

The Peak to Peak Alumni Magazine

Piqued

/ˈpēkt/ (verb) to excite interest or curiosity, to arouse an emotion or provoke to action



Stay
Connected!

INNOVATION

Volume 1: Issue 1
April 2018

In this inaugural issue of the Peak to Peak alumni magazine, we celebrate the creative solutions and strategies that keep Peak to Peak at the forefront of educational innovation. Pursuing these leading edge ideas and opportunities for students will guide our community into the next generation of educational distinction.

In this issue:

- Class of 2008 Reunion
- Alumni Spotlight: Lila Morency
- The New Design Thinking & Innovation Course



Message from Ms. Reeser

Executive Director of Education



Dear Peak to Peak Alumni,

On behalf of the entire Peak to Peak community, I would like to welcome you to the first edition of the Peak to Peak Alumni Magazine! We are thrilled to have this venue for communication with you and to take this important step in increasing the connection that alumni have with Peak to Peak. The purpose of our new alumni association is to create a network of Peak to Peak graduates who can support each other professionally and socially, and to increase opportunities for our current students to learn from you – our distinguished alumni – through formal and informal means, such as mentoring relationships and general information sharing.

We're excited to hear from you! Please take a moment to let us know how you're doing and what you have been up to since you graduated from Peak to Peak. We have several ways for you to connect and stay informed about the latest from your alma mater:

Fill out [this form](#) to provide current contact information. Join our [LinkedIn page](#) and see what other Peak to Peak alumni are doing.

Like our [Facebook page](#) to see celebrations and photos from events at Peak to Peak.

As you know, Peak to Peak is a vibrant and dynamic school community, and we are constantly making improvements. Since you graduated, the campus has expanded considerably: in 2016, our build-out project was completed, which added more than 42,000 square feet of new space to our buildings. In the not too distant future, we will be designing new facilities that will be constructed on five acres of newly-purchased land on the northeast part of campus. While the college-prep mission of the school has not changed, we are striving to improve the quality of the buildings on campus and to provide spaces where students can collaborate and learn in innovative ways. Please come by and see us next time you're in the area – we would be delighted to show you around your new and improved "old" stomping grounds. We think you will be impressed!

These are just a few of the exciting accomplishments we have had since you graduated. More news and updates are available on our website: www.peaktopeak.org. Thanks for reading this inaugural edition of our Alumni Magazine. We look forward to helping you stay connected with Peak to Peak!

Best wishes,

Kelly Reeser
Executive Director of Education

Upcoming Events:

- **April 26-28:** Theater Production - "She Kills Monsters"
- **April 30:** Band Concert
- **May 1:** Orchestra Concert
- **May 2:** Annual Meeting
- **May 3:** Choir Concert
- **May 4:** Run for the Peak
- **May 12:** Class of 2008 Reunion
- **May 17:** Senior Goodbye Tunnel
- **May 19:** Graduation

INNOVATION & DESIGN

Design Thinking

Peak to Peak's new Design Thinking and Innovation course maximizes experience and collaboration, putting cross-curricular design thinking into practice. It requires students to solve an increasingly difficult series of design problems. This class not only teaches design thinking strategies, but also asks students to employ them by developing collaborative, creative projects and prototypes. Working together to solve problems maximizes creativity through productive interactions and multiple iterations. Students solve challenges, use empathy, prototype, research, self-assess and peer review. Each collaborative team generates their own problem. The final demonstration of mastery is a showcase presentation to a guest panel of local luminaries and educators. Students gain key skills in research, innovation, design, collaboration, failure, and presentation.



Kinesthetic Classrooms

Many classrooms are implementing new seating options. Kinesthetic classrooms allow children to move while they learn. These options are based on brain research and include many flexible seating choices. Flexible seating means that we do not assign seats for our students. The kids pick their own locations around the room so they can choose a place where they learn best, such as standing tables, floor boards, pedal desks, and more. For more information see: <http://fantasticfirstgrade.wixsite.com/kinesthetic>



Innovation Fair

In April, 2017, 6th grade pumas participated in the first ever Innovation Fair. Given the theme of 'Earth Day,' students were challenged with the task of using their creative ideas to help protect our environment. Students used flexible class time to design inventions, create artwork, build websites, construct video games, and investigate threats to our environment. Utilizing a project-based learning structure, students explored their own passions while applying science. Their hard work culminated in the inaugural Innovation Fair, where students wowed judges and their peers with projects ranging from a prototype for a solar powered car, a model that could be used to simulate animal testing, and a video game where players captured the carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels.



