

# V is for... VICTORY

CHURCHILL CENTER & SCHOOL | 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



CHURCHILL  
of



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## The Victory Name

Victory, Churchill Center & School's Annual Report, is named in honor of Winston Churchill's first speech as Prime Minister. In his 1940 speech to the House of Commons, he made this declaration:

**"Victory. Victory at all costs...victory however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival."**



Asim Raza  
Nancy Robinson  
Rebecca Schulz  
Scott Stephens  
Matt Totterdale  
Lisa Walshouser  
Brian Witherspoon

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Will Rassieur

**PLEASE NOTE:** This report honors donors who made gifts during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024. For multi-year pledges, only gifts and payments made in FY24 are reflected. We have carefully reviewed the names on the lists, but errors may still occur. If your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed, we sincerely apologize. Please notify the Advancement Office at 314-997-4343 immediately.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

*Dear Churchill Family & Friends,*

**Happy students. Happy teachers. Happy families. Happy year!** As I reflect on the 2023-2024 school year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the support of our Churchill Center & School Community. It was a joy every day to see **students** gain knowledge, apply new skills and strategies, build confidence, make impactful strides and so much more. It was meaningful to see **faculty and staff** grow with and be inspired by their students. It was humbling to watch **families** encourage, champion and celebrate, not only their children, but our entire school through volunteering, giving and sharing our mission. **It was a year filled with big and small victories that all added up to one amazing, happy school year!**

**The Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program**, led by our newly appointed Director, Rachel Wheatley, continues to be a source of pride and inspiration in our community and further reinforces our reputation as national leaders in learning disabilities. We were pleased to welcome distinguished and notable speakers, lead numerous student, parent and educator workshops and trainings, participate and sponsor local events, partner with two St. Louis Public Schools to help implement Wilson Foundations® programming and so much more. I invite you to learn more in the SKG Outreach Report on pages 5-7.

Special events that bring families together at Churchill will always be some of our favorites!

- In November, we were honored to welcome close to 300 grandparents and esteemed guests as part of **Grand Day**, which was a day filled with gratitude, kindness, understanding and big smiles all around.
- Just before Thanksgiving, students confidently shined for their classmates and families as part of **Bulldog Bonanza** by sharing their interests and hobbies on and off stage through musical, comedy and sports acts, as well as captivating table top presentations.
- **Bagels with Buddies** is one of our most treasured mornings of the year. Seeing our children host their special someone, share breakfast and engage in their camaraderie, is absolutely delightful.
- In February, we welcomed back recent Churchill Alumni (and their parents) for **Life After Churchill**. These incredible young people shared their candid insights, experiences and their own tools for success, after having transitioned from Churchill back to traditional schools.
- Our children roared in March for Churchill's annual **Bulldogs on Broadway**, singing, acting and emoting their hearts out for family and friends alike by performing multiple stage productions of The Lion King.
- The **Art Shows** included the fall and winter exhibits inspired by an array of favorite literary books, and the end-of-year showcase inspired by "Pure Imagination." We marveled at the artistic talent in each display.



- Oh, and who can forget **"The Great American Solar Eclipse Day"** in April! We were able to celebrate this unique event at Churchill with our students, faculty and staff and family members.

A definite highlight of the 2023-2024 school year was marking the **45th Anniversary of Churchill Center & School**. When our school began in 1978, it was the dream of two mothers fighting for a better educational opportunity for their sons with learning disabilities. Today, Churchill serves approximately 300 students each year through day school, summer school and tutoring from over 40 zip codes throughout Missouri and Illinois. We celebrated this momentous milestone as a school community, and we acknowledged what a privilege and source of pride it has been to advocate for and teach students for 45 years - and counting!



Then in March, we cemented this incredible anniversary at Churchill by officially dedicating the "Founders Circle," as well as unveiling a "Joy of Learning" bronze sculpture. We are **forever grateful to our Founders Perry Streett and Bonnie Summers Wolfarth and Founding**

**Director Sandi Gilligan** for their outstanding work, foresight and commitment in making their vision and dream of Churchill a reality over 45 years ago! See page 4 for more on this special day!

Thank you to each and every one of you for continuing to promote and uphold the mission of Churchill Center & School. I am genuinely appreciative for the difference you make in the lives of our students, faculty and staff and the future success of our school!



Sincerely,

*Anne*

ANNE EVERS

**A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

*Dear Churchill Community,*

On behalf of Churchill Center & School's Board of Trustees, I sincerely thank you for your ongoing and generous support of Churchill. Your dedication to our school makes a transformational impact for our powerful mission! We are so privileged to have such a strong and caring school community.

We celebrated 45 years of educational excellence this year. Since 1978, our school's fundamental, child-centered philosophy has remained the same - to provide our students and their families with Churchill's individualized, research-based curriculum and proven strategies to administer the best instruction possible for children with dyslexia and learning disabilities. As Board President, as well as a parent of a Churchill alumnus, I remain strongly committed to the success, fidelity and future of our school and carrying on the distinction of Churchill's education preeminence throughout our region.

**Event Fundraising**



In March 2024, Churchill held its biennial Dinner & Auction - the **Starfish Soirée!** Our entire school family came together at the Frontenac Hilton for a night of unmatched generosity, profound support and overwhelming enthusiasm.

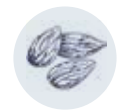


Staggering, amazing results included:

- 377 guests plus 60+ volunteers
- \$96,609 in sponsorships and advertising
- \$81,400 for fund-a-need, which will provide new, innovative equipment and state-of-the-art improvements to enhance the fine and performing arts experience at Churchill
- \$100,200 raised during the live auction, emceed by "5 On Your Side" Rene Knott
- \$102,140 in silent auction bids, multiple sign-up parties for students in every grade level, raffles and more
- 100% participation support from current Churchill families and the Board of Trustees

**Proceeds totalled more than \$416,000 for the Scholarship Fund, which will make a real difference in the lives of our students and families!**

A special thank you to co-chairs Sarah Barnes, Maureen Huber and Julie Redmond, along with our entire Auction Committee, for their relentless efforts, creativity and fervor to make this event a spectacular fundraising success!



