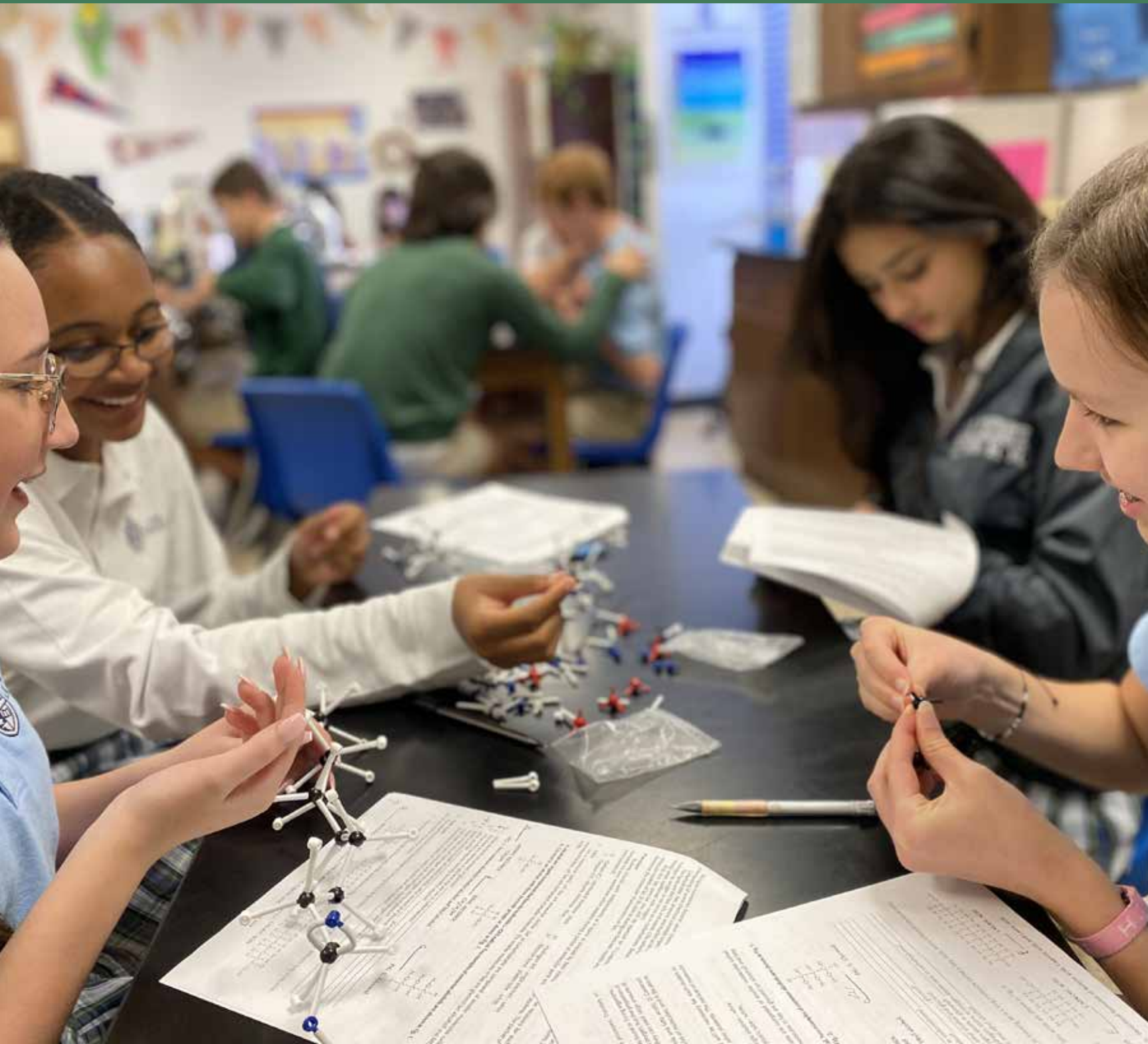


THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

# OUTLOOK

WINTER 2022 • VOLUME 41, ISSUE 1





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

# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

The fortitude of the Oakridge community is so inspiring. Students, faculty, and families have been challenged atypically over the past 23 months but have persevered, together, boldly marching forward with a can-do attitude. Way to go, Owls!

Announcing my retirement 18 months in advance was strategic. My goal was to provide the Board of Regents with sufficient time to conduct a national search for my successor. The timeline worked, and I am thrilled that Matt Burgy was selected as Oakridge's next Head of School. Although Matt will continue serving in his current position in Houston through the end of the school year, he has already made two trips to Oakridge since late October, one for our amazing Homecoming.

If you missed the announcement of Mr. Burgy's appointment, you can read about the search process and Matt's experience



Head of School Jon Kellam and wife, Kristi, on Homecoming Day 2021.

on the website. Matt Burgy is an extraordinary educator and school leader, and he is a great fit for Oakridge. Matt and his wife, Moira, will officially begin their Oakridge journey on July 1, 2022. Please join me in welcoming Matt to the Oakridge family.

Like each of you, I have learned many lessons since March of 2020; two stand out. First, ideal

learning occurs in an on-campus setting when students are fully engaged with one another and their teachers. Secondly, most parents have neither the desire nor the interest in serving as their child's teacher ever again. I think I heard an "Amen!"

Having all Owls back on campus this school year has been terrific. I want you to know how special it has been to have everyone together again. In this *Outlook*, you will get a glimpse of what we experience on our beautiful campus. At Oakridge, the calendars are always packed with activity. As you skim these pages, pay particular attention to the smiles generated by the return of events like Homecoming, Owlfest, and Grandparents' and Grandfriends' Day. And, if you look closely, you will see the magic of Oakridge... relationships.

Jonathan M. Kellam  
Head of School



Head of School-elect Matt Burgy and Head of School Jon Kellam on Homecoming Day 2021.





## THANK YOU,

Oakridge families and friends, for consistently demonstrating that philanthropy perseveres. We press forward through times of unease and uncertainty, and we do it with supporters like you. YOU truly are our superheroes! No matter your level of giving, it makes a difference and ensures that the essential work of The Oakridge School can continue through whatever comes our way.

## Questions about getting involved?

LAUREN MATOCHA, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT  
LMATOCHA@THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG OR 817.563.9742

# HOME SWEET HOME

Oakridge families and friends returned to the nest for a pretty sweet homecoming! The October 29 celebration filled us with fun and a football victory! "Ice Cream, You Scream, We All Scream for an Oakridge Homecoming" was the theme. See more game photos on page 42.

## Oakridge '21 Homecoming 10.29.21







The sweetest part of HoCo 2021 might have been Spirit Week. Students showed their Owl pride during Dippin' Dots, Sprinkles, Big Tex Fried Ice Cream and Banana Split days. Special pink t-shirts put the punctuation mark on Spirit Friday!



# WELCOME TO OWL COUNTRY

By now, many Oakridge Owls have seen or chatted with Head of School-elect Matt Burgy. In addition to riding in the Homecoming Parade and enjoying our Winter Craft Market, he has attended other events on campus since the Board of Regents selected him to succeed Head of School Jon Kellam. Mr. Burgy will officially join Oakridge on July 1, 2022. Mr. Kellam announced last winter that he will retire June 30, 2022, concluding an extraordinary career at Oakridge that has spanned nearly three decades.

Mr. Burgy, Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning at St. Mark's Episcopal School in Houston, was tapped to lead Oakridge after a comprehensive national search that attracted a diverse pool of outstanding candidates. He has served as a Head of School, Dean of Students, Director of Admission, Head of Middle School, Head of Upper School, Athletic Director, and Mathematics Teacher for 5th grade through AP Calculus. He holds a Bachelor of Business



The Head of School-elect participated in the Homecoming parade on Oct. 29, 2021. The BMW convertible was driven by Monique Bird (Daniel '23).

Administration degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Master of Education in Independent School Leadership from Vanderbilt University.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to accept the Board of Regents' invitation to be The Oakridge School's next Head of School. I am eager to begin our collective work with talented faculty and staff who are dedicated to knowing each child and helping them become the best version of themselves,"

Mr. Burgy said. "I am inspired to grow with a dedicated leadership team that is focused and driven to support the development of the whole child. I am elated to build new partnerships with the caring and supportive parents who give so generously to this wonderful school. In short, I could not be more excited to join the parliament of Owls and shepherd Oakridge into its next era."

