

The **SPRING 2026** CHURCHILL CHRONICLE



2026 *Strategic* VISION

Dear Churchill Center & School Community,

Churchill is exceptionally strong today. Together with your support, our mission and purpose are clear, and the commitment to our students is unwavering.

Rooted in this educational excellence, I am proud and excited to share our **2026 Strategic Vision**, an intentional roadmap of Churchill's priorities and direction for the future. This Vision is not about redefining who we are; it is about advancing existing strengths and elevating Churchill's recognition as a National Leader in Learning Disabilities.

The plan is anchored upon four guiding pillars:

- **PRESERVING OUR TRANSFORMATIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE**
- **INVESTING IN EXCEPTIONAL TEACHERS**
- **SECURING LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**
- **EXPANDING OUR INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT AS A TRUSTED EXPERT**

Thank you for your **meaningful partnership** as we move forward together!

Anne



*We invite you
to explore our*
STRATEGIC VISION!

PILLAR 1



PILLAR 2



PILLAR 3



PILLAR 4



We remember that our success is measured not by how many students we impact,
but by the impact we have on any one student!



Co-Chairs Carey Falb, Molly Shelton and Jodie Finney with Head of School Anne Evers



(Some of our) amazing Auction Committee



Auctioneers Tarryn and Jason Troutman flank the Courtney Family, Cathy, Kate '16 and Board President Matt



CHURCHILL CENTER & SCHOOL

Starfish Soirée

Dinner & Auction • February 27, 2026

Making Waves: Our Largest Starfish Soirée Yet

Big Hearts, Big Energy, Big Impact

We are still riding the wave of excitement from this year's Starfish Soirée Dinner & Auction - a truly unforgettable evening that brought our community together in extraordinary ways. Nearly 400 guests filled the ballroom at the Frontenac Hilton, where a wonderful spirit of celebration set the tone for **a truly remarkable night**.

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, volunteered, bid from afar, or supported the event in countless ways, the Soirée **raised more than \$646,000 for Churchill's Scholarship Fund**, making it the largest fundraising event in our school's history. This total includes an inspiring **\$217,800 for our Fund-A-Need 1:1 Technology Initiative**, ensuring every Churchill student and faculty member will receive a new, secure, school-managed device.

The evening was led by several familiar Churchill faces. Head of School **Anne Evers** and Board of Trustees President **Matt Courtney** opened the program, followed by teachers **Julia Holmes** and **Elizabeth Steiner**, who brought great energy as Emcees. **Alumna Kate Courtney '16** delivered a heartfelt reflection on the lasting impact of her Churchill experience. Auctioneers **Jason** and **Tarryn Troutman** led a most-spirited Live Auction and a powerful Fund-A-Need paddle raise that electrified the room.

An event of this scale is only possible because of the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers. We extend our deepest gratitude to our Auction Co-Chairs - **Carey Falb, Jodie Finney** and **Molly Shelton** - and our Silent Auction Co-Chairs, **Alli Burmaster** and **Jacque Siegler**, whose creativity, leadership and tireless work helped shape so many details of the evening.

From nearly 400 Silent Auction items to sign-up parties, raffles and crowd-favorite experiences, the night was filled with energy, generosity and community spirit. Most importantly, it reflected the heart of Churchill: **a shared commitment to supporting our students, strengthening our mission and expanding opportunities for every learner**.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone who contributed to this record-breaking event. You continue to inspire us and make a lasting impact on our school!

Thank You!

\$646,440 DOLLARS RAISED!

BY THE NUMBERS

- 400 ATTENDEES
- 100% PARTICIPATION SUPPORT FROM CURRENT PARENTS & BOARD OF TRUSTEES
- 60+ VOLUNTEERS
- \$101,750 LIVE AUCTION
- \$165,485 SILENT AUCTION, RAFFLES, PADDLE DROP & MORE
- \$161,405 SPONSORSHIPS, TICKETS & DONATIONS
- \$217,800 FUND-A-NEED

Bulldogs Belong Here!

CELEBRATING EVERY ALUM, EVERY VISIT & EVERY STORY

We're always thrilled to welcome alumni back to Churchill - from our newest graduates to our most seasoned Bulldogs. Every visit brings connection, memories and the chance to honor the community we've built together. Stop by anytime. You're always part of the Churchill family!

