

Farewell, Quarry Lane Class of 2021!



On June 4th, we bid farewell to the mighty Quarry Lane School Class of 2021. After a junior and senior year that was upended by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 84 talented, exceptional members of the Class of 2021 were able to walk the graduation stage, set on the QLS Athletic Field, in the presence of family and loved ones. With approximately 483 admission offers from 166 universities, including some of the top universities in the nation, and over \$6.1 million in scholarship funds, the Class of 2021 leaves a legacy of excellence as they embark on the next step of their educational journey.

A Message from the Headmaster

In this issue, we are featuring an excerpt from Dr. Sabri Arac's graduation remarks.



Never has there been a graduating class that has faced the unique challenges to get to this moment, than those who are sitting here today. About 14 months ago, just as you were entering one of the most exciting phases of your high school journey, the world seemed to change in an instant and every vision you had for your junior and senior year was upended by the COVID pandemic. Yet, in the face of inevitable disappointment, frustration, and loss—you persisted. You stayed the course. And instead of letting the challenges of distance learning, postponements, and incredible uncertainty define you, you chose to find strength, motivation, and purpose. Under unprecedented circumstances, you rose to the challenge and became one of the finest graduating classes in our school's history.

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THE SLATE

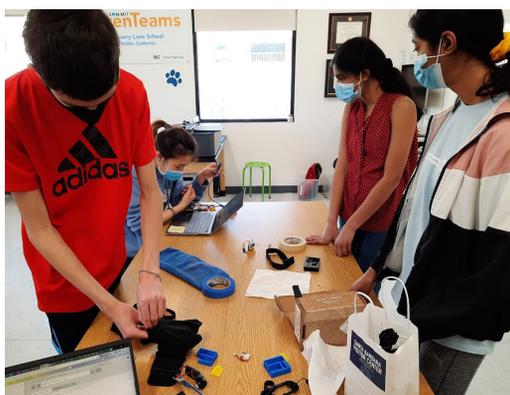
Spring/Summer
2021

Education is a lifelong commitment.

Innovating to Make a Difference: The QLS InvenTeam

“I can make a difference” is the guiding philosophy of The Quarry Lane School—one that has led the path towards many of Quarry Lane’s most notable student moments and achievements throughout the years. This past year, nine QLS high school students along with QLS mentor-instructors Mr. Richard Ong, Ms. Ainsley Laing, and Ms. Bora Shin, became a shining example of that philosophy as they became one of 13 high schools nationwide to be awarded a Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant. The Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant program challenges students to create a technological invention to help solve a problem stemming from their local communities.

“The InvenTeams program represents the future,” said Leigh Estabrooks, invention education officer from the Lemelson-MIT Program. “We place an emphasis on STEM-focused projects to develop interest in these fields among youth. With InvenTeams, our primary goal is to foster high school students’ passion for invention, in turn inspiring them to consider careers in science, technology,



engineering or math.” The Quarry Lane team began their project by reflecting on issues that they encountered and felt needed to be addressed. As student-athletes themselves, the students recognized the challenges that student-athletes who are deaf or hard of hearing face. They found a common interest in wanting to help their fellow student athletes compete on a level playing field. Their invention seeks to significantly improve the in-game communication between student-athletes,

coaches, and referees. The team seeks to create a device that would deliver haptic or visual cues to athletes when triggered by a coach or referee, thereby providing a more efficient means of communication during game time.

While the COVID-19 pandemic created an immense challenge for the team, they pressed on and continued to drive the project forward. “With distance learning and the team being physically apart, communication, teamwork, personal motivation, and passion for others has been a driving force of the team’s focus and dedication,” says Mr. Richard Ong, one of the team’s faculty mentors.

