



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As spring arrives, I am pleased to provide an update regarding your school. While we continue to focus on delivering a strong finish to this year, we are actively planning for our 2008-2009 school year.

A three-year Strategic Plan is close to completion. Eighteen strategic planning teams composed of parents, staff, faculty, board members, students, and donors have developed recommendations in six key areas:

- Attract and develop student body
- Enhance educational program
- Develop brand position
- Retain and attract best employees
- Enhance governance practices
- Create financial stability.

Please come to the 'State of the School' address, scheduled for May 29 at either 8:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. to learn more about our current status and our plans for the future.

Over the past couple months, our students have achieved many successes, including:

- Mock Trial Ohio State Champions
- Performing *David and Lisa* at the 2008 Thespian Conference for Ohio
- Winning Keys at the Scholastic Arts Show
- Power of the Pen regional awards
- Winning the semifinal round at the Scholastic Games
- Annual Lego Robotics Competition Champion. We are proud of our students' many accomplishments.

In closing, I would like to extend a special thanks to everyone who made our auction a tremendous success. Despite the 'Blizzard of 2008,' we had one of our best fundraising events. Please check our Website if you are interested in buying a few remaining auction items.

Please keep in touch!

Carol L. Klimas

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Zack Sweebe

Zack Sweebe is a student who has leveraged the many opportunities available to him at Lake Ridge Academy, to realize his full potential. While Zack played the lead character in the 2008 state recognized production of *David and Lisa*, our fall play, he was also selected for the lead character in our musical, *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*. When he was rehearsing for the fall play and musical, he hit it big in the courtroom. Zack is an attorney on our 2008 Mock Trial State Championship Team. He won best attorney awards on the district and state levels. He and the team

will compete on the national stage in early May. I am proud of Zack's involvement in these activities, in addition to student senate and student disciplinary committee. Zack does all of this while dedicating himself to his studies. He is a student to highlight this month for seizing upon the many opportunities here at Lake Ridge Academy! Congratulations to Zack who was recently accepted to Skidmore College, his first choice for college education.



Zack Sweebe

2008 MOCK TRIAL STATE CHAMPIONS

I am extremely proud to announce that our Lake Ridge Academy Mock Trial Team are State Champions and will advance to the National Competition. On Friday, March 7, the team won the championship. They will represent Ohio at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Delaware, May 8-10.

The Mock Trial Team includes: Diane Colley, Dominic Gazzo, Stacey Hauff, Isaac Jilbert, Erica Lasky, Matt Nahorn, Alex Potoczak, Rubina Ratnaparkhi, Zack Sweebe, and Kendall Szulewski-Francis.

Faculty members instrumental to this success are Hilary Sparks-Roberts J.D., Dr. Chandana Mozumdar, and Teresa Jenkins. Our legal advisors include Rich Sweebe (Ulmer Berne LLP) and Kevin Roberts (The Roberts Law Firm). We are planning a send off event for our students next month. The entire school is buzzing with excitement about this significant accomplishment.

Stay tuned for more!

Encore

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Our kindergarten class has been engaged in an integrated learning approach, including studies in money, writing, reading, science, and social studies. “This is every teacher’s dream group, and it has been fun!” stated Nanette Frankel, Kindergarten teacher.

The curriculum has been based on the seasons, incorporating learning about how the weather affects us. The year started with a focus on the herb garden in the playground area of Lake Ridge Academy. The students discussed how the summer months provide the elements necessary to grow herbs. They learned about the usefulness of herbs for people and for animals. As the colder weather approached, the class examined what happened to the herbs and flowers, and made predictions as to what was going to happen as the temperatures dropped. The curriculum lends itself to the study of physical changes in our environment, colors, temperatures, and how each is dealt with by us and the animals indigenous to the area.

In early January, the students planted their first crop of basil. It took almost two months to harvest the herb. In the meantime, they learned about money, coin combinations and making change, as they prepared to sell their product. This is quite an accomplishment for five and six year olds!



The class made signs promoting the sale of basil plants, and advertised the sale throughout the Lower School. They planted the herb in clay pots to encourage customers to return the pots after their use to receive a 50% refund. The children took the money and made change if necessary. Our kindergarten stars are planning a second basil sale in May.

BOARD UPDATE

Lake Ridge Academy is fortunate to have an exceptional Board of Directors, made up of engaged, hardworking, and talented people. As I mentioned in my last edition of Encore, I will be highlighting a specific committee in each issue, this month focusing on our Development Committee. This committee is composed of:

Linda Springer (Chair)	Tom Dresing
Caprice Bragg	Mike Bramhall
Bob Fairchild	Don Kaatz
John Mullaney	Ben Norton
Kent Sommer	Chann Spellman
Deborah Birk (LRA)	Stella Dilik (LRA)
Carol Klimas (LRA)	

Philanthropy at Lake Ridge Academy is a high priority. It is important to us to invest in our priorities, especially our people. We must maintain and enhance our educational offerings for our students and families.

We have a lot to celebrate in the area of development. A few achievements include:

- Our Annual Fund has reached new heights this year. Our families, alumni, and friends have truly expressed their dedication by making contributions to the Annual Fund which have resulted in the most successful year of Annual Fund giving in more than 10 years;
- Thanks to the hard work of our Parents’ Association, the leadership of our co-chairs, and our generous guests and volunteers, our March auction event raised significant funds;
- Capital and designated special gifts have surpassed our goals, and as a result, our grounds, facilities, and curriculum are flourishing; and
- More donors are participating in making planned estate gifts (for example, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policies and retirement policies), which cost them very little now, but ensure Lake Ridge Academy’s financial viability for years to come.

As we celebrate this outpouring of support, we are also planning for the future. We will launch an effort to build and grow our endowment. The endowment is a permanent fund, invested over time, to produce income. A meaningful endowment is a commitment to Lake Ridge Academy’s future.