



THE PARISH POST

Fall 2022

The Parish School's
**Annual
Report**

Q&A

with Anne Powers,
Anne Neal &
Hayley Boasman

UNBABBLED CELEBRATES 50!

2nd Annual
BIKE-A-THON

14th Annual
LUNCHEON



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Anne Powers, MA, CCC-SLP
Head of School

Mimi Branham, MA, CCC-SLP
Director of The Carruth Center

Hayley Boasman, M.Ed., CALP
Director of Elementary

Terry Clough, CPA
Director of Finance and Operations

Terri Garth
Director of Arts and Sciences

Meredith Kimmel, MS, CCC-SLP
Director of Special Projects/Assistant
to the Head of School, Unbabbled Podcast Host

Anne Neal, MS, CCC-SLP
Head of Early Childhood

Molly Weisselberg, MA, CCC-SLP
Director of Admissions

Holly Wilbourn
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Jill Wood, MLIS
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Melanie Seigle – MA, CCC-SLP-R, LCSW Speech-Language
Pathologist



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Our Mission

The Parish School exists to empower children who have communication delays and learning differences to thrive through whole-child education, innovative therapy and access to nature.

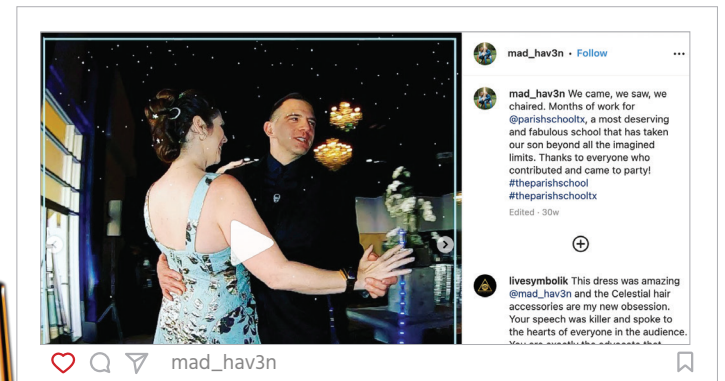
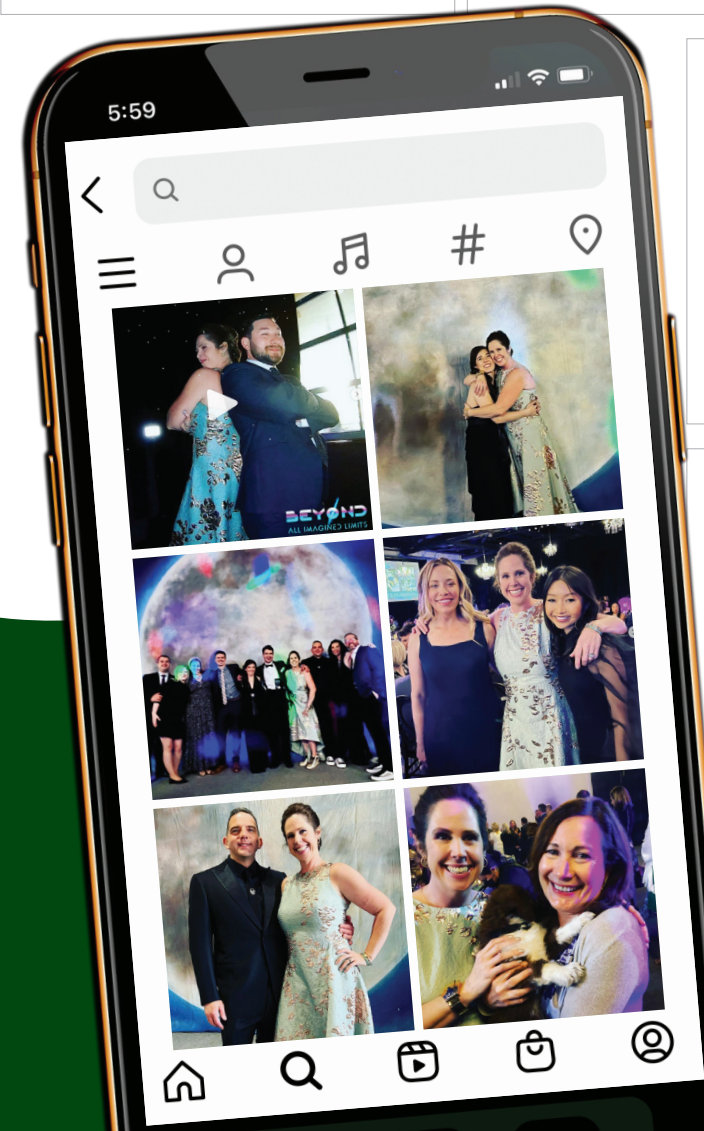
