

THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

OUTLOOK

VOLUME 37 • ISSUE NO. 1



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Oakridge Innovates

Oakridge is focused on meeting the evolving needs of today's learner with exciting solutions, whether it's a modular classroom desk or an integrated media lab where students work with real world clients.

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Varsity Cross Country, Volleyball, and Field Hockey athletes made Oakridge proud when they traveled to Austin for the Southwest Preparatory Conference Championship tournament.

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Oakridge Owls have a long-standing tradition of entrepreneurial spirit. Learn how today's alumni are seeing a need and creating a business or non-profit as a solution.



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Reading the book *Good to Great* several years ago fed my interest in learning about successful organizations. In it, James C. Collins wrote, "Great vision without great people is irrelevant." I believe this philosophy applies to schools.

Good schools strategically cultivate a climate of ongoing advancement. In these settings, time and resources are devoted to new ideas, and progress is celebrated. At Oakridge, recent improvements to programs, curricula, and facilities have undoubtedly contributed to the quality of the educational experience. Our school is ever-changing, and illustrations of this can be found on the pages that follow.

Great schools embrace meaningful change, but these organizations share another notable commonality: They serve bright, motivated students and employ passionate, student-centered teachers. I contend that Oakridge is second to none when it comes to the quality of its people. *The Outlook* is an opportunity to share their stories and achievements.



Mr. Kellam with Mrs. Andersen's third grade class.

It is a privilege to present the first *Outlook* of 2017, which highlights the good we offer in our initiatives as well as the great we have in our people.

Jonathan M. Kellam, Head of School



Construction workers pour concrete for the new concession building in January.

UPDATE ON THE ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Successful fundraising efforts sparked new construction at the Oakridge Athletic Complex starting in November. This exciting project includes a road and additional parking, a concession building, and a new entrance/exit cut-in from Pioneer Parkway.

In December, the school received a leadership gift from the Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital of Arlington. The future baseball/softball complex will be named in their honor. Oakridge is grateful to CEO Allan Beck and the hospital's Board for their continued support and partnership.

CAMPUS NEWS

Oakridge Hosts Career Day Program

On the last Friday in September, Upper School students participated in Oakridge's Career Day program. This day was reinstated as a result of a recommendation from the faculty and staff-led Research & Design Additional Programming group (see page 14), which explored programs outside the traditional Oakridge curriculum.

The objective of Career Day was to provide an interactive experience that would help facilitate a connection between a student's academic interests and potential college majors and careers in the future. Additionally, Career Day provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet and connect with Oakridge alumni and parents. After an opening panel, students attended two workshops of their choice where they gained first-hand knowledge about careers in a variety of industries such as finance, landscape architecture, government, actuarial sciences, engineering, broadcast journalism, theatre, psychology, law enforcement, computer science and programming, military, and music.



Violinist Janine Geisel, parent of Oakridge alumna Melissa Geisel '13, discusses careers in music performance.

Thank you to our alumni, parents, and friends who presented: Philip Trick '03, Blake Orth '08, Ensign Curt Allen '11, Deron Molen '12, Dr. Erica Rosentraub Shapiro '00, Mark Voss '92, Eli Jordan '99, Joe Sholden, Janine Geisel, Dean White, Katherine Hellwig, Wade Emmert, Dr. Chris Aspaas, Cassie Watson, Officer Doug Glotfelty, Jennifer Kass, Neil Jones, Gordan William, Spencer Ledbetter, Neelam Kharbanda, Dinesh Thoduguli, and Gosia Brothers.

By Kellen Lewis, Director of College Advising



Oakridge parent Wade Emmert presents on politics and government.

SAMPLE SESSIONS

BROADCAST JOURNALISM - RADIO

Radio personality and Oakridge alumnus Eli Jordan '99 discussed his career as a reporter and host of The Ticket.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Wade Emmert, former Chairman of the Dallas County Republican Party and founding partner of Emmert and Parvin, LLP, shared experiences from a career in politics.

ARCHITECTURE

Oakridge alumnus Mark Voss '92 discussed his journey as an architect designing golf courses in the U.S. and internationally.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra's Assistant Principal Violinist Janine Geisel provided insight into a career in music performance.

MILITARY CAREERS

Ensign Curt Allen '11, one of our nation's best and an Oakridge alumnus, discussed his career in the U.S. Navy.

CAMPUS NEWS

Ten Oakridge Seniors Recognized by the National Merit Program

Ten Oakridge seniors have been recognized by the National Merit Program based on their scores on the 2015 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the more than 1.5 million students who took the test, Semifinalist students are those who placed among the top 1 percent and Commended students are those who placed among the top 3.3 percent.



Semifinalist students Ryan Tan, Evan Skinner, Amy Zhang, Noah Gladden, and Mark Wright



Commended students David Lonergan, Grace Andersen, Walker Emmert, Logan Muzyka, and Brayden Toulouse

HOMECOMING



The Varsity Football team takes the field at the Homecoming game on October 14, 2016. They defeated The John Cooper School 43-21 for an Owls win.



The Kindergarten crew waits eagerly to start the Homecoming parade.

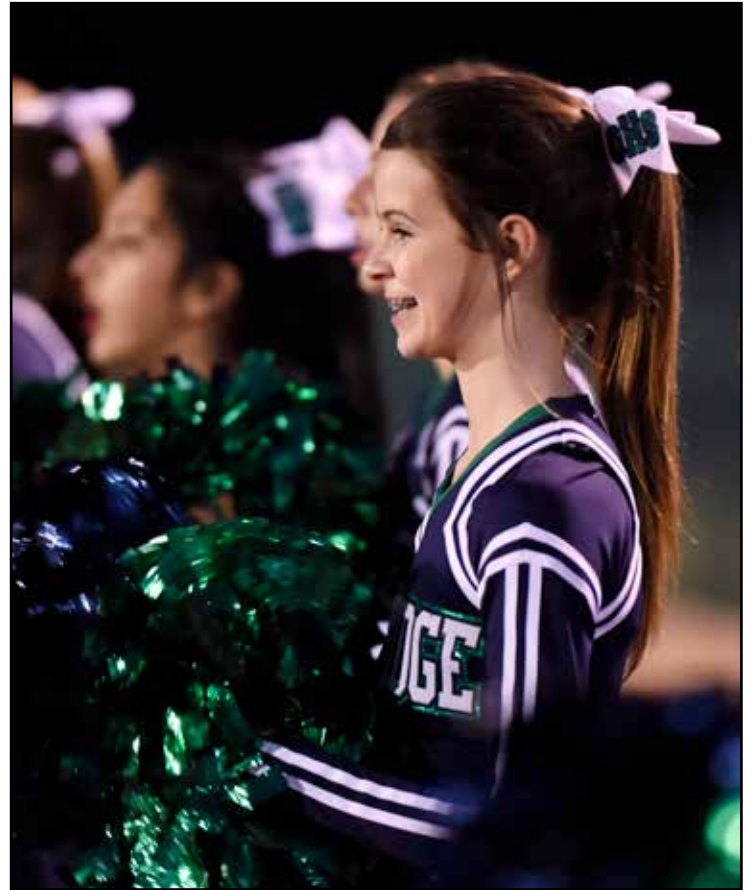


Trinity Pettigrew '15 and first grade cousin Ava are spotted snapping funny-face selfies in the crowd.

HOMECOMING



Fireworks cap off a great night at the Oakridge Homecoming celebration.



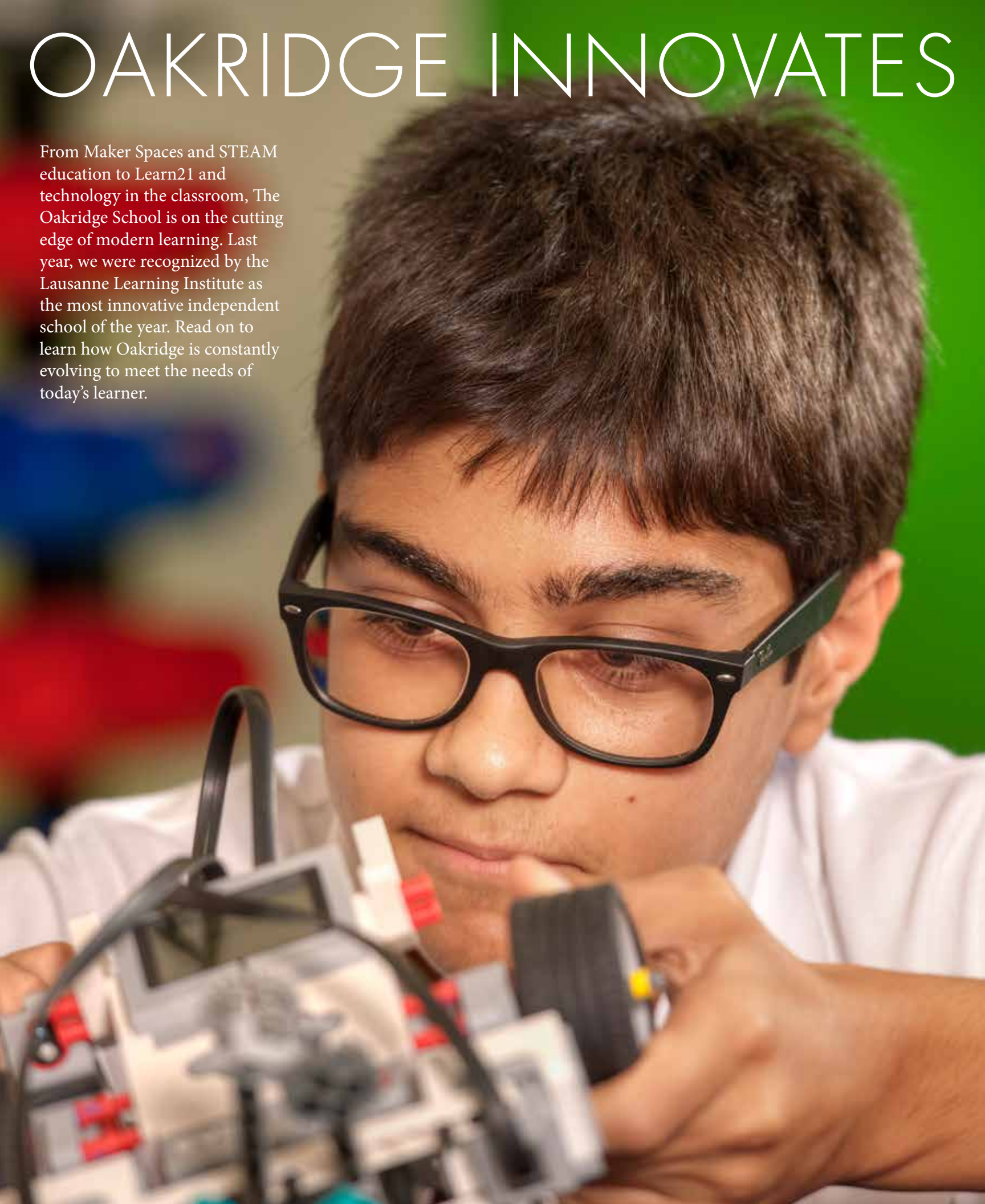
Sophomore Rachel Clark and the Varsity Cheerleading squad keep the crowd going.



