

Alumni News

for Alumni, Parents and Friends of Welsh Hills School



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Personal Reflection from Jenni Reeb Biehn



Jenni Reeb Biehn with her husband Steve and son Jeremiah

For the past 25 years, with a brief hiatus in the mid 90s, independent education has been a central part of my life. I was a student at Welsh Hills in its earliest years and have many fond memories of school at the farm: climbing the pine tree, vacuuming the orange shag carpet, and playing in elaborate four square tournaments (and learning about Greek Mythology and the Odyssey, too!).

After leaving Welsh Hills in 1984, my independent school affiliations have been with large, old, well-established schools. I attended CSG for upper school and Bucknell University for college, and my enrollment at these schools was made possible by significant financial aid awards. At the time I was only dimly aware of the importance of these opportunities for me. For the past decade, I have been involved in allocating financial aid to families at independent schools, first at Cranbrook Schools near Detroit and now at Penn Charter in Philadelphia. I now see the powerful effect that financial aid can have on a child, a family and a school. More than ever, I recognize the incredible educational opportunities provided by independent schools, and value the generosity of donors who help to make those opportunities possible.

I now work at Penn Charter, a K-12 day school with 900 students that is over 300 years old. We are finishing up a \$40 million capital campaign which has surpassed its goals, and by many measures the school is healthy. Even in this very stable environment, annual giving remains a priority on which the school depends to meet its financial aid budget – and operating budget – each year. At a small school like Welsh Hills, the need for a strong, consistent annual giving program is even more critical.

Although I left Welsh Hills over 20 years ago, it has been easy for me to stay connected to the school. After all, I am the daughter of Grandma Welsh Hills! My four younger siblings all attended from the Children's House through middle school, my husband and I held our wedding reception at the school, and just last night my son's choice of a bedtime story was the book the primary group published for him when he was born in 2004. Even so, my annual giving record is spotty at best. Writing this article has renewed my commitment to supporting Welsh Hills through annual giving every year. I hope reading it will do the same for other members of the Welsh Hills community.

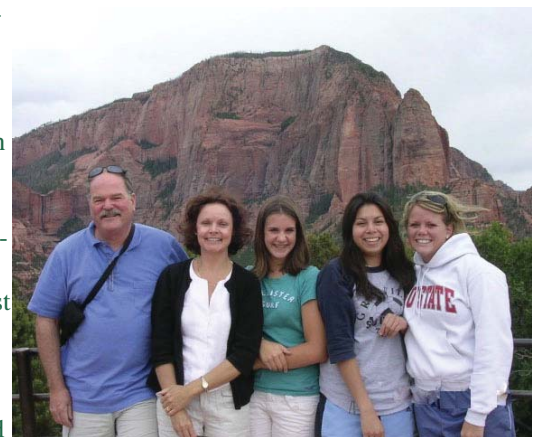
Past WHS Teacher and Head, Sarah Leavell Reflects & Remembers

This summer my husband and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary by taking our three daughters on a trip out west. We flew to Las Vegas and then proceeded to put 2,000 + miles on a shiny red Dodge Grand Caravan. This adventure helped me see so many of the things I value- my family, traveling, hiking, mountains, being outdoors, researching, reading and exploring.

Luckily my children share these loves and Dan, a geologist, was delighted to have such an enthusiastic crew on what turned out to be a remarkable two week field trip. I can not help but feel that the curiosity that was clearly evident as we explored eight national parks had some of its foundation built during the years my children spent at Welsh Hills. As a teacher and administrator I also was caught up in the daily projects and activities that continue to make the

school such a dynamic and exciting place.

While we were watching the sun set over Bryce Canyon I heard someone shout my name. It was Elizabeth Pohm who was on a vacation with friends. Elizabeth grew up in Granville and was at Welsh Hills with my oldest daughter, Kate. It was good to hear Elizabeth, Kate, Maria and Becca remember and appreciate their time at the Maple Street and the Bancroft houses. Clearly the Welsh Hills family has spread out well beyond central Ohio. I am happy to be once again a part of that family as a member of the Board of Trustees.



Sarah Leavell and her family while in Utah

Sarah Leavell



Alumni, Chris Lucas-Miller, Joins the Board



Dear Fellow Alums,

In the years that I attended Welsh Hills School, I learned more than facts and skills, I learned how to be a respectful, responsible human being. I treasure any number of personal memories of my teachers, friends and the things that I participated in.

Being at Welsh Hills made an indelible impression on me and I want to give back. I am hoping that you and all alums share similar experiences and want to promote a Welsh Hills education for future generations like our own children.

I support Welsh Hills because of the unique, high quality education I received and because the teachers and experiences there became the foundation for my future.

I am now excited to be serving on the Board of Trustees, joining other dedicated people who love Welsh Hills and its education. I am among a good number of alums who can now begin to participate in service and giving so that Welsh Hills can educate many more generations of children. I hope you will join me so that Welsh Hills can continue to educate and nurture children.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lucas-Miller
Member, Board of Trustees

Alumni Updates

Jonathan Frost writes to tell us that after leaving Welsh Hills in 1983, he went on high school and college and became an EMT. He received an Associate's Degree in Nursing and is now working at Critical Care at Licking Memorial Health Systems as an RN. Living in Pataskala, he and his wife Lauren have a son Ryan, born last March. "I feel the school provided me with a solid educational foundation and a lifelong passion for reading and learning."

Congratulations to Ted Irvin who is this year's Homecoming King at Granville High School! Ted has since sheared his locks, which were reported to be quite weighty.



Devin Cruikshank likes Granville H.S. a lot, even the 2 hour history assignments that happen now and then. He is a member of the freshman football team.

Karissa Hastilow finds Newark H.S. easier than she thought it would be. She joined the soccer team, is now playing basketball, and she plans to be on the track team in the spring.

Andrew Stein is enjoying Newark Catholic H.S., but finds the bigger classes a little different than those at WHS. Andrew was on the golf team this year.

Please let us know more about you - where you are in your life and what you are doing. We love notes and articles that tell us about how Welsh Hills (and the people here) impacted your life and what you have taken with you. We know classmates like to hear about friends and what they're doing. Log on to www.welsh-hills.org and look at our alumni section where you can share information and catch up with what others are doing. We would like to re-connect all of you as well.

We want to keep in touch!