Last, but certainly not least, we sold more than 5,400 boxes of **DeDe's Chocolate Covered Almonds**, raising over **\$88,000 to support Churchill's Scholarship Fund**, during our annual Fall Fundraiser. A massive salute to the Schulz Family, including Churchill Alumnus Hank and current Trustee member Rebecca, for driving to and from Chicago to pick up and tow the delectable almonds again this year.



"Chief Almonds Advisor" Hank '22 and some of our amazing almond volunteers!

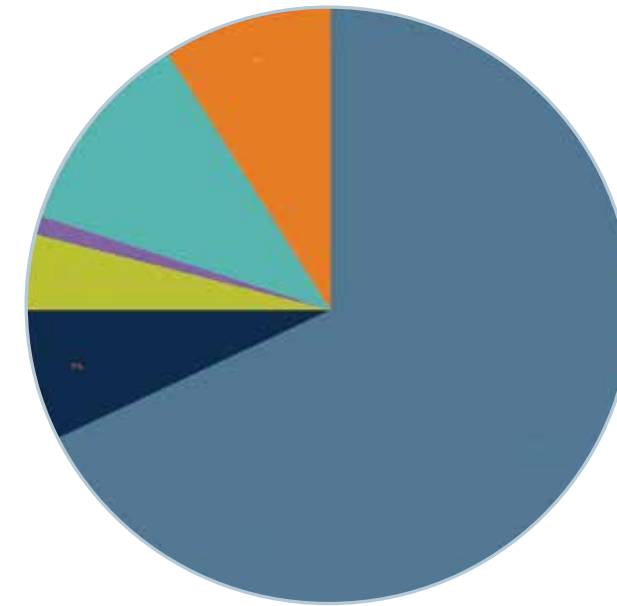


One of our favorite annual events, **Churchill's Sip & Savor**, was held in the fall. We promised - and delivered on - a night filled with premium drinks, outstanding food, lively live music, a superior silent auction, high-spirited conversation, and memory-making that lasted throughout the year. It was indeed a celebration of more than 150 parents, alumni, alumni parents and friends, and most important of all, **we raised over \$14,500 to benefit Churchill's Scholarship Fund!**



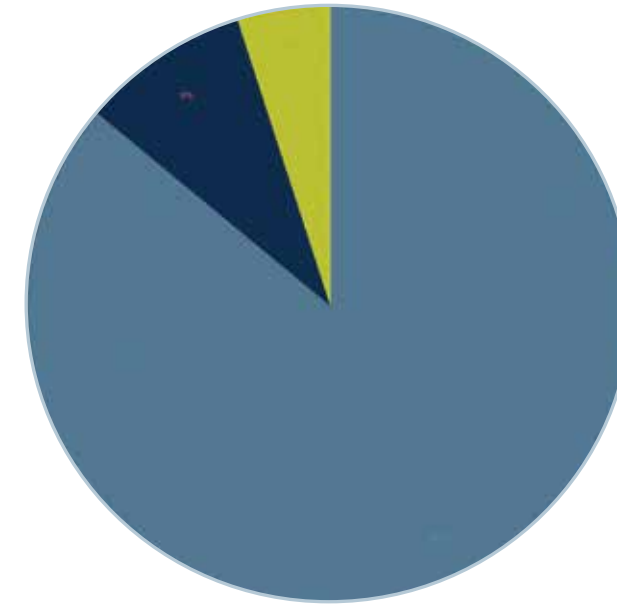
**Statement of Activities**

June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024



*Total Revenue*

| REVENUES AND RAISED FUNDS  | % OF TOTAL  |
|--|-------------|
| Day School Tuition   | 68%         |
| Summer School Tuition  | 7%          |
| Tutorial Fees  | 4%          |
| Outreach Revenue   | 1%          |
| Development (Annual Giving, Grants & Gifts, and Fundraiser Revenues) | 11%         |
| Other Revenues   | 9%          |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES AND RAISED FUNDS</b>                               | <b>100%</b> |



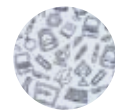
*Total Expenses*

| EXPENSES               | % OF TOTAL  |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Program Expenses       | 86%         |
| Management and General | 9%          |
| Fundraising Expenses   | 5%          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>  | <b>100%</b> |



**Board of Trustees**

I am truly grateful for our dedicated members of the Board of Trustees. Every Trustee is resolute in supporting the mission of our school, and their individual professional experience and guidance is vitally important to the success and fidelity of our school. In this spirit, I recognize and acknowledge the Trustees who rolled off the Board at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year, including: Art Bond, Steve Gordon, Asim Raza and Scott Stephens. I would also like to welcome new 2024-2025 Board members: Mara Clayton and Sarah Roche.



**Thank You**

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the entire Churchill Center & School community. It has been an honor and privilege to serve Churchill as Board President these past three years. I look forward to my continued involvement as a Board member and alumnus parent, and I extend my sincerest best wishes to new Board President Matt Courtney, under whose leadership Churchill will unquestionably continue to grow and thrive.

I am excited for the school year ahead, and for the ongoing collaboration of our wonderful school community!



Sincerely,

*Phyllis Hartrich*

PHYLLIS HARTRICH





## Founders Circle Dedication

On Monday, March 4, 2024, Churchill Center & School's community held a dedication ceremony for the new Founders Circle and "Joy of Learning" sculpture honoring Founders Perry Streett and Bonnie Summers Wolfarth and Founding Director Sandi Gilligan.

Over 45 years ago, Churchill Center & School began with the dream of two local St. Louis mothers, Streett and Summers Wolfarth, fighting for a better educational opportunity for their sons who both had dyslexia. After hiring Director Gilligan, Churchill opened as a summer program with 21 students in 1978. Because of the hard work, determination and vision of these three incredible women, Churchill has grown into one of the top educational institutions for learning disabilities in the country, and a national leader for educators, administrators and schools in the field, serving more than 300 students yearly through day school, summer school and tutoring.