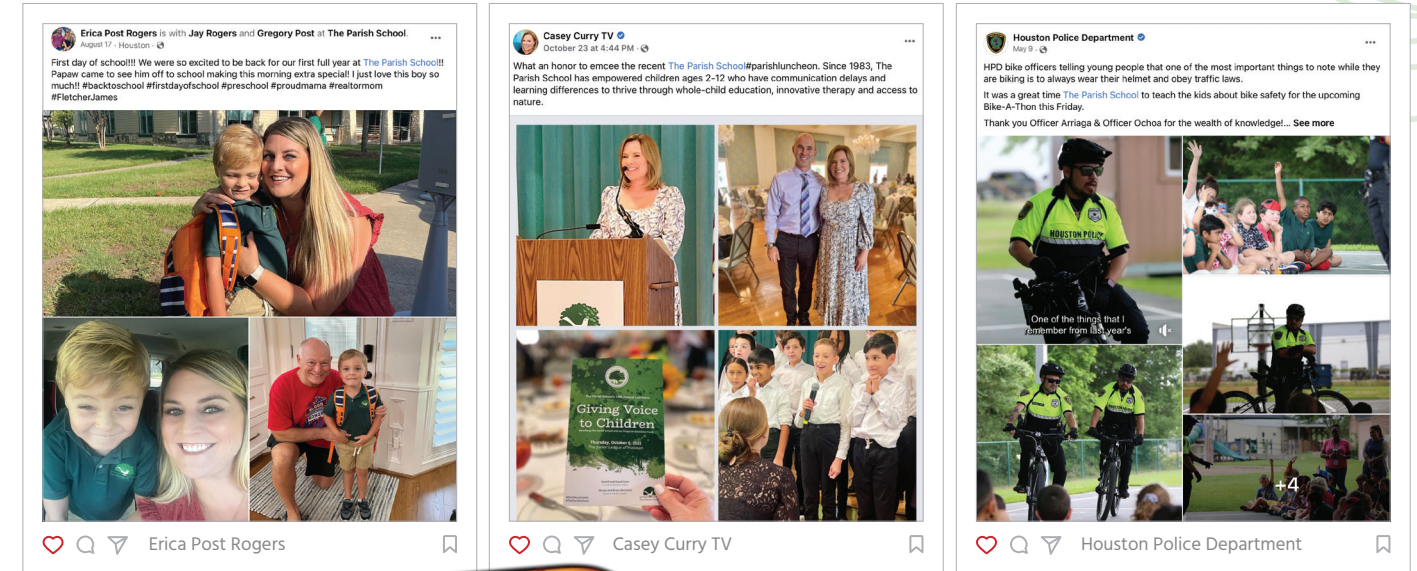
The Parish Post is printed twice a year and is published by The Parish School for students, parents, alumni and friends. For information or questions regarding The Parish Post, please contact the Advancement Office: advancement@parishschool.org

CHECK IT OUT



#TheParishSchool

We love to see what our families and supporters are up to! Use the hashtag above on social media to share your favorite Parish moments and photos with us. Photos may be published here in the Parish Post!



LETTER

From the Head of School
Anne Powers



DEAR PARISH COMMUNITY,

The launch of the 2022-2023 school year has been full of excitement. For many of us, a sense of normalcy post COVID is returning. The rhythms of the year seem familiar, and life is busy! At Parish, it was wonderful to start the year without masks, temperature checks at carpool, remote learning, social distancing, and all the precautions that had become customary over the last couple of years. We are still maintaining health and safety protocols, just in more manageable ways. Most of our face-to-face traditions and activities for students, family and staff have returned. Each seems especially sweet after long absences.

