

The **SPRING 2024** CHURCHILL CHRONICLE



Forever Grateful!

On Monday, March 4, we honored Churchill Center & School's Founders, Perry Streett and Bonnie Summers Wolfarth, and Founding Director, Sandi Gilligan, by officially dedicating the new "Founders Circle" on campus, as well as unveiling a "Joy of Learning" bronze sculpture commissioned by Abraham Mohler. Churchill alumni, current students and Head of School Anne Evers spoke to and about our esteemed panel. Board members, past faculty, alumni parents, community members and current parents, as well as our entire student body, teachers and staff, attended. We are so thankful to everyone who was able to celebrate this special day with us!



We are forever grateful to Perry, Bonnie and Sandi for their incredible hard work, foresight and dedication in making their vision and dream of Churchill a reality over 45 years ago!



CHURCHILL CENTER & SCHOOL'S SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS...

Tracy Dennis-Tiwary, PhD

In early April 2024, on behalf of Churchill Center & School's Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program, we were honored to welcome and learn from Dr. Tracy Dennis-Tiwary who spoke to our faculty and staff, over 65 area educators, and parents and community members, on her book "Future Tense: Why Anxiety is Good For You (Even Though It Feels Bad)". With stress and burnout spiking, many of us believe that our lives would be better if only we were less anxious. Dr. Dennis-Tiwary shared that our anxiety can actually be good, as it helps us focus, create and plan for the uncertain future. In very practical presentations, she provided new frameworks for managing anxiety and how to use it to our advantage.

Learn more about Tracy Dennis-Tiwary, PhD at: <https://www.drtracyphd.com>

This free event was made possible by the Margaret and Richard Riney Family Foundation Outreach Fund, Mr. & Mrs. Parker B. Condie, Sr. Fund and Mr. & Mrs. Fairfax F. Pollnow Outreach Fund.

"When we stop rejecting anxiety, we will be better able to channel it, manage it, and use it to prioritize what matters to us in life."



Co-Chairs Maureen Huber, Julie Redmond & Sarah Barnes



(Some of our) amazing Auction Committee



Auctioneer Rene Knott



(Some of our) outstanding Churchill Faculty & Staff



CHURCHILL CENTER & SCHOOL

Starfish Soirée

Dinner & Auction • March 1, 2024



What a Star (fish) - Studded Night!

A night of unmatched generosity, overwhelming community spirit, unwavering support, and uncompromising enthusiasm.

Our entire school family came together on Friday, March 1, 2024 at the Frontenac Hilton for Churchill Center & School's Starfish Soirée Dinner & Auction. And what an evening we shared!

More than 375 guests were treated to beautiful decorations, a live band and delectable food and drinks. We had over 350 silent auction items up for bidding, sign-up parties for students in every grade, raffles and more. Rene Knott, of "5 On Your Side," served as Emcee and Auctioneer, and bids for our Live Auction and Fund-A-Need paddle raise blew the roof off the Hilton!

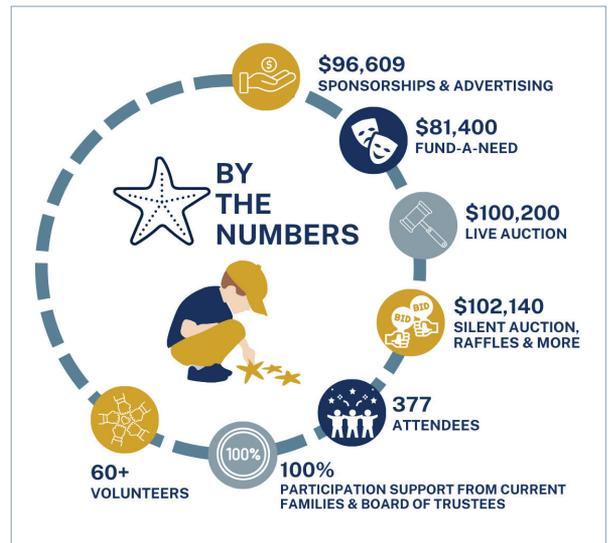
An event of this scale is built on the hard work and dedication of an army of incredible volunteers spearheaded by our talented and amazing Auction Co-Chairs Maureen Huber, Julie Redmond and Sarah Barnes. We are beyond thankful to these women and our entire Auction Committee for their tireless efforts, creativity and passion to make this event a spectacular fundraising success for Churchill's Scholarship Fund.

We are thrilled to share that this year's Starfish Soirée **RAISED \$416,000**, including over \$81,000 for our Fund-A-Need, which will provide new, innovative equipment and state-of-the-art improvements to enhance the fine and performing arts experience and make a significant impact for every student at Churchill!

We hope you had an extraordinary evening, whether you joined us in person or remotely, and we appreciate every effort to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in the lives of our students and families through our Scholarship Fund.

"It matters to ALL of us!"

Thank You!