The Class of 2017 celebrates their last Homecoming as Oakridge students.

OAKRIDGE INNOVATES

From Maker Spaces and STEAM education to Learn21 and technology in the classroom, The Oakridge School is on the cutting edge of modern learning. Last year, we were recognized by the Lausanne Learning Institute as the most innovative independent school of the year. Read on to learn how Oakridge is constantly evolving to meet the needs of today's learner.



THE THIRD TEACHER: LEARNING SPACES REDESIGNED

“There are three teachers of children: adults, other children, and their physical environment.” This quote from Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio Emilia approach to early education, expresses the importance of the learning environment as the “third teacher.”

We have been thinking about that third teacher as we have transformed learning spaces at The Oakridge School over the last several years. During that time, we have revamped the look of our library, redone computer labs that became redundant once every student had his or her own device, and turned computer arts classrooms into integrated media studios.

Last summer we took the next step of converting five classrooms into agile learning environments. When we think about a traditional classroom, we imagine desks in rows facing the front of the room. According to English Department Chair Jared Colley, “Classroom designs announce loudly for our students what models we’re employing when it comes to distribution of power, and this design messages clearly that students are to be told what to do, think, and learn.”



Claire Reddig's 5th grade students work on Wave Desks.

At Oakridge, we’re endeavoring to design learning spaces that lead to more active learning. The new furniture designs empower students to not only own their learning but also own their learning spaces. In an effort to accomplish this, we are piloting three new classroom designs from KI Furniture. The first involves the Learn2 chair for three classrooms including Mr. Colley’s English classroom.

“When I learned I would be receiving new furniture, I only had one serious request: I wanted everything to be mobile,” said Mr. Colley. “Everything in the classroom except the bookshelf has wheels, including my desk, the students’ desks, as well as the podium. As a result,

every day the relations among participants in the classroom shift and morph, depending on the activity; everyone is bending, giving form, and receiving it, including me.”

The second configuration utilizes the Intellect Wave Desks. To show these changes don’t just work with older students, they are being used by a 5th grade English class taught by Claire Reddig.

“The shape of this new furniture assumes that you will move it around and try out different configurations depending on the needs of the students and the type of lesson,” said Mrs. Reddig.

“Unlike traditional desks where the default is rows



Jared Colley's English students participate in a class discussion in mobile Learn2 Chairs.

or some other 'orderly' set-up, the wave desks don't fit this model, so you have to play with them and experiment with different options."

The assumption of what a classroom is supposed to look like has been fundamentally changed by the wavy nature of these new desks. It empowers learners to construct an environment that fits the learning. How must students view learning differently when their physical environment, the third teacher, speaks to them in a more active and engaging way?

"At the end of the day, no matter where my desks end up, I love looking at my classroom and seeing evidence that my students were active learners who felt empowered to change their physical environment instead of passively waiting for me to call the shots," said Mrs. Reddig.

The third configuration involves the Pirouette Nesting Tables in freshman and sophomore history classes. History Department Chair Jennifer Bonner teaches in a student-centered environment that emphasizes collaboration and critical thinking. Her room will look differently every day because, as Mrs. Bonner says, "learning should look different each day."

The tables allow her to quickly change the configuration of the room. Not only do they roll easily, they also fold down with the click of a lever and nest together. Therefore she can have whole-group discussions, pods of discussion groups, or fold and push tables against the wall to use her learning space for reenactments.

Two of her favorite configurations are the "capital I," which allows for whole group instruction, as well

as small group. In an arrangement preferred by students, Mrs. Bonner says, "They like that all the tables touch. It creates a lot of community and conversation, yet I am still accessible to them all."

The biggest compliment on the new learning spaces have come from students. As one freshman told Mrs. Bonner this year, "I love coming to your class every day and seeing how different it looks. It makes me more eager to hear what we are doing."

That is the third teacher at work at Oakridge, enticing kids into an empowering learning space.

*By Jason Kern,
Chief Information Officer and
Director of Modern Learning*

LOWER SCHOOL EDISON IDEALAB

At the start of the 2016-17 school year, the Owls' Nest (the Lower School extended care room) received a new name during school hours: the Edison IdeaLab. With the addition of new chairs and tables, fresh paint, and new windows into the hallway, Lower School students now have their own Maker Space.

Each Lower School class participates in activities in the IdeaLab each week. Our first graders have been playing coding games, designing sling shots, and had a visit from Backpack Jack who encourages students to think creatively by solving problems using only the items in his backpack. The second grade class built their own miniature playgrounds using



Students test the weight capacity of aluminum foil boats.

sticks, rubber bands, paper clips, and tape. They also used aluminum foil to build boats, watched them float, and then added blocks to make them sink. A cupcake dispenser, mini putt-putt golf course, and a boat are just a few of the items that

third graders designed and built out of cardboard. They were also able to sew winter scarfs for a food bank to give out during the cold weather months.

Walking by the windows of the Edison IdeaLab, it is easy to see that it is a space that inspires students to discover their talents and interests by making, producing, solving, creating, collaborating, and thinking. Since the beginning of school, several stories have been shared about how students are taking their experiences in the Edison IdeaLab and using them at home. The area is full of energy and tons of ideas for the spring semester.



Scarves sewn in the IdeaLab will be sent to a food bank and distributed to those in need.

*By Shannon Schley, ECC
and LS Maker Coordinator*



Integrated Media students film a commercial on the TCU campus.

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES IN INTEGRATED MEDIA

“Do you feel any extra pressure because Jaden [Oberkrom] is relying on you guys for the future of his business?”

The question, posed by WFAA Digital Content Editor Josh Davis, took senior Michael Cendrick aback and he answered honestly, “I guess I hadn’t really thought about it like that.” But this is the line of thinking for the Oakridge Integrated Media Department, a class that not only equips students with digital, video, and photography skills, but also gives them the opportunity to do meaningful work for clients both in and outside of the classroom.

Students enrolled in Integrated Media took part in several unique experiences last fall, including producing videos for field hockey, promotional materials for on-campus events, Homecoming, and more. But it has been the off-campus opportunities that have inspired a new way of thinking among students.

“Being able to work off campus is a privilege that I appreciate, as it is so different from the usual

day-to-day projects,” said sophomore Ben Broadus. “At the same time, there is definitely more pressure in these situations. Having the opportunity to do something meaningful like that is extra motivation.”

One of the most exciting opportunities thus far has been working with former TCU kicker Jaden Oberkrom, a 2015 graduate who holds the all-time scoring record in the Big 12. Integrated Media Coordinator Melissa Triebwasser reached out to Oberkrom after reading an article on him that detailed his leaving the NFL to start a kicking academy, and offered to have her students help him with his website and other marketing. Shortly thereafter, a group of students ranging from sophomores to seniors found themselves on TCU’s campus shooting a commercial and meeting with the former college star regularly.

“It’s really impressive to see how much Jaden cares, not only about the success of his business, but each of his clients as well,” said Michael. “He

is so invested in their success, and his love for the game and care for his kickers shines through in everything he does.”

As part of their arrangement with Oberkrom, students have created a font, a logo, two separate promotional videos, a website, and a business Twitter account. They are responsible for making sure Oberkrom stays relevant and connected to potential clients for his startup kicking academy, and he has been impressed with their creativity and skill.

“Working with Ms. Triebwasser’s class at Oakridge has been a huge blessing. Her highly skilled students have helped me develop ideas and make those ideas become reality,” Mr. Oberkrom said. “Their creativity is staggering and has increased my business productivity greatly. It’s safe to say that without the experience of Ms. Triebwasser and her students that my business would not be as successful.”

As one group of students works hard on the Oberkrom Kicking Academy job, another

pair meets with Board Member Cathy Handy to discuss filming a commercial for her business. Yet another is hard at work cataloguing footage for a trade show trailer that will be seen by tens of thousands of hunters and fishermen in Dallas in January and Las Vegas in February.

Meanwhile, the Middle School musical is nearly upon us, with programs and promotional posters being produced by members of the class as well. For students, the challenges range from mastering the tools needed to complete their work orders, to how to conduct client meetings, meeting deadlines, and learning the time management skills that help them balance it all. But ultimately, the experience is worth the effort, and students agree that it has given them something that no classroom can replicate.

*By Melissa Triebwasser,
Upper School Faculty
& Integrated Media
Coordinator*

Oakridge Receives 2016 Spotlight School Award

The Oakridge School was presented with the Spotlight School award in July 2016 at the Lausanne Learning Institute in Memphis. Stuart McCathie, Headmaster of Lausanne Collegiate School, recognized Oakridge as “a wonderful representation of the ideals of the LLI Spotlight award.”