This has been a season of transition and change at Parish. We welcomed several instructional leaders in both our Elementary and Early Childhood programs. While some are new to our community, others have longevity with us and have boldly stepped into newly developed positions. In Elementary, Hayley Boasman is leading the way as our Head of Elementary with the support of Laura Causey, Curriculum Specialist, Meagan Rosales, Reading Specialist, Stephanie Landis, Lead Speech Language Pathologist, and Heather Pasaoa, Elementary Coordinator. While Anne Neal, the Head of Early Childhood, and Maddie Wright, Early Childhood Coordinator, are overseeing and caring for our Early Childhood program. Each of these talented individuals are helping ensure our students and staff receive the very best we have to offer. I am excited to be a part of this next season as we recommit to the aspects of our program that set us apart while still growing, building, and innovating.

For me, this fall has been uniquely special. It is the first time in my nine years at Parish that I ushered in the new school year as Head of School. I want to thank our amazing families, generous donors, community partners, Board of Trustees, and most of all our incredible staff for welcoming me so warmly. Your kindness, patience and support have meant a great deal. I am especially grateful to our leadership team whose wisdom and hard work has made all the difference during this season of transition.

There is a lot that feels new this year but so much more that is familiar. Children, whether they are 2 or 12, have still found their way to us because the limits of their language have become, in some way, the limits of their world. I have the sweet privilege of watching our staff patiently, and lovingly empower children to free their voice, and open up their world, to have a presence in their families and in the community – to be seen and heard and known. Of all the excitement we've had this year, none is more precious than what happens in our classrooms daily. Across campus, children are awakening to connection, curiosity, and shared experience. They are uncovering the joy of learning something new and the hope of possibility. We have a front row seat as children begin to believe – I can do this. I can share my voice. Whatever your role, whatever your connection to The Parish School and Carruth Center, we are thankful for the ways you help make our mission a reality. We couldn't do it without you.

BEST,

Anne

The Parish Post

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

HELLO PARISH SCHOOL,

My son Derek is a former student of The Parish School, last in 2009. When we identified Derek as having developmental delays, we were like most parents; scared, full of questions, and jumping into action. My wife Paige started researching options for Derek that included occupational therapy, and a social skills group. She also discovered The Parish School. We were excited to get him enrolled at the school and into speech therapy at the Carruth Center, but had nothing on which to base expectations.

We soon fell in love with The Parrish School. Derek thrived in speech therapy. Our attitude soon developed that we were going to keep Derek enrolled at Parish until you pushed him out. I even accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of Trustees. Unfortunately I was not able to serve due to a job transfer taking us to Los Angeles. The most difficult part of leaving Houston was leaving Parish.

At the direction of Derek's Social Skills teacher who studied at USC, we enrolled Derek in a school called Cheerful Helpers. The experience was night and day different compared to Parish. Although we made good friends with other parents of kids in the school, it was just not a good fit. After two years, we decided to mainstream Derek into 2nd grade at a public school in the Santa Monica - Malibu school district with an IEP. There were a lot of two steps forward and one step back, but Derek made the adjustment. Another job move took us to Kansas City where we now live. Derek finished elementary and middle school in the Blue Valley School District.

This May, Derek graduated from Blue Valley Southwest High School with high academics and half a dozen AP courses under his belt. He is also an Eagle Scout, has a job as a server in an assisted living community, enjoys his friends, and has grown to be a curious and kind person. Derek made the decision to attend Northeastern University this fall, intending to double major in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering. What's more incredible, he is electing to participate in a program where his first semester will be overseas in Madrid. His journey was not always easy, but we are very proud of the confident young man he has become.

It is impossible to gauge exactly how much of an impact The Parish School had on Derek. But the tremendous start Parish provided at such a young age is undeniable. We are truly thankful for the time he had there. I know at that time, while facing the fear and the unknown, it was helpful to hear about other former Parish students that went on to find themselves, and thrive. The hope that it will be okay is comforting. So maybe here is another one of those stories. Please keep doing what you do!

RANDY JACKSON





Commencement

Congratulations to the nine Parish students our community celebrated at the 2021-22 Commencement! We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you and cannot wait to see what you go on to accomplish!



Fall Garden Day

A huge thank you to our incredible team of families, staff and alumni students who joined us Saturday morning for Fall Family Garden Day! All the new color added to the school gardens planted by sweet little Parish hands brings so much joy to campus. All the hard work is truly appreciated!



Camp Acorn

Camp Acorn 2022 was a huge success! The camp welcomed 177 students on campus for the month of June. A huge thank you to all the staff members and volunteers who helped make this summer so much fun for our students!