*"As we look at Churchill's beautiful campus, we want to ensure that our Founders will always be a part of the landscape for present and future students and families. These three women are the cornerstone of our mission and all we do at Churchill. It is only fitting that we honor their transformational contributions on this campus. It will forever honor the legacy our founders built and celebrate their compassion, resilience and fortitude that established Churchill 45 years ago."* - Head of School Anne Evers

This project had been three years in the making for a small committee including Churchill administration and alumni parents. In 2022, Churchill contacted local artist Abraham Mohler to commission the "Joy of Learning" sculpture.

During the ceremony, current and alumni students, as well as Anne and Perry, Bonnie and Sandi themselves, spoke to the grateful audience on what Churchill means to them. Perry, Bonnie and Sandi were then each gifted a box of 45 hand-crafted starfish to represent the 45 years since Churchill was founded. The starfish were decorated, embellished and glazed by each of our 150 students. The "Starfish Story" holds special significance at Churchill as it beautifully intertwines with Churchill's mission of individualization in focusing on "making a difference for each child" one at a time.

Anne shared, *"We hope that members of our Churchill community will gather in this special space for years to come and always remember that Churchill exists today because of the hard work and dedication of Perry, Bonnie and Sandi."*



(from left-to-right): Perry Streett, Sandi Gilligan and Bonnie Summers Wolfarth



(from left-to-right): Mary Brotherton, Artist Abraham Mohler, Anne Evers and Sandi Gilligan



# Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program

Churchill Center & School's Outreach Program is essential to broadening and enlightening the St. Louis Community's understanding of learning disabilities. Each of the following initiatives equips participants with knowledge and strategies to help children with learning disabilities succeed.

## Educational Speaker Series

Each year, Churchill Center & School invites parents, professionals and the community to learn from nationally recognized speakers in the field of learning disabilities, child development and learning. This year, it was our distinct pleasure and honor to welcome the following knowledgeable, insightful and inspiring speakers.

### JARED COONEY HORVATH, PH.D., M.ED., Neuroscientist, Educator & Author



**The Science of Learning in the Classroom: Translating Research for Practice**  
October 2023 | 100 Attendees

Dr. Jared Cooney Horvath spent a special fall day with Churchill faculty and other area educators covering a wide variety of learning strategies and study techniques to then apply in their classrooms. Teachers left this seminar with a deeper understanding of the Science of Learning, and were excited to integrate some of Dr. Horvath's years of brain and behavior research into their own teaching methods.

*Sponsored by Will Cella Family & Ned Marshall Family Outreach Fund*

**Stress, Technology and Learning: A Potentially Dangerous Trinity**  
October 2023 | Parents and Caregivers

Dr. Horvath then welcomed parents and caregivers that evening, expressing the difference between good stress and bad stress in their children's lives, the impact stress may have on their learning, as well as several definitive actions to drive or respond to stress in their own lives.

### EMILY KIRCHER-MORRIS, LPC, Host & Author



**Embracing Neurodiversity: A Grandparent's Guide**  
November 2023 | 300+ Special Guests

Emily Kircher-Morris spoke to grandparents and admired friends as part of Churchill's annual Grand Day program. Tailored for the audience, she celebrated the unique strengths and perspectives of neurodivergent children, decoding essential terms, illuminating the enriching experiences of our exceptional youngsters and navigating the best ways to uplift and encourage them. She concluded the program by providing empowering strategies to inspire and champion their students' distinctive journey with optimism and love.

*Sponsored by the Mr. & Mrs. Parker B. Condie, Sr. Outreach Fund*



### TRACY DENNIS-TIWARY, PH.D., Scientist, Entrepreneur & Author



**Flipping the Switch on Anxiety**  
April 2024 | 100 Attendees

During a day-long educator seminar, Dr. Tracy Dennis-Tiwary shared that anxiety can actually be good for us, even though it sometimes feels bad. She provided Churchill faculty and other area teachers with a new framework for managing anxiety in the classroom, and how it can help students ultimately focus, create, plan and use it to their advantage.

*Sponsored by the Margaret & Richard Riney Family Foundation Outreach Fund, Mr. & Mrs. Parker B. Condie, Sr. Outreach Fund and the Mr. & Mrs. Fairfax F. Pollnow Outreach Fund*

**Stress: Turning Our Most Undervalued Emotion Into Our Newest Ally**  
April 2024 | Parents and Caregivers

Then, during a special evening parent and caregiver session, Dr. Dennis-Tiwary educated our guests on the positive side of anxiety, learning strategies for managing anxiety and "sitting with" anxious emotions.

# Teacher & Student Educational Workshop Series

June 2023 - May 2024 | 25 Total Workshops

Churchill's Workshop Series is designed to provide participants with in-depth training on the challenges faced by people with learning disabilities, along with the proven strategies and methodologies that help struggling students.

## TEACHER WORKSHOPS

275 Attendees

- Wilson Reading System® (WRS) Introductory Course - St. Louis, MO (Four Seminars)
- Foundations® Level K Course - St. Louis, MO (Two Seminars)
- Foundations® Level K Course - Derby, KS (One Seminar)
- Foundations® Level 1 Course - St. Louis, MO (Two Seminars)
- Foundations® Level 2 Course - St. Louis, MO (One Seminar)
- Foundations® Level 2 Course - Derby, KS (One Seminar)
- Understanding Dyslexia & Other Learning Differences - St. Louis, MO (Six Presentations)

## Community Events

### WILSON READING SYSTEM® PARENT SEMINARS

June 2023, October 2023, January 2024 and April 2024 | 26 Attendees

During the 2023-2024 school year, several workshops were offered to parents and caregivers to help them better understand the Wilson Reading System® (WRS). Each workshop took attendees through the research of what successful reading programs should encompass, how Wilson incorporates all these components and teaches them the 10-Step Wilson Lesson Plan.