“There is a consistent effort to fulfill the individual needs of students, utilizing technology to create authentic learning and practical ability to succeed in a constantly evolving world,” said Mr. McCathie.

Nineteen Oakridge faculty and administrators represented the great work being done all across campus with most presenting sessions to this international audience. Sessions ranged from a cross-divisional blogging project to how to spice up an AP curriculum. The AP session exemplified our ever-changing world as Jim Andersen was in Memphis and co-presenter Katherine Arce was in Costa Rica participating via Skype.

Throughout the conference, our presenters were complimented on the exemplary teaching practices we are employing. This recognition continues to build upon our vision to be recognized nationally as a leader in independent school education. Congratulations to the Oakridge faculty who have worked so hard to continue to ensure our students receive the best preparation possible to excel in our modern world.

*By Jason Kern,
Chief Information Officer and
Director of Modern Learning*



The Oakridge delegation at the Lausanne Learning Institute summer 2016 conference.

Purposeful and Practical Application of Technology to Enhance Authentic Student Learning

*Ashley Read (Learn21 Specialist and 4th
Grade Teacher) and Amy Wilson (Interim
Director of Admissions)*

Critical Thinking Through “Fantasy Drafting”

Jennifer Bonner (History Department Chair)

The Oakridge School Horizon Report: A 1:1 Story That’s Not About the Tech

*Jon Kellam (Head of School), Mike Cobb
(Head of School, Tyler All Saints Episcopal)
Jason Kern (CIO and Director of Modern
Learning), Butch Groves (Upper School
Head), Ashley Read (Learn21 Specialist
and 4th Grade Teacher), and Jared Colley
(English Department Chair)*

Writing Across the Curricula at The Oakridge School

*Jared Colley (English Department Chair)
and Claire Reddig (MS English Teacher
and Writing Specialist)*

Developing an Inquiry-Driven Maker Mindset Throughout a PK-12 School

*Shannon Schley (ECC & LS Maker
Coordinator), Megan Elizondo (MS
Maker Specialist), Matt Knauf (US Maker
Coordinator)*

An Administrator’s Journey Back into a Blended Classroom

*Jason Kern (CIO and Director of Modern
Learning)*

One Math Classroom’s Journey in Authentic Learning

Charlotte Wiseman (Math Department Chair)

Spicing up the Curriculum - AP Doesn’t Mean Always Predictable

*Jim Andersen (Associate Head of Upper
School and Foreign Language Department
Chair) and Katherine Arce (US/MS
Spanish Teacher)*

Creating a Culture of Collaboration Across Grade Levels

*Ashley Read (Learn21 Specialist and 4th
grade Teacher), Amy Alsip (7th grade
English), and Michael Millians (7th grade
History)*

Empowering Student Learning in Physical Science by Integrating Traditional, Experiential, and Inquiry-Based Teaching Methods

*Wesley Irons (US Science Teacher) and
James Roberts, PhD (US Science Teacher,
Mount Vernon Presbyterian)*

The Footsteps of History: Creating a Virtual Museum

Jennifer Bonner (History Department Chair)

What is Rhizomatic Learning? On Disrupting School Silos

Jared Colley (English Department Chair)

Connecting Writing to Authentic Audiences

*Jared Colley (English Department Chair)
and Claire Reddig (MS English Teacher
and Writing Specialist)*

Pwning the Humanities: Gamification in the Classroom

Jared Colley (English Department Chair)

TECH 2.0/ENGINEERING

An exciting and innovative elective class open to Upper School students is Honors Tech 2.0, a course where students have the opportunity to put their interests in computer science and technology to work with hands-on projects and experiences. Last fall, students were challenged to come up with a project that they wanted to create from scratch. The project would take at least one semester to create.

Each group of students was given the same budget constraints to build their project. They were required to write a grant proposal, making a coherent argument for why their project should get the funding they need to proceed. This was structured competition-style, similar to *Shark Tank* where the groups of students were competing for funding. Little did they know, all the projects would be funded, and this friendly competition brought their best forward.

The grant proposal process was as follows: Students came up with project ideas and had to convey them in a manner that showed their creativity and ingenuity. The project should be something they could build, whether it be a website, an app, or



Students build a prototype of a mobile arcade machine.

something more tangible like an arcade machine.

Each student received a sample grant proposal that course instructor Matt Knauf wrote while in graduate school. Although he was not expecting them to write something as long or in depth as that document, he did expect a certain level of detail from them. Students were pushed to think critically about the project they were going to propose: What materials would they need? How much would those materials cost and where would they come from? How long would it take to build their project? What would be the anticipated results, and what are some improvements they

could see making in their next iteration?

The students initially struggled with the questions because many of them haven't had to think about a budget or a timeline in such detail; however, having the timeline added another level of accountability to their projects.

In late October, they were in the initial building phase of many of their projects. Many of the students were asked for cardboard prototypes first before purchasing the other more expensive materials. It gave them an opportunity to first see how they work with each other, and it gave them a sense of how things do not

always go as planned when prototyping. It also allowed them to iterate several times before they decided on a final plan. They were asked to continue to evaluate their process as they moved along: Are they working efficiently? Is there a better way to construct something?

Here is a sampling of some of their projects:

- A virtual reality app. The students requested a BoBo VR Z4 headset and had some great reactions when they put it on for the first time.
- A mobile arcade machine using a Raspberry Pi, a single-board, programmable computer.
- A 3D printed 8-iron head of a golf club. The student wanted to see if the head of the club could actually be used to hit a golf ball 100 - 130 yards.
- An exoskeleton made out of a steel pipe backbone, with appendages made out of 1 inch PVC pipe and bolted together.
- A 3D printing of a scaled-down model of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest skyscraper in Dubai. The students modeled the 3D print to be approximately 5 feet tall and used math to figure out the exact dimensions and scaling.
- A 3D printed remote control car. The students created the shell and chassis of the car (all 3D printed) before installing the motors and drive train.
- Another group of students constructed from scratch their very own bag toss game (aka Cornhole). They started by learning how to use a miter saw to cut some 2x4s, painting the board, and connecting them with wood screws.

*By Matt Knauf, Upper School
Faculty and Technology
Integrationist*

Research & Design Groups

In September 2015, the Board of Regents approved and adopted The Oakridge School's Long Range Plan, a document focused on three categories: People, Programs, and Sustainability. Then, in January 2016, the Academic Leadership Team and the Education & Technology Committee of the Board established the first priorities from the plan. Initiatives at the forefront would be continued implementation of Learn21, public speaking and communication, student support, course offerings, and an internship program.

While these conversations were unfolding, Oakridge faculty and staff spent a day with Patrick Bassett, former president of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Bassett emphasized the value of having

deeper conversations within schools, especially empowering everyone in a school – not only administrators – to think and solve problems. He specifically recommended that independent schools consider Research & Design groups.

In tandem with the Long Range Plan priorities and the inspiration from Pat Bassett, The Oakridge School laid out six Research & Design groups to work on campus-wide initiatives. These groups would be led by non-administrators and comprised of cross-divisional faculty and staff volunteers. Pairing Research & Design with Long Range Plan priorities while also distributing leadership in new ways has been an invigorating process and led to some exciting school-wide initiatives.

*By Sarah Kramer,
Assistant Head of School*

ALTERNATIVE/ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

Led by Middle School art teacher Susan Stone, the Alternative/Additional Programming group explored programs outside the traditional curriculum (internships, mentorships, service learning, iDiploma, etc.). Based on their recommendations, Oakridge is investigating an Upper School curricular addition that emphasizes entrepreneurship. In addition, the school offered a Career Day (see page 2) to Upper School students on the last Friday in September. June Boller, Linda Hoffer, and Lauren Matocha also participated in this group.

COLLEGE CREDIT MODELS

Middle School English teacher Claire Reddig and her team (Jerry Davis, Kellen Lewis, and James Roberts) looked at the various ways students can earn college credit before (or upon) matriculation. This included an in-depth review of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual credit programming. When the team's research concluded, they determined that an AP curriculum is serving Oakridge well and encouraged the Academic Leadership Team to keep an eye on IB, specifically the model for middle grades that emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving.

COURSE OFFERINGS

The Course Offerings R&D group led by Middle School English teacher Amy Alsip assessed current educational offerings across all divisions to identify areas of opportunity. Because they were looking at whether current educational opportunities in Upper School met student needs as well as how to enhance the Learn21 program and its integration into an overall learning culture, the group identified several areas of opportunity. Work continues in 2016-2017 on determining how to further integrate online learning into

the Upper School curriculum. Alsip's team included Frances Allen, Jared Colley, Elissa Eggleston, and Susan Knott.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Ashley Read, fourth grade teacher and Learn21 Specialist, led the Public Speaking group in a review of the current program in place (e.g. what happens in each grade level), researched other programs and curricula to support the discipline of public speaking, and made a recommendation to develop a scope and sequence to support Oakridge's public speaking program from early childhood through grade 12. This work is continuing in 2016-2017. Read's research team included Lauren Carfa, Jon Godfrey, Jenni Meadows, and Melissa Triebwasser.

SCHEDULING

The Scheduling group led by Upper School technology teacher Matt Knauf and also including Andrea Anders, John Cocharo, Chris Renshaw, Gail Roe, and Andy Stewart, looked at various schedule configurations in schools (block, modified block, traditional, etc.). Given the mission and philosophy of Oakridge, the group was tasked to identify schedule designs that the school could evaluate more closely in 2016-2017. The work continues this year, as a committee of Middle and Upper School faculty designs a schedule that will meet the needs of students in a rigorous, college preparatory environment.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Second grade teacher April Benjamin and the Student Support group looked at assessment, homework, and outside tutoring. They have continued to meet this school year and made recommendations to the Academic Leadership Team in December. Benjamin's team included Judi Andersen, Stacy Chapman, Catherine Danner, Jill Gaspar, Helga Pavlicek, and Peggy Pfursich.

