



Dear Renbrook Community,

It's been a busy spring, and we're pleased to share the latest news from the flight deck! To date, donors have committed more than \$8.3 million, putting us well on our way in this exciting journey to transform our learning spaces, upgrade our campus, and enhance faculty support and financial aid.

In April, we welcomed alumni back to campus for their annual Alumni Night and reunion events. Alumni are integral to the Renbrook community and an important campaign constituency. In addition to seeing the renovated Challenge Course and new Gengras Family Field and Manafort Family Plaza during their tours, visiting alums had the opportunity to learn about the campaign through conversations with members of our Leadership and Development Teams and during a special state of the school presentation. A week after Alumni Night, we celebrated Flight Day on campus and debuted our new campaign video. If you missed it, you can view it online at takeflightrenbrook.org.

Last month, we hosted another very important community group, our grandparents! During Grandparents & Great Friends Day, guests enjoyed meeting their children's teachers, advisors, and coaches, spent quality time in the classroom with their children, and heard from Grandparent Group Co-Chairs Edie and Skip Gengras. Guests learned about the *Take Flight Campaign* and were introduced to the Grandparent Project, which over the next few years will support the Hawk's Nest, a cozy community corner in the library.

A week later at Celebrate Renbrook, our annual spring fundraiser, the Renbrook community came together to support Freddy's Future. By raising their paddles online or in person, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents of alumni contributed \$43,010 toward the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment and tools for our reimagined library. Thanks to the generosity of our community, future presentations led by students, teachers, and guest speakers will be enhanced by a ceiling-mounted screen and projector, while individual innovators, small groups of makers, and entire classes of builders will benefit from flexible workspaces outfitted with rolling tables, magnetic stools, and rolling storage cabinets.

A hub of campus, the reimagined library will encourage community, cultivate STEAM skills, stimulate student-centered learning, and nurture self-confidence. With the addition of the Lewis Family Amphitheater, learning and celebration will carry outdoors for our community in a beautiful, functional space connected to the reimagined library. Thanks to the forethought and generosity of the Lewis family, our dream of blending indoor and outdoor learning will become a reality in this unique space. We share their story and the story of another stalwart Renbrook family in our donor spotlights below.

We've enjoyed speaking with many of you about our greatest aspirations for the school and your wishes for the students of today and tomorrow. We continue to be inspired by your enthusiasm and generosity, and we look forward to connecting with even more of you over the summer about the campaign and the opportunities it presents. In the meantime, if you'd like to talk to someone about how you can be part of *Take Flight*, please contact Director of Alumni & Development Cara Woods at cwoods@renbrook.org.

Sincerely,

Matt Sigrist
Head of School

COMMUNITY EVENTS



The Class of 1973 celebrated their 50th reunion during Alumni Night 2023!

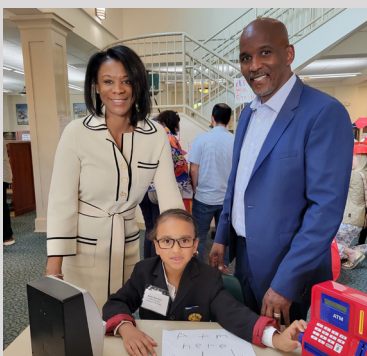


Guests waved to their students at Grandparents & Great Friends Day.



Parents "danced through the decades" and rocked the paddle raise at Celebrate Renbrook!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Rachelle, Scott, and Harper Rose at Hawktown Bank

The Lewis Family

On school days, you can find Scott Lewis, CEO of the Lewis Business Center, in the morning drop-off line or heading to the Mews for afternoon pickup. Scott, Rachelle, and first grader Harper Rose have been an integral part of Renbrook's community since 2019. The Lewises' involvement goes far beyond just being a part of the community though. Rachelle and

Scott have a strong desire to contribute to the redevelopment of the school and the nurturing of its children. By establishing the Lewis Family Amphitheater, they are doing just that.

"We were inspired by the teachers," shares Rachelle, "by the style of education they provide and the inclusive nature of the campus. We want to be a part of this community, not just now and during Harper Rose's time as a student here, but for the future too."

Scott says they were drawn immediately to the library when the plans for the campaign were unveiled. "A library offers the opportunity to obtain whatever knowledge you seek," he explains. "We are blessed to be able to contribute, and this gift, this amphitheater and all that it adds to the library, is part of our family's legacy. It's something we can do to touch people's lives in a meaningful way."

It's Rachelle's wish that the amphitheater will complement events like Hawktown, the culminating first grade project recently held in the library. "The ability to congregate, we really took that for granted before 2020," reflects Rachelle. She wishes too that, by blending the indoors and out, the amphitheater will give the community a welcoming space to come together.

"When she's there, we want Harper Rose to feel the hope we have for her to become whoever she is meant to be. Not just hope for her but for all Renbrook students. That's what it's all about, right?" muses Scott. "We hope it allows her to remember what her parents mean to her and to the larger community."

Their advice for fellow donors? "Don't just be present. Make your presence felt. When you read about how Renbrook started, in a little house, and you experience what it is now—well, if each of us took just a little step forward to add to it, can you imagine what it will become?"

For their gift and their inspiration, Renbrook thanks Rachelle and Scott Lewis. We are grateful for their support of the *Take Flight Campaign* and for making Renbrook a part of their family's legacy.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Tony Scherer '82 and Devina Bhalla '15

Alison & Tony Scherer '82

Writing instruction transcends ages, grades, and subject areas. It's a constant, there for every student every day, all day. Teachers rely on traditional ideas, and they adjust to new techniques. Technology encroaches and expedites.

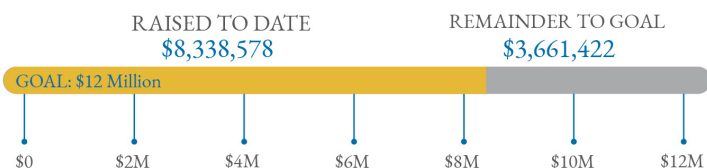
How, then, to support this massive and critical undertaking? Alison and Tony Scherer '82 have

established the Fitzsousa/Scherer Fund to Support the Teaching of Writing at Renbrook. Named in part for Beverly Fitzsousa, Tony's longtime colleague and friend, the fund honors their love of writing and their shared commitment to fostering young writers. Its primary goal is to support the Director of Writing, a new position Renbrook established in 2022. The fund will allow the director to work with teachers throughout the school on writing instruction, to visit other schools and attend conferences, and to purchase supplies and materials.

At Renbrook, we seek to build a writing culture. We believe every teacher is a writing teacher. For that to be true, we need to give our faculty the opportunity and the time to attend workshops and to grow as writing teachers. We want to bring experts to the community and allow them to meet with teachers and students across grade levels. Authors, essayists, journalists, and poets can share their expertise and their experience. We want to publish student (and faculty) writing internally and externally in newspapers and magazines, on bulletin boards and websites.

In a discussion about artificial intelligence and ChatGPT, Devina Bhalla '15, an English teacher at Gilman School in Baltimore and former student of Tony and Beverly, wondered aloud why anyone would choose to use a computer program as a substitute for the creative process. "Your writing is like your fingerprint," she said. "It's your identity." That's true. It also helps students find their identity. What could be more important than that?

With the Fitzsousa/Scherer Fund to Support the Teaching of Writing, Renbrook will establish a clear vision of this goal and multiple paths toward achieving it. For that and for their dedication and service to the mission of Renbrook, we thank Tony and Alison Scherer.



Campaign Leadership

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