Name That Road Celebration

Utah James Boulevard will be the name of The Parish School's campus circle for the 2022-23 school-year. Congratulations to Utah and his family for winning the bid for Name That Road in this year's Cyber Auction.



Back to School

It was all smiles on Wednesday, August 17 as we welcomed students and families back to campus for the beginning of the 2022-23 school year at The Parish School. The school year began with 135 students, the highest enrollment to begin a year in the history of the school.



Hispanic Heritage Month

Our lower elementary classes learned about Hispanic culture during Hispanic Heritage Month, by hosting a fiesta to celebrate with a history lesson, quesadillas, and dancing.



Head of School Reception

We formally celebrated our new Head of School, Anne Powers on September 22 with a cocktail reception. Although Anne began her tenure as head of school on May 23 of last school year, we wanted to come together as a school community and celebrate her new leadership. It was a wonderful evening, and we enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces enjoying each other's company on our beautiful campus.



Walk for Apraxia

The Parish School was honored to host the 2022 Houston Walk for Apraxia. This wonderful event raised \$24,170 to support children with childhood apraxia of speech while honoring 34 Apraxia Stars! A special thank you to everyone who contributed to the event, The Carruth Center for being a Platinum Sponsor, and to Carruth SLP Brittney Fertak for being one of the coordinators.





The PARISH WEBSITE

This fall, a new, updated parishschool.org was launched. The school's website underwent a ten month redesign, the first update since 2017. The school's Advancement Department worked with local media company Coobo, to update not only the look of the website, but also how the website functioned and data that would increase our rankings in searches. This was a priority considering how Parish needs to be easily accessible to parents who are looking for a specialized education for their children.

"Our first meeting with Coobo was at Parish, and they were surprised by the uniqueness of our campus. They were inspired to create a website that matched the look and feel of being here — a calm and natural feel that was missing on our old website," said Andy Williams, the Parish School's Communications Manager.

The entire process took almost one year from start to finish. "Most people do not realize the work that goes into creating a well organized and fully functional website. But our team took on different areas of the website — and along with Coobo's guidance and ingenuity — produced a product that we are very happy with and feel represents The Parish School," said Williams.

Transitioning to a new website has its ups and downs, but the transition to the new Parish website went very smooth. The new site was launched two weeks before the start of the new school year, and the switchover was seamless. The team at Coobo was great to partner with and we were proud to partner with a local company less than five minutes from campus.

We encourage you to take a look at the new site. Scan the QR code to view the site on your phone.



Recognizing Outstanding Parish & Carruth Team Members

The Parish School is unique and innovative thanks to our amazing team of teachers, paraeducators, therapists, and administrators. Each brings their own unique skills and talents to our school and clinic to transform the lives of children who have communication delays and learning differences.

Every year, the staff vote for the employees who stand out as going above and beyond, demonstrating the school's core values of creativity, nurture, passion, ethical, and people. We are excited to celebrate the following exemplary staff members who were selected as The Parish School and The Carruth Center's 2021-22 employees of the year.



Virginia Melo, MA, CCC-SLP
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

"Virginia is an excellent clinician and educator! Her creativity and passion are evident in the classroom each day. Nothing speaks to this more directly than the children themselves who have a blast each day exploring, learning and building communication skills that will serve them well today and always! She is kind, enthusiastic, and hard working. Her positive attitude and expertise are valued and respected by the early childhood team and our wider Carruth and Parish community. We are thankful for her ongoing contributions to help children grow and thrive!"

- ANNE POWERS, Head of School



Heather Pasaoa
PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

"Heather is an outstanding and dedicated professional. Her kind heart and positive attitude make an incredible difference in our community. Always quick to smile and offer an encouraging word, her caring spirit makes her a joy to work alongside. Heather is always looking to learn new skills and help others in meaningful ways. Day in and day out, she works tirelessly and shares her skills in support of our mission. She truly embodies excellence in every way. We are so thankful for her efforts!"

- ANNE POWERS, Head of School



Caroline Moreland, MOT, OTR/L
THERAPIST OF THE YEAR

"Caroline has quickly found a home at The Carruth Center. There has not been a challenge presented that she has not exceptionally met. She balances her time pushing into the Early Childhood classrooms, running sports clinics and seeing individual clients. Her creativity and collaborative demeanor make her a pleasure to work with and benefits not only her clients but members of her client's educational team."

