

# Life *at Linden Grove School for students, parents, staff and supporters*

## Contagious Enthusiasm a Powerful Start to the New Year

By Kristin Tennyson, Head of School



If the enthusiasm our students and parents displayed during our Open House is any indicator of what the '17-'18 school year will bring, then we are in for a treat!

As the front doors to our new entrance opened, we could hear squeals of joy as Grace ran in with the biggest smile on her face, handing out hugs that could potentially knock the wind out of you! Her mom was right behind her with a huge grin, saying, "She's so excited to be here – I'm so excited that she's here!" In between Alanya and Cameron literally jumping up and down over their mutual love of celebrating birthdays, Liam wasted no time finding the much anticipated "funnest room in the school" (a new sensory room). He kept coming back to try out the new foam crash pit over and over and over again.



And the enthusiasm didn't stop there. A few days later at Parent-Teacher Conferences, Kiano's dad came up the stairs exclaiming, "This is going to be a great year. We just had a fantastic conference with the team!"

It was easy to see what was happening during these beginning year activities. Parent faces changed from worried to relaxed, from anxious to eager. The excitement of our students was simply contagious. After a summer of being away, our school turned into "home" again.

What a powerful way to start the year! ●

*Liam Donathan and Ms. Sparling (top) enjoy getting acquainted in the new art room. Reggie Joppru (below left) tries out the foam pit in the new sensory room. Cameron Carr (below right) tests his skill on the climbing wall in the PE room.*

## Pre-Year Conferences Ensure Shared Vision for Student Success



The week before school begins, LGS parents meet with their student's team of educators to answer the question, "What is your vision for your child?" Parent responses include a range of academic, social and behavioral goals ranging from improved use of grammar and understanding of geometric concepts, to increased ease in initiating conversations and improved self-esteem. Parents and staff also discuss topics such as student interests,

motivators and fears as well as each parent's preferred method of communication. 🍓

*As part of the pre-year parent-teacher conferences, Julie Savchenko (right) met with her son Nicholas's teachers to share with them insights and goals for the upcoming year. Brendon Sears (above) and other students also had an opportunity to visit LGS to say "hi" to returning staff as well as meet new teachers.*



## Board Diversity Provides Variety of Strengths, Perspectives

The LGS Board acts as trustee of the school's assets and ensures the school is well managed and remains fiscally sound. To fulfill its responsibilities, the Board seeks to maintain a membership with a diversity of strengths and perspectives among its trustees (voting members) and advisors (non-voting members).

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*Prefer to receive your newsletter by email? Contact Christina Waddle at [cwaddle@lindengroveschool.org](mailto:cwaddle@lindengroveschool.org)*



## Social Skills Classes Increase Academic Achievement



In addition to science, math, social studies and language arts, all LGS students participate in social skills classes two to four days a week. Studies have shown classes and activities designed to increase social and emotional learning (SEL) not only positively impact student social skills, attitudes and behavior, they also increase student performance on academic tests 10 percent or greater.



Depending on the grade level and a student's individual competencies, social skills lessons utilize activities ranging from videos and role playing of positive social behaviors, to stories and conversations related to comic-book like heroes who help students interact positively with others at school, at home and in the community.

Throughout the day, LGS staff use class projects and other activities to reinforce positive social behavior and also take advantage of learning opportunities to help students understand how their words and actions affect others and themselves. ●

*In addition to social skills classes, LGS staff take advantage of classroom activities to reinforce positive behavior, helping students develop skills to interact positively with others at school, at home and in the community.*

## LGS Named Top 50 Non-Profit

LGS was named a Top 50 non-profit in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky in 2017 by LEAD Cincinnati and VonLehman CPA & Advisory Firm. Organizations were recognized as “pillars of the community,” serving as examples of individuals working together to bring ideas to life and make a difference in people's lives.

The school's dedicated staff work in teams to provide highly-personalized learning opportunities utilizing the latest evidence-based methods. Parent meetings and surveys guide the execution of added services ranging from after-school activities to parent education workshops.

Within the regional autism community, LGS is a leader in creating partnerships for new initiatives ranging from the development of a high school to Girl's Group, a social group specifically for girls with autism and Asperger's.


To read the article on LGS appearing in LEAD Cincinnati visit [LindenGroveSchool.org](http://LindenGroveSchool.org). ●




*Maddie Szawaluk and Alanya Ozdil hang out on some giant teeth during a recent Girl's Group outing to the Duke Energy Children's Museum at the Cincinnati Museum Center.*



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## *Don't Miss These Events—Mark Your Calendar Now!*



### **LGS Crazy Golf – Family Fun!**

What: Mini golf, games, food and entertainment

Where: Linden Grove School

Date: Sunday, October 15, 2017

Time: 1-6 p.m.

### **2018 Signature Event**

What: Wine pull, silent auction and – this year – surprises!

Where: Cincinnati Marriott Northeast

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018

Time: 6-10 p.m.