Mr. Burgy and his wife Moira, a veteran educator with experience presenting at national conferences on curriculum and teacher development, have one daughter, Katie, who is a doctoral student at Tufts University.

The search was led by Board of Regents Chairman Charles Pierson and a committee of Regents and parents, in partnership with distinguished educational recruitment firm, Carney, Sandoe & Associates. The search committee reviewed nearly 60 candidates from around the globe, ultimately narrowing the number to four



Head of School-elect Matt Burgy, with wife, Moira Burgy, a veteran educator.

finalists. Committee members were gratified to see the number of exceptional individuals with very diverse backgrounds who expressed an interest in the position, and said the superb quality of the candidates spoke to Oakridge's strong reputation and bright future.

"A thoughtful, thorough, transparent, and inclusive process by our entire Oakridge community yielded unanimous support for a highly qualified, gifted, and natural-born leader in Matt," Mr. Pierson said. "He was the favorite of all constituent groups: our Board, faculty and staff, parents, and children."

He added: "Matt's qualifications for the job are superior in every way. He has the rare and amazing combination of both a business background and teaching experience through the entire spectrum of lower, middle, and upper school. Matt brings the



Mr. Burgy and daughter, Katie, enjoyed the Winter Craft Market on Nov. 13, 2021.

administrative and operational expertise we sought in someone who has prior Head of School experience, as well as being a division head leader."

In announcing retirement plans in January 2021, Mr. Kellam said, "When I reminisce, I am particularly proud of the positive relationships we have established with thousands of students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and grandparents. With his remaining time, he pledged to continue leading Oakridge with his heart and soul. "Between now and June 30, 2022, our team will remain focused on delivering the mission, working toward strategic improvement, and assisting Matt Burgy with a smooth transition to The Oakridge School."

## 8 FAST FACTS

**1. Favorite Ice Cream:** Blue Bell's Mint Chocolate Chip

**2. Place I've never visited, but would like to:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**3. Movie I've seen at least 5 times:** Field of Dreams

**4. Favorite TV Show in Elementary School:** (This will date me, but...) MacGyver

**5. Favorite Class in Middle School:** My 6th grade social studies class with Mrs. Bishop. We had three Matt's in my class, and she nicknamed us, "Place," "Table," and "Doormat." Thank God, I wasn't "Doormat." Those names stuck with the three of us through high school. She was such an engaging teacher!

**6. Best college memory:** Hands down, my first date with my wife. We had a six-hour car ride together to Waco for a lacrosse game against Baylor and back to Nacogdoches. I came home, called my Mom, and told her that I just had a date with the woman I'm going to marry!

**7. Favorite Sports Team:** Dallas Cowboys

**8. First thing I thought of when I found out I was going to become an Oakridge Owl:** Honestly, I was speechless. Oakridge felt like home from the moment I stepped on campus, and I was overcome with sheer joy, excitement, and a deep sense of gratitude.



Mr. Burgy and Mr. Kellam shared a laugh on Homecoming Day, Oct. 29, 2021.

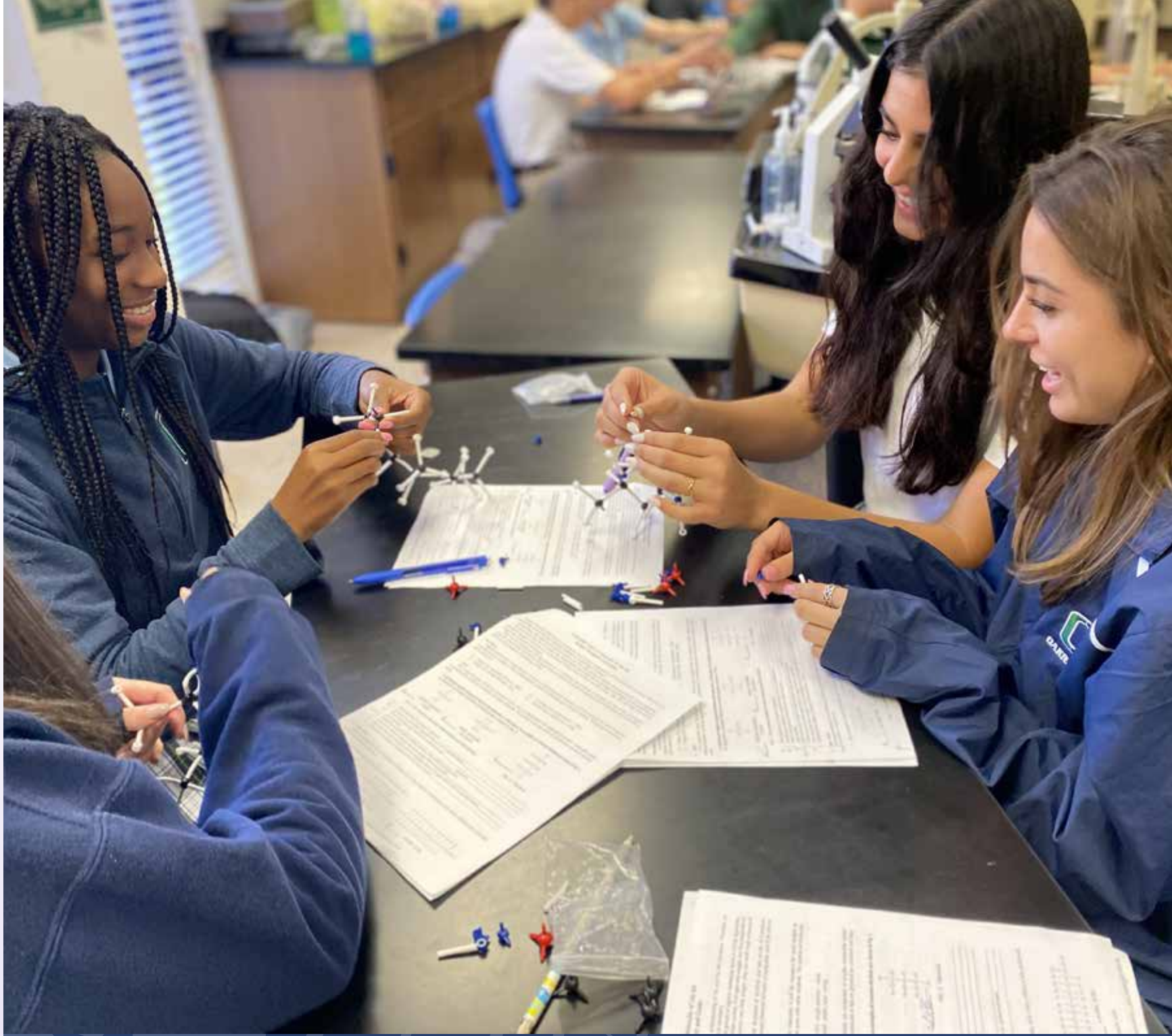


# OWLFEST WOWS

This year's Owlfest was more of a wow fest! It was spectacular to see the quad filled with hundreds of happy Owls in Halloween costumes. Thank you to the Oakridge Parents' Club for bringing back the student favorite and to the National Junior Honor Society members who worked their volunteer magic. Photos taken by senior Addy Fields.



There were only treats, no tricks for first grade students who got to trick or treat with their senior buddies in the Upper School.



# ACADEMICS



# ROBOTICS STUDENTS SET RECORD

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

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

The 2021 BEST Robotics DemoDaze Competition was held November 6. The Oakridge School's Robotics Team competed in the BEST Classroom 2021 portion of the event. In this section of the event, the team's efforts were broadcast virtually to the judges for scoring.



Game day brought an end to a six-week endeavor that began September 11, 2021. The kickoff event provided the rules of the competition and robot construction, as well as detailed schematics governing the layout of the playing field.