- MIMI BRANHAM, Carruth Center Director



BUTTERFLY GARDEN

BY NANCY NALENCE

The metamorphosis of a furry, land-based, creeping insect into a graceful, fluttering creature with unique patterns and colors ranging from white to iridescent is complex and miraculous. It's been called "a very successful strategy for growth and development."

We're very happy to report that what we might call the insect stage — when the caterpillar does most of the work and preparation for its metamorphosis — of our Margaret Noecker Nature Center (MNNC)'s butterfly garden is now on the wing.

The butterfly garden was one of the first projects the then-new MNNC undertook. It was conceived as a research project by librarian Jill Wood, that would be a space for our kids to have hands-on experience with the wonders of growth and development in the natural world. From the beginning the intention was to receive status as a certified monarch waystation, which it soon became. It was a spot students of all ages were drawn to, a favorite place for planting and watching their garden grow and for getting dirt under their fingernails, rooting around for caterpillars and whatever other bugs they could dig out. It thrilled them to actually see and hold the mysterious creatures crawling around beneath their feet. The spot also became a charmed place, one that students were delighted to share with their grandparents — and nothing confers magic on a spot so much as one where grandparents are escorted.

The seeds for the butterfly garden were initially cultivated in a small container garden and then took root in an expanded outdoor space where its role in nature learning expanded. Students soon discovered that the milkweed growing there was attracting monarch caterpillars, some of which they brought into the classroom to study the insect's development. It was a perfect opportunity for Parish's little gardeners to become junior scientists.

Despite its flourishing in all these aspects, we discovered issues in maintaining the garden in its current location and structure. Our goals for remediation included carving new paths and installing new container beds within an overall smaller footprint, all with the goal of keeping the wild beauty of our seasonal butterfly habitat.

We're overjoyed to say that construction was completed in August, and the result is an exhilarating vision of a garden, with benches, a pergola and planters for our kids to seed the plants where their beloved monarchs will find a seasonal home.

There's no way we could have realized this dream without the invaluable contributions of our angels. Meade Mitchell, principal of TBG Partners, designed a reimagined space, pro bono, with an overall smaller footprint while keeping our treasured Monarch Waystation. We can't express nearly enough our gratitude for Meade's contribution. We're also enormously grateful to the Houston Junior Women's Club and the Garden Club of Houston, who each conferred a grant to support the project.

With every step, we take in advancing our dream of a nature-based educational environment to anchor our children's development. We have the deep satisfaction of reflecting, "Yes, this is the garden Margaret wanted to grow." 🌱



The Parish School Gala Highlights School's Achievements in Educating Students

The Parish School's parents, supporters, and friends came together to celebrate our school, filling The Ballroom at Bayou Place, on Saturday, April 9, 2022. The annual gala is The Parish School's biggest fundraiser each year and has grown steadily in recent years.

This year, over 300 people attended the Beyond All Imagined Limits gala, themed after the wonderful progress our students make and the perceived limits they continually exceed. The combination of underwriting sponsorships, pre-event donations, silent auction, raffle, live auction and "Paddles Up" donations, led to a very strong \$358,600 raised. The funds will directly support the school's financial assistance fund and fund teacher wish lists, which include classroom enhancements and professional development opportunities.

Emceeding the event was FOX26 news anchor Kaitlin Monte, who brought a wonderful energy to the event and entertained the crowd in between parent testimonials and the live auction.

The theme of the night, "Beyond All Imagined Limits," was inspired by the numerous stories from parents who are astonished by the growth of their children — frequently beyond the limits that others have placed on their children — while attending Parish.

This was highlighted in the passionate stories from the Gala chairs, Jen Campo and Rusty Rogers and Geoff and Suzanne Streit. Suzanne passionately described their son Quinn, who is in his fourth year at Parish. "A friend mentioned that we should check out The Parish School. It would end up being a perfect fit and for the first time we had hope for what the future might hold for Quinn," said Suzanne. "At Parish, we have found a nurturing environment with teachers, therapists, and staff who understand our son and his needs and genuinely care about his success. Individualized academic and therapy plans have allowed Quinn to thrive while learning and developing at his own pace." Suzanne went on to speak about the impact Parish has had on her son's life and ended by playing a video of Quinn singing "Amazing Grace", a song that the family sings when in need

of encouragement. "We are grateful for the tremendous difference The Parish School has made in Quinn's life, and it's difficult to imagine where he and our family would be without it. Your support tonight helps expand the limits of what's possible, not just for Quinn, but for all current and future Parish families."