*Sponsored by the Mr. & Mrs. Fairfax F. Pollnow Outreach Fund*

### SIBLING WORKSHOPS

December 2024 | 19 Attendees

This new workshop is designed for siblings of Churchill day and summer school students in fifth grade through college age. The presentation and activities are tailored to help them understand the struggles that their brother(s) and/or sister(s) face each day.

*Sponsored by the Mr. & Mrs. Fairfax F. Pollnow Outreach Fund*

### WRS READING PROGRAM

September 2023 - May 2024

For the past few years, Churchill Center & School has spearheaded organizing and establishing a small group of students, in grades two to eight, to participate in a Wilson Reading System® Group Practicum via our Tutoring Program. Churchill presents this unique program opportunity to Churchill teachers who are interested in furthering their Wilson training credentials, as well as interested current and tutoring families. Over the course of the school year, a total of 120 sessions were held before or after school.

## STUDENT WORKSHOPS

335 Attendees

- Crestwood Elementary - Three Presentations
- Truman Middle School - Three Presentations
- Bellerive Elementary - Two Presentations
- Claymont Elementary - One Presentation



### LOCAL EVENTS, SPONSORSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS & SIMULATIONS

June 2023 - May 2024

#### Experience Dyslexia®: A Learning Disabilities Simulation

Two Sessions | 80 Attendees

*Sponsored by the Mr. & Mrs. Fairfax F. Pollnow Outreach Fund and the Margaret and Richard Riney Family Foundation Outreach Fund*

#### 18th Annual College Opportunities Fair

Twelve Colleges Represented | 20+ Families Participated

#### ISACS Parent Webinar Series

34 Attendees

A virtual program for independent school parents and caregivers offered yearly by ISACS (Independent Schools Across the Central States) and sponsored by Churchill. **Six webinars offered throughout the school year.**

#### Terri's Tutors Program

**Over 4,000 hours of free tutoring for 92 children throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area since the program's inception**

The purpose of the Terri's Tutors Program is to address the educational needs of children surviving cancer, increase traditional school teachers' awareness concerning the effects of the treatments on the learning process, advocate for the educational needs of these children and educate the general community concerning the late effects of cancer treatments on children surviving cancer.

# School Partnerships Program

## WILSON® ACCREDITED PARTNER

Wilson Language Training® (WLT) is considered the gold standard for teaching reading to children and adults with learning disabilities such as dyslexia. Only seven private schools in the country have attained official Wilson Accredited Partner status, Churchill being one of these. **In January 2024, Churchill was awarded Wilson® Accredited Partner, Best Practice Site, one of only four schools to have been designated this honor.**

Churchill has implemented the Wilson Reading System® (WRS) and trained teachers through the certification process since 2005. WRS is a highly structured, remedial program that directly teaches the structure of language to students and adults who have been unable to learn with other teaching strategies, or who may require multisensory language instruction. Six Churchill Teachers earned their Level 1 Certification during the 2023-2024 school year and two are working towards Level II Certification. In addition, our five Wilson® Credentialed Trainers continuously work with Churchill faculty, as well as teachers throughout the Midwest, all year long.

*Sponsored by the Mr. & Mrs. Parker B. Condie, Sr. Outreach Fund, the Dennis & Judy Jones Family Foundation Outreach Fund, the Steve & Ginny Orthwein Family Fund, the Mr. & Mrs. Fairfax Pollnow Outreach Fund and the Sandra K. Gilligan Forever Grateful Endowment Fund.*

## COMMUNITY & SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

June 2023 - May 2024

Once again, two Community Partnership Network (CPN) St. Louis Public Schools were designated as Churchill's school partners for the 2023-2024 school year - Meramec Elementary and Ashland Elementary. Three of our Wilson Credentialed Trainers worked with a combination of ten kindergarten, first grade and second grade teachers at these schools to support and enhance the teachers' knowledge and fidelity in implementing Wilson Foundations®, **positively affecting hundreds of students!** Foundations provides integral, research-based materials and strategies as a prevention and early intervention reading, spelling and handwriting program for these young students.

*Sponsored by the Dennis & Judy Jones Family Foundation Outreach Fund, the Margaret & Richard Riney Family Foundation Outreach Fund, the Bill & Sandy Snyder Foundation Outreach Fund and the Sandra K. Gilligan Forever Grateful Endowment Fund.*

**During the 2023-2024 school year, the Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program, led by Director Rachel Wheatley, was able to reach over 450 educators, 160 parents, 380 students, three cancer survivors and so many more area community members.**

For questions, to learn more and/or sign-up for upcoming events, please visit: <https://www.churchillstl.org/outreach-workshops>



Wilson Language Training® (WLT) CEO Keri Dixon and Senior Director of Partner Development/Literacy Advisor Connie Steigerwald with Churchill's Head of School Anne Evers (at far left), Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program Director Rachel Wheatley (at far right), and our extraordinary Wilson® Credentialed Trainers!



# Leadership Giving

We sincerely thank and acknowledge the following donors for their generous guardianship of Churchill Center & School. We appreciate your leadership commitment to our school, and are honored by your support in joining the Starfish Circle with your donation of \$2,000 or more. Since 1978, our school's fundamental, child-centered philosophy has remained the same: to provide a place of hope for students and families, a source of knowledge for professionals and a point of pride for the community.