#GoBulldogs #BeyondChurchill #BulldogsForever #ChurchillUnity



Alex '19 with Mrs. Doering



Robby '20 with Mr. Rubin



Emma '25 with Mrs. Dieckmann, Mrs. Vehlewald, Ms. Evers & Ms. Stofer



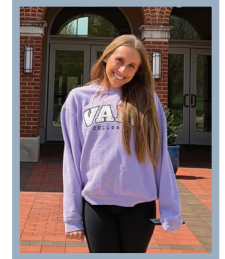
Harry '03 (and his little boy) with Ms. Evers and Mrs. Scheurer



Joe '95



Lachlan '25, Alex '25 and Ryan '25



Lily '20



Joey '19 with Ms. Grochowski and Mrs. Talbert



Alyona '22, Noah '22 and Hannah '22



Nathan '18 with Ms. Helfrich



Nick '20 with Mrs. Casey



Stella '25 and Mack '25



Oliver '22 with Mr. Schwartzman and Mr. Rubin



Slava '19 and Tessa '19



Jay '22 with Mrs. Dieckmann



Rocco '22 with Mr. Carney



Cassidy '25 with Mrs. McMichael



Skylar '24 and Kennedy '24



Ryan '25 with Ms. Steiner



Jack '16 with Ms. Stofer and Ms. Evers



Lindsay '98 with her daughter

Have alumni updates, stories or photos to pass along? We'd love to hear from you! Please contact **Steph Slonka** at sslonka@churchillstl.org or scan this QR code to fill out our alumni survey!



Bulldogs Belong Here!



LIFE AFTER CHURCHILL: *Stories That Inspire*

Our annual **Life After Churchill** panel once again brought together an incredible group of young alumni and their parents who generously shared their experiences transitioning from Churchill back to traditional schools. Their candid reflections and practical strategies offered meaningful guidance for families preparing for the next step. We extend our **heartfelt thanks to** (pictured from left-to-right) **John '21, Aidan '22, Nathan '18, Ryals '23, Ellie '22, Carly '17 and Alec '23** for leading with honesty and inspiration. **What an incredible evening!**



BULLDOGS + *Pickleball* THE PERFECT MATCH

Last summer's 3rd Annual Young Alumni Pickleball Tournament brought together a fantastic group of recent graduates for an evening of competition and camaraderie. The event highlighted the strong bonds within our Bulldog community and the joy of welcoming alumni back to campus!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 CHAMPIONS:

- **Doubles:** Colin '24 and Harrison '24
- **Singles:** Danny '22
- **Pickleball Dribbler Award:** Bryce '21



SANDRA K. GILLIGAN
"Making a Difference"
ALUMNI AWARD

Do you know a Churchill graduate who is creating positive change in their community or beyond? Nominate them for the **Churchill Alumni Award** at:

<https://bit.ly/churchillalumniaward>

STAFF Recognition

Our faculty and staff exemplify excellence, commitment and care in all they do. This spring, we proudly recognized team members who reached meaningful milestones and celebrated their years of dedicated service during the 2025 - 2026 school year.



35 YEARS
Christine Stofer



30 YEARS
Carmen Carroll



25 YEARS
Susan Howison, Jeff Smith



20 YEARS
Katie Casey, Mary Beth Hofer



RETIRING!



Cathy Doering



Tami Helfrich



Wyndy McRoy



15 YEARS
Kim Davidson, Jim Duehren, Amy Morris, Rachel Wheatley



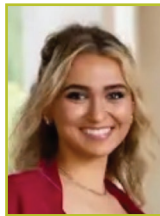
10 YEARS
Christina Weyers



5 YEARS
Liz Clark, Lyn Hawkins, Bailey Meek



1 YEAR
Tara Harrow, Tasha Ritter, Gerri Smith, Katherine Witte





Upcoming Dates

- **Thursday, May 7: #GiveSTLDay**
#GiveSTLDay is May 7! Make your impact at givestlday.org/churchillstl



St. Louis Community Foundation's
GIVE STL DAY

- **Friday, May 8:**
No School (Teacher Work Day)
- **Monday, May 18:**
Field Day

- **Friday, May 22:**
Awards & Graduation Ceremony
- **Friday, May 22:**
Last Day of 2025-2026 School Year

- **Sunday, May 31:**
Last Day to Give for the 2025-2026 School Year
Give now at:
<https://givebutter.com/churchillannualfund>

- **Monday, June 8:**
2026 Summer School Session Begins