Puma Athletic Updates:

2015-16

4 state championships
19 league recognition awards
3 Coach of the Year awards
7 athletic scholarships
Highlight: 6 tennis courts added on campus

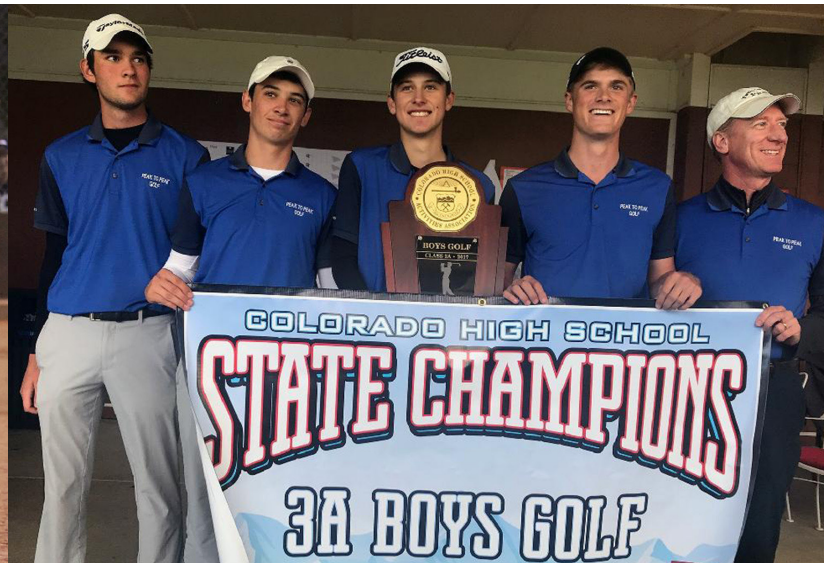
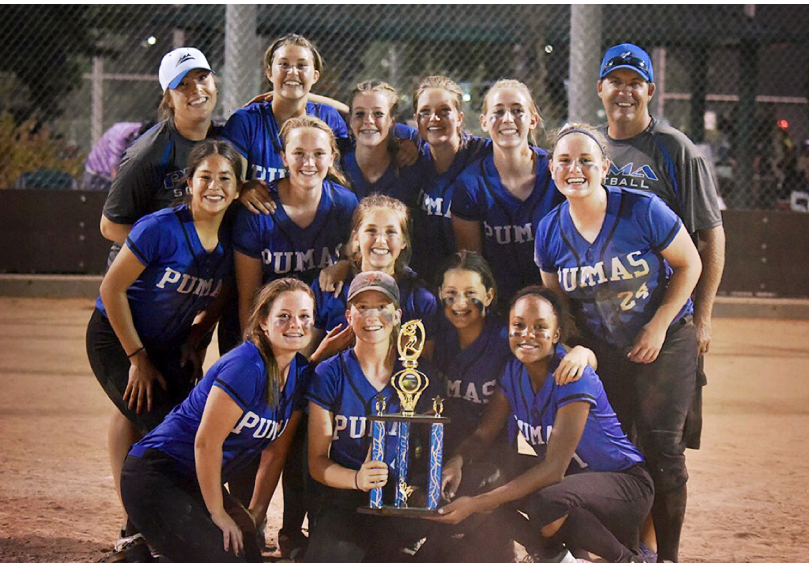
2016-17

2 state championships
29 league recognition awards
3 Coach of the Year awards
5 athletic scholarships
Highlight: Girls set an all time state record in the 4x800 Relay, 9:12:44

2017-18*

5 state championships
38 league recognition awards
2 Coach of the Year awards
5 athletic scholarships
Highlight: Boys and Girls basketball played at the Pepsi center

**In progress data*





Alumni Spotlight: Lila Morency

Where are you now and what are you up to?

I am currently living in Milan, Italy working as a fashion designer.

Do you think your time at Peak to Peak helped you to pursue this? If yes, how?