*Starfish Circle recognition levels are cumulative and include any gifts made to the Annual Fund, Auction Fund-A-Need, Scholarship Fund, Forever Grateful Endowment Campaign, Outreach Program and Event Underwriting from June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024.*



## STARFISH CIRCLE

### Founder \$10,000 +

- |                                |                                    |                               |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Brody Allen Exteriors          | Jennifer Lord                      | Asim and Saadia Raza          |
| Wes and Mara Clayton           | Adam and Amanda Miller             | Simmons Charitable Foundation |
| Barry and Pat Corona           | <i>In memory of Marilyn Miller</i> | Bill and Sandy Snyder         |
| Adele Dilschneider             | Jason and McKay Mills              | Jim and Pat Steiner           |
| Enterprise Holdings Foundation | Lisa O'Neill                       | Don and Perry Streett         |
| Ellen Lindeman                 | William R. Orthwein Jr. and Laura  | Jeff and Emily Todt           |
| James Lord                     | Rand Orthwein Foundation           |                               |

### Leader \$5,000 - \$9,999

- |                                    |  |                                |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Berra Family Charitable Foundation | Jane Edwards                               | Mary Rammes                    |
| Adam and Lara Bichsel              | Jodie and Spencer Finney                   | Benjamin and Lynn Rassieur III |
| Art and Amelia Bond                | Steven and Christine Gordon                | Joe and Nancy Robinson         |
| Jeff and Alli Burmaster            | Dan and Phyllis Hartrich                   | Philip and Carol Schwab        |
| Michael Butler                     | Natasha Hrycauk                            | Dave and Angie Stoeberl        |
| Matt and Cathy Courtney            | McBride Homes                              | Matt and Kate Totterdale       |
| <i>Broadview Screen Co.</i>        | <i>Jeff Todt</i>                           | Dan and Chris Marie Walters    |
| Chris and Molly Danforth           | Steve and Ginny Orthwein Family Foundation | <i>Caribbean Creme, Inc.</i>   |

### Benefactor \$3,000 - \$4,999

- |                             |                          |                         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Scott and Emily Brown       | Sandi Gilligan           | Matt and Lee Walter     |
| Andy and Laura Bryan        | John and Ashley Kemper   | Brian Witherspoon       |
| Cori Christiansen           | Danny and Emily Orthwein | Bonnie Summers Wolfarth |
| <i>P2 Mission Solutions</i> | Mike and Sarah Roche     |                         |
| Dave and Allison Edwards    | Brett and Molly Shelton  |                         |

### Patron \$2,000 - \$2,999

- |                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Claudio and Julia Abreu          | Zach and Elizabeth Kratofil           |
| Gavin and Theresa Ackermann      | David and Laura Margolis              |
| Rufus Barton and Mary Barton III | James McNutt                          |
| Dan and Irina Becker             | David and Amy Meyers                  |
| John and Renée Berra Jr.         | Carter Noel Miller and Ben Miller     |
| Stephen Brauer Jr.               | Ted and Lauren Noel                   |
| Jeff and Sarah Brown             | Devin and Teresa Price                |
| Michael Bystrom                  | Michael and Maureen Schoenwalder      |
| John and Pauline Cella           | Doug and Julie Stanley                |
| Clay and Hillary Coffee          | Nathan and Natalie Swanson            |
| Commerce Trust Company           | Paul Trelstad and Lynn Beall Trelstad |
| Parker Condie Sr.                | Vertex                                |
| Roy Evers                        | <i>Employee Matching Gift Program</i> |
| Daniel and Stephanie Fredman     | Mike and Kate Walsh                   |
| Tom and Suzanne Hough            | Tim and Lisa Walshauer                |
| Jim and Maureen Huber            | Jeff York and Cheree Berry            |



# Additional Giving Levels: Annual Fund

Gifts received June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024

We are so grateful for your support of Churchill Center & School's vision that creates transformational opportunities for our students and celebrates our school community! Your gift to the Annual Fund is critical in keeping Churchill one of the top educational institutions in the country for children with learning disabilities, and touches everything you love about Churchill. It helps to ensure that every child with a learning disability feels empowered to grow, thrive and dream!

We salute your ongoing commitment as we continue to provide our students the finest, individualized education and support they need to achieve success and become advocates for their future.

**From all of us at Churchill, we are extraordinarily thankful for our entire community's unwavering encouragement and generosity through Annual Fund gifts totaling more than \$298,200!**

### VICTORY SOCIETY \$1,000 - \$1,999

- Frank Ahearn  
Steven and Diane Anderson  
Marcus and Julie Bahr  
Charles and Laura Barnes  
Boeing Gift Matching Program  
*Employee Matching Gift Program*  
Kitty Bollinger  
Roy and Janis Coffee Jr.  
John and Ruth Anne Connors  
Scott and Betsy Cornwell  
David and Joan Culver  
Jane Markey Culver  
Diane Davis  
William and Ira DeWitt III  
Brian and Sarah Dull  
Jim and Kelly Edwards  
Mike and Jodi Edwards  
Anne Evers  
Tim and Jeannette Ewing  
Dan Gaffney  
Ed and Dorette Goldberg  
Tom and Trish Goldberg  
Kathryn Henderson  
Larry and Kathleen Hill  
Carl and Tara Hogan Jr.  
Tom and Janet Horlacher  
Kiron and Kristina Lahiri  
J. David Levy and Lucy Levy Jr.  
Ted and Joyce MacDonald  
Mastercard  
*Employee Matching Gift Program*  
Joe and Wyndy McRoy  
Richard Murphy and Nancy Murphy Jr.  
David and Sara Nations  
Ronald and Grace Reagan  
Mike and Sarah Roche  
Steven Rothman and Lynne Kipnis  
Constance Wells Schnuck  
Don and Kathy Schreiber

- Joseph and Rebecca Schulz  
Irfan and Nermina Sinanovic  
Margaret Sullivan  
Tegeler Foundation  
William and Blair Thompson  
Mark and Robyn Tonopolsky

### BULLDOG SOCIETY \$500 - \$999

- Art and Barb Ackermann  
Jeff and Claire Behrle  
Steve and Mary Brotherton  
Jared and Kristi Byrne  
Jeff and Pam Collier  
F J Cornwell and Ann Cornwell Jr.  
Jeff and Elaine Dauer  
Derek and Carey Falb  
Robert Fuquay  
Matt and Dawn Galloway  
Joe and Kerri Gaut  
Joseph Goldberg  
Scott and Daniele Griffin  
Jeffrey and Stephanie Hoelscher  
Corey and Michelle Iken  
Tim and Tammy Lally  
John and Angie Kane  
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Carole Kroeger  
Richard and Debbie Maack  
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Lauren Ming  
Thomas and Dawn Niedringhaus  
Joan O'Hara  
Stephanie Politte  
Dan and Kate Pollmann  
David and Jaclyn Pollnow  
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Mark and Heather Rynasiewicz  
Jonathan and Susie Sachs  
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 Eric and Megan Muschler  
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 Levi and Jenna Polk  
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 Damien and Stacy Vehlewald  
 Daniel and Jennifer Whyman  
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 Julie Wiseman  
 Debbie Wolfangel

2023-2024

# Directed Giving

The following gifts are restricted to a specific fund.