By February, the team approached a major milestone in the project—the Mid-Grant Technical Review presentation. Mrs. Candice McGraw, Senior Director at Quarry Lane, attended the virtual event and provided closing remarks. “As I mentioned in my closing statement, these students are truly realizing the mission and guiding philosophy of ‘Making

Faculty Spotlight: Meet our InvenTeam Faculty Mentors

Club or team mentorship is a wonderful opportunity for the Quarry Lane faculty to inspire and guide students beyond the classroom. Being a club or team mentor offers teachers a chance to hone in on programs and/or activities that they are passionate about and lend their knowledge and expertise to students who are equally passionate and interested in the same area. One shining example of this is the QLS InvenTeam. Guiding the Quarry Lane School InvenTeam is our team of amazing faculty mentors: Mr. Richard Ong, Ms. Ainsley Laing, and Ms. Bora Shin. We sat down with the team to get their thoughts and insights about the experience.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of the journey with the InvenTeam so far?

RO: Sometimes when we are teaching in the classroom, the real world applications can get a little lost. With InvenTeam the project has real clients, real purpose and can make a real difference. It is not just some theoretical possibility, it is an opportunity to contribute to our communities and its peoples. As a mentor, the greatest rewards always come from the growth I see in my students. To see where they started, to where they are and to imagine what else they are going to do is simply amazing. Additionally, knowing how much the students care about what they are doing brings a level of gratitude that is difficult to express



AL: The most rewarding aspect for me was watching the students present their invention to the MIT leaders. I was so proud of the mature way each of them presented and organized themselves for the Q&A session. It was obvious in their presentation how committed they were to make something that would serve others. The story of their journey to design and prototype their invention and the relationships they formed with folks who will use it was the highlight of the presentation

What are some of the benefits to being a mentor?

RO: It is nice not having to worry about grades. But very much related to that fact is similar to one of my earlier responses. In the classroom, you would like to think that the students are motivated because they really care about the subject, but you know that grades play a role. With an endeavor like this, it can only be sustained with genuine passion and conviction. So it let's you stop and think, "Hmmm, maybe I am doing some good



BS: I love the interaction with my students and finding out their creative ideas to problems and solutions. It is also a rewarding experience to see them overcoming challenges and meeting their goals. I want to assure that it is okay to fail and what's more important is understanding the value of resilience and persistence through those hurdles.

AL: To make an idea a reality, is important to have the freedom to fail. This really means having the freedom to try an idea, fail and try something different, often many times before achieving success. The classroom doesn't always lend itself to students having the freedom to fail and, hence, push the limits of thought to innovate. Being part of those "Ah Ha!" moments of success and joy are the best parts of being a mentor!



What has been your favorite moment from the InvenTeam experience?

RO: It is a bit cliché, but my favorite experiences have always been seeing my students light up when they find success. It has been a very long year. The entire team has not even been in the same room. But fortunately, in the last couple weeks, we have been able to get a few of the team members on campus to work together. Those first couple interactions with seeing the students just being students, simply talking and laughing with one another was pretty special

BS: I was very proud of the InvenTeam presenting at the mid-critique and was simply amazed to see their growth as student designers who're trying to create impact in our community. I still remember the very early stage when they're reaching out to as many people as possible for their guidance and feedback despite the various challenges due to pandemic, yet they worked so diligently and cooperatively with one another that it's exciting to see their project all coming to an end

Are there any past experiences or part(s) of your background that has helped or shaped your experience as a mentor on this team?

AL: For this team, an engineering education was useful along with my pre-teaching professional experience. Mentoring our school's robotics team(s) helped as I have learned how to encourage students to express their ideas and not be shy about it. After all, some of the best inventions start out as seemingly the most outlandish ideas!

Tell us three words you would use to describe this team:

BS: Innovative. Empathetic. Dedicated!

Celebrating a Lower School Legacy: A Farewell to Mrs. Olson

As we wound down the 2020-2021 school year, we also bid farewell to first grade teacher, Mrs. Meredith Olson, who retired at the end of the year. Mrs. Olson has been a part of our Lower School community for the past 23 years and began her journey with Quarry Lane at our Pleasanton East campus. She was one of our first teachers to move over when we opened the doors to our Dublin campus. Over the years, she has been an integral and much beloved member of our community. Her love for teaching and dedication to her students and Quarry Lane has served as an inspiration for many of her fellow teachers and students. As the end of the school year wound down, we asked Mrs. Olson to share a few of her favorite memories and thoughts about her time at Quarry Lane.