SANDRA K. GILLIGAN
"Making a Difference"
 ALUMNI AWARD

In honor of Churchill's Founding Director Sandi Gilligan's legacy of service, a generous, anonymous donor established an exciting alumni award in 2021 - The Sandra K. Gilligan "Making a Difference" Alumni Award. Through this award, we recognize Churchill Center & School alumni who are truly 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 winner of The Sandra K. Gilligan "Making a Difference" Alumni Award is...



JANE MARKEY CULVER '00

To share Markey's simple, yet so impactful mantra,

"We can, therefore we must."



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). The foundation of TWB was built on the grit, innovation and commitment of Markey and her team who saw the power of bread and believed it could change the world!

TWB is empowering women across East Africa by partnering with and educating them on how to operate successful bakeries in their own communities. They focus on the following key ingredients to ensure that each TWB bakery thrives long-term: identify strong women, provide extensive training, make quality bread and operate good businesses. As a result, The Women's Bakery creates possibilities for these women to make choices of their own: to work, to learn, to invest and to uplift other women. These opportunities and choices have a ripple effect that profoundly impacts their own lives, their families' lives and their communities.

Sandi Gilligan presented Markey with the "Making a Difference" Alumni Award during Churchill's Starfish Soirée on March 1. Markey then powerfully shared with Auction guests about how her time at Churchill shaped her school years, and further impacted her future success in the work she continues today.

Scan to view
 Markey's Ted Talk on
"Reimagining Bread!"



Learn more about The Women's Bakery and support Markey's vision to

"Empower women because an empowered woman, by herself, is an outcome worth fighting for,"
 at: <https://www.womensbakery.com>.

Do you know a Churchill alumnus or alumna of day or summer school who is making a difference in the lives of others? Let us know! Nominate your favorite, most well-deserving alum now at: <https://bit.ly/churchillalumniaward>.

Bulldogs Forever!

We sure do miss our Churchill alumni, but we sure do also love to see them succeed and flourish at their new schools and in their careers! This year, we have been delighted to welcome back alumni, young and old(er), to Churchill! Each visit was marked with smiles, shared memories and stories, updates, accolades, photos, and most importantly, CONTINUED CONNECTION. **#gobulldogs #goalumni #alumnipower #powerofchurchill**



Alex '19, Moss '20 & John '21



Current Churchill student Caroline with Catherine '23



Author and alumna Clara '18 with Churchill teachers Mrs. Dieckmann & Ms. Helfrich



Dale '87 with his son



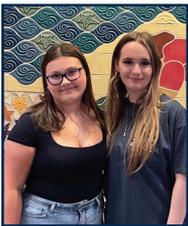
Estevan '18



Gavin '20 with Churchill teacher Mrs. Forrler



Joe '08 with his dog, Vall



Izzy '22 & Emma '23



Churchill's Mrs. McRoy with Jack '19



Ken '80



Nolan '17 with his brother & current Churchill student Colin



Oliver '22



Ricky '22



Sam '23



Slava '19 & Tessa '19



Tai '22 surrounded by Churchill staff: Mr. Becker, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Wiseman, Mrs. McMichael, Ms. Castle & Ms. Evers

Life After Churchill

In addition, we were joined by some pretty amazing Churchill alumni and their parents in February as part of our annual "Life After Churchill" Panel! To an enthusiastic audience of current students and families, they shared their candid insights, experiences, strategies and tools for success, as they transitioned from Churchill back to traditional schools.



Jay '22, Whitney '19, Moss '20, Annika '19 and Tai '22

Let's Play Pickleball!

In 2023, Churchill hosted the inaugural "Young Alumni Pickleball Tournament" for Bulldogs 12-18 years old. And...when we say we had fun...we mean it! SUCH a cool event and time to reconnect, burn some energy, compete and laugh together. After it was all said and done, Rocco '22 and Brody '20 emerged as our pickleball champs, competing against the sister team of Catherine '23 and Rosie '21, in the final round.



Stay tuned for more information regarding the 2024 "Young Alumni Pickleball Tournament" this summer!



To share your own alumni news, updates, photos and more, please reach out to **Stephanie Slonka at sslonka@churchillstl.org.**



Upcoming Dates

- **Thursday, May 9: #GiveSTLDay**
This #GiveSTLDay, let's come together to make an impact! Get online and give on 5/9 at giveday.org/organization/churchillstl



- **Friday, May 10:**
NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day
- **Tuesday, May 21:**
Field Day

- **Friday, May 24:**
 - Awards & Graduation Ceremony
 - Last Day of 2023-2024 School Year
- **Friday, May 31:**
Last Day To Give for the 2023-2024 School Year

Before the fiscal year ends on 5/31, we invite you to make a gift to Churchill's Annual Fund. Honor the reason why YOU love Churchill! Give now at: <https://givebutter.com/churchillannualfund>

- **Monday, June 10:**
2024 Summer School Session Begins