### MR. & MRS. PARKER B. CONDIE SR. FUND

- Mr. and Mrs. Parker B. Condie Sr.
- Jodie and Spencer Finney

### AUDREY & PARKER LORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- James Lord
- Jennifer Lord

### EDWIN L. NOEL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Carter Noel Miller and Ben Miller
- Ted and Lauren Noel

### STEVE & GINNY ORTHWEIN FAMILY FUND

- William R. Orthwein Jr. and  
 Laura Rand Orthwein Foundation

### SANDRA K. GILLIGAN EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

*(including general endowed gifts made to support outreach, scholarship or greatest need):*

- Art and Amelia Bond
- Susan Borum
- Sandi Gilligan
- Thomas Hill and Julia Woods-Hill
- Everett and Pam Kalkbrenner
- Joe and Wyndy McRoy
- Jason and McKay Mills
- William O. and Margaret H. DeWitt Foundation
- Asim and Saadia Raza
- Mike and Sarah Roche
- Jim and Pat Steiner
- Peter and Julie Villhard
- Kyle and Christina Weyers

### OUTREACH FUND

- Crestwood Elementary
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation

### GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Matthew and Nikki Buechler
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- Wendy Surinsky
- Deb Wagner and Family
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- Jeff York and Cheree Berry
- Andrew Young and Terra Barnes

### BRICK CAMPAIGN FOR THE BUILDING FUND

- Jacqueline Billet
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- Gloria Hamilton
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- Jim and Maureen Huber
- Constantine and Julia Kyramarios
- Franco and Susan Mondello
- Ryan and Melissa Pennington
- Nicole Swarts



## 1978 Legacy Society

A planned gift is a wonderful way to make a positive and lasting impact in the lives of our Churchill students for many years to come! The 1978 Legacy Society has been established to recognize and honor those individuals who have included Churchill as a beneficiary in their overall financial or estate plan. Examples include: bequests, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, gifts of life insurance or gifts of pension/retirement plans. For more information, **please contact Christina Weyers, Director of Advancement, at 314-997-4343 or cweyers@churchillstl.org.**

# Tributes *and* Memorials

## Gifts in Honor of:

**MATT AND MARY BADLER**  
Wendy Surinsky

**ELIZABETH CLARK**  
Caitlin Ryan

**JANE MARKEY CULVER**  
David and Joan Culver

**KATE COURTNEY**  
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Moneta Group - Timothy Halls

**CINDY GROCHOWSKI**  
Wendy and Reggie Surinsky

**AUDREY HILL**  
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Paul Trelstad and Lynn Beall Trelstad

**MACK VAN WAGNEN**  
Gary Van Waggen and Tere Richardson



## Gifts in Memory of:

**WILLIAM (BILL) GALLUZZO**  
Joy Galluzzo

**ALBERT HEINRICH**  
Joy Galluzzo

**MARILYN MILLER**  
Adam and Amanda Miller

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Joy Galluzzo

**KEVIN STEINER**  
Anne Rohrbacker  
Deb Wagner and Family

**JIM YALEM**  
Penny Ross  
William and Katie Schuchman

### DEDE LAMBERT

*A very special member of our Churchill family, DeDe Lambert, passed away in April 2024. All gifts made were designated to Churchill's Scholarship Fund.*

- Cookie Ameson
- Ted Baldwin
- Clarence Barksdale
- Charles and Laura Barnes
- Tee and Shellie Baur
- Nicholas Beare
- Albert and Lea Bender
- Marion Black
- John and Marie Brauer
- Ann Brightman
- Jack and Donna Carruthers
- Philip and Lizz Chamberlain
- Pele and Frank Childress
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- Commerce Trust  
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- Parker Condie
- Carolyn Danforth
- Nichole Dawsey
- Charlie and Martinna Dill
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- Lucien and Becky Fouke
- Sandy and Marianne Galt
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- Nancy Gotfredson
- Joe Grasso
- Kenneth Green
- Tracy Green
- Duane and Catherine Hagen
- Hord and Ann Hardin
- Albert Heekin
- Bob and Signa Hermann
- Sandy Holmes
- Penny Howland
- Chris and Lisa Imbs
- Robert Johnston
- Carole, Rocky and George Kroeger
- Cody Laird
- Lainey Lortz
- Jane Mackey
- Charles and Anne McAlpin
- James and Libby McDonnell
- Tony and Kara Mikulec
- Jacqueline Niekamp
- Ginny Orthwein
- Brooks, Clark and Lisa Parriott
- Raymond and Cindy Peters
- Roy Pfautch
- Julie Plax
- Mary Rassieur
- John and Jody Ross
- Pete and Donna Rothschild
- John and Ginny Rowe
- William Sims
- Andy and Barbara Taylor
- Louise Taylor
- John and Ellen Wallace
- Terry Whittemore
- Bonnie Summers Wolfarth

# Staff Recognition

We are proud of our esteemed faculty and staff and we thank them for their tireless commitment to our students! This year we commemorate the following for their noteworthy milestones and years of service during the 2023-2024 school year.