Mrs. Olson displays her collection of Ocean Week T-Shirts

What is one moment that has stood out for you over your years at QLS?

My favorite memory was the first year that I taught second grade. Two of the other teachers taught Social Studies and Science and I was asked to teach a class in Drama. The students learned improvisational techniques, an Interact about camping and as a culmination, a three-act play performed in the Villa. The play was written by a past student (who was one of my first kindergartners, at that time in high school) Students wore costumes, had their make-up done and parents created the props. It was magical!

What has been the most rewarding aspect of being a part of the Quarry Lane community?

There are many rewarding aspects of teaching at Quarry Lane: First, seeing the growth of the school and its curriculum, and second, learning and participating in cultural celebrations from around the world. Our diverse population has been a gift!

So many of our students have had such fond memories of being a part of your class. What has been your teaching philosophy over the years?

I've always believed that students learn at different speeds using varied methods. It is my job to find that niche for each student and help them become successful learners.



Innovating to Make a Difference: The QLS InvenTeam

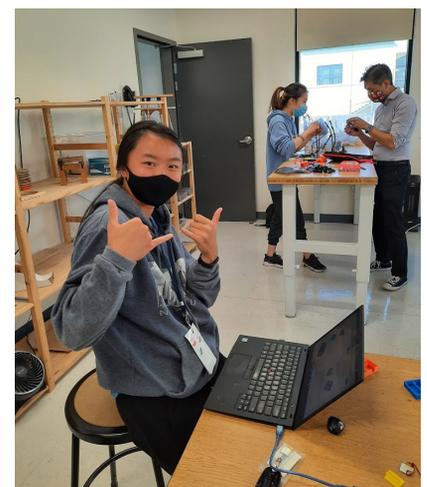
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a Difference,'” said Mrs. McGraw. “I was thoroughly impressed by their presentation. They did an exceptional job of explaining the concept, device, and continued development and adaptations needed. I was thoroughly impressed!” In March, the team invited the community to a virtual community event to showcase their progress and solicit feedback. InvenTeam member Corina Chen (grade 9) looked forward to connecting with the community. “Despite facing the challenges of virtual collaboration, we were proud to present a fully functioning prototype,” she shared.

This summer, the team looks forward to attending the virtual EurekaFest, an invention celebration, where they will showcase a final prototype. After testing several working prototypes, the team also looks forward

to begin trialing their invention with their community partners at Camp Pacifica. Over the summer, the students will be filing for a provisional patent, with the intention of continuing their invention throughout the next school year.

As the team looks ahead to more milestones and progress, the experience they have gained so far has been invaluable. “This journey has taught me that even as a teenager, with determination and hard work, it is possible to change the world in small, simple ways that can make a big impact,” says InvenTeam member, Varshini Vijay (grade 10). “It’s a learning experience that I will never forget. It would be incredible to see the use of our invention in games!”



Class of 2021 Senior Profiles



Kalyani Valiyaveettil

Attending: Columbia University - Economics and International Relations

Kalyani has been a vibrant member of the QLS community and is one of the Class of 2021's Co-Salutatorians. Among the many activities that Kalyani participated in throughout her journey at Quarry Lane are Model United Nations, Speech and Debate, PERIOD@ Quarry Lane, Indian Classical Dance, Lacrosse, Open Heart Kitchen, Student Ambassadors, Badminton, Bollywood Dance Team, and the ROAR School Newspaper.

Best QLS Memory: My favorite QLS memory is sitting in a circle on the field and discussing how humanity's reliance on intangible concepts such as labels constricts our knowledge, in my Theory of Knowledge class. It was surreal to be out in nature surrounded by my eager peers, debating "why does society function this way" questions.