The BEST Robotics organization provides the participating teams with the materials needed to construct the robot and field. The items consist of "consumable" and "returnable" items. The consumable items included plywood, pvc pipes, pvc boards, and hardware. The returnable items included motors, servos, battery packs, cpu, and a controller. It is with these materials that the team had to build OakDemo-3.

The tasks required of the robot during the competition were the foundation of the planning process. The completion of certain tasks provided varying amounts of points. The team analyzed the point structures and developed a strategy to maximize scoring. OakDemo-3 was engineered to efficiently accomplish the higher

scoring tasks with as much consistency as possible.

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

The Owls Robotics Team is composed of students from the Upper School: Greg Brown, Daivin Desai, Adeline Fields, Olivia Graham, Matthew Hwang, Sana Kholi, Tanish Kothapalle, Jason Long, Jeff Meller, Bennett Reddig, Raleigh Robinson, Eshan Singhal, Bryce Vaughn, and Timothy Zhu. Mr. Farley, Mr. Marcellus, and Mrs. Vaughn served as faculty mentors.

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

# COLLEGE SHIRT DAY





# ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

The National Merit Scholarship Program recognized several Owls this fall for their exceptional academic ability. Sana Kohli and Grant Miranda are National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. Finalists will be announced in February. Caleb Eden, Jeffrey Meller, Mia Petersen, Luke Wilson, and Timothy Zhu have been named Commended Students. We congratulate all of these students!



# VIRTUAL COFFEE CHATS

The Office of College Advising launched a series of virtual coffee chats this fall for Upper School parents. They're designed to give parents an opportunity to ask questions about upcoming college advising-related events, the college application process, or other related topics. If you missed the first two chats, others are planned. They will each take place from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mark your calendar for:

## SENIOR PARENTS

**March 2, 2022**

Making the Transition: Parent Panel

**April 6, 2022**

Next Steps: May 1 Deadline and Graduation

## JUNIOR PARENTS

**March 3, 2022**

The College Process: Parent Panel

**April 7, 2022**

Getting Ready for Senior Year

*Virtual Coffee Chats are held via Google Meet.  
Parents will be sent the links to join and no registration is required.*



# ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

The College Board recognized four Oakridge students this fall for their hard work and commitment to achievement in the classroom. Seniors Betty Gonzalez and Grant Miranda, along with junior Cole Acker were named to the National Hispanic Recognition Program. The College Board's National African-American Recognition Program recognized senior Olivia Graham. Congratulations, Owls!



## COLLEGE NIGHT: DEANS' PANEL

6-8 p.m. Wed., January 26, 2022

presented by



**THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL**

Sponsored by the Oakridge Parents' Club

Join us online for an informative evening about the current state of college admissions with chief decision-makers from top schools. The panel discussion will be recorded and available for viewing by contacting the Office of College Advising.



**YVONNE BERUMEN**  
Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid,  
PITZER COLLEGE





**HEATH EINSTEIN**  
Dean of Admission,  
TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY





**SARAH FISCHER**  
Director of Admission,  
GRINNELL COLLEGE





**JONATHAN WILLIAMS**  
Assistant Vice President of Admissions,  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY





# WELCOME TO THE TEAM

The 2021-2022 school year brought seven new friendly faces to Oakridge's academic, arts, and athletic programs. All seven quickly proved to be an essential part of moving our school forward.

## Thais Barbosa-Alvarez, Preschool Aide

**Where did you grow up?** Puerto Rico

**Education:** I'm in the process of earning an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Business Administration degree.

**Career talk:** Ms. Thais has a passion for children and seeing them develop, but this former daycare professional says she would be a baker if she weren't an educator!

**First concert:** Jonas Brothers

**Just one meal:** A Chick-Fil-A grilled chicken club sandwich with an Arnold Palmer and chocolate chip cookie.

## Jeffrey Farley, Upper School Physics

**Where did you grow up?** Titusville, Pennsylvania

**Education:** A triple major at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pennsylvania, Mr. Farley holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing, as well as degrees in Psychology, and Earth Space and General Science Education.

**Career talk:** Mr. Farley says fate brought him to Oakridge, but this fan of cycling, mountain biking, and cigars, says he would travel the country with his wife in an RV if he were not an educator.

**Last read:** "Enemy at the Gates" by Kyle Mills and Vince Flynn

**What's on your playlist?** Classic Rock and podcasts

## Rachel Filbeck, Theatre Technical Director

**Where did you grow up:** Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Education:** A Master of Fine Arts degree in Scenic Design from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from Harding



New 2021-2022 faculty and staff include Mattox, Farley, Hernandez (back row, l-r); and Barbosa-Alvarez, Filbeck, Oldenburg, and Lambert (seated, l-r).

University. Ms. Filbeck did demographic research in Ireland and conducted her thesis in Amman, Jordan.

**Career talk:** If she weren't in education, Ms. Filbeck would be a child psychologist and says she loves families.

**First concert:** Jason Mraz

**Hobbies:** Painting, guitar, creative writing, and weight lifting.

## Josue Hernandez, Upper School Math

**Where did you grow up?** McAllen, Texas

**Education:** A Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Texas A&M University. Mr. Hernandez studied abroad for a semester in China. He also studied in Istanbul and spent one year in Tunisia.

**Proudest accomplishment:** Graduating college is not only a big accomplishment for me, but my family as well, because I am the first to graduate.

**Last read:** "Misery" by Stephen King and recently re-read George Orwell's "Animal Farm."

**If I Could Turn Back Time:** I've always wanted to ride a dinosaur. I've also wanted to joust. Maybe I'll find a middle ground to joust on some dinosaurs.

## Yoselin Lambert, Lower School Spanish

**Where did you grow up?** Jalapa Nueva Segovia, Nicaragua

**Education:** A Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at Arlington (Pre-Law concentration with a minor in Spanish).

**Hobbies:** Writing, exercising, and traveling.

**Last read:** "The Power of a Praying Wife" by Stormie Omartian.

**What's on your playlist?** Hillsong, pop, Spanish music

## Aaron Mattox, Upper School Integrated Media & Athletics

**Where did you grow up?** Houston

**Education:** A Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma.

**Career talk:** Though his proudest accomplishment is being a husband and father of two, Coach Mattox says he'd be a minister, BBQ Pitmaster, or camp director if he weren't in education.

**First concert:** George Strait

**Just one meal:** Brisket, ribs, beans, and potato salad fits the bill for this lover of Western movies and Texas history.

## Shannon Oldenburg, ECC Teacher

**Where did you grow up?** North Richland Hills

**Education:** A Master of Education degree in Early Childhood from UT Arlington and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from New College of Florida.

**Career talk:** A breast cancer survivor, this wife and mother of two says she would work as a nurse or occupational therapist if she weren't an educator.

**Last read:** "How Y'all Doing?: Misadventures and Mischief from a Life Well Lived" by Leslie Jordan

**What's on your playlist?** Hamilton soundtrack, Brandi Carlisle, Ben Platt

Oakridge 2nd grade teacher, April Benjamin, earned recognition this fall from the organization, Black Women Instilling Scholarly Excellence. The group of doctors regularly awards educators in the community. Ms. Benjamin is now in her 16th year with Oakridge and serves as the 2021-2022 President-Elect of the Junior League of Arlington. Oakridge parent, Melissa Steer, nominated her for the honor because of the positive impact Ms. Benjamin has had on her daughter, Cayden '28, inside and outside of the classroom.





# RITUALS FOR A REASON

According to UT Austin researchers, rituals developed during COVID-19 have become important survival tools. While the pandemic meant a loss of rituals for some, it meant the formation of new ones for others. Whether it's repeated hand washing after handshakes, dancing at dawn, or sit-down dinners, what new ritual did you start this past year that you will continue?

## Lydia Abbott, Middle School Spanish

Having a deeper appreciation for the outdoors, such as dining outside, walking and enjoying nature.

## Melanie Butts, Lower School Administrative Assistant

Naming what matters and letting go of what doesn't.