**40 YEARS**  
Anne Evers



**15 YEARS**  
Beth Brookshier, Cindy Grochowski, Nicole Murphy



**10 YEARS**  
Anna Bembower



**5 YEARS**  
Katie Floro, Heather Sartin, Steph Slonka



**1 YEAR**

Jake Fautley, Rachel Flavin, Lisa George, Molly Harris, Anna Kueterman, Erin Scherer, Andrea Schmid, Austin Stofer



## RETIRING

Join us in honoring Churchill's retirees!

### Sue Andrew

On and off for 35 years, Mrs. Sue Andrew has been supporting Churchill - be it teaching, tutoring, subbing, or as one of our biggest cheerleaders! What a champion she has been for our mission and our students!



### Beth Brookshier

We also thank Ms. Beth Brookshier, Director of Finance, for her 15 years of service to our school. (We are sure that, at some point, each of you have had a conversation with Ms. Brookshier!) Her work ethic, commitment to detail and heart for school will be truly missed!



## STRIKE A POSE AND SMILE BIG

because Churchill's 2024 John D. Valentine Award Recipient is...

### Stacy Vehlewald!

Mrs. Vehlewald was nominated and recognized by her colleagues for the work she does in and out of her classroom by fostering competence, leading with a caring heart and demonstrating courage through setting the best course of action for her students. We are so **thrilled to recognize YOU, Mrs. Vehlewald, and the quiet way you lead, your math prowess in the classroom, the patience you exhibit when taking (countless) Yearbook photos, your creativity and your dedication to our students and school.** THANK YOU MRS. VEHLEWALD! Congratulations!



In the spring of 2003, Churchill's Board of Trustees created the John D. Valentine Award for Teaching Excellence as a special tribute to the memory of John Valentine, a past parent, Board member and dedicated Churchill supporter. Each year this award is presented to a Churchill teacher who exemplifies the best of teaching.



# Special Events

CHURCHILL CENTER & SCHOOL

## Starfish Soirée

Churchill Center & School's Starfish Soirée Dinner & Auction was held Friday, March 1, 2024, at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac. It was a night of unmatched generosity, overwhelming community spirit, unwavering support and uncompromising enthusiasm.

Behind every successful event are talented, creative, determined and hard-working volunteers, including parents, teachers and staff. Led by Churchill's own Associate Director of Events Steph Slonka and Auction Co-Chairs Sarah Barnes, Maureen Huber and Julie Redmond, Churchill Center & School's Starfish Soirée Dinner & Auction was only as outstanding as it was, due to the countless and selfless contributions made by so many "behind the scenes." Thank you to each member of the Churchill community for the role you played in making Churchill's Starfish Soirée Dinner & Auction a huge success in every way.

"It matters to this one!"



Auction Emcee:  
Rene Knott



Auction Co-Chairs (from left-to-right): Maureen Huber, Julie Redmond and Sarah Barnes

### Thank you to our Generous Sponsors!

#### PRESENTING SPONSORS - \$10,000

Brody Allen Exteriors  
Barry & Pat Corona  
Adam & Amanda Miller  
in memory of Marilyn Miller

#### PLATINUM SPONSORS - \$5,000

Berra Family Charitable Foundation  
Broadview Screen Co.  
Wes & Mara Clayton  
McBride Homes  
David & Angela Stoeberl

#### GOLD SPONSORS - \$2,500

The Bryan & Pollnow Families  
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Goldsmith MediCenter Pharmacy  
Daniel & Phyllis Hartrich  
SummerOne  
Matt & Kate Totterdale

#### SILVER SPONSORS - \$1,000

Matt & Mary Badler with Twain Financial  
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Spencer & Jodie Finney  
John & Ashley Kemper  
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Mark & Heather Rynasiewicz  
Summers Compton Wells LLC,  
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Unbridled Media  
Patrick & Kelly Wittenbrink

#### BRONZE SPONSORS - \$500

Haberberger Mechanical  
Jeffrey & Jill Krogen  
Ted & Joyce MacDonald  
Mann Family Foundation  
Kevin & Sarah McDaniel  
Danny & Emily Orthwein  
Bonnie Summers Wolfarth

# Sandra K Gilligan "Making a Difference"

## 2023-2024 Alumni Award Recipients

In honor of Churchill's Founding Director Sandi Gilligan's legacy of service, an anonymous donor established the Sandra K. Gilligan "Making a Difference" Alumni Award in 2021. Through this award, we recognize and honor alumni who are carrying on the Churchill spirit of making a difference by creating meaningful impact in the lives of others through their everyday lives.

We are gratified to announce the 2023-2024 winners of The Sandra K. Gilligan "Making a Difference" Alumni Awards are...

### Jane "Markey" Culver '00

Sandi presented Markey with her award during Churchill's Starfish Soirée in March. Markey is a Churchill alumna (1997-2000) who has innovatively fused her educational background in communication and business with her unwavering commitment to bring access and opportunity for all! She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Rwanda, 2010-2012) and earned her MBA from Washington University's Olin Business School in 2017. In 2018, Markey founded and became CEO of The Women's Bakery (TWB). TWB is empowering women across East Africa by partnering with and educating them on how to operate successful bakeries in their own communities, creating opportunities and choices that have a ripple effect that profoundly impacts their own lives, their families' lives and their communities. To share Markey's simple, yet so significant mantra, "**We can, therefore we must.**"



To learn more about The Women's Bakery, and to support Markey's vision, please visit:  
<https://womensbakery.com>.



Churchill's Founding Director Sandi Gilligan with Alumni Award Recipient Jane Markey Culver

### Jodie Condie Finney '91

Jodie was recognized with this prestigious honor by Sandi during the Awards & Graduation Ceremony in May. Jodie is a Churchill alumna (1987-1991) who believes that "**with knowledge comes understanding, and with understanding comes compassion.**" Jodie worked as a Physical Therapist for rehab and acute care of geriatric patients at Mercy Hospital for 16 years. In 2022, she co-founded The Caregiver Club, whose mission is to improve the lives of individuals with Alzheimer's or other related dementias by supporting their caregivers. As shared on the submitted award nomination by one of Jodie's daughters, "My mom is the hardest working person I know. She truly lives her life in service to others."



