



June 26, 2019

Dear Columbus Academy Community,

On behalf of the [Parents' Association of Columbus Academy \(PACA\)](#), we are pleased to share a review of the many programs and opportunities we supported this past school year.

Our fundraisers and community engagement events continue to succeed, due in large part to the work of our many excellent parent volunteers. The [Charlie David Dinner](#) brought in record attendance and raised over \$75,000 for student athletics, success we certainly hope to continue. The [Iconic 80s Spring Gala](#) was an amazing event for everyone who fondly remembers that decade. There were a striking number of authentic 80s outfits and, like, totally awesome decorations... even a "Back to the Future" DeLorean! The event was as good in raising money as it was in raising Gen X spirits, generating over \$115,000. In between, we supported our wonderful Book Fair, Celebrate the Arts and the ever-expanding [Viking Corner](#). In particular, we helped Celebrate the Arts to transform from a single fundraiser into a series of community engagement events, including "backstage passes" for behind-the-scenes looks at the middle school musical and the spring orchestra concert. We plan to expand on those special opportunities next year.

[Columbus Academy](#) and PACA are dedicated to appreciating and celebrating diversity. Our affinity organizations and diversity groups – [HOLA!](#), [MOSAIC](#), [CAPSA](#), [SEED](#) and the [Diversity & Community Life](#) committee – engaged in an exciting year in which we had more parents explore diverse life experiences and collaborate on inclusion than ever before. We ate meals and tailgated together; we celebrated a number of events including Holi, Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month; and we shared our community experiences. We eagerly look forward to next year as we bring together all our affinity groups and interested parents in UnitedCA.

This year's PACA parent education program focused on "Belonging." Our three well-attended and well-moderated programs began with Dr. C. Lynn Nakamura, who helped us explore how mindfulness and our emotions play into successful relationships. We explored the plights and challenges for our children and their relationship with technology with a presentation of the film *Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age*. And Catherine Steiner-Adair helped us to understand how to better foster our relationships with our children and to aid our children in developing better habits for success while surrounded by technology.

Including revenue from the Charlie David Dinner and the Gala, PACA is giving back over \$185,000 to Columbus Academy as fruits of this year's PACA fundraising. Much of this support is being provided in the form of grants impacting Columbus Academy students from 3-year-olds to seniors. The following are samples of programs to be funded with these grants:

- Funding for the Launch X Club, which will provide students with the training, skills and tools to create actual startup companies
- A field trip for fifth-graders to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
- Funding for a visit by Nora Raleigh Baskin, writer of "Nine, Ten: A September 11th Story," which is the summer reading book for all middle school students
- A new kiln for the art department, which will allow more students to explore more diverse processes for firing clay
- Youth in Government and Model United Nations programs in the Upper School
- A fence for the garden that was designed for the PreK classes and planted by Ruth Giglio's advisory
- Musicians for the upper school musical
- Our final installments pledged to the building of the concession stand and restrooms at Hondros Field
- Continued leadership support for the [Annual Fund](#), the school's most important fundraising priority

Our work this year was possible only through the efforts of hundreds of Academy parents dreaming, collaborating and ultimately getting it done. From room moms and dads, team parents, service volunteers and those who helped to coordinate our many events and guest speakers throughout the year, we cannot be prouder in our parents' passion in pursuit of our shared goals. We are so very grateful the outpouring of time, volunteerism and awesome support from our community.

Have a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Mike Ahern P'20 '22, Immediate Past-President
Laura Weiser P'19 '22, Immediate Past-President
Melissa Kass P'19, '21, Co-President for 2019-20
Greg Gorospe P'21, Co-President for 2019-20