Three Words that Describe Your Journey at QLS: Global, Inquisitive, Reflective

Faculty Quote:

"Kalyani is distinguished by her extraordinary talent in visual arts, dance and everything related to creativity. Her final project, a children's book made with Nitika Kurma in the IB Spanish B class, will be enjoyable not only for our elementary school students, but for readers of all ages. She dedicated many hours illustrating each character in this wonderful story with grace and detail. La Historia de la Zapatilla, is a wonderful legacy of love from fantastic seniors like Kalyani and Nitika to our students in elementary school. Kalyani, te deseamos muchos éxitos en tu vida universitaria y profesional. ¡Sí, se puede!" - Ilva Salamanca, World Languages Department Head



Justin Chan

Attending: Cornell University - Economics and Finance

During his high school years, Justin has been a part of the IB Diploma Programme and earned several honors. Among them include representing Quarry Lane as an Outstanding Student Scholar in the Economics for Leaders at UC Berkeley, co-author of "Throw Your Own Funeral Anthology" at Bard College Young Writers' Workshop, AATSP National Spanish Exam award winner, and researcher of "The Effect of Insulin on 3T3 Cell Proliferation and Metabolites," at COSMOS. Justin has also demonstrated leadership and received several athletic awards, including Junior Varsity Basketball Team Captain 2017-2018, Varsity Basketball Most Valuable Player 2019-2020, Male Athlete of the Year 2019-2020, and Varsity Basketball Team Captain 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Best QLS Memory: My QLS journey began in middle school. My favorite memories are the Washington DC trip and the Iceland trip during the intra-term. These trips beyond the classroom empowered me as a student by building a social community, deepening my understanding of different cultures, and inspiring creative interaction. I will treasure these unique experiences and look forward to continuing them beyond high school.

Three Words that Describe Your Journey at QLS: Rigorous, Balanced, Gratifying

Faculty Quote:

"Throughout last year, Justin provided strong Leadership for all of our younger players no matter the situation. Win or lose, Justin was always our Most Enthusiastic Player. On offense or defense his tough and aggressive style of play and positive attitude was motivational to everyone. In summary, it was a pleasure coaching Justin as he is a hard worker and extremely dedicated to the goals of our team" - Coach Ken Luther, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach

"Justin is a great young man and a role model for the younger players. He exhibited leadership not only with his skills, but also with his energy, hustle, and consistently positive attitude." - Coach John Reiss - Varsity Boys Basketball



Michael Schoonover

Attending: University of California, Berkeley

During his years at Quarry Lane, Michael has been an active member of a variety of clubs and activities including, Speech and Debate (Speech Captain), National Honor Society, Philosophy Club, Physics Club, Track and Field, Cross Country, and Jazz Band (Cellist). His numerous accolades include: Semifinalist in NSDA Nationals, Academic All-American, and three Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Awards.

Best QLS Memory: : Winning the Most Funny Halloween Costume by sticking my leg in my pants as a makeshift 'attacked by shark' costume and hopping on one leg the whole day!

Three Words that Describe Your Journey at QLS: Shooting for stars

Class of 2021 Senior Profiles

Neha Pant

Attending: Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Computer Science

Neha, a QLS student since her Lower School years, is the Class of 2021 Valedictorian. Throughout her high school years, Neha has served as Robotics Team (Co-Captain), Spanish Club (President), and Math Club (President).

Best QLS Memory: *I've been lucky enough to experience lots of amazing moments during my time on Quarry Lane Robotics: starting our FRC team, going to worlds, and organizing outreach events for kids. But my favorite memories will always be of spending time with my teammates — after all, it's the laughter-filled car rides and late-night prototyping sessions that really make our team the tight-knit, supportive community that it is.*

Three Words that Describe Your Journey at QLS: Memorable, Inspirational, Rewarding!