Peak to Peak was a wonderful environment to be in when I was there (from 2002-2006). The school had just started and there weren't many electives available compared to other bigger high schools so I wasn't introduced to fashion or anything that had to do with that field of work. However, being a college prep school, Peak to Peak strongly encourages each student to search for his or her passion and to pursue it. I overheard a girl in my french class talking about doing a fashion show for the school talent show and a lightbulb turned on. I approached her saying that I was interested in organizing a serious fashion show to try my hand at designing. I had never sewn a thing in my life. Thanks to the school's size and the great staff we were granted an opportunity to present our designs.

Did you ever imagine doing this while you were at Peak to Peak?

Thanks to the opportunity to do a fashion show fundraiser, I was able to imagine myself becoming a designer and moving to Italy.

What education have you pursued since high school?

In my senior year I was able to find a college on the east coast that I wanted to attend and did a deferred entrance. One month after high school graduation, I moved to Milan with the intention of immersing myself in an atmosphere that breathed fashion and learning a new language. Throughout the course of the year many things happened and I ended up staying in Milan to attend the Marangoni Institute of Fashion Design.

Who was your favorite teacher and why?

Tony Fontana and Brendon Feddema were great mentors. I thoroughly enjoyed Ms. Betts' (now Mrs. Letter) consistent bouncing off the walls enthusiasm about the great writers and I still remember the line from *Twelfth Night*; "If music be the food of love, play on." (I am also slightly terrorized that she will read this and find a bunch of grammatical errors but I hope that my knowledge of four languages will be excuse enough to be forgiven!) Ms. Armbrust made me love Calculus and Trigonometry, which are not usually considered the most exciting subjects. Kyle Mathews tried to get me to love American history and politics. Sorry, didn't happen, but I got really good at memorizing stuff for tests and writing really really small when we had one note card allowed for tests. I do remember loving those classes though because of his passion.

Are you still friends with anybody you met at Peak to Peak?

After high school I was ready for something new and moving to Milan was a pretty crazy jump that didn't allow me to continue seeing my old friends. Thanks to social media I have a general sense of what some of my former classmates are up to.

What's the most influential class you've taken in college?

The classes I took in college were all pretty influential because I was studying what I was passionate about. I'd have to say that pattern-making was a revelation, I loved art and costume history, and learning about how to create a collection.

What would you like to tell your fellow alumni?

I hope that everyone is enjoying where he/she is and if you're ever in Milan, I'd love to take you out for a drink!



Faculty Spotlight: Kristie (Betts) Letter

How long have you worked at Peak to Peak, and what classes have you taught?

This is my 17th year. When I started, we only went up to 9th grade, and we were located in muddy trailers by the bus stop on Merlin.

How is the school (and/or the students) different from when you first worked here?

The school is WAY nicer! We didn't even have phones at first, or a gym. Now we have three gyms and a Makerspace! Amazing. Students are more stressed than ever, however, with even more unrealistic pressures they put upon themselves.

What's the secret to keeping our 12th graders interested in literature?

The secret to keeping 12th graders interested in literature is probably verbal irony, lots of acting and a hefty dose of poetry. Also, I talk loudly and gesture much.

Tell us about your recent successes as a published author.

I've published lots of stories, including one in *Chicken Soup* that was about something incredibly kind that Peak to Peak alum Ian Rosenstein did for me years ago. Last year, I published a book of poems called *Under-Worldly*. Next fall, I have a collection of short stories coming out from Engine Press!

What message would you like to leave for our alumni?

My message for alum is to stay in touch (with me and with each other) and not to forget the arts! Writing and doing art are good for the soul, even though so many of you are engineers!

What section of a bookstore would we find you in and why?

In a bookstore, I'm always on the floor in the fiction section, starting to read. I can never wait until I purchase and get home.