## Michelle Emmert, Upper School Administrative Assistant

When the pandemic locked us, per se, in our homes and neighborhoods we longed for fresh air and fresh looks at things other than our walls and faces. Our family started to walk each night after dinner. We would see neighbors out and all the wonderful yard work and porches being beautified. It was a favorite part of our day. Every day since, we walk after dinner. Any family member at home looks forward to it, and Mom and Dad have never learned more (kids talk when they walk)!



## Rachel Filbeck, Theatre Technical Director

My boyfriend and I have a spaghetti night.

## Dianne Findley, Fine Arts Assistant Director

Date night every Friday with my husband.

## Melanie Hartsell, Upper School Math

We have returned to eating from home more often! And dinners out are much more special.

## Yoselin Lambert, Lower School Spanish

Fist bump.

## Bridget Lewis, Director of Marketing and Communications

My extended family and I more regularly tell each other, "I love you." We didn't say that a lot growing up because we felt our actions showed love. I like that we say it now and I plan to continue.

## Lauren Matocha, Director of Development

My use of hand sanitizer everytime I get in my car. It is now part of my driving ritual just like putting on my seatbelt.

## Christine Metoyer, Assistant Head of Upper School

Daily exercise.

## Shannon Oldenburg, ECC Teacher

Playing cards with the teenagers.

## Claire Reddig, English Department Chair & MS English Teacher

I am more intentional about starting my school day reading my devotional book before my students arrive, praying each bead on my prayer bracelet when I have a break during the day, and using breath prayers to center myself.

## Vicki Reed, Preschool Teacher

Sanitizing my hands as soon as I get in the car after being in public. Using Zoom and facetime more regularly to visit with family and friends rather than just texting.

## Debbie Spence, Accounts Receivable and Enrollment Management

Definitely washing my hands often and trying to keep distance between others.

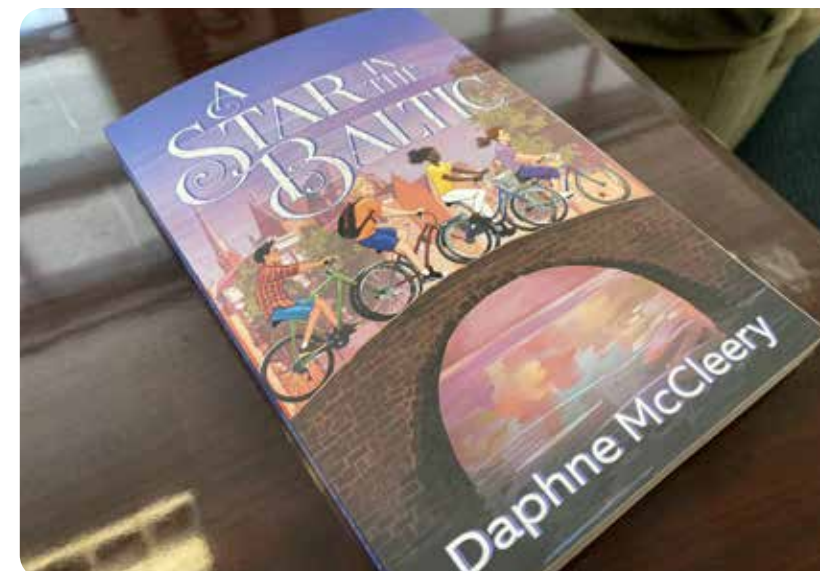
# TELLING TALES

*New York Times*' bestselling author and illustrator Nathan Hale captivated Lower School students when Ms. Patricia de Winter hosted him in the school library in November. The creator of "*Hazardous Tales*" encouraged aspiring authors to find inspiration within themselves, delved into "cartoon language," and discussed how bilingual speakers exercise incredible brain power.



# NEW CHAPTER UNFOLDS

For Beth and Ben Mackendrick, the adventure continues in "*A Star in the Baltic*." Readers were introduced to the siblings in "*When the Star Sails*." Oakridge Admissions Coordinator and Author Daphne McCleery now invites readers to "escape into this feel good, mystery/adventure." The book is available on Amazon. McCleery and Nathan Hale, a *New York Times*' bestselling author, got to swap stories, literally, when he visited the school this fall.





# A CARING COMMUNITY

1. Oakridge Owls collected approximately 7,700 canned food items for families in need during the annual Canned Food Drive in November.

2. Varsity Volleyball players and supporters raised \$9,560 during a “Pink Out” for Breast Cancer Awareness month. Junior Catherine Wang chaired the entire event.

3. Oakridge volunteers, including first grade student Brooks Patterson, participated in Mission Arlington’s Turkey Toss during the Thanksgiving break. In all, they moved about 4,000 turkeys used to provide holiday meals.

4. In September, the Oakridge community raised \$5,406.58 for the American Red Cross, which is assisting families devastated by Hurricane Ida.



# FORENSIC SCIENTISTS IN TRAINING

A forensic science lesson truly captured the attention and imagination of Mrs. Davis’ first grade students. They got to examine their fingerprints and study items with magnifying glasses before recording their observations.





# WATER CONSERVATION

Second grade student, Zibby Trick, visited Arlington City Hall and met Mayor Jim Ross after winning an Arlington Water Conservation Poster Contest. More than 100 students from area schools competed, but six were named winners. Zibby’s parents and Lower School IdeaLab Teacher Melissa Carter, who encouraged her students to research and to enter the challenge, shared in the special recognition.



# GOURD GOODNESS

Fall brought the return of off-campus field trips and these Early Childhood Center students could not have been happier than when they visited a pumpkin display at the Dallas Arboretum.



# DESIGNING IN HISTORY



For some Middle School students, designing skills came in handy in their Honors History class. As part of their study of the history of Africa, Mr. Clint Allen had students design masks similar to what ancient Dogon, Igbo, and Mali people would wear during traditional ceremonies in Western and Southern Africa during the Middle Ages.

# YOUTH AMBASSADOR



Congratulations to sophomore Henry Tincup on being selected to be an International Youth Ambassador for Fort Worth Sister Cities International (FWSCI). Henry will travel to Trier, Germany in June to represent the organization. While there, he will live with a host family and become immersed in the culture. FWSCI’s mission is to promote Fort Worth globally and enrich the community through international education, exchange and commerce, creating a more peaceful and prosperous world.



# A SPECIAL FOCUS

Grandparents are so special to us, and we were particularly happy to put the focus on them for Grandparents' & Grandfriends' Day. Enjoy the photos here. Photos from the ECC fall program for Grandparents' & Grandfriends' Day are on page 28.





# EXPLORING THE WETLANDS

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



# ARTS





# MAKING MUSIC



Congratulations to 8th grade cello player, Anna Trimble, for a job well done at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Middle Orchestra concert. In November, she competed against several dozen other middle school cellists from Region V, which includes Fort Worth ISD, Arlington ISD, Mansfield ISD, parts of Grand Prairie ISD, as well as all private schools and homeschools that are members of TMEA. Oakridge Orchestra Director Daniel Jamieson commended Anna on the competitive audition and called it “quite an honor to be selected.” The concert, seen on page 25, took place at Fort Worth’s I. M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA.

# MUSIC IN EDUCATION

Twenty-one Upper School students from The Oakridge School have been selected for the Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) Region Choir. Fine Arts Department Chair Andrew Stewart and Assistant Director Dianne Findley lead Oakridge’s school choirs. After participating in an audition process this fall, three freshmen, seven sophomores, three juniors, and three seniors were chosen by the TPSMEA for the Mixed Choir. Two juniors and three sophomore students were selected for the Treble Choir. The students include:

### Mixed Choir

Sophia Anderson, 10  
Caden Beam, 9  
Daniel Bird, 11  
Lauren Campbell, 12  
Cole Daniels, 12  
Hayden Fickel, 10  
Alex Greene, 9

Landon Hodges, 10  
Aaron Jones, 10  
Bryce Key, 10  
Kristina Miller, 11  
Audrey Pettigrew, 10  
Caitlin Reddig, 12  
Marissa Robertson, 10  
Nadia Saleh, 9  
Lauren Scott, 11

### Treble Choir

Jessica Batrice, 10  
Julie Batrice, 10  
Aubrey Burks, 11  
Joy Lewis, 10  
Chloë Polit, 11

The audition process consisted of preparing two choral pieces that students recorded individually to be submitted to the adjudication panel. Students selected for the Region Mixed Choir will also be considered for the statewide All-State Choir. The Texas Private School Music Educators Association, founded in 1992, is an organization of over 200 private school music educators dedicated to promoting excellence in music education. TPSMEA has four divisions: Band, Orchestra, Vocal, and Elementary.



