Linden Hall Connect

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK!

Fall 2023 Edition

A Message From the Head of School



Dear Linden Hall Community,

With autumn's beauty surrounding us, now is the perfect time to reflect on the personal and academic journeys of our students. As we are now fully engaged in the 2023–2024 school year, we are proud to reaffirm our commitment to providing a wide array of opportunities for our girls both in and out of the classroom.

Academic Excellence

Linden Hall students continue to shine academically, pushing the boundaries of their knowledge. They consistently raise the bar and prove that learning knows no limits. Whether it is achieving remarkable grades, participating in rigorous Advanced Placement courses, or winning prestigious academic competitions, we see our students striving for excellence each day.

Athletic Programs

In the world of sports, our student-athletes continue to show their dedication, discipline, and teamwork. They understand that being a student-athlete means not only pushing their physical boundaries but also their mental ones. Our sports teams have celebrated victories, but more importantly, they have learned valuable lessons of perseverance, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Extracurricular Opportunities

We believe in nurturing the talents and passions of every student. Our extensive array of extracurricular activities and clubs provides an outlet for girls to explore new ideas and engage with different peer groups. Whether it's through the student government, Business Club, Minecraft Club, or *Echo* Club, our students venture far beyond the classroom to discover their passions and expand their potential.

Achievement in the Arts

The arts are a vibrant part of Linden Hall's culture, and our students are continually recognized for their artistic talents. They remind us that creativity knows no bounds through captivating performances, breathtaking artwork, and soul-stirring music. We celebrate our girls for their skill and ability to evoke emotions as well as inspire change through their artistic expressions.

As we embrace all the extraordinary aspects of Linden Hall, we encourage our students to stretch their limits, set ambitious goals, and never be afraid to explore the uncharted territories of their potential. We believe that with hard work, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to growth, our students will exceed even their own expectations.

We are so grateful for each of you — alums, parents, and friends — for joining us in this journey. Just like the vibrant fall leaves that bring a tapestry of color to our lives, your presence enriches our community. Together, we can provide the support and encouragement that will empower our students to go beyond what they ever thought possible.

Warm regards,

Dr. Nan

Gretna Day – A Lasting Tradition

Gretna Day is one of Linden Hall's most precious traditions. Begun in October 1919 as a celebration of the principal's birthday, Gretna Day quickly became an important fixture at Linden Hall. Through the years, the event date began to change and soon morphed into a "surprise day off" for students.

Each Gretna Day, our girls get the day off from school and travel to Mt. Gretna, PA, to hike the area's trails and skate at Mt. Gretna Roller Rink, the oldest continuously operating roller rink in the US. This year, on Monday, October 30, a fire drill preceded Ms. Solomon's Gretna Day announcement. After grabbing their t-shirts and selecting activities for the day, students and chaperones departed for the roller rink. A group of students even hiked to the Governor Dick Observation Tower during a six-mile nature hike! After returning to campus, the students enjoyed even more fun activities that included gaga ball, ultimate ball, manhunt, capture the flag, board games, card games, volleyball, and so much more. The day ended with an exhilarating relay race in the gymnasium.

This year's Gretna Day was one of the most sensational in recent memory and marks the first time since the Covid pandemic that every student was able to enjoy a visit to the roller rink. Many thanks to the New England Chapter of the Alumnae Association for raising over $2,500 to sponsor this treasured Linden Hall tradition!



A Night for the Blue & White – Linden Hall's 2023 Fall Gala

Linden Hall's fall gala fundraiser, A Night for the Blue & White, was a phenomenal success for our school. Over 100 attendees helped raise money to support the tuition assistance program at Linden Hall. To quote one attendee, "A Night for the Blue & White was one of the highlights of my fall season. What a unique opportunity to support a school that means so much to me!"

A Night for the Blue & White was held on November 10 at Lancaster Country Club. Arriving guests enjoyed a complimentary cocktail hour in the club's beautiful East and West lounges, mingling with our Board of Trustees and Head of School, Dr. Nan Wodarz. Throughout the hour, student musicians serenaded attendees with a variety of beautiful musical pieces.

Following cocktail hour, the main ballroom doors opened to reveal an ornately decorated reception space that featured a variety of silent auction and raffle items, a DJ, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. During the reception, Dr. Nan addressed guests and provided updates regarding our school's strategic and academic initiatives. Perhaps the high point of the reception was the paddle raise, during which participants raised a hand to "pledge" their support for Linden Hall.





After the closing of the auction and the announcement of raffle winners, guests departed knowing they had made an invaluable difference in the lives of our students. By attending the gala, they were supporting our tuition assistance program, thus helping to make Linden Hall more accessible to deserving girls seeking a world-class education.

Many thanks to our board, faculty, staff, families, and attendees for making A Night for the Blue & White such a massive success. Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsors, Patty Parker Molnar '65 and Dr. Attila Molnar.

Discovering Our Nation's Capital: Linden Hall's Exciting Journey to Washington, DC

Written by Emily K '25, Linden Hall's Student Journalist

Situated in a small, charming town, Linden Hall enjoys proximity to several metropolitan areas.

This convenient location allows us to supplement our students' learning through in-person visits to major museums, performances, and historical landmarks. After a challenging period marked by the Covid pandemic, we are thrilled to announce perhaps one of the largest school trips we have offered our students at Linden Hall. As we return to providing educational field trips, our recent excursion to Washington, DC, displays our unwavering commitment to providing enriching experiences for our students.

Our students had an incredible time exploring the nation's capital, including the Smithsonian museums, art galleries, monuments, and memorials around the National Mall. Hear what our students had to say about ther trip.