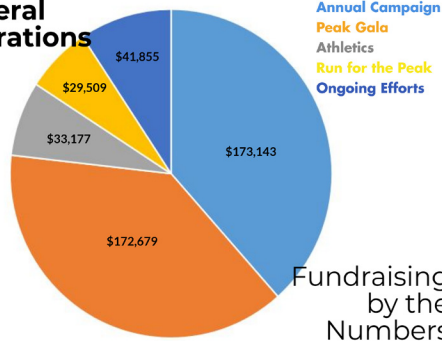


**FRIENDS
OF PEAK TO PEAK**
303-453-4600 • www.peaktopeak.org

Friends of Peak to Peak Annual Report 2016-17

Unlike other public schools, Peak to Peak operates on a funding gap of approximately \$1,000 per student. During the founding years it was necessary to incur debt to finance the construction of our original set of campus buildings, resulting in an approximate annual \$1.4 million payment out of our operating budget. For more than 15 years, Peak to Peak's Annual Gift Campaign has been the single most important and sustainable fund raiser to help fill that gap.

General Operations



In July 2017, Friends of Peak to Peak (Friends) provided a successful fund transfer of \$329,672 to Peak to Peak Charter School. As a non-profit 501(c)(3), Friends operates with fundraising events and activities to support the 1,445 K-12th grade students. With emphasis on engaging fundraising campaigns, events, and activities, Friends looks to provide a menu of opportunities for approximately 900 families and the surrounding community to participate in efforts to support Peak to Peak Charter School.



\$329,672
raised for Peak to
Peak Charter School



Community Contributions



The Peak Scholarship Fund



Designed to ensure that no student is denied the opportunity to receive a college education, the Peak Scholarship Fund has enabled **21 Pumas** to pursue their dreams of attending college. Currently, **18** are on track to graduate in **4 years** and 1 of the first scholarship recipients will receive her college degree this December, in 3.5 years, while maintaining a **3.8 GPA**.



\$1,339,509

Total Scholarship Fund

Raised for the Peak Scholarship Fund

Friends of Peak to Peak

As the non-profit liaison between Peak to Peak and our parent and alumni community, we are thrilled to share our updates in the inaugural "Piqued!" We have had a busy year as we continue to offer our wonderful Puma families near and far opportunities to support the school through the contribution of time, talent and treasure. The Peak to Peak Annual Gift Campaign is wrapping up with more than \$140,000 in donations, which go to support the Peak to Peak operating budget. On March 9th we hosted the 15th annual Peak Gala where our 500+ Puma parents, staff and local community supporters gathered for a fun evening in the "Wild West" to raise some ruckus and some cash for Peak to Peak! This year, we had a special appeal to raise money specifically to replenish our Peak Innovation Fund. This exciting project kicked off in 2017 and offers Peak to Peak staff the opportunity to apply for funds to support innovative

projects in their classrooms that may not otherwise be possible through the school budget. This year's funded projects have included a new elementary Virtual Reality learning set, funding for a new high school Literary Magazine to showcase student art and writing, clay anatomy sets to further understanding of the human body in high school anatomy and an innovative "restorative justice" program implemented throughout campus to ensure a positive and effective response to student discipline concerns. Several other additional projects were also funded this year. Some of you may remember Run for the Peak; well, we are excited to host the 19th annual Run for the Peak on May 4th! As always, Friends of Peak to Peak welcomes you all back to campus for any of our exciting fundraising and volunteer activities – please join us! We love hearing from you all and hope you stay in touch as your lives take exciting paths into the future!

[Click here to make a donation to Peak to Peak.](#)

Then...

- Peak to Peak was named the #1 high school in Colorado by *5280 Magazine*, and ranked 47th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- The 2008 class of graduating seniors were offered nearly \$6.5 million in scholarship funds.
- The graduating class had 94 seniors.
- Seniors averaged 3.5 college acceptances per student.
- Students took 423 Advanced Placement tests in the 2007-08 school year.
- 2008 class quote: "This taught me a lesson, but I'm not quite sure what it is." John McEnroe
- 2008 prom theme: Arabian Nights
- Building square footage in 2008: 137,127

& Now

- Peak to Peak was named the #1 high school in Colorado and ranked 64th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- The 2017 class of graduating seniors were offered more than \$20 million in scholarship funds.
- The graduating class had 139 seniors.
- Seniors averaged 4.5 college acceptances per student.
- Students took 827 Advanced Placement tests in the 2016-17 school year.
- 2017 class quote: "Today is a good day." Brandon Ries
- 2017 prom theme: Mardi Gras
- Building square footage in 2017: 179,258

Class of 2008 : 10 Year Reunion

Saturday, May 12th from 2:00-5:00

The Post Brewing Co. in Lafayette

Tickets are \$25 and are available at <https://tinyurl.com/P2P2008Reunion>

Click here to Register Now!