4th Grade Teacher Kathy Jo Rogers and her class show their Owl pride.



LIFE AS AN OAKRIDGE TEACHER

As Proverbs states, “A wise teacher makes learning a joy.” As an Oakridge teacher, my joy starts when I hear the Owl voices pledge allegiance, sing our school song, and prepare for a day of learning and enjoying traditions. Life as a teacher has many dimensions, all of which help us not only to teach our students, but to be lifelong learners ourselves.

The Oakridge family – from Alphas to Omegas to all of our team members – is the reason that we get to enjoy these experiences that enrich our lives. Whether it is a child’s “aha!” moment, the stirring connection between collaborating colleagues, or the partnership with caring, involved parents, there are daily victories great and small. We celebrate joys each day, in the midst of sometimes long hours and demanding schedules.

At Oakridge, we have the privilege of preparing our Owls to be the most helpful, kind, and knowledgeable citizens that they can be. Through academics, which we teach using the whole spectrum of the senses, we hope to awaken curiosity in a way that will inspire our students to learn more now and all through their lives. We desire to see them grow not only intellectually, but also in ways that bring refreshment and joy to themselves and others.

One of the real privileges of being an Oakridge teacher is getting to enjoy

our students’ artistic expressions through shows, concerts, and exhibitions. Owls touch the lives of friends, family, and strangers through music, drama, and the visual arts. They inspire us and each other, bringing us chills, laughter, and tears with their creativity and skill.

Our students are encouraged to be physically confident and ready to work hard and excel at their many sports. We teach that the Oakridge way is not so much about wins, but more about doing our best, playing fair, and improving every day, season, and year, through teamwork and perseverance.

In keeping with our honor code, we signify respect by promoting a school atmosphere where we take a moment to smile, speak, and hold the door. It’s the investment into children’s character that we love to see played out in their everyday interactions. It means so much to us when a student smiles, waves, and pauses to help a teacher, peer, or stranger.

These moments of slowing down also take the form of reflection and collaboration among colleagues. From the vantage point of vertical planning, we can better serve our children effectively using advanced technology, terminology, and strategies that propel them forward; making



Mrs. Rogers calls teaching “its own reward.”

them ready to tackle the next grade level with understanding and excitement.

Finally, as we implement our teamwork off the field and in the classroom, we are continually here to work in partnership with parents. Using their unique position of fully knowing their child’s needs and strengths, and coupling that with what we have seen to be effective tools and philosophies, we see encouraging results.

Teaching is its own reward. It’s an investment of wise collaboration and partnering with the brightest and the best of colleagues, parents, and students. We are blessed to watch our Owls soar, and in doing so, bless the world.

*By Kathy Jo Rogers,
Lower School Faculty*

The Class of 2019 canoeing on their class trip to The Outdoor School.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ON CLASS TRIPS

Experiential learning is a facet of college-preparatory school culture that allows students to learn beyond the four walls of the classroom. While there are many opportunities for students to participate in authentic, hands-on lessons during their daily work, the annual class trips are an enhanced way for students in fifth through tenth grade to connect with their teachers and with each other on a deeper level.

Fifth Grade Class Trip

Fifth grade students are introduced to class trips through a visit to Camp Grady Spruce located on Possum Kingdom Lake. Students spend the day hiking, riding the boat across the lake to Devil's Island, and saddling up to ride horses. Students return that evening tired but with a better understanding of working with their teachers and how to travel safely.

Sixth Grade Class Trip

The first overnight of the class trip series takes students to Mo-Ranch, which offers an opportunity to escape the urban setting of DFW and enjoy nature. Students participate in a ropes course, learn about wildlife ecology, and step outside of their comfort zone with activities like the

zipline and the "Big Gulp." Team-building activities explore leadership roles and group dynamics, and many students return from the three-day trip with a better understanding of their strengths and fears.

Seventh Grade Class Trip

With a focus on Texas history, students explore the various sites and traditions of Austin and San Antonio. During the day on the three-day trip, students visit the State Capitol, the Bob Bullock Museum, the Witte Museum, and the Alamo. In the evenings, students enjoy the Flying L Ranch located in Bandera, Texas. Campfires with s'mores, line dancing, and cowboy trick-roping are part of the nightly entertainment. The trip concludes with a good old-fashioned Cowboy Olympics.

Eighth Grade Class Trip

Directly connected with the history curriculum, eighth grade students embark on a four-day trip with a focus on the Civil Rights movement. During the first segment, students travel to Memphis, Tennessee, to visit the National Civil Rights Museum and Elvis's Graceland. Next, students stay in Little Rock, Arkansas, where they have the chance to see the historic

Central High School and the Clinton Presidential Library.

Ninth Grade Class Trip

Due to large numbers of new students entering Oakridge in ninth grade, the goals of this class trip are team building and class bonding. Students spend five days at Enchanted Rock and The Outdoor School. Hiking, canoeing, fishing, high and low ropes courses, and other outdoor activities serve to foster relationships and build leadership skills. The highlight of this electronic-free trip is sleeping under the stars on the overnight campout.

Tenth Grade Class Trip

The focus of the tenth grade trip is college exploration, as our sophomores visit several schools over two days. Since many of our students visit colleges with their families in their junior year, this trip is intended to model and reinforce what students need to notice, ask, and internalize during a college visit. A large public university and a smaller private college are chosen to help our students compare and contrast each type of institution.

*By Jim Andersen, Associate
Head of Upper School,
and Britt Robinson,
Head of Middle School*



Middle School students receive a Charactergram when they're "busted" displaying the monthly character trait.

Busted: Loyalty

BUILDING CHARACTER IN OUR STUDENTS

The second half of the Oakridge mission statement is the backdrop for character education. We seek to build an "...environment that cultivates social responsibility, mutual respect, and personal integrity." Though less tangible than academics, arts, and athletics (our three A's), character education is just as important. But how does character education happen at Oakridge?

If you are at morning carpool on a Tuesday, it is not unusual for Lower School students to say, "Do we have Parliament today?" Lower School students look forward to Parliament. About twice a month, Lower School students gather in the MAC (Multi-Purpose Activity Center) for this special time. It is a bit like family time. We celebrate outstanding students, talk about upcoming events, laugh, and learn.

Mostly, Parliament centers on our word of the month. These words are character qualities taken from *Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification*, a book by Christopher Peterson and Martin Seligman. There are 24 character strengths that studies have shown lead to happiness and satisfaction



Signs display the monthly character qualities in the Lower School.

in life. Each year we emphasize about ten from the list. Some of the words are pretty predictable, like generosity and kindness. Others are surprising, like humor and curiosity. Some are not words Lower School students are familiar with, like zest and grit.

It is a pleasure to share stories that demonstrate a particular character quality. A story is the quickest way to get children's attention, and it is an effective way to help students remember important information. Throughout the month teachers continue discussions in their classrooms with stories of their own. Our goal is that Lower School students make intentional efforts to become people of character. We want our children to be more than smart; we want to help them to become wise.

In the Middle School, character education takes the form of a monthly

positive character trait.

The students learn about qualities such as loyalty, integrity, empathy, hope, and forgiveness. During the month, students spotted displaying the positive character trait are eligible to receive a Charactergram, a way to honor our students who embody the second half of the school's mission.

We have also started a Social Leadership Program in the Middle School. Once a month, the students and a Middle School teacher/facilitator discuss topics ranging from "Responding to Criticism" and "Unsocial Media," to "Being a Good Friend" and "Be the Person You Think You Are." As we continue through the year, we hope to give our students not only the tools to be strong social leaders, but also the time to practice using these skills.

By Dr. Sarah Schechter, Head of Lower School, and Lori Lane, Assistant Head of Middle School

Middle School students tackle a Destination Imagination challenge.



CLUBS IN MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL

The extracurricular opportunities found in the Middle and Upper School are a wonderful complement to the challenging academic curriculum preparing students for college and beyond. These opportunities can be a difference-maker by encouraging a passion, developing an affinity toward a particular path, or simply allowing a teacher and students to share a common interest.

In the Middle School, the options range from after-school offerings to elective classes that are designed to engage students in authentic, hand-on experiences.

STEAM/Engineering Clubs - While all fifth and sixth grade students are exposed to STEAM activities in class, students in seventh and eighth grade can choose their next path. Within the exploratory path, students are exposed to coding, robotics, sewing, and 3-D printing. In the competitive path, students prepare for competition in robotics and cyber security. Destination Imagination also promotes 21st century skills and

creativity through a variety of competitive challenges.

Academic Competition Clubs - The Math Team learns and practices number sense tricks. In PSIA (Private Schools Interscholastic Association), students compete in a variety of academic disciplines such as Art Memory, Maps, Graphs and Charts, Science, and Vocabulary. Both clubs allow students to compete against other schools at a high level.

Fine Arts Clubs - Fifth and sixth graders can perform one major production each semester in after-school Musical Theatre. Students in seventh and eighth grade can participate in the One Act Play competition to earn a chance to advance to the state level.

Youth and Government Club - In the Youth and Government Club, students develop public speaking and debate skills as they propose mock legislation and learn about the nuances of governmental processes. Students can compete against other schools and travel to the State Capitol

for a mock legislative session.

Leadership and Service Clubs - Junior Optimist, National Junior Honor Society, and House Council provide the opportunity to explore organizational roles, discover the meaning of servant leadership, and develop an empathetic understanding of the community.

In the Upper School, all students are encouraged to join clubs that expand their experiences, interests, and passions. Clubs are determined by student interest, and Upper School students may propose the addition of clubs to the administration on a yearly basis.

Leadership and Service Clubs - Key Club (Kiwanis), Junior Optimist International, and Student Council all provide students the opportunity to serve the community and develop organizational and leadership roles.

