is such a joy to teach Molly because she completely engages in the challenges and excitement of learning new things," said Amy Brand, upper school art teacher.

For all of the great academic, philanthropic, art and athletic news, visit www.CountryDay.net and follow us on social media.

Senior Offered Prestigious Scholarships, Must Make Tough Decisions



In early spring 2021, Mack was offered three prestigious, competitive scholarships from the University of Cincinnati: the Cincinnatus Presidential Scholarship, the Darwin T. Turner Scholarship and the Lindner Business Honors Scholarship. To be offered these scholarships is not only an incredible academic honor but is also a financial relief because the scholarships cover the full cost of tuition, room and board, and fees.

In addition to UC's scholarship package, he was offered The Ohio State University's Morrill Scholarship, which is the school's "premier diversity/merit scholarship program, rewarding academically talented students who are actively engaged in diversity-based leadership, service and social justice activities." Mack finds himself drawn to the program.

"I am passionate about strengthening myself as a leader and working in my community," said Mack. "This scholarship from OSU is focused on making a push for diversity and change – that makes it really attractive to me. From a social justice perspective, OSU is more attractive to me and could open new doors for what I really want to do and set me apart after college."

And what is not unique about this incredible success story? Each year, dozens of Country Day's seniors must make difficult decisions regarding where they will matriculate after graduation. With a 100% graduation rate and a 99% matriculation rate to colleges and universities around the country and beyond, Country Day students are frequently presented with myriad options.

To read Mason's complete story, scan the QR code:

Class of 2021























8th Grade Recognition Ceremony: Class of 2025





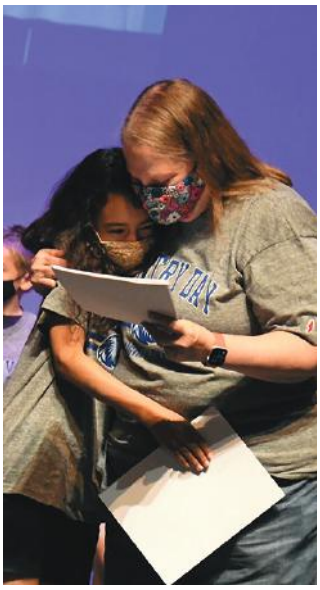






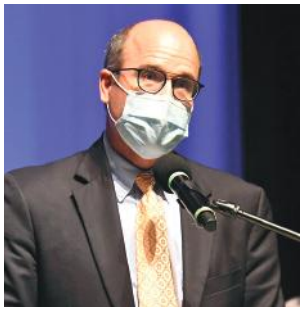
4th Grade Recognition Ceremony: Class of 2029













Faculty Spotlight



Lee Ann Bertsch and her kindergarten class.

Lower School: Lee Ann Bertsch

Lee Ann Bertsch always knew she wanted to be a teacher.

"My kindergarten and 2nd grade teachers were the best. That's when I knew I wanted to be a teacher; I was just obsessed with them. I thought they lived at school, and I thought that was so neat and wanted to emulate their lives. And some things come full circle because now some of my kids have asked me if I live here at school."

Lee Ann started as a lead teacher at the Early Childhood Center in 2005, then taught PreK1, PreK2, and now teaches kindergarten.

"There has not been one day that I haven't wanted to come in. I absolutely love my job. The second the kids start coming in and screaming my name – and I hear my name 800 times a day – it still brings a smile to my face," said Bertsch.

One of her favorite parts of kindergarten is the incorporation of project-based learning into the curriculum. "We can take a deep dive into a subject based on the children's interest. The children are leading and the teacher is following. We have the ability to have these really robust, hands-on lessons because we have the freedom to allow the children to follow their interests," explained Bertsch.

In conjunction with their outdoor education class, this year her students studied monarch butterflies. Instead of simply reading about them or watching videos, the children created costumes and "became" monarch butterflies in a classroom play. They also "pollinated" the campus in their costumes.

"Utilizing arts and crafts and the imagination is super important at this age level. I have the opportunity here at Country Day to show kids how be free and creative in the classroom, not just as an art special."

Bertsch also loves all the cross-divisional opportunities that being on one campus offers.

"My students went to the observatory on campus with Casey Schneiber [sixth grade science teacher]. They went to the Makerspace and made models of space with Jamie Back [upper school math teacher]. There are experts all around us at Country Day. Last year my kids did a podcast with Upper School students and AP history teacher Marygrace Tyrrell. And although we haven't been able to go on field trips this year because of Covid, it feels like we have with the animals and woods on campus, and exhibits like Bent Toward Justice. We're just so fortunate."

There is a lot she loves about being a teacher at Country Day, but she also does so much more for our school community than teaching. She is a team leader, ISACS co-chair, Environmental Council chair, Social Media lead for Lower School, resident beekeeper, and she helps with summer camp logistics.

She appreciates that when the kids leave the lower school she gets to see them on campus for years. She volunteers for the 5th grade ski trip and she attends high school graduation when she can. "It's a whole community – I know those kids, they know me, I know their parents. It's not something you find at any other school."

Middle School: Nico Rumboll

To say that Nico Rumboll adds a global perspective to the middle school is an understatement. Born in Cordoba, Argentina, he attended an International Baccalaureate high school in India, received his undergraduate degree in environmental science from Edinburgh University, and fell in love with and married someone from Kentucky.