Faculty Quote:

"It is just the beginning, and you are already an inspiration. Recuerda que no hablo inglés, pero tú hablas español :)" - Javier Mercado, Spanish Instructor

"Neha won a gold medal for the first time in the history of our prestigious school, at the highest level, with an almost perfect score. This achievement demonstrates her commitment, dedication, passion, motivation, and love for learning not only languages, but all the subjects that she has experienced. Neha is the president of the Spanish Club and was able to achieve many dreams and plans to help people in need around the world. Congratulations Neha! Your present is glorious, your future will be full of glory and your past at Quarry Lane has been filled with wonderful legacies. ¡Vamos a extranarte y recordarte con mucho amor!" - Ilva Salamanca, World Languages Department Head



Kanchan Naik

Attending: University of Chicago

Kanchan has been a dynamic, dedicated member of the QLS community. Over the years, she has served as Founder and Editor-in-Chief of The Roar (student news publication), The Gypsum Review (QLS's literary magazine), Secretary and Spontaneous Events Captain for Speech and Debate, Computer Science Teaching Assistant, and a member of the leadership team for the Student Ambassadors Club. She has also received a number of accolades including National Merit Scholar, Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, and Semifinalist in the National Student Poets Program among others.

Best QLS Memory: *Our freshman year trip to the movie theater during intraterm week, where we watched Black Panther and then got Fuddrucker's afterwards. Hands down some of the best vanilla ice cream I've ever had.*

Three Words that Describe Your Journey at QLS: Falling with style

Faculty Quote:

"Kanchan started The Gypsum Review - QLS's first literary magazine - this year, even though she was already juggling a bunch of other activities and applying to college. Amidst that busy schedule, Kanchan made The Gypsum Review a wonderful publication, creating a community where other students could share their art and all that entails. On top of all that, Kanchan also carved out the time to write some really incredible poetry! In short, she's awesome and I consider myself lucky to have worked with her on The Gypsum Review. I wish her the very best!" - Matthew Hennigar, English Instructor



Vivian Hir

Attending: Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Chemistry and Biology

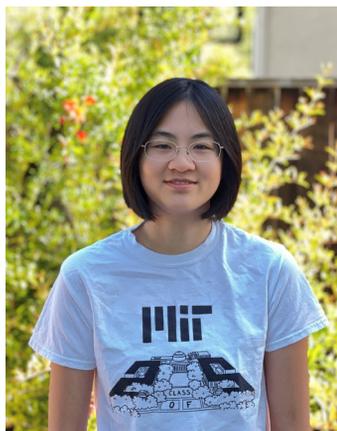
Vivian is one of the Class of 2021's co-salutatorians. During her time at QLS she has served as the captain of the Science Olympiad team, president of the Chemistry Olympiad club, and the founder of Global Education Club. She also wrote opinion articles and reviews for the QLS Roar. She is a two-time recipient of Honors (Top 150) in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) and has received 8 medals in various Science Olympiad competitions. Not only that, but she received 12th place in the Washington University Chemistry Tournament (WUCT) individual round and won 2nd place in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) Video Challenge.

Best QLS Memory: *Senior Sunrise. Although I had to wake up early, seeing the sunrise from the start to the end was fulfilling.*

Three Words that Describe Your Journey at QLS: Global, Inquisitive, Reflective

Faculty Quote:

"Vivian's interest in chemistry began as a 9th grade student when she wanted to learn chemistry during her lunch hour prepare for Science Olympiad chemistry events and she has never looked back. As a student in Chemistry Honors and AP Chemistry, Vivian's curiosity and intellect shone through. She excelled in all aspects of chemistry and was able to make conceptual connections needed for deep understanding. She participated in Chemistry Olympiad since her sophomore year and qualified for the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam during both 11th and 12th grade earning Honors (top 150 in the US) each year. Her hard work and dedication have set a high bar for excellence for younger students to strive for." - Kara Pezzi, Chemistry Instructor



QLS Highlights



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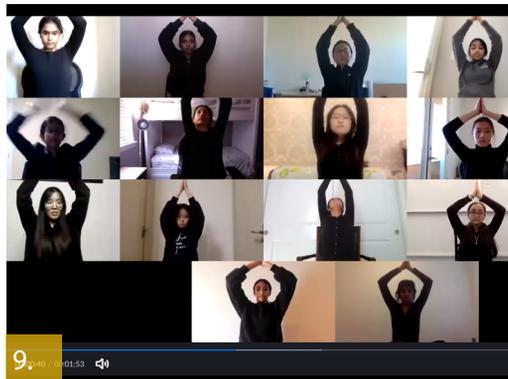
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13.