Competition Clubs - Math Club, Computer Programming Club, and Destination Imagination compete throughout

the year against other schools.

World Language and Culture Clubs - World Language Club, Chinese Club, Asian Club, and One World Alliance allow students to learn about other cultures and develop an appreciation of the different beliefs and experiences of others.

Debate, Current Events, and Philosophy Clubs - These clubs are designed to have students develop critical thinking skills that challenge and expand their beliefs. In a safe environment, students dive deeper into relevant social issues and articulate these beliefs and arguments. The Teenage Republican Club is also active in discussing current issues.

Affinity Clubs - Music Club, Art Club, Drama Club, ESport Club, Conspiracy Theory Club, and Science Club all provide students the opportunity to meet and share their passions and interests.

By Jim Andersen, Associate Head of Upper School, and Britt Robinson, Head of Middle School

THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL PROFILE 2016-17

HIGHLIGHTS



ACADEMICS

15 Average class size

10:1 Student to faculty ratio

21 AP Courses

63 Received an AP Scholar Award from the College Board

1:1 Devices for students in grades 4-12 as part of the Learn21 Initiative

16 Sports in which Oakridge students participate



STUDENT POPULATION

812

Students in grades
Preschool through 12

301

Upper School
students

37

Towns in
Dallas/Fort Worth

18

Countries



HISTORY

Founded in

1979

Independent,
Co-educational,
College Preparatory,
Day School

IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, 100 PERCENT OF OAKRIDGE GRADUATES HAVE ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

GRADES & ACADEMICS

GPA Distribution and Graduation Requirements

SUMMARY OF HOW WE CALCULATE GPA:

- Only courses completed at our school are included
- AP courses are weighted by 1.0 point and honors courses are weighted by 0.5 point
- Rank is not calculated
- GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale

.....

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

A total of 23 credits are required for graduation with one unit equivalent to two semesters. Students in grades 9-12 must complete 60 hours of community service and complete 6 seasons of athletic credits to graduate.

<i>English</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Social Science</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>Arts</i>	<i>2.0</i>
<i>Elective</i>	<i>5.0</i>				

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Most of our students choose to take one or more AP courses while in Upper School. We offer 21 AP courses and 32 honors courses. We do not limit the number of AP and honors courses a student takes. However, we do counsel each student to choose an academic curriculum which is appropriate and rigorous.

Advanced Placement Courses Offered:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| • <i>Art History</i> | • <i>English Language & Composition</i> | • <i>Spanish Language</i> |
| • <i>Biology</i> | • <i>English Literature & Composition</i> | • <i>Spanish Literature</i> |
| • <i>Calculus AB</i> | • <i>Environmental Science</i> | • <i>Statistics</i> |
| • <i>Calculus BC</i> | • <i>French Language</i> | • <i>Studio Art: 2D</i> |
| • <i>Chemistry</i> | • <i>Music Theory</i> | • <i>Studio Art: 3D</i> |
| • <i>Comparative Government</i> | • <i>Physics I</i> | • <i>U.S. History</i> |
| • <i>Computer Science A</i> | • <i>Physics C</i> | • <i>U.S. Government & Politics</i> |

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Class of 2017

SAT Reasoning Test Average

Evidence Based Reading and Writing	625
Mathematics	620

SAT Reasoning Test Middle 50%

Evidence Based Reading and Writing	570~685
Mathematics	560~710

**Students tested: 50*

ACT Assessment Average

Composite	27
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ACT Assessment Middle 50%

Composite	24~30
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**Students tested: 60*

ARTS NEWS

Family Squabbles, Corn Dogs, and a Grape Slush

The 2016-2017 Upper School theatre season at The Oakridge School opened with the hilarious comedy *Dearly Departed*. After the patriarch of the Turpin family passes away, the rest of the family has to come together for the funeral. However, the family has deeper issues than that of Bud Turpin's passing.

The students brought this madcap family to life with riotous laughter over three nights in September. Five weeks of rehearsal created amazing performances, and those performances were rewarded with the belly laughs of a grateful audience.

The fall play brings the acting students, as well as those students involved in other electives, together on the main stage. These students give up their afternoons to work intensely on dialogue, dialect, and staging in a professional atmosphere to put on a free show for the Oakridge community. It prepares them for life outside of Upper School by maintaining a schedule with deadlines, meeting expectations, and working as a team to bring a piece of art to life on stage. It is another tradition here, and one that continues to get better and better.

By Brad DeBorde, US Drama Faculty

"Theater has given Abby confidence not only in her ability to act/sing and be comfortable in front of a crowd, but as a better student. Often, rehearsal for plays last several hours after school has ended. The ability to organize her time and still have an exceptional academic record serves her well in creating a solid foundation for how to be a successful college student. We have been grateful for the opportunities she's had at Oakridge."

*David and Heather Hurd
Parents of Abby Hurd '17*



The cast of Dearly Departed. Back row (L to R): JP Sims, Abby Hurd, Mackenzie Holtman, Noah Gladden, Charlotte Dolan, Ben Everett, Brad DeBorde. Middle row: Harrison Jones, Anna McGoo, Caleb Badgley, Brayden Toulouse, Rosalind Krabill, Nicholas Pham. Front row: Brian Do, Crista York, Ryan Tan



Abby Hurd and Ben Everett performing in Dearly Departed.

Upper House Middle School Musical: Once on This Island

Once on This Island was presented November 16 and 17, 2016, in the Fine Arts Performance Hall. Starting in August, the students in Upper House Middle School choir and drama classes worked very hard on this show. We auditioned many actors the second week of school and had 27 leads and supporting roles in the show. There were many students in the ensemble and also on the technical crew.

The story is an adaptation of the popular Hans Christian Andersen fairytale *The Little Mermaid* set on a Caribbean island. Ti Moune, a peasant girl, rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy young man from the other side of the island. When Daniel is returned to his land, the gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a journey to test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred, and death.

This was a wonderful collaboration between classes, teachers, and many students to produce this show.

By Diane Findley, Middle and Lower School Music Faculty



In Once on This Island, Aliyah Birdow, Will Emmert, Caroline Walker, and Joshua Levitz portray the four Gods: Mother Earth, God of Water, Goddess of Love, and Demon of Death.

ARTS NEWS

Student Filmmaker Receives Award at Film Festival

A film created by Oakridge freshman Rosalind Krabill was recognized at the Better Youth Real to Reel Youth Global Film Festival in California.



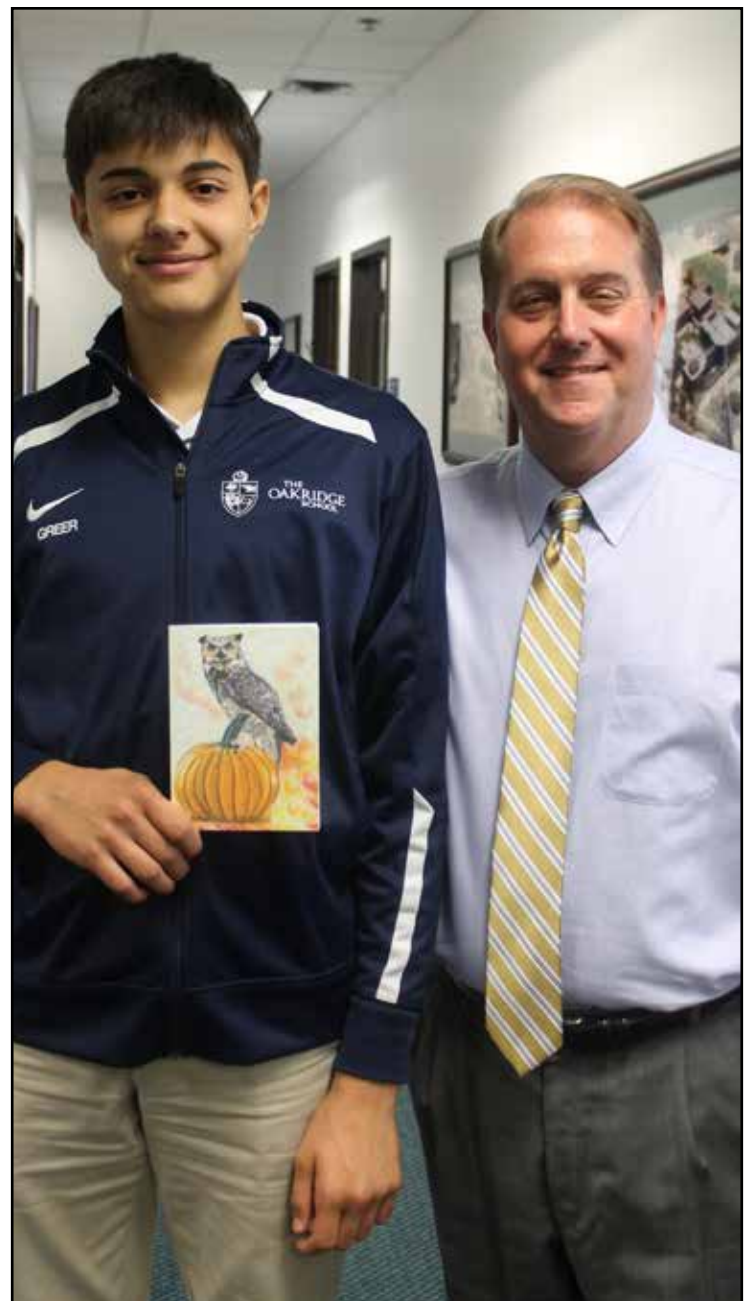
Rosalind's film "Little Girl" is about a girl being bullied because of mental illness. Rosalind made the film based on a poem she wrote and debuted it at the Oakridge talent show. The film was recognized at the Festival as one of the Best Biography selections, and Rosalind also received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Representative Karen Bass of California.