Before working at Country Day, Nico taught geography in Buenos Aires. "My mom was a kindergarten teacher at an independent school and my dad was an environmental education teacher and the head of the national parks service school. My sister, who is also a teacher, convinced me to be a teacher and the rest is history," said Rumboll. "With both parents as educators, you can see yourself in that position and see what you can accomplish. I always thought teaching was an important job."

Currently, Nico teaches social studies at the middle school, and helps teach French. He also coaches swimming and tennis. The 2020-21 school year marked his fourth year at Country Day and the first year his son, Rollo, attended school at the Early Childhood Center.

"I love that Rollo is being educated at Country Day," said Rumboll. "I'm all in here. Sure, I would be more excited if this wasn't the year of Covid, but I'm hopeful we will get back to normal and do what we do best. At the same time, I'm excited because next year I'm teaching a new elective – global studies."



Nico and his colleague, neighbor, and friend Andrea Rogers.

In this newly-created course, sixth grade students will study global issues, such as resource consumption, global inequalities, development, literacy rates, life expectancies, and access to health care. They will work together to identify global and regional patterns and examine concepts such as globalization and trade.

And while Nico has taught in one of the best schools in Argentina, he said the culture and campus here at Country Day is so much healthier. "I love being part of the middle school team with people who take care of each other. I love my job, I love what I do, and I get to do my job in the middle of the woods with people who feel the same way. It feels like a family."

Rollo, Nico and his wife, Allison, live in Madisonville, within walking distance of colleagues Andrea Rogers and Julia Joyce, who he said took him in like an adopted son.

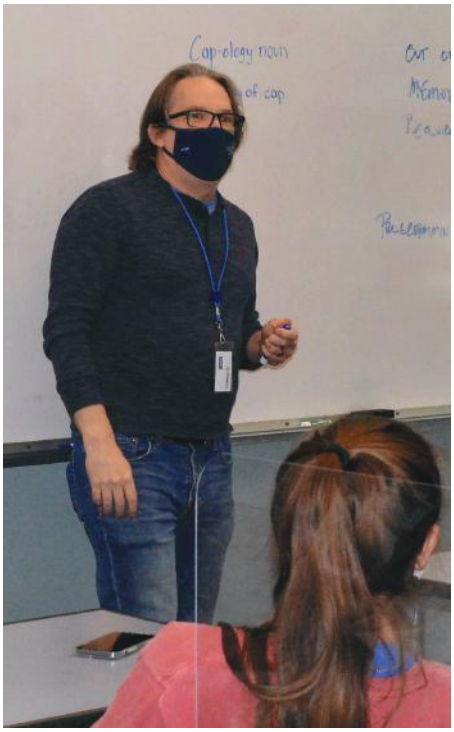
"People who work here tend to be happy; you can tell they enjoy their jobs. That's the ideal recipe – if the kids are excited to be in your classroom then you're doing something right."



Thank you for your years of service!

This year, we honored four retirees, who are retiring after a collective 79 years at Country Day! Ralph Javens (director of communications), Jane Kairet (upper school modern languages), Andrea Rogers (middle school SEL coordinator), and Connie Wagner (early childhood collaborative teacher) have been extraordinary co-workers, mentors, friends and leaders in our school and in our community. We are grateful for the time and talent they have shared with all of us, contributing to the happiness and success of our students.

Upper School: Nick Rose



Nick engages his drama II class, with interactive activities, conversation, and laughter.

Nick Rose was hired in August 2021 as Country Day's theater director three days before the first day of a very unusual school year.

"The first two classes I taught at Country Day were drama I and voice and speaking. My first drama class had 21 students, eight of which were remote. Everyone in class was masks and socially distanced. Needless to say, as a new Country Day teacher I quickly ramped up and was grateful for my experience as an actor, which has made me more comfortable at pivoting the fly."

Rose has extensive experience as an actor. As co-founder of the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, he has had the opportunity to embody many of theater's most difficult and rewarding characters. He performed in *A Christmas Carol* for 11 years at Playhouse in the Park and has done some film work. He attended James Madison University for theater and is currently working toward his master's degree at Xavier University.

"Going into theater was a natural progression for me. I always played make-believe as a kid and in theater I got to play make-believe in front of other people."

Nick previously served as a long-term substitute teacher at a local public school, which is where he found his calling as a teacher.

"I always wanted to be a teacher. After 25 years of acting – and now that I'm a father – I felt like the timing was perfect for me to embrace this next chapter of my life," said Rose. "If I can help create the next generation of critical thinkers, then I have made a positive impact and I can feel good about that."

As theater director, Rose led the charges for *Comedy of Errors* – Shakespeare's "shortest, funniest and sitcomiest comedy." Broken down into episodes, executing the web series was quite a feat. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, student performances were shot one person at a time and then scenes were edited together.

But Rose embraced the challenge. "Some of my best memories are when something unexpected happens, which has helped me as a teacher and theater director because you have to think on your feet."

And while Nick says he loves "pretty much everything" about Country Day, he said the reason why he is teaching is the kids. "They're awesome. Most of the kids in my classes are there to fulfill an elective credit. But theater happens everywhere. I can reach the student who needs the arts elective and the actor who wants to make a career of it. There are a couple of seniors I've known only briefly but I will miss them dearly when they graduate."

The feeling it mutual. Overheard by one student in a drama II elective class, "What makes this class so great is you, Mr. Rose. You're the reason why we all love it."