Co-chairs Rusty Rogers and Jen Campo also spoke to the crowd. "The Parish School has been a beautiful home for our son Riggan for the past 4 years," said Rusty. "We're so grateful to be a part of this family." Jen dove deeper into their story, accenting the struggles and frustrations that come with having a child with communication delays or learning differences. "We watched a few milestones come a bit late...then a few more...and then he started missing them," said Jen. "The limits, those imagined limits that constrain what your child can do, what their lives look like, what our future as a family looks like...they started to cloud our vision and settle on the horizon."

Jen spoke further about the support they have received at Parish, not just for their son Riggan, but for the whole family. "When I personally had problems, I could call up Lily Yoder in Student Family Services. She set up meetings with me to develop coping and teaching strategies for Riggan at home that helped me survive and helped him thrive." She finished by highlighting the impact the funds raised at the gala could have on families and children. "There are so many families out there with kids who desperately need Parish, and parents who need the community, because you can drown out there without help," Jen stated. "That's why we're all here tonight. It's the ones without the help who need the voices we can give them."

Underwriters included Mo and Rick Campo; Kirkland & Ellis, LLP; Advanced Integrated Services; Hugh Alexander and Ford Alexander in memory of Robin Parish; Melissa and Steven Kean; Ginger and Phillip Gobe; Gail Hartz and Associates; Dr. Mark Schusterman and Stephanie von Stein Schusterman.

Thank you to all of our underwriters, donors and guests for making this year's Gala very rewarding and memorable. For more information on how you can support Gala 2023, please contact advancement@parishschool.org.

SAVE THE DATE  30TH ANNUAL GALA APRIL 15, 2023



UNBABBLED CELEBRATES 50!



55 Total Episodes



Listened to Around the Globe



30,000 + Downloads



Interview Experts from Across the Country

On March 27, 2019, the first episode of Unbabbled was released. Now 30,000+ downloads later, The Parish School's podcast is continuing to provide guidance, insight, and hope to those touched by children who are wired differently. Now in its fifth season, Stephanie Landis and Meredith Kimmel continue to interview guests and cover different topics related to education or child development. The 50th episode launched in February 2022.

"I can't believe we are 50! I have learned so much as a professional and a parent over the years working on Unbabbled. Our guests are some of the most knowledgeable people in the field of language delays, learning differences, and parenting," said Meredith.

If you have yet to listen to Unbabbled, there is certainly an episode that you will connect with as the topics range from Apraxia of speech to the stress of your child's picky eating, or from dyslexia to preparing your child for a visit to the dentist. The podcasts are meant to be a resource for anyone, and so far they have had a far-reaching impact, being downloaded on all six inhabited continents.

The learning curve for two SLP's creating a podcast wasn't always smooth. "One of my favorite moments was when we recorded our very first episode with Ron Beghetto. Stephanie and I sat down with Ron with our equipment hooked up and were ready to go. We recorded the entire episode, which was fantastic, and then found out we recorded the whole episode through the computer microphone, not the actual microphones," said Meredith. "We have learned so much. Not just about supporting neurodiverse children, but also about technology and producing a podcast."

This free resource can be accessed on any podcast player—such as Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Pandora or Spotify. Whether you're the parent or caregiver of a neurodiverse child who has autism, a speech-language delay or a learning disability, or you're an educator who works with special needs children, this podcast was created for you.



"We hope that others have enjoyed it and have learned as much as we have throughout the past 5 years!"

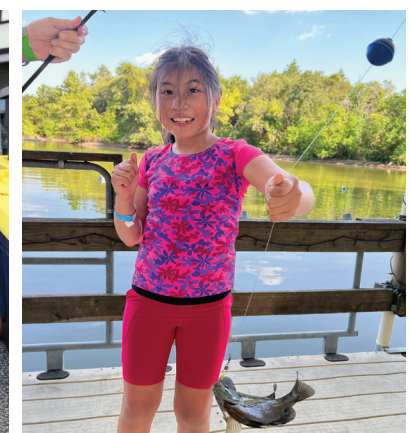
- Meredith Kimmel



2023 Summer Programs

Registration Opens January 24, 2023

Visit parishschool.org/summer for more information or to register.