The 2016 Real to Reel Film Festival was held at the LA Film School and featured screenings of award-winning youth film selections and panels with industry experts. The competition honors youth who create original and unique media projects that address an issue plaguing their local or global community.

Rosalind, who lists her passions as acting and photography, says she might make another film this school year, again based on a poem she has written. Her award-winning film "Little Girl" can be viewed online at www.theoakridgeschool.org/littlegirl.

Thanksgiving Card Features Student's Artwork

Sophomore Brad Greer was selected for last year's Thanksgiving Card Challenge, in which Middle and Upper School students submitted art to be featured on the annual Oakridge Thanksgiving card. Brad's illustration of the Oakridge Owl sitting atop a pumpkin was created using oil pastels and an etching technique. The card was sent to 2,000 members of the Oakridge Community.



ARTS NEWS



Freshmen Emma Schecter and Gracie Snyder ponder an image at the Lucie Stahl exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art. Students were especially enthralled with this artist whose artwork spoke upon consumerism and fluidity in our society today. The artist uses a large flatbed scanner and resin to stage her engaging images, an inspiring technique that Emma and Gracie experimented with once back at school.



The Upper School Orchestra performed at their fall concert on October 25, 2016. The last song of the evening, "Over the Rainbow," was dedicated to John P. Flavin, father of two alumni children and the school's single largest philanthropist, whose name graces the Flavin Fine Arts Center. Mr. Flavin passed away on October 14, 2016.

ARTS NEWS



The Upper School Drumline hammers out a beat at the Homecoming Pep Rally.



Second graders Brayden and Connor prepare their submissions for the Stock Show art contest.



Mrs. Buckalew's preschool class performs during the Early Childhood Center's Fall Programs.

ARTS NEWS



Class of 2014 alumna Nooshin Ghanbari delivers the National Anthem at a varsity football game.



First graders Cayden, Wyatt, and Nathan learn the bass beats of "Pumpkin Stew" in Mrs. Findley's music class.



Choir Director Andrew Stewart conducts Middle School students.

ATHLETICS NEWS

Senior Surprised with Scholar Athlete Award

Oakridge senior Michael Cendrick was honored in a special ceremony commemorating his being named the CBS/McDonald's Scholar Athlete of the Month in October. Greeted by CBS 11 sports anchor Bill Jones as well as representatives from McDonald's, Cendrick was surprised in the commons in front of his classmates by a camera crew and presented with a check to be used for his education.

Michael was nominated for the award due to his outstanding work on the football field and in the classroom. Despite a class schedule that includes three Advanced Placement and two honors courses, Cendrick has maintained a 4.3 GPA and made Headmaster's



A representative from McDonald's presents Michael with the scholarship check.

List each nine weeks. Additionally, he is a captain for the Oakridge Football team, leading the program in receptions as a wide receiver and being a top tackler as a safety. Michael has won multiple All-Conference awards for his abilities on the field and been recognized across campus and in the DFW area for his leadership off of it, recently being elected as the Oakridge representative to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference.

The CBS/McDonald's Athlete of the Month is presented to high school students in the DFW metroplex who display ability on the field and in the classroom as well as high character outside of school.



Michael Cendrick was interviewed by CBS 11's Bill Jones.

ECC Trike-A-Thon Recognized by St. Jude's

On April 29, 2016, The Oakridge School Early Childhood Center participated in the St. Jude Trike-a-Thon to raise money for research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Each year, St. Jude's identifies the top fundraising schools for the Trike-a-Thon. Last year, Oakridge was 14th in the nation, raising \$10,682.

During the week prior to the event, students learned about bike and riding-toy safety. Each day, Bikewell Bear and Pedals the Bunny presented an interactive story that shared a safety lesson. In addition to safety lessons, children learned about helping others. On the day of the event, parents, students, and Officers Harris and Beranek brought their bikes and riding toys to do laps for the St. Jude's children.

Last year was the 26th year that The Oakridge School has joined with thousands of preschools, daycares, and other groups across the country in sponsoring a St. Jude Trike-A-Thon event. In the previous years, Oakridge has ranked 67th and 45th among top fundraising schools before reaching 14th last year. We are looking forward to riding for St. Jude's again on April 28.



The Oakridge 2016 Trike-a-Thon raised a record-setting amount of money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Mara Townsley Named Best Coach

Oakridge faculty member Mara Townsley was named Best Coach/Physical Education Teacher by the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram's Arlington Citizen-Journal*. Ms. Townsley has been a coach at Oakridge for the past 18 years, where she currently coaches Middle School field hockey, soccer, and softball and teaches Physical Education to Middle School and ECC students.

According to Ms. Townsley, she was inspired by her field hockey coach when she was younger, which helped her realize her passion in life. "Kids are my mission," she said. "They know that I'm all in, and that makes them all in as well."

ATHLETICS NEWS



The Cross Country Owls competed in Austin at SPC.

Fall Athletes Compete at SPC

Three Oakridge athletic teams invaded Austin the weekend of November 3-5, 2016. The Southwest Preparatory Conference held its fall tournament, and the Owl field hockey, volleyball, and cross-country teams all qualified to compete for their respective championships.

Field hockey finished the regular season with a big victory over Parish Episcopal on senior night and qualified for the SPC tournament with a number four seed in the North Zone. Oakridge opened the tournament facing St. Andrew's on their home field. Playing on a rain-soaked field, Oakridge dominated the game. Most of the action took place on the Owls' offensive end of the field, and Oakridge won the game 1-0. Sophomore Olivia McLean netted the decisive goal.

That victory earned the Owls a chance to knock off the St. John's Mavericks, the South Zone number one

seed. The Mavericks jumped to a 3-1 lead at halftime. Oakridge's lone goal was an amazing twenty-yard shot from senior Liz Hill on a break-away run. The Owls held the Mavericks to a scoreless second half, but could not muster a goal of their own. Oakridge dropped the game to the eventual SPC Champion Mavericks by a 3-1 score. Oakridge challenged St. Stephen's on their home field in the fifth place game. Playing in front of many loyal Owl fans on a muddy field in a November downpour, the Owls fell short by the score of 1-0. Oakridge field hockey capped a wonderful season with a sixth place finish in Austin and tied for second in the North Zone.

Oakridge's volleyball team finished the regular season with a dominant victory over Casady, thereby earning the number four seed in the North Zone. The Owls faced St. John's in their opening round game Thursday night in Austin. Playing perhaps their finest ball of the season, the Owls dispatched the Mavericks 3-1. That win offered the Owls a chance at the South Zone's number one seed

ATHLETICS NEWS

Houston Christian. Oakridge played a very sharp first game, but fell to the Mustangs by a score of 3-1.

That loss delivered the Owls to a fifth place match against Houston Episcopal Knights. This would be the third time the Owls had faced the Knights in the SPC tournament in the last four years, with the Knights winning the prior two games. However the third time would prove to be the charm for the Owls. Oakridge won an epic five-set battle in front of many Oakridge parents and students with a score of 3-2. The victory was filled with many rallies back and forth and earned the Owls a fifth place finish in Austin.



The Volleyball team placed fifth after defeating Houston Episcopal.

Oakridge's cross-country team spent the fall running in the heat all over the DFW area. The team's many runners improved and set personal bests as they wound their way through the schedule of meets heading towards Austin. For the second year in a row, the SPC runners would encounter a wet, muddy St. Andrew's five-kilometer course that would challenge their skills and stamina. With sophomore Nick Gohr as their leading finisher, the boys' team finished fifteenth in

a field of approximately 150 runners. Freshman Mercy Swinney ran well for the girls' team, getting valuable experience in the process.

The many Oakridge student-athletes, parents, and fans left Austin having represented the Owl community wonderfully and with new memories in tow.

By Shawn Meadows, Athletic Director



Read more about the exciting season that brought Oakridge Field Hockey to SPC on page 36.



FIELD HOCKEY – A SEASON TO CELEBRATE

The Oakridge School field hockey team experienced its best season ever. They qualified for the SPC Championships for the first time and had a 10-8-2 record, 4-3 in SPC games.

The team worked hard throughout the summer. The girls' passion and enthusiasm to improve each practice and game paid off with huge results, including defeating ESD, Greenhill twice, and All Saints twice this season. All but one loss has been by one-goal margins. The varsity Owls continue to demonstrate superior effort and teamwork.

Oakridge field hockey's varsity and junior varsity teams practice together throughout the season. Each athlete performs the same skills and drills, improving throughout their careers. This fosters a deeper understanding of the game, and it encourages confidence in our style of play. Oakridge junior varsity field hockey has several

athletes who compete in the varsity game before they take the field in the JV game. The junior varsity team performed wonderfully this year, demonstrating improvement in all areas.

The Oakridge Middle School field hockey team also enjoyed a successful season. They improved each game and had great results this year. We look forward to more and more girls joining the Oakridge field hockey program. Many Oakridge students are now participating in local club field hockey leagues. This experience improves their skills, and they are able to compete in USA Field Hockey tournaments locally and nationally.

We truly appreciate all the support from the Oakridge fans and parents who encouraged our team and contributed to our outstanding season.

By Shawn Hindy, Varsity Field Hockey Coach





VOLLEYBALL: THE ROAD TO SPC

Led by a strong group of seven returning seniors, the Oakridge volleyball team was 22-7 on the 2016 season. Early in the season, the Owls earned a second place finish in the Fort Worth Christian PIT Tournament with Alexa Pressley, senior outside hitter, and Abby Brown, junior libero, taking home All Tournament honors.

The team then headed to San Antonio for the St. Mary's Hall Invitational where they started to really gel. Playing a mix of public and private schools, they steamrolled everyone in their path, defeating a strong Needville team in the finals to win the championship. Pressley received tournament MVP while Caroline Broadus, senior middle, and Anna Kate Broadus, senior setter, received All Tournament recognitions.

Coming back from San Antonio, the team was ready for some local rivals. First they faced Grace Prep at home.