1. First grade students grow plants for Earth Day.
2. Kindergarten students engage in virtual learning.
3. Second graders perform at the Virtual Winter Arts Festival.
4. Seniors enjoy the photobooth at Prom 2021.
5. Mrs. Cunha displays her Kindness Week Door.
6. The Zeal Against Hunger Club hosts a food packing event.
7. Middle school students conduct science experiments from home.
8. Derin C. Arac Kindness Award 2021 recipients
9. High school dance students perform at the Virtual Art Stroll.
10. Coach H's middle school P.E. students complete their fitness challenge
11. Junior Sydney Lu collected books for the African Library Project.
12. Fifth graders virtually Walk Through the American Revolution.
13. Lower school teachers love dressing up for Halloween.



Ayush Bajaj

Attending: Johns Hopkins University - Chemistry (Pre-Med)

During his time at Quarry Lane, Ayush has been an active member of the QLS community. Among the clubs and activities he participated in are: FRC Robotics, Game Design Club (VP, Co-Founder), Biology Olympiad (VP), Speech and Debate, JV Basketball, and National Honor Society. In addition, Ayush is an AP Scholar and National Merit Commended Scholar. Outside of Quarry Lane, Ayush worked on organic chemistry research projects during high school.

Best QLS Memory: *Big Night Out trips to San Francisco at the start of my Sophomore and Junior years. I loved these events because they gave me an opportunity to make new friends and connect with other members of the QLS community, all while also having a blast at Ghirardelli Square and Pier 39.*

Three Words that Describe Your Journey at QLS: *Wait, it's over?*

Faculty Quote:

"I appreciate your genuine curiosity and attention to detail. Keep it up!"

-Javier Mercado, Spanish Instructor

"We bonded over our love of the Seattle Seahawks, some reality TV and his cheeky humor. He always brings a smile to my face."

- Shannon Harrison, College Counselor

A Message from the Headmaster

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"Embracing challenge" and "making a difference" has been part of our ethos at Quarry Lane since we first opened our doors 30 years ago. I can't think of graduating class that has embodied this spirit more than the young men and women sitting here today. As a Class and as individuals, you have boldly reached for your dreams, dared to make a difference, and will leave a legacy at of excellence that will not soon be forgotten.

Despite all that pandemic may have taken away from you, it did not erase anything you have done and achieved to get you here today, nor did it diminish the talent, spirit, and compassion that has come to define this graduating class. Though the world you are stepping into for this next phase of your journey remains uncertain. What I can say with absolute certainty is that each and every one of you has the capacity to overcome

whatever life may throw at you and make the world a truly better place.

Class of 2021, in a few moments, you'll transition from being Quarry Lane students to Quarry Lane alumni. You have surpassed our expectations and I challenge you to continue pursuing your dreams. While you may have spent a lot of time over the past year away from the halls and classrooms of our campus, I hope the memories, knowledge, values, and friendships you have forged here over the years will help guide and shape your next phase of lifelong learning.

Class of 2021, you are a class like no other and on behalf of the entire faculty and administration of the Quarry Lane School, I wish you a lifetime of continued success and happiness. The world awaits you, we can't wait to see you shine.

Before I bid you farewell, allow me to lend a few words of advice.

Embrace the journey – if the pandemic has taught us anything, it's to appreciate every moment, big and small. Even, and perhaps especially, the difficult moments—for that is when you learn and grow the most.

Appreciate the people who are on this journey with you— your families, teachers, mentors, and friends who sit behind and among you today. They have encouraged and supported you through every step of your journey Take a moment to express your gratitude.

And finally, be kind. Be kind to others but also don't forget to be kind to yourself.