Scan here to watch *Comedy of Errors*!

Paying it Forward

Greg Hague '66 said that attending Cincinnati Country Day School was a pivotal point his life.

"The single biggest transition in my life was when I made the move from public school to Country Day," said Hague. "I had no idea that an education like Country Day's existed. It set me on a better path and gave me an entirely different life perspective."



But it was not an easy transition in many ways. "My first year going from public school to Country Day was VERY tough – it was like going from high school to college overnight. By my second year I was in sync; my grades were OK but nothing to write home about, but I made it through."

Added to that, Country Day was an all-boys school at the time. There were about 30 boys in his graduating class. All students had to wear coats and ties every day.

After graduating from Country Day, he attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and graduated cum laude. He then went to American University Washington College of Law and is still a licensed attorney in Ohio, even though he now resides in Arizona. In 2009, he took the Arizona bar exam – at 60 years old – and received the top score in the state.

"It was quite an honor, but it goes back to the study and work ethic that I was taught at Country Day."

In 2018, Hague developed 72SOLD.com, a program that enables homeowners to sell in 72 hours at full market value, avoid the inconvenience of daily showings, and even stay in their home for up to six months after closing. The program has been wildly successful and in May 2021, Greg launched 72SOLD in the Cincinnati market, as the 29th national market for the program. Within the first week, more than 100 sellers responded. "It's an alternative to the traditional model of selling our homes, offering convenience, certainty, and full market value, something that really resonates with sellers."

Greg's wife, Teresa, is his partner in the business. He has three sons – Corey, Casey, and Brian – and Brian also works at 72SOLD along with Greg's nephew, Jason Fields, "who is like a son to me."

Greg says he gives back – and will continue to give back – to Country Day to pay it forward.

"When I think about the difference Country Day made in my life and how now I can make a difference in someone else's life, how do I not give back?"

He also credits his dad, Harold Hague (nickname "Chubby"), as being instrumental in his life's path and success.

"You have to look back in your life at some of the things that made a difference for you. Everyone does," continues Hague. "My dad certainly is one of those – he grew up poor, raised by a single mom after his dad died in the war. My dad was a fighter pilot instructor and through hard work he built a highly successful real estate business in Cincinnati. Because of him the Country Day door opened for me. Because of Country Day I got a great foundational education."

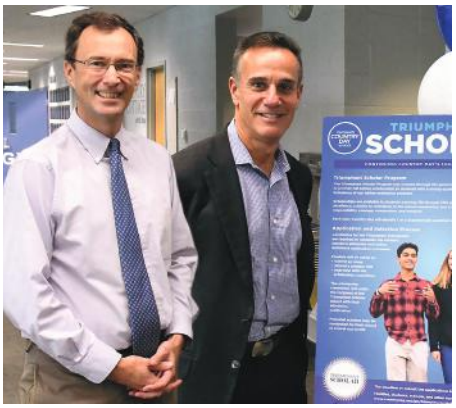
And now that 72SOLD is operating in Cincinnati, Greg hopes to return for a visit sooner than later.

"When I do make it back to Cincinnati, I will visit Country Day, Montgomery Inn, and Graeter's – in that order."

Alumni Awards 2021

Head of School Tony Jaccaci presented our most prestigious alumni awards remotely this year due to the pandemic. You can view the presentations at www.CountryDay.net/go/AlumniAwards.

Roger B. Kafker '80 – Making the World Better for Others



Head of School Tony Jaccaci and Roger Kafker '80, a lead donor for the Triumphant Scholarship.

Every year, the CCDS Alumni Council selects an alumnus to be honored in recognition of her/his extraordinary contribution to her/his alma mater, the community and the person's professional. In presenting the award, Tony Jaccaci, head of school, said, "I have the privilege of meeting some remarkable graduates and I'm doubly appreciative of moments like these that celebrate individuals who use their gifts to make the world better for others. Roger Kafker is on a par of his own."

Roger has made his mark as a financier in the world of private equity, spotting opportunities to invest in growing businesses and giving entrepreneurs a chance to succeed. He has also managed to apply these same principles to education. He understands the transformative power of great teaching and learning and has spearheaded an effort



Jody Brant '87, Lisa Pettengill '85, and Chip Pettengill '79 take some time to celebrate Roger.

by Country Day through the Triumphant Scholarship program, providing full scholarships to students who otherwise would not be able to afford a CCDS education. He did this by providing the initial seven-figure gift – the largest gift ever made to the school for tuition aid – while challenging and encouraging the community to make matching gifts.

Kafker, a managing director at TA Associates, an international venture capital and equity investments firm, was motivated to give back to his alma mater because of the benefits he received from his Country Day education. "I have seen, time and time again through my career, the importance of a great education. It sets you apart. I'm grateful for all that I learned at Country Day, in the classroom and in the relationships I built – and treasure to this day – across a diverse student body."

He is also a co-founder of the Down Syndrome Research and Treatment Foundation (now LuMind Foundation), which has funded over $10 million of scientific research to benefit the Down Syndrome community over the past decade. The operational foundation leverages private funding for Down Syndrome research and was recently awarded $2 million in grants from a Brazilian foundation and a European pharmaceutical company.

Country Day is proud and honored to present Roger B. Kafker '80 with the 2021 Distinguished Alumnus Award. "There's no greater gift than the gift of education," Jaccaci said. "Roger's contribution will be life-changing for students without the resources to access such an incredible education that can genuinely propel them to reach their fullest potential in college and life. I am so grateful to Roger for his support – he truly embraces our school's motto 'Virtue in Action'."