The Owls were down 0-2 and trailing in the third set by seven points when they rallied back to take the third and fourth set, forcing a fifth set. Senior outside hitter Lauren Marr led the attack with sixteen kills. In the fifth set, the Owls took a two-point lead only to see Grace Prep close the gap and tie the game at 13. A long rally by both teams and a kill by Abby Brown gave the Owls the 14-13 advantage, and Alexa Pressley sealed the match win with a service ace.



Next, the Owls faced another cross-town rival, Pantego Christian Academy. A large crowd created an electric atmosphere in the Oakridge gym. This time the roles were reversed, with the Owls leading 2-0. The Pantego Panthers took the next two sets to force a fifth set. In the final set, the Owls kept the Panthers off balance, capitalizing on their mistakes to win 15-11.

October was an exciting month. At Senior Night, the gym is covered with signs of love and encouragement. Each senior signs the volleyball standard protective pads, forever leaving their mark on Oakridge volleyball. Last year we honored

eight senior athletes and four senior managers. It was an emotional night, concluding with another Oakridge victory over Trinity Valley 3-0.

Last year, the volleyball team led the Pink Out campaign for the entire school. The team designed the shirts and organized events such as a coin challenge with the field hockey team. Three Pink Out games in October included baked goods for sale and raffle prizes. Through the efforts of the Oakridge community, the school raised over \$6,000 for the Side Out Foundation.

*By June Boller,
Varsity Volleyball Coach*

OWLS IN BUSINESS

In the spring of 1979, a group of parents decided they wanted something different for their children, and the vision of The Oakridge School was born. These were the original Owls in Business – a group of men and women who partnered to create a college preparatory school that almost 40 years later still benefits from their entrepreneurial spirit. This issue of *The Outlook* celebrates alumni who flourish with a similar mindset. Whether it's a college-founded business, a photography studio, or a financial operation, these Owls have carried on a tradition that began in Nancy O'Shea's and Susan and Charlie Butts' living room: they have taken a chance to create something new.

Jun-Ho Koh '13 will graduate from Southern Methodist University in May and has already secured his first job offer. Though he likely will start his post-undergraduate career working for a consulting firm, Jun-Ho is no stranger to operating a business. In Upper School, Jun-Ho founded Melodies 4 Life, a nonprofit organization devoted to bringing music instruction to at-risk students. And while at SMU, he founded FACT (Free Admission Consulting Team) to help provide low-income students and families in the Dallas area with college counseling.

"Being an entrepreneur is having the courage to take a risk to try to do something to address a need, or to improve something others haven't improved yet," Jun-Ho says of his nonprofit business ventures.

What Jun-Ho has learned in this journey is that it takes more than a great idea to succeed. "I think what sets successful entrepreneurs apart is commitment," Jun-Ho says.

Graham Hutchins '96 runs a filmmaking business focused on post production. He is his own boss, and though he may hire freelancers from time to time, his business and its successes rest solely on him. Commitment to his business is critical.

"I don't have a brick-and-mortar storefront; I'm my only employee," says Graham. "I make my own schedule, which paradoxically can often mean working all the time. I'm lucky

though. I truly enjoy what I do for work and would pursue it at some level regardless of whether or not I could monetize it."

Matt Burke '11 shares the sentiment. Matt has owned and operated several businesses. At age nine, he started Matt's Detail Service, taking care of cars in his neighborhood. In 2005, he started Parks Production Company, an entertainment company mostly focused on DJ services. While attending TCU, Matt and two partners founded University Game Day, a company that put TCU flags in yards on every home game day. Now, Matt, his father, and his brother run Center Street Finance, a company focused primarily on the auto finance sector.

"I've been quoted saying I'm a stress junkie," says Matt. He added that his lifelong mantra can be found in the Oak Leaves yearbook, as it was also his senior quote: "I live for the small crunchy fries in life."

"I THINK YOU HAVE TO
REALIZE THAT IF YOU HAVE A
DREAM, DON'T BE SCARED.
CHASE IT!"

– Cassie Grimes Hampe '97

Jun-Ho and Matt both reflected that starting a business in college had its benefits as well as its drawbacks. Specifically, the idea of an exit strategy emerges. Is the business sold or taken over by someone else? Both young men have faced this reality, but in relatively different ways. Jun-Ho is still determining the future of FACT, and Matt sold one business (Parks Production) and ceased operations on the other.

Cassie Grimes Hampe '97 owns and operates Good Juju Photography, balancing a healthy business with motherhood. An alumna of Southern Methodist University, Cassie got her start working as a staff photographer for a local Dallas magazine. Post 9/11, she spent some time in Los Angeles and eventually relocated to Tyler, Texas, with her husband.

"My dad always said, 'I've never known someone who has made it big by working 40 hours a week for someone else,'" Cassie says. "That has always stuck in my head. I think you have to realize that if you have a dream, don't be scared. Chase it!"

Cassie attributes Oakridge with allowing students to grow and

"FAILURE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, AND BEING OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE IS HOW YOU GROW."

– Graham Hutchins '96

to acquire great social skills: "Social skills can be underrated, and I believe that your attitude and your personality will do so many things for you."

As he thinks about his Oakridge education, Jun-Ho remarked that a course in entrepreneurship would have helped him with the founding of both businesses.

"I went in blind," Jun-Ho says. "You could teach the basics of [entrepreneurship] so that you know how to get started."

He has also reinforced the benefits of voracious reading and mentors with experience and broad perspective. "Surround yourself with people who will challenge you to become better."

Matt concurs. "What I always desired in Upper School would have been some sort of real-world experience." His suggestion to Oakridge: "...a think tank where kids could come up with an idea and go do it."

As for his Upper School experience, Matt attributes some of his growth as an entrepreneur to former English teacher Christian Long. "He helped me get over the fear that people wouldn't hire a 15-year-old to do their wedding." However, through Parks Production Company, Matt learned that having a good idea was one strength; knowing how to execute it was equally important. With Parks, Matt promised excellent customer service and a fair price point, setting him apart from other DJ businesses.

Caroline Schifano '10, an alumna of Texas Christian University, also ran Cookie Bear for two years while she was a college student. She taught for one year after college, but she is back in the bakery business again. This time, she is working for a large commercial bakery while taking culinary classes at Colin College to position her for the next entrepreneurial move.

"It all started when I was going to Oakridge in the tenth grade," says Caroline. Her idea was a cookie dough delivery business in her family's neighborhood. The idea of a baking business reemerged again when she was a junior at TCU.

Caroline loves *Shark Tank* and talks about the importance of passion- and vision-based business creation. Though she had never taken a business class, Cookie Bear thrived because Caroline was driven to work hard and to put in the hours required for success. She also did her research, understanding competition, pricing, and packaging before she launched her company.

Graham credits Oakridge with the development of critical thinking skills: "learning how to learn." He also recommends that aspiring entrepreneurs "take some accounting classes."

"It's not sexy or fun, but it's the foundation of your business, regardless of what you're doing," Graham says. He adds, "...don't be afraid to take risks or to fail. Failure is an opportunity to learn, and being outside of your comfort zone is how you grow."

"Say 'no' to the naysayers," says Caroline. "Have faith in your own concept. Market it. Hustle. Sell your idea to other people."

The founding families of Oakridge who envisioned an independent, college preparatory school in Tarrant County took an idea from infancy to the reality Owls enjoy today. Their entrepreneurial spirit and drive lives in the ethos of the school, and countless Owl alumni have made similar strides as business developers and leaders.

By Amy Ladner Wilson '92, Director of Alumni Relations,
and Sarah Kramer, Assistant Head of School

ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 1988

Steve Stewart '88 and his wife, Cara, live in Fayetteville, Arkansas, with their daughter, Piper. He began a new job last summer with Advantage Title & Escrow.



Class of 1991

Jay Fitzgerald '91 has been on staff with the US Soccer National Teams Program working with the u15 Men's National Team as well as a Women's Developmental Coach for the youth national teams. Over the past year they have traveled to Argentina; Croatia; the Nike Campus in Portland, Oregon; and Bradenton, Florida, in search of the next US Soccer National Team stars. In Argentina, they won the event, beating Uruguay in the championship match. Jay works



to identify players not only from the United States but from all over the world that have US citizenship. They run training centers each month for boys and girls, ages 11-14, in different regions of the country. The next event in January will be in College Station with girls born from 2002-2005. Then Jay and the program travel to Venice, Italy, in April with the US u15 Men's National Team.

Class of 1995

Brad Walters '95 works at Lowe's Corporate Headquarters in Mooresville, North Carolina, as the Director of Social Media & Content Strategy. One project he worked on last year was "Mystery Box Bonanza." Described as Deal or No Deal meets Punk'd, the simple premise was that Jonathan and Drew Scott (the "Property Brothers") opened boxes live to reveal either a Black Friday product or a prank. On Facebook, users voted in real time as to which box should be opened next.

Shelley Durham Haven '95 married Dillon Haven on October 2, 2016,



in Fort Worth at The Omni Hotel. Her son, Matt '21, was part of the ceremony, and she continues to work as an emergency medicine physician.

Class of 1999

Ashlee Reid Morehouse '99, her husband Jeff, and son Walker welcomed Mason Reid Morehouse to their family on October 18, 2016. Like his big brother, Mason was born in Virginia, but over Texas soil brought in from Dallas, Houston, and their ranch in Bosque County. It was an exceptionally busy fall for their family. Ashlee owns a campaign consulting firm in Washington, DC, that advises over a dozen members of Congress. Jeff is the Chief of Staff to Texas Congressman Bill Flores.



Class of 2005

Kaylee Perry '05 has a new job as a Wedding and Event Sales Coordinator with Mediterranean Villa in Arlington, Texas. She would love to work with alumni and their families to plan a special event.

Class of 2006

Allison Brown Ray '06 and **Derek Ray '06** welcomed their

ALUMNI NEWS



first child Caroline Elizabeth Ray on November 10, 2016. Proud grandfather Dennis Brown (Owl Club President) and aunt **Natalie Brown '09** were there to welcome Caroline.

