

**R. KEVIN KEIM** has spent much of his career in neurophysiology studying how the human brain responds to new drug treatments. Now, as a Ravenscroft trustee — and grandfather of two Ravenscroft middle schoolers — he has turned his passion for the workings of the mind in a new direction: **MOLDING YOUNG THINKERS INTO TOMORROW'S LEADERS.**

Through a combination of outright and deferred giving, he is helping nurture Ravenscroft's culture of educational innovation, both today and in the years to come.

### TO PREPARE A GENERATION OF LEADERS

Keim's relationship with Ravenscroft began when his twin granddaughters were enrolled as second graders.

"I remember my first Grandparents Day," he says. "It was evident from everyone I met, from Doreen Kelly to Payton Hobbs to Mrs. Pugh, Ravenscroft is just amazing."

He soon sought opportunities to get more involved at Ravenscroft. He is now in his third year on the Board

of Trustees, serving on both the Educational Stewardship and the Buildings and Grounds committees.

"It's a great learning opportunity. I see and hear all of the reports on new topics and opportunities," he says. "What really impresses me is the passion with which staff, faculty, administrators and board members carry out their responsibilities."

Keim takes those responsibilities to heart, notes Phil Higginson, Assistant Head of School for Institutional Advancement. "He just rolls up his sleeves to make Ravenscroft a better place," he says.

As a researcher and business leader, Keim has been particularly interested in the school's Lead from Here

Keim and seventh grade granddaughters, Jessica and Nicole, in the Makerspace



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curriculum, coming away inspired after the board's workshop with Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) in 2015.

"The purpose of a Ravenscroft education is to develop and prepare an upcoming generation of leaders in an increasingly complex world," he says. "Incorporating skills of leadership, communication, cooperation and empathy starts here — and it starts at Pre-K!"

#### **SOMETHING THAT HAD MEANING TO ME**

It was during the drive to that workshop, with Higginson at the wheel, that Keim made a personal connection to another Ravenscroft initiative. The Middle School's move to embrace a design-thinking model as part of their expanded electives — including a course called Think It! Design It! Make It!, or TDM — had opened the door for use of a Makerspace. While the term was unfamiliar to Keim, the value of hands-on, problem-based learning was not.

"Phil asked, 'When you were in school, did you have shop class?' I could easily relate! Shop was formative for me," Keim says. "The idea of making things with your hands, disciplined by plans or goals, and seeking achievement was very important to me."

### **"THE PURPOSE OF A RAVENSCROFT EDUCATION IS TO DEVELOP AND PREPARE AN UPCOMING GENERATION OF LEADERS IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX WORLD."**

As soon as Head of Middle School Denise Colpitts could put together a budget proposal, Keim agreed to fund the new Makerspace in full. Colpitts describes its impact on the Middle School as "tremendous."

"The design-thinking process encourages all of the skills and competencies our students need for twenty-first century learning, many of which are in our Citizen Leader Framework," she says. "Many classes, including history, geography, science, math and language arts, now incorporate design-thinking activities into their programs."

Keim notes that this gift resonates with him on multiple levels.

"It's important to give to the Annual Fund and to Embrace Possibility, and I do that, but I [also] wanted

to do something that had meaning to me and would be of almost immediate benefit to my granddaughters," he says. "When Phil mentioned the Makerspace for the Middle School, I said, 'I would be interested in that.' The project theme and timing were right!"

"Kevin is passionate about every student's experience in math and science at Ravenscroft," says Deborah Thompson, Director of Capital Giving. "In recognition of his gift, Middle School administrators put the name on the door of the Makerspace with the 'k' squared for 'Kevin Keim.'"

#### **THE VALUE OF PHILANTHROPY**

It's important to note that Keim's outright gift to fund the Makerspace is part of a broader strategy of philanthropic giving — one that has both immediate and longer-term benefits for Ravenscroft and other institutions he supports.

"In addition to his outright gifts, Kevin chose to direct a portion of his family's charitable remainder trust to Ravenscroft as a deferred gift, making him a member of the Josiah Ogden Watson Society as well as a significant donor to the Embrace Possibility campaign," Higginson says. "He has since come back and increased

his deferred gift because he's so excited about our partnership with CCL and Lead From Here."

All told, deferred giving through the charitable remainder trust has allowed Keim to triple his giving to Ravenscroft — something he's eager to share with other Ravenscroft supporters.

"Most people don't realize they can minimize their tax exposure with this kind of financial planning strategy, enjoy the benefit of an income stream for life, as well as help others," he says.

Closer to home, he adds, he wants his granddaughters to understand the importance of giving back.

"They didn't quite grasp the function of a member of the Board of Trustees [at first]," he says with a laugh. "They envisioned I may be teaching or helping to clean the school, maybe serving lunch. One request I had from them in the early days was to increase the number of M&Ms in the trail mix!"

**"MY FAMILY GOAL," HE CONCLUDES, "IS TO SHOW BY EXAMPLE THE VALUE OF PHILANTHROPY — AND TO SHOW MY GRANDKIDS THAT I'M AS INVESTED IN THEIR EDUCATION AS THEIR PARENTS ARE."** *R*



Middle School science teacher Tim Phillips and students testing out trebuchets they built in the Makerspace