THE PARISH SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATES

Adult Ed - Childhood Apraxia with Nancy Kaufman
January 12, 2023

Adult Ed: Summer Camp 101
January 19, 2023

Pastries with Parents and Lunch with Littles
March 3, 2023

Life After Parish
March 23, 2023

Spring Family Garden Day
March 25, 2023

30th Annual Gala
April 15, 2023

Camp Acorn Begins
June 6, 2023

Anne Powers Head of School



For those in our audience who might not know, what is your background and what led you to Parish in the first place?

As a speech language pathologist, specialized in work with young children, I am driven by the belief that every child deserves a voice and has the right to learn how to communicate. My journey to The Parish School and the field of early intervention has been an unexpected one. In college, I studied Drama and earned my Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Oklahoma. My studies taught me the importance of listening to others — not just their words but their stories. Eventually, through my coursework in voice, diction, and phonetics, I was introduced to the world of speech language pathology. For the first time I pondered the significance of language and communication. I realized how essential they are to the most important things in life - things like community, connection, family, faith, and purposeful work. I always loved theater in part because, for me, it was a place of belonging, a place I felt known, a place I felt seen and heard. Language was at the center of those experiences. It was heartbreaking to learn not everyone has the tools they need to communicate and connect, to make their own voices heard. It was a heartache that turned into a passion. I wanted to help answer the pain of being silenced, of watching someone you love be silenced. It led me to earn my Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology and I have been passionate about helping young children find their voice ever since.

My career in early intervention led me from Oklahoma to Pennsylvania and eventually Texas. I had been working in a public-school setting and was frustrated by the limitations of the system. I was discouraged and burnt out because I couldn't practice in the ways I wanted and in the ways I felt were best for students. I wanted the freedom to serve children with best practices always at the forefront and a job where ethical, people first decision making drove the care of children. I longed for a collaborative setting that utilized a whole-child, whole-family approach - and then I found Parish. I will never forget walking onto the campus and observing in classrooms for the first time. I left awe struck by the talent I saw in the staff and just overwhelmed by the beauty of this place. At The Parish School, I discovered a community whose

mission and vision match my own. Together we share a commitment to ensure that every child will not just grow, but thrive. This common passion and belief in our community's work is what propelled me to apply for a position eight years ago and it's what keeps me here today. I moved to Houston for The Parish School, and I stay in Houston for The Parish School. I couldn't be prouder of the work our staff accomplish everyday and I am so thankful to be a part of it.

How has the transition been into the HOS position?

It's been busy and exciting — a little bit of a whirlwind if I'm honest! I am completely overwhelmed and humbled by the support I have received from our community, including our Board of Trustees, the leadership team, our amazing staff, and families. I place a high value on working collaboratively and it's been wonderful learning new aspects of the school and clinic from the talented individuals around me. I love The Parish School and Carruth Center! There is an amazing legacy of leadership in both organizations, and I am excited to be a part of the next chapter.

What was your favorite aspect of the start of the new school year in your new role?

Welcoming kids and staff back to campus are always highlights of the year for me. This year felt particularly special because it was my first August as Head of School. During new staff inservice, it was meaningful to hear the stories behind why people chose Parish and share in their excitement for our mission. Of course, seeing students on campus for the first day of school is so exciting — there are no words for it really — it's truly very special. They are the reason we are all here!

How do you view Parish differently now that you are the HOS?

One of the privileges I have now is seeing a wider, broader view of our work and all it takes to see our mission come to life. I am learning new aspects and nuances of different departments. I am meeting more of our families, alumni, donors and community partners. As a result, I have a deeper understanding of the impact this place has on children and families. My heart has grown and expanded even more for our mission and vision.

“...seeing students on campus for the first day of school is so exciting — there are no words for it really – it's truly very special. They are the reason we are all here!”

- Anne Powers

What areas have you been working on improving since the transition?

The global pandemic highlighted a crisis in education and our staff has endured tremendous turmoil and stress over the last few years. Teachers everywhere are burnt out and leaving the field. Our community is not immune to these challenges. It is very important to me that we address the needs of our staff, help them heal and recover, so they are able to continue to carry our mission forward. One way we have addressed this is through a renewed focus on our culture - The Parish Way, The Parish Spirit and our core values. As Renee Attaway Storer, recent recipient of The Golden Oak Award, said at our annual “Giving Voice to Children Luncheon”, Parish doesn't just change the lives of our students, it changes the lives of our staff. It's important to celebrate and protect the culture that makes us so unique.