To learn more about The Caregiver Club, please visit: <https://thecaregiverclub.org>.



Churchill's Founding Director Sandi Gilligan with Alumni Award Recipient Jodie Finney and her daughters and Churchill students Julia and Josephine

## SIP & SAVOR 2023

a celebration of beer | wine | food  
To Benefit Churchill's Scholarship Fund

Churchill's Annual Sip & Savor was indeed a celebration! Thanks to the more than 150 participants who supported, attended and spread joy at last October's event, we raised over \$14,500 to benefit Churchill's Scholarship Fund. We sipped. We savor'd. We danced and sang. We bid on premium silent auction items. We took and shared photos. We connected - current parents, alumni parents, faculty, staff, friends and Churchill alumni(!) - all coming together to have a ton of fun. Oh, what a night!



### Thank you to our Generous Sponsors!

#### PLATINUM SPONSORS - \$2,000

John & Pauline Cella Family

#### PRESENTING FOOD & DRINK SPONSORS:

2nd Shift Brewing  
BrickTop's  
crumbl cookies  
Dalie's Smokehouse  
Steve & Christine Gordon  
David & Amy Meyers  
Narrow Gauge Brewing Company  
NOTHING bundt CAKES  
Old Bakery Beer  
Perennial Artisan Ales  
Rockwell Beer Co.  
Rosalita's Cantina  
Vangel's Restaurant & Bar

#### GOLD SPONSORS - \$1,000

Andy & Laura Bryan  
Haberberger Mechanical

#### SILVER SPONSORS - \$500

The Hickel Family  
McBride Homes  
Danny & Emily Orthwein  
Summers Compton Wells LLC,  
Attorneys at Law

#### BRONZE SPONSORS - \$250

Destination Athlete of St. Louis  
POWERS Insurance & Risk Management  
Doug & Julie Stanley  
Mark Tipton State Farm



# End of Year Celebrations

## Awards & Graduation Ceremony

Churchill Center & School's Awards & Graduation Ceremony is a time-honored tradition for our school to come together and recognize and honor all the achievements throughout our student body. It is a time of celebration, and a unique program to thank our entire community for their continued support, enthusiasm, care and heart for our students, our faculty and staff, our school and our mission. Friday, May 24 was an extraordinary highlight of the 2023-2024 year! Kudos to all! **GO BULLDOGS!**



### COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

We were also thrilled to **welcome a distinguished and accomplished Churchill Alumnus Lyle Gulley '01 as our Commencement Speaker.** Lyle spoke to our audience on his time at Churchill and the skills, strategies and philosophy he gained and still applies in his daily life. Lyle implored our students to "never give up, dream big, and know that everyone at Churchill will always be rooting you on!" Thank you, Lyle, for your insight and candor!



## Student Awards Recognition

During the Awards & Graduation Ceremony, our students were presented accolades for reading incentives, personal bests, peacebuilding, motor skills efforts and homework honors. In addition, we also bestowed extra special kudos for the following students!



### ROBERT HERMANN HOLTON LEADERSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to **Clara Stenson, Churchill's 2024 Robert Hermann Holton Award Recipient,** for exemplifying the qualities of leadership, scholastic, athletic achievement and community involvement!

*We also honor Award Finalists: Jimmy Edwards, Reggie Surinsky and Abi Todt.*



### HERB CASE AWARD

Kudos to **Riley Hickel, Churchill's 2024 Herb Case Award Recipient,** for exemplifying character, concern for and service to others!

*We also honor Award Finalists: Emma Christiansen, Hope Goldberg and Colin Powers.*

*You make us SO proud. Keep being YOU!*



## Remembering DeDe Lambert

We lost a very special member of our Churchill family, DeDe Lambert, this spring. As many of you know, DeDe is the namesake and founder of our annual DeDe's Almonds Fundraiser. More than 28 years ago, DeDe gifted Churchill her list of almonds buyers to raise money for Churchill's Scholarship Fund. And the rest is history. Because of DeDe, our Almonds Sale has raised more than \$750,000 for the Scholarship Fund and families who could not otherwise afford to attend Churchill. DeDe was the third ever President of our Board of Trustees, an alumni parent and alumni grandparent. DeDe's son was one of the inaugural 21 students in Churchill's first summer school class of 1978. We will always be forever grateful to DeDe for her transformational support and her lasting impact on the Churchill community, which will live on through DeDe's Almonds for years to come!



DeDe with son/alumnus Peter '82 and granddaughter/alumna Campbell '16



DeDe (in purple standing to the left of Founding Director Emeritus Sandi Gilligan) with many of her fellow Board of Trustees Past Presidents



DeDe with Campbell while Campbell was attending Churchill

# CHURCHILL

CENTER & SCHOOL  
National Leader in Learning Disabilities

1021 Municipal Center Drive  
Town & Country, MO 63131  
314-997-4343 | churchillstl.org



## SAVE *the* DATE

### *Our Mission*

Our mission at Churchill Center & School is to give high potential children with learning disabilities the finest, individualized, remedial education and the support they need to achieve success and return to a traditional classroom and... To foster greater understanding and support for all people with learning disabilities by training other educators, supporting our families and enlightening the community.

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>NOVEMBER 27- 29</b>             | Thanksgiving Holiday Break        |
| <b>DECEMBER 2</b>                  | Celebrate Churchill Day           |
| <b>DECEMBER 4 - 6</b>              | Fall Fundraiser Almonds Pick-Up   |
| <b>DECEMBER 23 -<br/>JANUARY 5</b> | Winter Break                      |
| <b>FEBRUARY 7</b>                  | Bagels with Buddies               |
| <b>MARCH 17 - 30</b>               | Spring Break                      |
| <b>MAY 5</b>                       | Churchill's Golf Tournament       |
| <b>MAY 23</b>                      | Awards & Graduation Ceremony      |
| <b>MAY 23</b>                      | Last Day of 2024-2025 School Year |