Hap Castleberry '50 – Exemplifies Virtue in Action

The Virtue in Action Award (previously known as "The Chieftain Award") recognizes a member of those alumni classes celebrating their 50th reunion year or beyond for their dedication, attitude and motivation expressed through their service to the community. This alumnus exemplifies our motto – virtue in action.

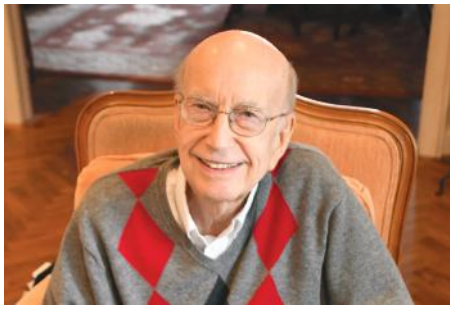
Hap Castleberry '50 is the very embodiment of an unrelenting spirit, which has been essential to his success. In presenting the award to Castleberry, Jaccaci said, "Hap has led an exceedingly fruitful life – one that's not only accomplished, but – even more importantly – one that's enriched the lives of countless others."

Hap has generously supported many causes from and has been a long-time donor to Country Day. He made a lead gift to the Gordon R. Wright Tennis Complex and established the Edward F. and Susan B. Castleberry Scholarship Fund in support of the Triumphant Scholarship program.

In 2018, Hap was inducted into the Greater Cincinnati Business Hall of Fame. A life-long businessman/entrepreneur, he started his career at his family's Cedar Hill Farms after college. When the family sold the dairy business, he used the skills he had learned to become successful in other businesses and real estate ventures.



Hap Castleberry '50 enjoys a reunion with some former classmates.



"I feel an obligation to support Cincinnati Country Day," said Castleberry. "They taught me, trained me, and set me up for college and my life, with friends I made there." Hap also supports other private schools in the Cincinnati area. "I want to give the opportunity I had to other kids. I think there are so many people who need it."

The nickname "Hap" was bestowed upon him by his mother for being an incredibly happy baby. Hap figured out early that the key to success was happiness. Jaccaci closed the presentation by saying, "It appears a day hasn't gone by that you haven't lived up to the nickname your mother wisely bestowed upon you. On behalf of an extremely grateful Country Day community, it is an honor to present you with an award that recognizes a person who exemplifies the school's motto virtue in action. I cannot think of a man who better embodies this core belief than you."

News Notes Summer 2021

1976

Jeffrey Harrison

A new poem by Jeff Harrison:

THE LITTLE BOOK OF CHEERFUL THOUGHTS

Small enough to fit
in your shirt pocket
so you could take it out
in a moment of distress
to ingest a happy
maxim or just stare
a while at its orange
and yellow cover
(so cheerful in itself
you need go no further),
this little booklet
wouldn't stop a bullet
aimed at your heart

and seems a flimsy
shield against despair,
whatever its contents.
But there it is
by the cash register,
so I pick it up
as I wait in line and
come to a sentence
saying there are few
things that can't be
cured by a hot bath
above the name
Sylvia Plath.

I rest my case,
placing the booklet
back by its petite
companions *Sweet Nothings*
and *Simple Wisdom*...
but not *The Book of Sorrows*,
a multivolume set
like the old Britannica
that each of us receives
in installments
of unpredictable
heft and frequency
over a lifetime.

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1960

Steven Schwartz writes:

"Not sure how many of us are left, but my best wishes to all my 1960 classmates. As for me, I now live on Whidbey Island off the coast of Washington and am still very active as a Distinguished Consulting Faculty of Saybrook University, a BIAL fellow, columnist for the journal Explore, and editor of the daily web publication *Schwartzreport.net*. Since writing my last non-fiction book, *The 8 Laws of Change*, winner of the 2016 Nautilus Book Award for Social Change, I have started writing novels and have published three: *Awakening – A Novel of Aliens and Consciousness* (2017, winner of the Book Excellence Award for Literary Excellence), *The Vision – A Novel of Time and Consciousness* (2018), and this year *The Amish Girl – A Novel of Death and Consciousness*."

1980

Lisa (Rose) Collins

Lisa (Rose) and Joel Collins celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in Angelfire, New Mexico. "July 29, 2019 we renewed our 35th wedding vows after riding up into the mountains on horseback in the Kit Carson National Forest. We also spent several weeks helping out at a horse ranch of a friend before returning to our new home in Scottsdale, Arizona. Life is a journey, not a destination and we're loving it!"

1981

Dr. Marcus "Chris" Griffith

Dr. Marcus "Chris" Griffith specializes in psychiatry and obesity medicine. He is Diplomat of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the American Board of Obesity Medicine. Dr. Griffith is employed by the Southeastern Permanente Medical Group in Atlanta, Georgia and is a clinical assistant professor at both Morehouse and Emory University Schools of Medicine.



In addition to giving back to CCDS, he engages with local high schools in Atlanta through his non-profit, Purpose. "Purpose is a program designed to engage minority students in health professions by giving them mentors and internship opportunities in healthcare, opening doors to careers in the field they may have never known existed."