Alumni Updates



*Class of 2011 alumni
Casey Ross, Cory
Goode, Tylon Wang,
Travis Otey, and Jon
Quinn in Morocco*

Drew Lundquist, Class of 2008

Graduations: Art Institute of Colorado, BS Photography, 2012
Current Job: Owner/Photographer at Drew Lundquist Photography LLC., <https://www.drewlundquist.com/> Also partnering as a Real Estate Photographer
Marriage: Emily Chandler, July 29, 2013

Emily Lundquist (Chandler), Class of 2008

Graduations: Norwich University, Criminal Justice, May 2012
Current Job: Executive administrative assistant at Noble Energy / Army National Guard Intelligence Officer
Marriage: Drew Lundquist, July 29, 2013

Nathan Otey, Class of 2008

Current City: Cambridge MA
Graduations: Harvard College, BA Philosophy and Math, 2015
Current Job: Cofounder at ThoughtFull, Lead Teacher at ThinkerAnalytix
Contact: nathan.otey@gmail.com

Liesel Stewart (Mundhenke), Class of 2006

Contact: liesel.stewart@gmail.com

Landon Ennis (Noble), Class of 2007

Current City: Scottsdale, AZ
Graduations: University of Denver, BS Accounting, June 2011; Liberty University, MA Accounting, August 2017
Current Job: Homeowners Financial Group, Senior Accountant
Marriage: Lane Ennis, June 25, 2011
Contact: landonnenis@gmail.com

Brianna Mundhenke, Class of 2007

Current City: Fort Collins, CO
Graduations: Colorado State University, BA Zoology, Dec. 2011
Current Job: 4th grade teacher at St. Joseph's Catholic School
Contact: brianna.mundhenke@gmail.com

Kate Hopkins, Class of 2008

Graduations: Yale, BS, 2012; Stanford, MBA, 2016

Heidi Chandler, Class of 2008

Current City: Arvada, Colorado (soon Columbus, Georgia)
Graduations: Regis University, BS Sociology, Criminology minor, May 2012
Current Job: Grace Church of Arvada as the Guest Services Director
Marriage: Blake Bucknam, May 13, 2018
Contact: chand116@regis.edu

Meagan Chandler, Class of 2008

Current City: Denver, CO
Graduations: University of New England, BSN, May 2012
Current Job: ICU RN at Swedish Medical Center
Contact: mchandler@une.edu

Josh Chandler, Class of 2008

Current City: Denver, CO
Graduations: CU Boulder, BS Psychology, 2012; CU Denver, MA Architecture, in progress
Current Job: Colorado National Guard as the Executive Officer
Contact: jjchandler9@gmail.com

Molly Creek, Class of 2008

Current City: Longmont, CO
Graduations: DePaul University, BS Psychology, 2012; M. Ed School Counseling, 2015
Current Job: School Counselor and Head Volleyball Coach at Erie High School
Contact: mollycreek@gmail.com

Erin Dickson, Class of 2008

Current City: Lakewood, CO
Graduations: Gonzaga University, BS Biochemistry, 2012; University of Utah, MS Biochemistry, 2015
Current Job: Professional Research Assistant at CU Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology
Contact: erin.l.dickson@gmail.com

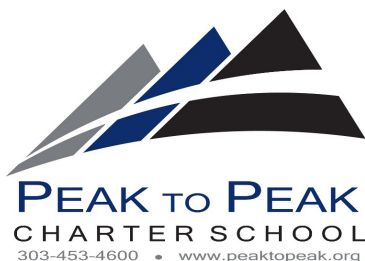
Lauren Goedde, Class of 2008

Current City: Windsor CO
Graduations: Colorado State University, BS Equine Science, Business minor, BA Spanish Language; University of Kentucky, MS Veterinary Science
Current Job: Assistant Instructor, Colorado State University
Marriage: September 8, 2018 to Elliott Pyles (also a P2P alum)
Contact: Lauren.goedde08@gmail.com

*Class of 2008
alumni Drew
Lundquist
and Emily
Lundquist
(Chandler)*



Class of 2008 Graduation Ceremony



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