The Oakridge A Cappella Choir performed the fall concert, *Brand New Day*, October 18, 2021 inside the Fine Arts Performance Hall.

# FIVE QUESTIONS WITH ANDREW STEWART

It’s become somewhat of a seminal moment for the Oakridge Upper School Choir: an adventure to New York City where our student singers get to perform at Carnegie Hall. That trip had to be cancelled in 2020 because of COVID-19, but plans are in the works now to take a group to the Big Apple this spring. Director of Choirs Andrew Stewart explains in this edition of Five Questions.



Stewart, far left, and choir members during a 2018 trip to Times Square.

## 1. In the past, what has been the biggest thrill for choir students traveling to New York?

**AS:** For many, it may have been seeing iconic sights with friends while bonding over lunch from a street vendor. Some may have had their eyes opened to the beauty in our collective diversity. Others realized the power of music when standing on the stage at Carnegie Hall.

## 2. Do the students return to Oakridge differently as performers?

**AS:** All of our singers walk away from this trip with incredible memories, a new confidence in their growth as young adults, and a better understanding of what it means to be a musician. They bring their shared experience back to Oakridge where it helps inform the focus, musicianship, and maturity of our choir for years to come.

## 3. What’s a not so fun fact of the trip?

**AS:** There are no current choir students who have experienced a Carnegie Hall trip with Oakridge. Our juniors and seniors, who would have normally brought that energy to this school year, had their 2020 choir trip cancelled at the beginning of the pandemic. Though it was completely out of our control, it was a painful realization that COVID-19 had in many ways fundamentally changed this and so many other activities.

## 4. What’s a fun fact?

**AS:** Those of us who have chaperoned this trip many times have noticed a comical trend. Our students talk a big game about staying up late and enjoying time with friends in their hotel rooms on the trip. But after singing, sight-seeing, walking the streets of New York, and going to shows all day, most of the kids are asleep before we come around for room checks each night.

## 5. What have you learned most about yourself while leading these trips?

**AS:** The planning for the New York choir trip begins 18 months in advance. Not long after our plane returns to DFW, we begin looking at the calendar for the next trip. Despite the long lead time, it’s still an arduous task to get budgets created, Broadway shows selected and reserved, hotel rooms filled, flights secured, money and information collected, and music learned. But over the years I have learned that I enjoy the process immensely. We get to create a once in a lifetime opportunity for our Oakridge singers and I’m honored to be able to help make that happen!



# FALLING FOR YOU

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



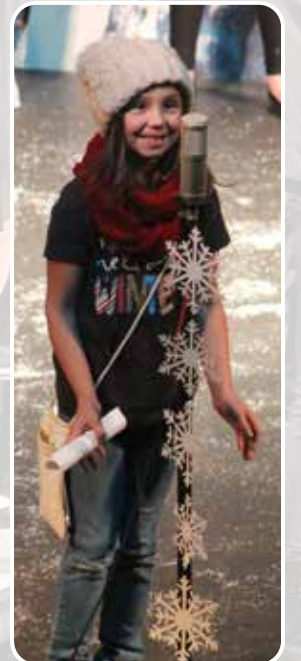
# ALL THAT JAZZ

Third and fourth grade students traveled across decades and styles during their fall musical, "Jazz, A Swingin' Celebration." They truly were the cat's meow as they performed many different jazz genres and light choreography taught to them by Shandy Shumaker, Lower School music teacher, in only a few months.



# BRING ON THE SNOW

Lower School students delivered a fun, lighthearted musical and plenty of "Knock Knock" jokes about the cold weather in December's "Bring on the Snow."





# A TIME FOR GROWTH

Orchestra students in the Upper School and Middle School performed “A Time for Growth,” for their fall concert. It marked the first time the students had been in front of a live audience in the Fine Arts Performance Hall in two years. Some of the songs were also performed for Grandparents’ & Grandfriends’ Day.





# THANKFUL



A Thanksgiving greeting to families from Head of School Jon Kellam was adorned with artwork by two Upper School students. The front cover design, incorporating an owl and fall foliage, was created by freshman Kenedy Millikan. A design featuring pumpkins, by sophomore Jacqueline Hutton, appeared on the back cover.



Jacqueline Hutton '24

Kenedy Millikan '25

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ART

Middle School students in Zach Allen's art classes gained exposure to various art forms ranging from drawing and painting to ceramics and sculpture.





# LOWER SCHOOL ART

Lower School students in Renay Levisay's art classes were introduced this fall to the works of influential artists, such as Spanish painters Pablo Picasso and Joan Miró.



The three-day Ramblin' Roads Music Festival showcased live music at 18-plus venues across Arlington, several genres, and the voice of one Oakridge Owl! Sophomore Landon Hodges took part in the "Start the Journey" Youth Voice Competition, advanced as one of 16 finalists, and got to sing at Arlington Music Hall in early October. Congratulations, Landon!





The Middle School production of “Totally Red” was totally awesome. Teacher and Director Dianne Findley helped fifth grade students develop their dramatic acting, comedic timing, and public presentation skills. Family and friends seemed delighted based on their laughter and applause. Brad DeBorde handled sound and lighting. Congratulations to the young cast and crew!



## MUSICAL OAKRIDGE



1) After-School Musical Theatre students presented, “Snow Biz” in December. 2) Upper School choirs presented “Joy Peace Hope Love.” Photo by freshman Elly Fields. 3) Oakridge Orchestras presented “It’s the Holiday Season.” 4) Upper School students rehearsed the winter musical, Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella.”

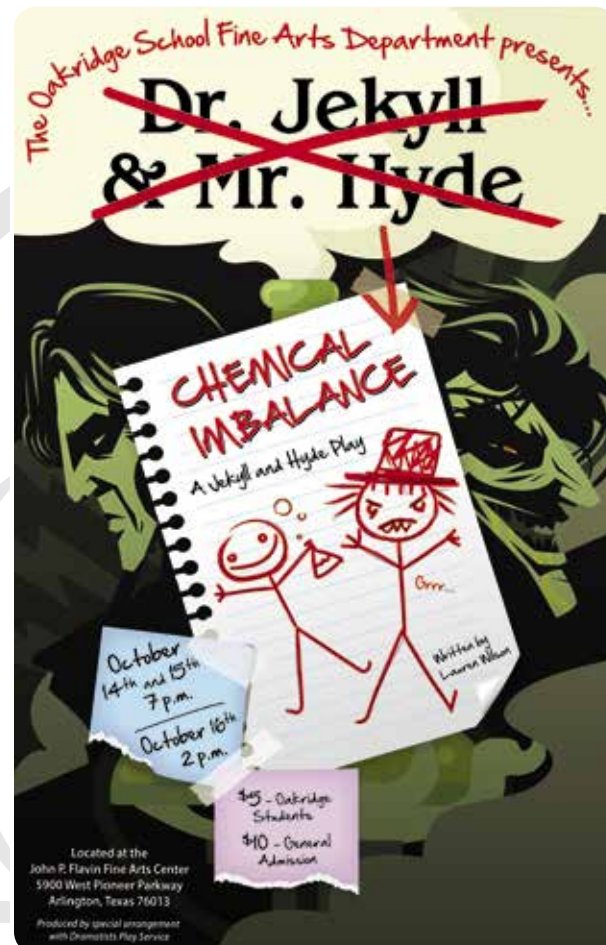




# BACK ON STAGE

A darkly comic adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, was the focus of the Upper School fall play, *Chemical Imbalance*. It came to life October 14-16 in the Fine Arts Performance Hall. For many students, it was their first time back on stage in front of a live audience at Oakridge.