1985

Warren Thune

Warren Thune moved to Charlotte last summer to be the CEO of a global sports and gaming information business. "Everything was going great until pandemic, but we will be an important component of the business of sports bouncing back. Great to see such a great turnout from the virtual Class of '85!"

Susan Miller

After graduating from Smith College with a degree in elementary education, Susan Miller returned to Cincinnati to begin her teaching career and get her master's degree from Miami University. "After being in the classroom for several years, I found myself helping Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy start a school in downtown Cincinnati to serve under-resourced families where I served as the principal for 11 years. That led me to a position in Charleston, SC in 2011 where I helped start two schools with the premise that a child's zip code should not determine their educational opportunities. I have since relocated to Wilmington, Delaware where I am currently the Head of Lower School at Tower Hill. I am an adoptive mom of a 14-year-old daughter – the best decision I have ever made!"

Laura Titus Tang:

"Since 1985 I've been a teacher and a writer, and now I am teaching writing. I've lived on two sides of the globe with my bi-cultural family and, I am forever grateful for the comprehensive and insightful education CCDS gave me."

Mimi Orr Manzler (married to Scott Manzler '84):

"I'm a retired English teacher these days and spend my time volunteering at a couple of animal shelters and also at the Shedd Aquarium. The pandemic has put a serious damper on those activities but hoping to get back to them soon. We're in Chicago in the city, so if you are in town, give us a shout!"

1989

Michael Hill

Michael Hill joined Major League Baseball's operation department overseeing umpires and on-field discipline. He spent the past 19 seasons with the Florida Marlins and the last six as president of baseball operations. v



1991

Kathy McCue:

"We moved to New Zealand and I will be working in a small hospital ER in Thames on the Coromandel Peninsula. Looking forward to life balance and kind people here. So far, so good!" v



1996

Ellie Off Pomeroy

Welcome Carlisle ("Cubby") Off Pomeroy, born on February 6, 2020. Arriving just shy of 35 weeks, Cubby spent a little time in the NICU before heading home. "So far, he continues to amaze us with his cuteness and ability to grow stronger every day. Our hearts are exploding with love and smiles." >



Ben Sommers

In January, Dr. Benjamin Sommers was appointed by President Biden as Deputy Assistant Secretary for health policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Before that, he was a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health. Ben has received numerous awards including the Health Services Research Impact Award and the Article-of-the Year Award from AcademyHealth, and he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2019. Ben found his niche for public policy during his time at Country Day. "I remember being fascinated by Doc [Nancy] Fogelson's class on U.S. history...She taught us not only how to think about public policy, but also how to write about policy." v



1997

Hema Magge

Hema Magge credits Cincinnati Country Day School for igniting her "curiosity in the world." After recently returning to the United States to Seattle, Washington, Hema's goal is to make a meaningful difference in all corners of the globe.



"We spent the last 10 years learning and immersing in global health and equity, working with NGOs in Africa, five years in Rwanda and then four years in Ethiopia." Hema recently started her new position as the senior program officer for Newborn Health at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, where she leads the foundation's strategy to improving the survival and wellbeing of vulnerable newborns globally.

Emily G. Miller, DVM:

"I graduated from CCDS in 1997 and moved back to Cincinnati in 2012. Thought I would pass along a recent little article about what I have been up to. I actually get to see a lot of my classmates who live in the area because they bring their pets to see me!" v

2002

Palmer FitzHugh Dooley

Eric and Palmer Dooley welcomed their first son, William Liam Dooley, on July 18, 2019. He weighed 6 lb 7 oz and was 18.5 in long. They are very in love with their new bundle of joy and are adjusting slowly but surely to the lack of sleep!

2004

Gunnar and Anne (Oblinger) Pohlman:

Gunnar and Anne (Oblinger) Pohlman welcomed Louis Frederick Pohlman on January 16, 2021. Louis joins proud big sister Darby! v



2005

Ceridwen Hall

She is now a poet and educator, and leads poetry writing classes and one-on-one poetry coaching. She holds two degrees in creative writing: an MFA from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and a PhD from the University of Utah, where she received the Clarence Snow Fellowship and the Levis Prize in Poetry. She recently published a poetry book, Automotive, which explores how cars and roads shape our thoughts and identities. The poems collected here form a memoir in errands and accidents, ordinary commutes, and cross-country road trips. v

2006

Johanna Byer Adcock

Bowes Arnold Adcock was born on March 26, 2021 – a 7lbs 4oz. healthy and happy baby boy. v



John Bahl

John Bahl and wife Kelsey welcomed with joy a baby girl, Margot Bahl, on January 3, 2020. Margot weighed 6lbs 2oz and measured 18.5 inches long. She joined proud big brother, Johnny. >

John Graves

John Graves fell just short in Lucerne, Switzerland for the Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, after placing first in the men's single rowing time trials in Sarasota, Florida on February 26. John was a three-sport athlete during his time at Cincinnati Country Day School. "I loved rowing, but it was not my passion in high school…Soccer was my sport back then, but I loved the energy of the Friday night basketball games and watching Coach Brownstein get fired up and Coach Ross's enthusiasm." After Country Day, John attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut where both his brothers, Tom '01 and Peter '03, attended. "I played soccer at Trinity, but ultimately found my passion for rowing there." v



2007



Julia Wilson:

Julia Wilson and her husband, John O'Reilly, welcomed their first child, Athena Molly Wilson-O'Reilly, into the world in January. All are doing well and looking forward to watching Athena grow! ^