> *"I loved seeing actual parts of a rocket that were used and sent to space at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. I learned about some of the old techniques pilots would use to navigate their planes to their destinations, including something called a kneeboard, which was essentially a map that pilots would strap to their thighs."* Maliha '26

> *"Touring the National Museum of Natural History, I was fascinated to learn about our prehistoric ancestors and the different types of humans that lived thousands of years ago."* Najaah '25

> *"Standing before the Lincoln Memorial, I was reminded that leadership and resilience can shape a nation's future."* Emily '25

> *"My favorite part of the trip was seeing the dresses of the first ladies at the National Museum of American History. I learned that the plot to assassinate Lincoln was much more complicated than I thought because it involved a plot to kill his whole administration."* Sara '24

In addition to these experiences, our students spent the trip learning and embracing their cultural heritage through art exhibits, strolling around the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, and reasserting their aspirations of becoming future congresswomen in the vicinity of Capitol Hill. Our students had an amazing time exploring the rich tapestry of American history, culture, and politics in Washington, DC. A special thanks to our dedicated staff who organized this memorable trip for all!





Fall 2023 Academics in Review

This fall, our teachers engaged students in activities and projects that are both unique and highly educational. In early September, when Mr. Hondares decided to teach Frankenstein, he knew he wanted to introduce students to the New York Public Library's Pforzheimer Collection, one of the world's largest collections of Mary and Percy Shelley's manuscripts and books. So, he coordinated with curator Elizabeth Denlinger to bring the collection to Linden Hall via Zoom.

Mr. Novick's AP World History class started the year off strong by practicing the art of historical cartography, drawing out the early kingdoms of Southeast Asia over a modern map of the region. While the road to the AP Exam is far away, Mr. Novick's students have already shown themselves adept at interpreting complex historical processes and events that shaped the medieval and early modern worlds.

Later in the quarter, Dr. Harding's Mystery Fiction class became detectives and worked together to solve two criminal cases: a murder and a bank robbery. In the murder case, students pieced together witness statements from the murder scene to build an accurate picture of events, as well as identify everyone's whereabouts and relationships with each other. The detectives on the scene of the robbery had to deal with unreliable witnesses, irrelevant information, and a red herring involving dynamite. Thanks to both teams' collaboration and attention to detail, all suspects were apprehended before the end of class.

Toward the end of the first quarter, Mrs. Workman's students created art projects in classes and clubs across Linden Hall. Ceramics classes worked on projects that would make their way to the Lyet Family Gallery for display, while Visual Voice art club members continued to beautify the stairwells with their artwork. All of us who work and study at Linden Hall are so grateful for the privilege of witnessing our students' masterpieces across campus!

Ms. Oxenford's history class examined the 27 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Students were asked to choose four amendments, illustrate the rights they protect, and show how specifically those rights are protected. At the end of the class, students debated which of the 27 amendments offers people the greatest protection in their daily lives.

As part of the ongoing festivities revolving around October's National Hispanic Heritage Month, Mrs. Perry invited Mrs. Kathy Miller to spend the day with our Spanish classes. Mrs. Miller, a retired Spanish/ESL teacher, grew up in Honduras as a daughter of missionaries. Her discussion focused on the challenges faced by Honduran women, as well as the courage and resilience they display. Students actively participated with insightful and meaningful questions.

In the science wing, Ms. McCole's 8th-grade Applied Experimental Design students brought their "Soda Explosion" experiments to a dynamic conclusion. Collectively, the classes spent time trying to figure out what combination of factors made for the best soda explosions. Previous years had determined that diet soda worked best and that more Mentos made taller soda fountains. This year's classes focused on how soda temperature, the height from which the Mentos were dropped, and the shape of the container affected the size of the eruptions.









LAST CHANCE TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION THIS YEAR.

Interested in giving a gift that will make a difference for Linden Hall students while also reducing your taxable income for 2023? Scan the QR code to donate to the Linden Hall Annual Fund before midnight on December 31.

LINDEN HALL
FOUNDED IN 1746

212 East Main Street
Lititz, Pennsylvania 17543

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LITITZ, PA
PERMIT NO. 8

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2023 Fall Play — *Girls in the Boat*

Linden Hall's fall play, *Girls in the Boat*, was a spectacular performance that our families and staff will remember for many years to come. Based on the inspiring original story of the US Olympic Women's Rowing Team, this play follows a group of strong, fiery young women fighting discrimination and prejudice to compete in the male-dominated sport of rowing. As the group breaks barriers of race and gender, their newly minted US rowing crew goes on to become the most winning sports team in American history.

The performances, which ran from November 2 though November 4, were well attended by families and the local community. Mr. Denny Foreman, Linden Hall's Theater Director, stated of the play, "*Girls in the Boat*, with its all-female cast, seemed like the perfect fit for a Linden Hall production. Along with the casting, the story of the Women's 8-crew Racing Team and their struggle to find inclusion in a male-dominated arena seems more than pertinent as the world questions gender in sports. I am very proud of our 13-member cast. Only two members of our team have performed in the past. Adding to the difficulty of this production is that the actors do not play a single character. Rather, they each play a composite of numerous athletes, parents, coaches, and journalists spanning nearly 50 years."

Hayden '24, one of our student performers, noted, "I was so excited to participate in this year's play. This was my first theater performance ever, and the subject matter helped me realize how important women's teams were to the history of Olympic sports!"

We are so proud of our dedicated actors, theater staff, and stage crew for making this year's fall play a performance to remember.



LINDEN HALL
Summer

GIRLS Camp 2024



Wizarding School July 8–12, 2024
World Travelers July 15–19, 2024

Girls entering grades 2-8

Day and overnight options available, including the weekend of July 12-14

Equestrian Camp 2024



Equestrian Overnight Camp
July 14-19, 2024

Girls entering grades 3-8

create play learn grow

Limited spots available!

Registration opens January 8, 2024
www.lindenhall.org/summer