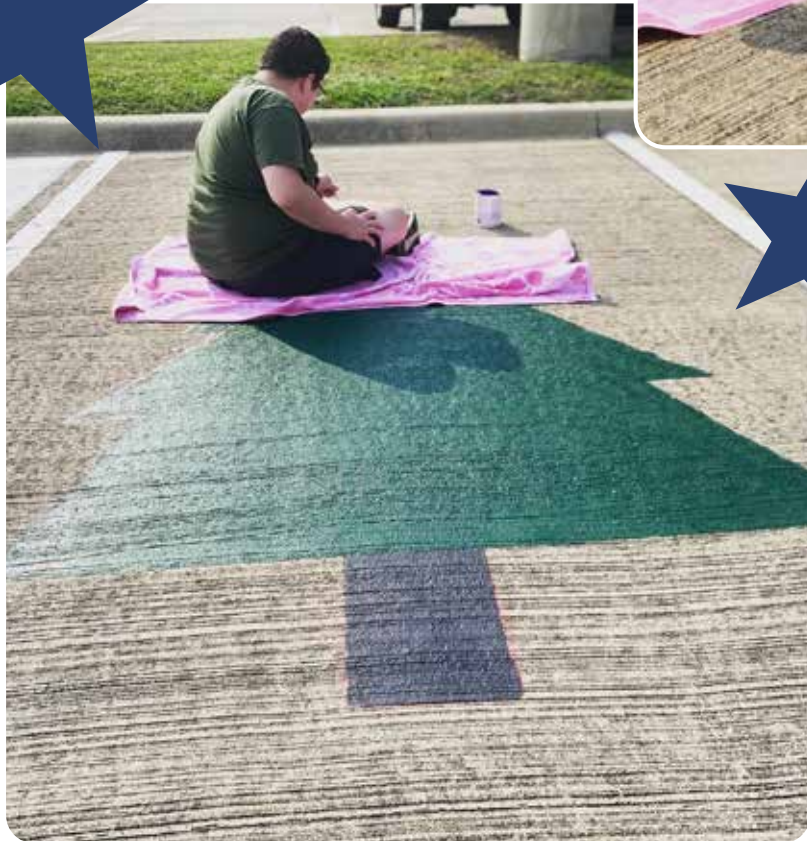
*Chemical Imbalance* told the story of the shy Henry Jekyll, the unmarried son of a wealthy Victorian family. In his laboratory, he conducted secret experiments in an attempt to isolate the organic component that determines whether we are controlled by the good or the evil inside us. Making a potion, he thought would work, he tried it out on himself to disastrous effect. His evil alter ego, Mr. Hyde, emerged to wreak mayhem. In addition to strong acting, the play also showcased the skills of the technical theatre students, who worked hard to build the set. Some photos used in this story were taken by junior Rachel Trimble.





# PARKING LOT PICASSO

We love traditions and a new one began this year for the Class of 2022. Thanks to an effort by current and alumni student Owl leaders, seniors with reserved parking spots got to paint them. It's called "Parking Lot Picasso," and while temperatures ahead of the start of school were sizzling, senior Reese Brown was already thinking about the winter holidays!



ATHLETICS



# HOMECOMING VICTORY

Oakridge 34 - Casady 6 FINAL



# ALUMNI CHAMPS



Members of the 2011 SPC Championship Football Team were recognized during halftime of the Homecoming game.





# MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



*Middle School basketball photo by freshman Elly Fields*

*Middle School cheer and football photos by freshman Grace Hunter.*

*Field Hockey photo by senior Elena Phan.*

*Volleyball photo by junior Rileigh Robinson.*



# HISTORIC FINISH

What an amazing fall for our Varsity Volleyball girls! In one of their best seasons in years, the team fought hard and finished second in the SPC Tournament. Their final record: 32-9.



# CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS



# BOLLER’S 300TH WIN

A huge win at Nolan Catholic High School also marked a milestone for Varsity Volleyball Coach June Boller. She reached her 300th career win. Congratulations, Coach Boller!





# CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

The Oakridge Cross Country team had a stellar fall season. Coach Henderson said dedicated athletes and good team chemistry, coupled with strong leadership from captains, are factors that helped to benefit the squad in many ways. In addition, having a normal routine, infused with a great deal of team morale, gave the program a boost of energy. “This was evident in the meets this season, as our runners gave everything they had during practices and while competing in the races,” Henderson said.

Varsity Cross Country wrapped up the season with two first place team trophies, a second place team plaque, and a third place team finish through their six regular-season meets. Collectively, the Upper School runners traveled 3,500 miles on foot. Nineteen medals and many consecutive personal best record times, are some of the accolades that show the drive and success of the team.

The Middle School squad also competed at a high level. “Coach Nathan Stephens and Coach Paulo DaSilva did a great job of preparing the young athletes for battle,” Henderson said. “There will be some talented runners joining the Upper School Cross Country ranks next season, which will help reinforce the core group that is already in place.”

Run on, Owls, run on!



# WALKER'S 300TH WIN

Oakridge Boys Basketball Coach Andre Walker joined an elite club with his 300th career win. It came in a game against Waxahachie Prep. His players and their parents celebrated him with a huge banner following the boys' game against THESA on Nov. 16.





# GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls basketball team is excited to experience their continued improvement as the season progresses. This photo of senior Zoe Bahjat was taken by junior Addy Fields.




# SOCCER TOURNAMENT

We're proud of the effort our student-athletes put into the season and future of their programs. These photos of sophomore Jacob O'Connor and junior Sasha Welborn-Houston were taken by senior Caroline Walker during the Tyler tournament.







# Save The Date

## Oakridge Golf Classic

### Monday, May 2, 2022

#### 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 Physical Education and Athletic programs.**



Liz and Ben Hicks  
Golf Classic Chairs



Dennis Brown  
President, The Owl Club

For more information about the 2022 Golf Tournament, please contact:

Liz\* and Ben Hicks 817.253.0965

Dennis Brown 817.891.0263

# A Return to the Red Carpet

## THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL SUPER SUPPER & AUCTION

### MARCH 5, 2022

*Save the Date*

for  
THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL  
SUPER SUPPER & AUCTION

Calling all leading ladies and gentlemen...  
Join The Oakridge School on the red carpet to  
celebrate the 43rd Super Supper and Auction.  
Get red carpet ready for an elegant night of glitz and glam  
supporting The Oakridge School as guests enjoy an evening  
of fine dining, auction and entertainment.

DATE  
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022

TIME  
6:00 PM - 12:00 AM

LOCATION  
LOEWS HOTEL ARLINGTON

AUCTION CHAIR  
JEANNE CURTIS



[WWW.THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG/SUPERSUPPER](http://WWW.THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG/SUPERSUPPER)



# ANNUAL FUND 2021-2022

We are honored to Chair Oakridge's 2021-2022 Annual Fund. We chose Oakridge because Kyle is an alumni member of the Class of 1995 and it was an extremely easy decision for us to continue the legacy with our children Daphne '32 and Griffin '36. From the first moment we stepped onto the campus for a tour in 2017, we knew we were home.

Over the last four years, we have built the deepest of friendships amongst the Oakridge family. It is certain beyond words that lifelong bonds have already been established in this short time. The community of Oakridge friends we call family is the greatest gift of all.

Outside of parenting and volunteering, Kyle is well-known for his culinary passion and his adventure with Wooden Spoon FW. Noelle is a realtor in DFW and has recently enhanced her career by joining another Oakridge family and becoming a member of TDT Realtors, located in Arlington.



We sincerely hope you will join us in support of The Oakridge School Annual Fund, where your generosity is a critical investment in the future success of The Oakridge School and its students.

*With gratitude,  
Noelle and Kyle Slater  
2021-2022 Annual Fund Chairs*



## WHAT IS THE ANNUAL FUND?

- *Oakridge's top philanthropic priority*
- *It supports the daily operating budget*
- *It bridges the gap between tuition dollars and the actual cost of a private education*
- *100% of your tax-deductible gift goes directly to the school*
- *2021-22 Goal: \$450,000 and 100% schoolwide participation*

# OAKRIDGE PARENTS' CLUB

Better because: Oakridge is Better  
Because of your support and involvement in the Oakridge Parents' Club (OPC)! And, we are better because we are back on campus.