In Memoriam

Joan Comisar

Joan Hempel Comisar passed away on April 30, 2021 in Cincinnati from natural causes at 90 years old. Joan was married to the late N. Lee Comisar and was also preceded in death by her granddaughter, Makena "Kenzie" Comisar, as well as her parents, Eugene and Mildred (Mimi) Hempel and her dear sister, Jean Kerr. Joan was a loving and devoted mother to Michael E. Comisar '68, Marc A. '71 (Paula) Comisar, and Vallie C. (Rodney '71) Geier. Adored grandmother, "Nonie," to seven grandchildren, Jason (Jackie) Comisar, Margaux (Mark) Higgins, Max (Angela) Comisar, Alex Comisar, Natalie '01 (Matt '01) Geier Cohen, Emily '03 (Alex '01) Vollmer, Vallie '05 (David '05) Tapke and 14 great-grandchildren, (Lily, Carter, and Mira Comisar, Wyatt and Kendall Higgins, Charlie Comisar, Glady, Phelps, and Pfeiffer Cohen, Makena and Reese Vollmer, Olivia, Blaire, and Bowen Tapke). She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Jeanne Hannan

Jeanne M. Hannan, born in Boston, MA, on Oct. 19, 1932, died peacefully surrounded by her loving family. Married to the love of her life, Richard Hannan, for 67 years. Mother of Hollie Hannan '83 and Lauren Hannan Shafer '84. Nana to Isabelle Hannan Hudson '15, Sophie H. Hudson '17, Celie Marie Hudson '21 and mother-in-law of Thomas Shafer.

Bishop Harry R. Jackson, Jr.'71

Harry R. Jackson Jr. '71 died on November 9, 2020 at the age of 67. Bishop Harry Jackson was a leader and man of faith. "H Bear" was a scholar, talented athlete, and good friend. After a stellar athletic career at CCDS, he starred in football at Williams College and had a tryout with the New England Patriots after graduation. From his prominent position as a bishop in the DC area, he promoted judicial sentence reform and prison reform. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. He and another student, classmate Reggie Garrett, were the first two matriculated black students to graduate from CCDS after entering as new students in 1965 in the seventh grade at CCDS. Harry is dearly missed by his friends and classmates. (Memorial courtesy of Rodney Geier '71.)

Delle Jones

Delle Christensen Jones, of Cincinnati, Ohio, died peacefully at the age of 71 on July 21, 2020 after a long battle with cancer. Delle is survived by her husband of 23 years, Edmund Weber Jones, MD, her twin daughters, Dede Persson (Jens) and Sarah Zamary (George), stepsons Weber Jones and Will Jones (Julie), grandchildren Erik and Logan Persson, Sally '27 and Delle '29 Zamary, and Liam and Lizby Jones, sisters Sally Reynolds (Bill) and Lucy Davis (Ted Safrin). She was preceded in death by her parents, Sally and Paul Christensen, Jr. Delle started a sparkling business 40 years ago that delivers smiles and happiness. She served as a board member for both The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and The Camargo Club. She was active in many additional organizations over the course of her life, including Babies' Milk Fund, Civic Garden Center, Junior League, Children's Theater, Special Olympics, Cincinnati Town & Country Garden Club, among others.

Anne Ingalls Lawrence

Anne Ingalls Lawrence, commonly known as Pants, passed away peacefully on May 2, 2021, surrounded by family and her wonderful health care providers. She is survived by her sons, Bobby L. Lawrence '70, Perry Lawrence, daughter Anne L. MacKenzie; daughters in law; Sue G. Lawrence, Katie W. Lawrence and Sheila A Lawrence as well as 15 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren; Deceased family members; John T Lawrence Jr., husband, John T Lawrence III '69 (son), Louise H. Lawrence-Daughter and Liam R. MacKenzie (great grandson).

Doris Mackelfresh

Doris, the loving wife of Tom Mackelfresh '47, died on December 12, 2020. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, her daughter, Leslie, her son, Tim, and two grandchildren.

John Cromer Mashburn Jr. '52

John Cromer Mashburn, Jr. died on June 24, 2020 at his home in Indian Hill, surrounded by family. Born in Cincinnati in 1932, he was the son of Marion Franklin Mashburn and John Cromer Mashburn, Sr. He was educated at Cincinnati Country Day School, the University of Cincinnati, and held a certificate from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He spent most of his business career in various positions in the Cincinnati Coca-Cola Bottling Corporation, a family-owned business with plants in Cleveland, Springfield, and Cincinnati, Ohio with branches in 26 counties in three states. Subsequently, he was elected president and CEO and chairman of the board. Cromer is survived by his wife of 59 years, Bonnie (nee Good), daughter Patti (Rob) Zesch, and grandchildren, Chelsea Zesch and Carlton (Libby) Zesch and his late sister, Meanne Mashburn. The family would also like to thank his loyal caregivers, Ileana Romero and Marianne Holmbraker, and his trusted secretary of 40 years, Elaine Cox.