Class of 2007

Collin Ashworth '07 passed the Texas State Bar Exam and is working for the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office.



Class of 2008

Kylie Zavadil '08 recently completed a two-year Management Rotational Development program at The Chamberlain Group. At

the conclusion of the program, Kylie was promoted to associate marketing manager for the Chamberlain Retail brand, where she is responsible for marketing smart phone controlled products (wi-fi connected garage door openers and accessories). The brand she works with is MyQ app, and she has connectivity partnerships with Apple, Xfinity, and Wink.

Blake Messer '08 married Georgia Byrd on September 24, 2016, at River Ranch in the Stockyards in Fort Worth. They honeymooned in Jamaica and reside in Fort Worth.



Class of 2009

Meredith Morse '09 is a graduate of the University of Texas Law School and passed the Texas State Bar Exam.



Class of 2010

Lauren Duggan '10 has gone into the restaurant business in Arlington. She is the owner/operator of a Gino's East, a Chicago-based pizza place that serves classic deep-dish, thin crust, and a variety of other Italian dishes.

Class of 2011

Monica Clifford '11 graduated with her Master of Arts in Teaching from Trinity University in May 2016 and is teaching 8th grade US History at an inner city middle school in San Antonio (Tafolla Middle School). Monica is engaged to be married to a software engineer named John Mendiola, who she met at Trinity during her undergraduate education. They will be tying the knot in summer 2017!

Sandi Hermann Fangman '11 married Timothy Fangman on August 6, 2016, in Las Colinas at the Four Seasons Resort and Club. It was a beautiful day where they were surrounded by their friends and families.



ALUMNI NEWS

Zach Whetstone '11 is an up and coming country artist who just released a new EP called *Ashes* under the name Zach Stone. Zach held a release party last fall at the Whiskey Girl Saloon in the Fort Worth Stockyards.



Class of 2012

Kathy Buckalew '12 graduated from Vanderbilt University last spring and has begun law school at New York University.

Class of 2013

Dan Clifford '13 graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Advertising from the University of Georgia (one full year early, thanks to his AP credits from Oakridge). He is working for a small advertising firm in Duluth, Georgia, and following his dreams of making music. Dan has released an album and his music is often played on the local radio station.

Kelsey Karanges '13 was selected to perform the National Anthem at Lone Star Park during the 2016 Fall Meeting of Champions on November 4, 2016.



Class of 2014

Nooshin Ghanbari '14 is currently in her third year at the University of Texas studying Plan II Honors English and Creative Writing. Five of Nooshin's poems were published in issues of *Skylark Review* (Wales), *Rising Phoenix Review* (Boston), and *WILDNESS Literary Magazine* (England).

Class of 2015

Michael Greer '15 is a Computer Science and Engineering student at Washington University in St. Louis. He is also a member of the group Watch in Motion that won the prize



for "Best Data-Driven App" at Arch Hacks 2016. ArchHacks is a 48-hour hackathon for students with a passion for technology, design, and building things. Michael and his team competed with more than 500 students from around the country in a contest of collaboration, problem solving, and building. (Michael is pictured at far left.)

Class of 2016

Spencer Lucas '16 is studying at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Spencer also works at Aramark Food Company and is a pizza maker. Spencer's dad, **Martin Lucas '85**, has moved to Mexico, and his twin sister, **Shana '16**, is studying at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

Chris Fox '16 is a mechanical engineering student at the University of Denver. He is participating in a group called Love Your Melon. It's an organization that was started by a couple of college students several years ago to sell beanies, and for each one that is sold, another one is given to a kid battling cancer.





Correction: Our sincere apologies are extended to the Duggan family, and particularly to Teu Kautai '10, Lauren Duggan '10, and Jordan Duggan '13. In our Alumni Update that ran last summer, Jordan, Lauren's sister, was incorrectly identified as the one who married Teu. We are truly sorry that this error was made. This transposition of names was in no way an indicator of how well we know or how much we appreciate the Duggan Family.

October 14, 2016, was a wonderful day in the life of The Oakridge School. Alumni returned to their alma mater and the Owls played a great football game to the sounds of our drumline and cheers from the cheerleaders and fans. We even saw a decisive victory that was followed by a beautiful fireworks show. Above, members of the Class of 1996 at the Alumni Tent celebrate their 20th Reunion.



THE OAKRIDGE PARENTS' CLUB



The Oakridge Parents' Club would like to welcome all of the Oakridge families to the 2016-2017 school year. It's a great time to be at Oakridge and it's an even better time to be a part of the Oakridge Parents' Club (OPC). The OPC had a great first semester with all of our activities.

Thank you to all those volunteers who made these events a wonderful first semester. One of the easiest ways for a parent to become involved and support our great school is to join the OPC. If you haven't had the chance to join the OPC yet, we invite you to please go online and sign up. Membership is offered at two different price levels: the \$30 Supporter Level and the \$60 Legacy Level. These membership dues help to support all of the events and activities that are provided for the students and staff by the OPC.

In addition to joining the OPC, please fill out the volunteer information if you're wanting to help with the many events that the OPC sponsors. During the second semester, the Oakridge Parents'

Club will have many activities and ways you can contribute. There are division socials and parties, the Book Fair, After Prom party, and more.

In addition to all of the activities and events that the OPC provides for the school, the OPC also provides contributions at the end of every school year that are used for campus improvements.

Thanks again to all of the volunteers who have already given their time and effort. The Parents' Club could not function without all of you. Thank you to all of those that have already joined the OPC. I am so excited about this school year and I am available at the email address below to answer any questions that you may have about the Oakridge Parents' Club.

It is a great time to be an Oakridge Owl,

Ronda Lane
OPC President 2016-2017
rondalane@swbell.net



The Oakridge School Annual Fund 2016-2017

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF \$425,000.
MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY AT WWW.THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG/MAKEAGIFT.

THE OWL CLUB



Thank you to each and every one of the members of our Owl community who have joined The Owl Club. With this generosity and support from volunteers, The Owl Club continues to fulfill its mission of promoting school spirit, character development, and the physical well-being of our students through financial and other forms of support for physical education and athletic programs in the ECC, Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School.

With the membership support from our Owl Club members and proceeds from the Golf Classic, Spirit item sales, and concessions, The Owl Club was able to allocate approximately \$18,250 for the 2015-2016 year.



OWL CLUB ALLOCATIONS 2015-2016	
\$3,550	Custom Oakridge Tent with side walls
\$3,350	Soccer Shelter
\$2,500	Technology
\$1,500	Endowment
\$1,500	Softball Batting tunnels
\$1,200	Three HD video cameras
\$1,000	Volleyball Custom Nets
\$1,000	ECC - PE/Equipment
\$1,000	LS - PE/Equipment
\$950	Drum Line
\$700	Indoor Futsal Goals





SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017

WALNUT CREEK COUNTRY CLUB



The Oakridge Golf Classic supports The Owl Club, whose mission is promoting school spirit, character development, and the physical well-being of our students through financial and other forms of support for physical education and athletic programs in every division. All proceeds benefit The Oakridge School Physical Education and Athletic Programs.

For more information about sponsoring or joining the 2017 Golf Tournament, please contact Amy or Bryan Key at 817.980.3904.





COME
HOME!

SAVE THE DATE FOR AN "ALL NEW" ALUMNI SPORTS DAY ON JUNE 3

ALUMNI AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A DAY OF CO-ED SOFTBALL GAMES, FOOD TRUCKS, BOUNCE HOUSES, AND LIVE MUSIC. PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL AMY WILSON, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS, TO REGISTER: 817.451.4994 OR AWILSON@THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG

SUPER SUPPER & AUCTION



Make plans now to join us for the 2017 Super Supper & Auction – Havana Nights! This year, guests will enjoy the ambiance of Latin elegance as we celebrate in the style of old Havana with dinner, dancing, and auction at Howell Family Farms. Dress in your island-best white or khaki attire and help us celebrate for a cause. Fedoras optional!

We need you to help make this evening an incredible success. Please consider supporting Super Supper in the following ways:

- **AUCTION ITEMS** - Please donate complete auction packages, which can include a combination of the following: gift cards (movies, restaurants, or retail), decorations/decor items, electronics, sports event tickets or memorabilia, spa days, vacation packages, and family activities. Grab a friend and get creative putting together your auction package and deliver it to the Development Office. To view our wish list, visit the website via this link: www.theoakridgeschool.org/supersupper/auctionwishlist
- **SPONSORSHIPS** - Table sponsorships are available at multiple levels. Find a group of friends and reserve your table today. Your sponsorship will help to underwrite the costs associated with the Super Supper – allowing the school to raise more money for the students!
- **TICKETS** - Individual tickets are available for \$150 per person. Purchase your tickets no later than February 17! Go online to buy your tickets today - you do not want to miss out on this event.
- **VOLUNTEER** - This event is successful because of our parent/staff volunteers. Please donate your time as a committee member and/or volunteer the night of the gala.

vidigami

the place for school memories

GOT PHOTOS?

The Oakridge School has partnered with Vidigami, a secure, web-based photo management system that allows us to capture, organize, and privately share school photos with members of our current parent community.

To date, thousands of photos have been posted on the Oakridge Vidigami from school events, athletics competitions, theater productions, and more.

If you still need to activate your account, contact Amanda Harrier (aharrier@theoakridgeschool.org).



OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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

PHILOSOPHY

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

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

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

We believe in academic excellence, in high moral and ethical standards, in honor, in the respect of the opinions and the rights of others, in the realization and acceptance of the consequences of an individual's actions, and in the pursuit of knowledge as a lifelong experience.

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



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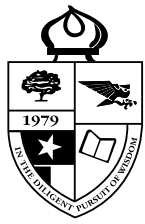
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To Parents of Alumni:

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