I get so many questions of "What is OPC?" or "Oh yes, I already joined the Owl Club" (these are different clubs). The purpose of the OPC is to assist the administration, faculty, staff, and Board of Regents in providing for the educational enrichment of the students, to promote the fellowship of the families and staff of The Oakridge School, and to raise funds to accomplish these objectives.



During the school year, OPC hosts a wide variety of events including: Cheers & Tears, the Back-to-School Fair, faculty and staff appreciation luncheons, classroom parties for the Early Childhood Center, student socials for Middle and Upper School students, Owlfest, Holiday Treasures, the Book Fair, and more. We raise funds to support these events through our annual Boosterthon, membership dues, Box Tops collection, and Uniform Resale.

At the end of the year, we allocate back to the school the monies raised by the OPC that have not been used to support OPC events. Because of the support from the Oakridge community last year, the Oakridge Parents' Club was able to allocate \$53,000 to the school. We invite you to join us!

*Keith Bird  
OPC President  
2021-2022*



## 2020 – 2021 OPC ALLOCATIONS

\$ 4,000	The Oakridge School General Endowment
\$ 3,000	The Angel Fund
\$ 1,000	Admissions Department Activity Materials for Community Events
\$ 850	Alumni Department Pop-up Tent
\$ 1,500	Development Office – 3 New ipads and square stands
\$ 4,400	ECC Furniture and STEM yard refresh
\$ 2,000	Lower School ipad charging stations for classrooms
\$ 8,500	Middle School Classroom Furniture and Age Appropriate Playground Equipment
\$ 4,750	Upper School Technology Materials and Chemistry Balances
\$ 7,000	Acoustic Sound Panels (2) for Fine Arts Performance Hall
\$ 3,000	Technology Department Security Awareness Training for Faculty/Staff
\$13,000	Teacher Appreciation Holiday Gift

**TOTAL 2020-2021 OPC ALLOCATIONS: \$53,000**



# WELCOME NEW OWLS



# ALUMNI



# ALUMNI NEWS

## CLASS OF 1993

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



## CLASS OF 1997

**JENNIFER SMITH KRAJCIROVIC '97** has been a graphic designer for the past 20 years. She is a Creative Design Director in Mansfield. Recently she has also been doing graphic design and marketing work for her husband's new craft brewery, Ash & Ember Brewing, in Cedar Hill. The small, family-friendly brewery focused on traditional true-to-style brews and was named by Untappd as one of the top 10 highest-rated breweries in the entire state of Texas. Their daughter, Zoey, a legacy owl (6th grade), enjoys helping on brew days.



## CLASS OF 2001

**CATHLEEN DEPONTE MEAD '01** is the founder of CAS curate.admire.style - a full-service women's boutique in Arlington, specializing in a personalized shopping experience, tailored by you with carefully selected items that will make women feel and look great! From tops, pants,



jewelry, purses, and graphic tees. Additionally, CAS features Double Dog Candle Co., her in-house candle company, with their signature soy/paraffin blend, hand-poured in small batches and can be customized to fit your needs. *Follow her on Facebook and Instagram @cascurateadmirestyle and visit her website [www.cascurateadmirestyle.com](http://www.cascurateadmirestyle.com).*



**CIJI TATUM TOWNSEND '01** and her spouse, Travis Townsend Jr., welcomed a daughter, Trinity Lacey Townsend, on October 8, 2021. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and 21.5 inches. Trinity is the little sister of proud big brother Travis "Tripp" Townsend III. The Townsend family resides in Atlanta, GA.



## CLASS OF 2002

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



## CLASS OF 2003

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



# ALUMNI NEWS

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



## CLASS OF 2005

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





# ALUMNI NEWS

**NICK BURKETT '05** and his wife, Kristin, expect their first child, Charles Ryan Burkett, due December 16. Nick is a Senior Loan Officer at Premier Mortgage Group and licensed to originate in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The Burkett family resides in Centennial, Colorado. *Follow Nick on Facebook @NickBurkettMortgages.*



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



**KAYLEE PERRY LAND '05** and her spouse, Christopher, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Bronx McCall, on July 31, 2021, at 3:11 a.m., at Medical City Arlington. Bronx McCall weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces. The family resides in Arlington.



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



## CLASS OF 2008

**NICK LANE '08** and his wife Lindsey Lane, Upper School Art Teacher, welcomed their son, Finley Ryan Lane, on November 16, 2021. The Lane family resides in Arlington.



**ARTHUR IVO '08** and **MARISSA BELSKE IVO '07** welcomed their son, Andre Belske Ivo, on March 8, 2021. Andre joins big sister Lexi, a legacy owl in Pre-Kindergarten this year at Oakridge.



## CLASS OF 2009

**NATALIE BROWN RATLIFF '09** and her spouse, Robert, welcomed their first child, Robert Wyatt Ratliff, on March 26, 2021. The family resides in Fort Worth.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## CLASS OF 2010

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



## CLASS OF 2012

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





## CLASS OF 2013

### Nathaniel Plemons

'13 has been busy since graduating from Oakridge. First, he went to Rhodes College in Memphis, where he ran track, sang, and traveled for an a capella choir, and presented original historical research at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research before graduating on the honors track, cum laude, with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 2017. Next, Nathaniel attended law school in Nashville at Vanderbilt University School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor degree in 2020. Last summer, he returned to Dallas-Fort Worth, where he clerked for United States Federal District Judge Mark T. Pittman in the beautiful art deco federal courthouse in downtown Fort Worth. In September, Nathaniel joined the litigation boutique Lynn, Pinker, Hurst & Schwegmann in downtown Dallas as an associate, focusing on complex commercial litigation, trade secrets, and appellate advocacy. He will return to federal service in 2023 when he clerks for United States Federal Circuit Judge Kurt D. Engelhardt in New Orleans. Nathaniel would like to thank all of his Oakridge friends and family, particularly Mrs. Jennifer Bonner, for their guidance and support. Go Owls!



## CLASS OF 2014

**CHELSEA ABII, ESQ. '14** graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Texas in May 2018 and graduated from Emory University School of Law in May 2021 with a Juris Doctor degree. Recently, Chelsea passed the bar exam in October 2021.



## CLASS OF 2016

### SHANNA LUCAS '16

completed an independent study within Trauma & Visual/Material Culture to kickstart a long-term project for publication and research for her senior capstone set for the spring of 2022 at Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX. Shanna is a Professional Development Associate for Southwestern's Center for Career & Professional Development for the fall 2021-spring 2022 school year. In addition, Shanna reported on the 2021 Texas Tribune Festival for the university newspaper, *The Megaphone*.

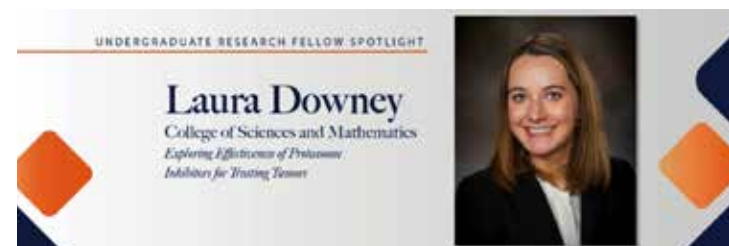


## CLASS OF 2017

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



**LAURA DOWNEY '17** began working in a lab in the Department of Drug Discovery and Development in the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University in 2020. She has been researching the effectiveness of proteasome inhibitors for treating tumors. Proteasome inhibition is one theory of destroying cancer cells. However, current proteasome inhibitors are limited by their toxicity to normal tissues. She is currently working with brain and breast cancer cell lines to see if packaging the drug in liposomal nanoparticles will penetrate the tumor better than normal tissues, resulting in selective delivery of encapsulated drugs to primarily cancer cells. In March of 2021, she was awarded a year-long fellowship for her research through the Office of Undergraduate Research. Since then, she has had the privilege of being featured in an article through the Vice President for Research & Economic Development at Auburn as an undergraduate research fellow.