Pierce Matthews, Jr. '42

Pierce passed away on October 18, 2020. He was born June 1, 1923 in Cincinnati the son of Dr. Albert Pierce and Marie Carolyn (nee Sorin) Matthews. He was a graduate of Cincinnati Country Day School and a member Sigma Chi while attending the University of Cincinnati, until being drafted into the U.S. Army on July 17, 1943. While in the service he was assigned to the 21st Weather Squadron of the Army Air Corps serving under General Patton during WWII. He was discharged December 10, 1945 as a corporal in Indiantown Gap, PA. On June 28,1947 he married Ann-Patton ("Pat") Biddle Matthews. Pierce loved electronics and as a child he built many radios and was naturally drawn to electronics. Over the years Pierce owned and operated Matthews Electric, was employed at Ilsco and Porter Electronics, and retired from NuTone, Inc. He was a member of the Terrace Park Volunteer Fire Department for 42 years. Pierce was a member of two fire buffs associations, Box 13 in Cincinnati and Box 15 in Los Angeles, and volunteered with the Red Cross Disaster Services for over 20 years. His wife Pat preceded him in death on September 24, 2003, as did their son, A.P. ("Matt") Matthews III on June 15, 1998. He is survived by his daughter Mary-Morse ("Mimi") Matthews as well as nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Mary McPhie

Mary Ella Mendenhall McPhie passed away on October 9, 2020, surrounded by her husband, children, and sister after a courageous, 11-year battle with Parkinson's disease. She is survived by her younger sister Madelaine Mendenhall. Mary is a graduate of Wyoming High School '62 and the University of Cincinnati '67. Mary was married to Gus McPhie for 52 years and raised their four children: Christi '89 (Bill), Michael '90 (Jennifer), Molly '94, and Brian '00 (Megan). She leaves behind six grandchildren (Andrew, Nathan, Gabriel, Maria, Rowan, and Jordan) and many treasured nieces and nephews.

James Mixter '69
James Murchie Eaton Mixter Jr., 70, of Oakton, VA, died peacefully on Friday, April 30, 2021 at his home. Jim was born in 1951 in Cincinnati, the son of James and Phebe Mixter. He attended Cincinnati Country Day School, graduated cum laude from Amherst College, and received his MBA from the Darden School of Business Administration in 1975. Jim retired from the ExxonMobil Corporation in 2009 after 35 years in fuels marketing, planning, and supply both domestic and international. At Amherst, Jim discovered the joys of choral singing and in later years traveled the world with the Mastersingers, USA, an alumni group led by his college director. He sang with the National Cathedral Choral Society in Washington, DC for over 20 years and served on its board of trustees. Jim is survived by his wife of almost 47 years, Lolly, his three children, Chris Mixter (Bronwyn), Allison Forseter (Dan) and Caitlin Mixter; and his four grandchildren, Owen, Natalie, Finley and Dagny.

Douglas Maundrell '66
Doug was born on November 24, 1947 to Edward and Mirian Maundrell. He attended Cincinnati Country Day School. Always a big man, he was known as "Tiny" and for his jovial nature. He was the 275-pound leader of the offensive line on their undefeated football team, earned an Iron Man Award, and was elected All-City Center. He also participated in shotput in track and was a manager of the basketball team. Doug was also editor-in-chief for the school newspaper, secretary of his class, a member of the Delta Beta fraternity, and conversant in French. He attended the University of Cincinnati, majoring in English literature and history and earning a bachelor's degree in September 1970. Doug joined the Cincinnati Police Division on July 1, 1973 as a Police Recruit. Specialist Maundrell retired on February 19, 2000, with 26 years of service and 41 letters of appreciation and/or commendation. He was predeceased by his brother, Michael Maundrell '65 in 2018. Specialist Maundrell is survived by his wife, Helen Magers; stepson, Bryan (Noel) Kidd; granddaughters, Colleen and Erin; siblings, Patrick (Molly) Maundrell, Debbie (Ken) Dorsey, and Lori Eberle; sister-in-law, Gail Maundrell; and stepmother, Eulene Maundrell.

Lisa Pease
Elizabeth "Lisa" Devin Pease passed away peacefully in her home on September 16, 2020. She is survived by her husband, David '77 Pease III, her children David Pease IV '08, Fletcher Pease '10, Henry Pease '12, Elizabeth Pease '17, and her two brothers, David Brain and Michael Brain. Lisa was born on August 22, 1959 in Cincinnati to the late Devin and Helen Brain. Before devoting her time to raise her children, Lisa was a practicing attorney at Dinsmore and Shohl in Cincinnati. She was known for her keen intellect, strong faith, and boundless love for her friends and family.

Lynn B. Schiff
Beloved wife of 57 years to John J. Schiff Jr., loving mother of John J. Schiff III, Marguerite (Karl) Gieseke and Charles (Christine) Schiff, dear grandmother of Carl "CJ", Phoebe, Charlotte, Anna (Nathan), Mary, Lillian, James, Henry, Rosie, Jack, William '24 and great-grandmother of Virginia, dear sister of Craig Bernius, dear aunt of Jeffrey and Richard Bernius, David and Matthew Rheingold, Lauren Fernandez, Sally Park, Julia Schiff. Lynn passed away on October 27, 2020 at the age 77.

Norris D. Settles
Country Day parent of alumni Norris D. Settles died February 15, 2021, at the age of 61. He is survived by his wife Carita and son Robert '12.

Richard O. Schwab '67
Beloved middle school head from 1986-2006. He is survived by sons Oliver '91(Ana) and Forrest. (*Please see the article on page 10 for the details of Dick's many contributions to the Country Day community.*)

William C. Simon
William C. Simon, age 74 of Bridgeport, beloved husband of Janet Lloyd Simon, passed away suddenly November 15, 2020, in his home. Bill was a beloved Country Day Upper School English teacher and Middle School football coach.

