



Dear Wellington Community,

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead, alumni engagement has never been more vital to the life of Wellington. The Wellington Alumni Advisory Board (WAAB) is proud to serve as a bridge—connecting graduates back to the school, fostering opportunities for mentorship and leadership, and championing a thriving alumni ecosystem that strengthens our collective future.



In this inaugural *State of the Wellington Alumni Association* report, we share a comprehensive snapshot of our initiatives, accomplishments, and aspirations. Our hope is that this annual tradition becomes a cornerstone of our commitment to transparency, growth, and enduring partnership with the broader Wellington community. Above all, we remain dedicated to being of service to every Wellington graduate—ensuring that every student, our “alumni-in-training,” knows they are supported not just through school but for life. Our overarching goal is to ensure that every Wellington graduate can build a life of purpose and a family-sustaining income.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in the power of the Wellington alumni community.

Warmly,

Idin Pirasteh
President, Wellington Alumni Advisory Board
Trustee, The Wellington School

WAAB Overview

The Wellington Alumni Advisory Board (WAAB) is a volunteer-led leadership body dedicated to strengthening alumni engagement and building a vibrant community that stays connected to the school. Our mission is to foster meaningful connections between alumni and current students, advise on strategic alumni relations goals, and cultivate pathways for alumni leadership within school governance, philanthropy, and mentorship. WAAB members represent a cross-section of classes, industries, and experiences, bringing invaluable perspectives to Wellington’s evolving needs.

2024–25 Highlights

Strengthening Career and Mentorship Connections Through JagsConnect

JagsConnect, launched under WAAB leadership, continues to grow as the cornerstone of alumni-student engagement at Wellington. Over the past year, alumni volunteers have engaged in multiple events, including career exploration panels, mentorship matches, and internship partnerships. For freshmen and sophomores, JagsConnect offers early exposure to career pathways through speaker series and industry panels. Juniors and seniors benefit from resume workshops, mock interviews, and expanded networking opportunities. Our focus remains on building sustainable volunteer engagement and refining logistics, ensuring that every student feels the unwavering support of our alumni network. We're especially excited about our upcoming in-school programming initiative—bringing alumni expertise directly into classrooms—and demonstrating that the Wellington community stands beside our students every step of the way.

Building an Alumni Leadership Pipeline

In alignment with ISACS recommendations and in close partnership with the Board of Trustees, WAAB has prioritized the development of a strong alumni leadership pipeline. We've worked to identify and cultivate alumni leaders who can serve in committee roles, ultimately building pathways to WAAB service. Our efforts include piloting alumni representation on The Wellington School Board of Trustees committees, creating informal tracking systems for potential leaders, and embedding alumni perspectives into key governance conversations—all ensuring that Wellington's leadership is enriched by the voices of those who know the school best.

Expanding Alumni Storytelling and Communications

This year, WAAB collaborated closely with Wellington's communications team to celebrate alumni achievements across career stages and industries. We highlighted Distinguished Alumni Award and Athletic Hall of Fame honorees, including Dr. Jonathan Koff '89—whose groundbreaking work at Yale in cystic fibrosis and bacteriophage therapy exemplifies the Wellington spirit—and the 2018 boys tennis team and Hirobumi "Bumi" Hidaka '04, whose athletic accomplishments continue to inspire. Through features in The Jag magazine (including pieces on Will Oremus '00 and alumni creatives) and the alumni newsletter, we've broadened the diversity of stories we share and expanded our digital reach, ensuring every graduate feels seen and celebrated.

Strategic Planning and Partnership

WAAB actively contributed to Wellington's strategic planning discussions this year, emphasizing sustainable engagement models, expanded volunteer opportunities, and stronger data tracking to inform future priorities. Our ongoing collaboration with the Development Office ensures that alumni engagement aligns seamlessly with philanthropic goals, reinforcing the school's mission and impact.



2025–26 and Beyond

As we plan for the year ahead, WAAB remains committed to finalizing the five-year JagsConnect strategic plan, formalizing alumni governance training and engagement models, and piloting annual alumni engagement surveys to track satisfaction and growth. We will deepen our partnership with the Development Office to nurture greater alumni philanthropic support and continue to expand diverse storytelling that reflects the full breadth of Wellington’s alumni body.

We are also building out a dynamic suite of alumni events designed to bring graduates together in meaningful ways. Out-of-state gatherings in cities like New York will continue to be planned, alongside a more robust reunion program and events tied to beloved school traditions such as Founder’s Day and the Advanced Studio Art Show. These touchpoints will ensure that alumni remain connected to each other and to the school, no matter where life takes them.

Closing Thoughts

The WAAB’s work is about more than celebrating the past—it’s about investing in the future. We are proud of the momentum we’ve built and energized by the possibilities ahead. We invite all Wellington alumni to join us in strengthening the bonds that unite our community—across generations, industries, and the world. Together, we are building a Wellington community that stays with you forever, ensuring every graduate is empowered to build a family-sustaining income and a meaningful, purpose-driven life.



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Did you get a new job? Add another member to your family? Win an award? Take a cool trip? We love to hear what's new with you! Let us know at <https://www.wellington.org/alumni-news>