### LOGAN MUZYKA

'17 graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio in May 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and English and a minor in Chemistry. She is now in her first year at Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, a newer medical school. Logan is in the school's sixth class of medical students, which she loved because it is small, like her graduating class at Oakridge of only 72 students, which is why she chose it. Logan is halfway through her first year and states, "it has been challenging, but I love it," Muzyka says. Logan hopes to specialize in pediatric neurosurgery.



### SUPAKJEERA THA

**NAPAIASAL '17** graduated summa cum laude from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a Bachelor in Science in Computer Science. Supakjeera received a full-time offer at Expedia Group as a Software Development Engineer I in Austin.



## CLASS OF 2018

### ANDREA ACCOSTA

'18 graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington in December 2021 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.





# ALUMNI NEWS

**CHANNY CORNELL '18** is a senior at Smith College majoring in English Literature with a Book Studies Concentration. Channy was recognized for her success in the classroom when the NEWMAC announced its Academic All-Conference team in March 2021. Channy Cornell receives the honor for the first time in her career after a 2019 season where she made 13 starts with 102 saves and 2.73 goals-against average.

Coach Mara Townsley attended sisters **CHANNY '18** and **COCO '20** Cornell's last regular season field hockey game together at Smith College. In November, sophomore defender Coco Cornell '20 was selected for the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Field Hockey All-Conference Team.



## CLASS OF 2020

**MADISON FUSSELL '20** is a sophomore majoring in Pre-Profession Applied Exercise Science in The School of Kinesiology, Applied Health and Recreation (KAHR) with a minor in Business Management at Oklahoma State University. Recently, she's been traveling a lot for the equestrian team, along with many practices and workouts while keeping up with her school work. As a result, the Oklahoma State Cowgirl Equestrian team will start the 2022 spring season ranked No. 1 in the National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) Farnam poll. Additionally, the Cowgirls are the highest-ranked team in the Big 12.

Madison has an impressive 5–1 record as a Cowgirl and plans to return in early January to prepare for her busy spring season.

This year, Madison says she looks forward to their “Big 12 Championship in Fort Worth around the end of March; last year, it was in Waco at Baylor, and we won the 2021 Big 12 championship!” Fussell says.

The championship will be held April 14-16, 2022 at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, FL. The competition will feature an NCEA National Dual Discipline Title and a Single Discipline Title.



# LEGACY BREAKFAST



Oakridge legacy families came together on August 20 for the school's second Alumni Legacy Breakfast! Who is a legacy Owl? A current or graduate Oakridge student whose parent(s) graduated from The Oakridge School. Alumnus and legacy parent Chef **KYLE SLATER '95** of Wooden Spoon graciously catered for the event, where 53 of the 64 legacy students enrolled in the 2021-2022 school year gathered for breakfast in the Quad. It was a beautiful day, and we love seeing our legacy families together, sharing smiles, laughs, food, and memories. A special thank you to Kyle for providing another delicious meal and all who could join us.



# LEGACY BREAKFAST

# LEGACY BREAKFAST





# SENIOR SUNRISE

The Class of 2022 kicked off the senior year together with a new tradition at The Oakridge School, Senior Sunrise, the morning before school started Tuesday, August 17, on the football field at Parvin Stadium. Students brought their blankets, listened to music, played lawn games, and watched as the sun came over the school. The Alumni Office provided breakfast tacos from Taco Cabana, orange juice, and coffee to celebrate the beginning of the end. Additionally, seniors wrote a letter to their future selves, which the Oakridge Alumni Coordinator, Kendra Walton '05, will give back the day before graduation at Senior Sunset. Another event highlight was the 2021 yearbook pickup for the seniors to commemorate their junior year memories and sign their yearbooks before anyone else. It was a great early morning to celebrate our Seniors, and they enjoyed the time they had with their friends and the induction of their senior year.





# ALUMNI TAILGATE: HOMECOMING 2021

# ONCE AN OWL, ALWAYS AN OWL






The Oakridge School was excited to welcome 136 alumni back to campus for the 2021 Homecoming celebration on October 29. Between catching up with friends, cheering on the football team at the Alumni Tailgate, enjoying a delightful dinner from On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, a sweet-treat dessert from Pokey O's, and much more, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Homecoming truly is a particular time of year – a time when alumni, students, staff, faculty, and community members all come together to celebrate their Owl pride.

We look forward to seeing our alumni back on campus again in 2022 for our next Homecoming celebration!

Scan the code to update your contact information and guarantee you don't miss any future alumni events or go to [theoakridgeschool.org/alumni/updateinfo](https://theoakridgeschool.org/alumni/updateinfo)



 GROUPS/  
OAKRIDGEALUMNI  
 @OAKRIDGE\_ALUMNI  
 @OAKRIDGEALUMNI









# 2011 SPC CHAMPIONS REUNITE

We were thrilled to have our 2011 SPC Championship football team in attendance for Homecoming with Head Coach Phillip Farhat '93 to celebrate the ten-year reunion of their championship. After losing their first game in overtime, the Owls came together. They pulled off ten straight victories, including a 30-20 win over All Saints' Episcopal School in the championship game at Pennington Field. It was great recognizing this historic season with the enthusiastic support of our Owl family of players, coaches, and staff, who dedicated so much that season and ultimately won the SPC Championship. All these players were champions on the field and continue to be champions in life. Congratulations on your championship season, and we loved having you back on campus.



# CLASS OF 2021 YEARBOOK SIGNING PARTY

The senior yearbook distribution party is a bittersweet event held in the Upper School Commons in August post-graduation to provide our newest alumni a chance to have fun, socialize, and sign each other's yearbooks. This event celebrates seniors receiving their last high school yearbook and allows them to reminisce and hang out together as a class one last time before they leave for college. The Alumni Association hosted the yearbook distribution party to commemorate the Class of 2021 and their first event back on campus as alumni. Once an Owl, Always an Owl.





# FRESH FROM THE NEST! CLASS OF 2021 REFLECTIONS

**NICHOLAS MILLER**  
*University of Chicago*



"Oakridge teachers always encouraged and welcomed us to reach out to them for support outside of class. Having that confidence to approach my professors in office hours has already made a difference in my grades and class experience."



**TRINITY COAKLEY**  
*Northeastern University*

"Oakridge went above and beyond in preparing me for college. The most prevalent aspect is that the amount of homework given out at Oakridge forced me to be more organized to turn it in on time. So far, college courses have had less homework than Oakridge (which is good!) for grades and more reading on my own time. In addition, Oakridge allowed me to find what methods best worked for me when juggling a lot of homework, athletics, and social life, making it all feel like second nature. As a result, I feel exceedingly prepared for the college workload. Thank you, Oakridge!"

**RYTIS PETRAITIS**  
*United States Air Force Academy*

"Oakridge has prepared me in many ways, both academically and for the military. At the Air Force Academy Preparatory School, I have at least 3 hours of homework every night, but the time management skills have helped me balance school, basketball, and the military. I could never succeed and be who I am now without Oakridge."



## HOW HAS OAKRIDGE PREPARED YOU FOR COLLEGE?



**SHIVANI HARABHAI**  
*Baylor University*

"I remember hearing from alumni how Oakridge prepared them for college and how their freshman year experience was much smoother than their peers, and I never truly understood what they meant until now. Oakridge prepared me for so much. I learned solid study habits and how/when to do homework."



**ALEX GREVE**  
*Belmont University*

"The most important skill that I took from Oakridge was how to manage my time. I found that the curriculum at Oakridge was challenging enough to where if you don't stay on top of your work, you will fall behind very quickly. I also learned how to study effectively. Sure, you can take all the challenging classes you want at any school, but that doesn't necessarily get you anywhere if you don't know how to study effectively. The skills I learned at Oakridge are paying off now in college!"

**MACKENZIE YENTES**  
*ESCP Business School London*

"I decided to study in Europe because Oakridge opened my eyes to so many new cultures, and I knew I wanted to study international business abroad. In addition, Oakridge prepared me with the hard skills required to succeed and the communication and interpersonal skills necessary for today's world."



## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR VISION

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

## PHILOSOPHY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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### 2021-2022

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**Asst. Head of School**

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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](mailto:tfoster@theoakridgeschool.org).