Jeremy Simpson '51
Jeremy "Jerry" F. Simpson '51, passed away on December 22, 2020, at the age of 88. Jerry was born in Cincinnati to Lowe and Mildred Simpson. After his mother's passing at an early age, he grew up with his father, his Uncle Ted, and Aunt Lu and his two cousins, Trez Folger and Lucy Folger Lawson. At age 25, Jerry began his tenure as CEO of the local company - Rotex. He was a 4th generation of Simpsons to run the company that he spent over 40 years of his life growing and improving. He was stalwart for countless charitable causes in the Greater Cincinnati area and his legacy will live on through his family, friends, and the many endeavors he generously supported. His passion for making meaningful connections with and among his family and friends was unwavering. Jerry will be forever remembered for his thoughtful acts, stimulating conversations, sense of humor and affinity for the vibrancy of Greater Cincinnati.

Paul Sittenfeld
A friend of Cincinnati Country Day School, Paul died on March 17, 2021 shortly before his 74th birthday. He was well known in Cincinnati as an investment advisor and philanthropist serving on many boards involved in the arts, social justice, and education. He will be missed by all that knew and loved him.

Alexander A. Weech Jr. '51
Alex was born Sept. 21, 1933, in New York City, and grew up in Cincinnati. He died on January 11, 2021, at home in Bradenton, FL, following a general decline and a decision to stop eating and drinking. Alex graduated from Cincinnati Country Day School, where he was active in tennis, basketball, and glee club. At Princeton he majored in philosophy. After graduation he went to Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons and subsequently trained in psychiatry and psychoanalysis, which he practiced in Cincinnati. He gradually retired from practice there and then moved to Florida. He is survived by Barbara; his children, Jeffrey, Vincent, and Abigail; and stepsons David and Dennis. Barbara described him as "a quiet man, who adored his family and friends. Memorial courtesy of Princeton Alumni Magazine.

Edward Everette Wilkinson, Jr. '48
Ed died on February 13.2021 at the age of 93 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Zona Wilkinson (nee Strietelmeier), and survived by his daughters Dawn A. Wilkinson, son-in-law Warren S. Jaffe; Holly R. Wilkinson, son-in-law Christian Burns and grandson Everett E. Burns. At 17, he proudly served his country during WWII as a Grumman Avenger torpedo bomber pilot and then returned to CCDS to complete his education. He was awarded the best all-around athlete his senior year. He graduated from Miami University with a Master of Architecture. In 1950 he played semi-pro baseball with the Boston Red Sox and remained an avid athlete his entire life, in 1955 he drove on the Maserati Race Team. Ed spent 30 plus years with Armco Steel Corporation, as the marketing director for their new materials division.

CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

75 GRADUATES

$6.5 million SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

355 ACCEPTANCES



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

RT Adkins
Alexa Bailey
Eleanor Beyreis
Caroline Blang
Abigail Blum
Nora Brant
Jalen Brooks
Zongrui Cai
Reese Carlow
Rowan Castrucci
Skandda Chandrasekar
Kasey Chopra
John Connelly
Oren Conner
Paige Cordea
Marley Cox
Charles Curtis
Jonathan Dawson
Sabrina DelBello
Brian Foster
Rishi Gabbita
Margaret Gardner
Ella Gilbreath
Jasmine Gonzales
Ryan Graham
Dereck Gray, Jr.
Lauren Hettinger
Celie Hudson
Wynton Jackson
Abhijit Jagtap
Cole Jeffries
Abhimanyu Jetty
Lila Joffe
Rose Joffe
Kamryn Jordan
Genevieve Kallmeyer
Catherine Kreidler
Andrea Lander Vegas
Ziyun Lin
Maggie Ma
Mason Mack
Aziz Mahmud
Griffin McAndrew
Gauri Midha
Margaret Mullins
Sai Nalagatla
Michael Noack
Sophia O'Brien
Elizabeth Osborn
Connor Paff
Taylor Pavlisko
Samuel Pettengill
Cameron Pohl
Grace Ramirez
Marsalis Reed
Anthony Retzios
Michelle Riemann
Spencer Rodenberg
John Roy
Jessica Rutherford
Thomas Scheer
Jenna Setters
Antao Shao
Ruoyu Shao
Molly Taylor
Mark Tereck
Sean Thomas
Francisco Valentin
Melvin Van Cleave
Lila Weizer
Max Wendel
Jack Weston
Jack Wright
Shang Xiang
Yuxi Zhang

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The University of Alabama
American University
Barnard College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
University of California-San Diego (2)
Carleton College (2)
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati (6)
University of Colorado Boulder
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
University of Dayton
University of Denver
Duke University
Emory University (2)
Florida Institute of Technology
Georgia Institute of Technology
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
Hampton University
Harvey Mudd College
Heidelberg University
High Point University
University of Illinois (2)
Indiana University
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
Kenyon College
Lehigh University
Loyola University Chicago
McGill University
Miami University
University of Miami
Morehead State University
University of North Carolina
Northeastern University (2)
University of Notre Dame
Oberlin College
Ohio State University (4)
Ohio University
Purdue University
Reed College
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Louis University
Santa Clara University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Spelman College
The University of Tampa
Tufts University (2)
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University (2)
Washington University in St Louis
Wellesley College
Williams College
Xavier University (4)

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