It was also clear to better care for our staff and ensure the highest quality of care for our students, we needed a new administrative structure. We developed several new roles including an Elementary Curriculum Specialist, Elementary Lead Speech Language Pathologist, Early Childhood and Elementary Coordinators, and a Director of Special Projects. Collectively, these roles, in partnership with the leadership team and classroom staff, have made a meaningful impact in areas such as curriculum, mentorship and coaching, curriculum and more. We will continue to look for ways to care for our employees and enhance their experience in our community. One of the best ways to take care of our students is to take care of our staff!

Do you have any highlights from the school year so far?

We revived a Parish School tradition and kicked the year off by launching our annual theme, “Parish to the Core!” which celebrates the people of Parish and who we are at our core, the things that make The Parish Way and Parish Spirit so special and unique. Everyday we choose how we will live into our core values, with each other and our students. This year we are intentionally building a habit of looking for the good in each other and noticing all the ways — big and small — that we put our core values into practice.

Do you have any long-term projects/initiatives you are working on for the future?

One of our core values is People. Every person has the right to communicate and connect — to tell their story, to share their feelings, to have their voice. As we navigate this next season, I am committed to listening and hearing the voices of our community. As we listen to each other and lean into our other core values of creativity, nurture, passion and ethical, we do our best work. I am learning a lot about what our community needs to continue to build upon strengths and answer the

unique challenges of educating children with diverse learning needs. I am very passionate about preparing children for their next step — for life after Parish. That demands we reassess our curriculum and ensure we are doing all we can to equip our students with the skills and tools they need to thrive in their next educational placement. To do this effectively, we also must continue to place a high value on our staff, including our commitment to high quality professional development. We need to listen to their voices and respond to their needs.

I never had the privilege of knowing Robbin Parrish, our founder, or Margaret Noecker, our first teacher and second Head of School, but in an old interview Margaret describes Robbin as a dreamer and comments that she had a wonderful way of including people in her dreams. We are still very much a community of dreamers. We recently held a “Green Dream Event”, a tradition started by Robbin where all staff could share ideas and dream for our future. All ideas are welcomed — big and small. I am excited for the opportunity to nurture some of those dreams — a multipurpose building, a performance and large group gathering space, a Carruth Center expansion, an indoor gym, a covered walkway to protect our therapists during rainy weather, walking trials, a science lab, the center hub, and so much more! Our future is bright and I am excited to be a part of it.

What piece of advice that you received during the transition really stands out?

During new staff inservice every year, we watch an interview with Robbin Parish. I love hearing in her own voice her dream for The Parish School. I have seen it so often over the years that I have it mostly memorized but as I stepped into the role of Head of School, I found myself reflecting on one particular statement — I didn't do it alone. Her wise example has been both a comfort and a hope.

What is your hands-down favorite thing about Parish?

The people. It's hard to explain what this place means to me — what the people of Parish mean to me. They are the heart of The Parish School. From our students and families to our staff and donors — they are the magic that is felt on our campus. Their beauty, their kindness, their passion. It takes all of us working together to really make a difference. It is our collective gifts and talents that bring our mission to fruition. There is no Parish School without the people of Parish.



Anne Neal

Head of Early Childhood



Where are you from?

I am from Nacogdoches. It's a small town in East Texas, and also the oldest town in Texas!

Where did you go to college?

I went to undergrad at the University of North Texas and went to grad school at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Why did you get into your field?

I entered the field of Speech-Language Pathology by way of a family friend, Deborah Bankston. She is a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), and she introduced me to SLPs working in a variety of settings in the field. I wanted a career that helped others, and I felt becoming a SLP was a great way to do that kind of work. I've worked in multiple settings as a SLP, but I enjoy working in an educational setting with children the most.

Where did you work previously to Parish?

Prior to coming to Parish, I worked as a school based SLP in Pearland ISD for 11 years. Prior to that, I also worked at TIRR Memorial Hermann and part-time in home health.

What attracted you to Parish?

I heard about The Parish School from a friend who grew up in the Memorial area. She spoke highly of the school and the wonderful work going on here. After doing more research, I found out that Parish incorporates many tenets of my educational philosophy — inquiry based learning, social-emotional learning, and nature. All best practices!

How has the transition to Parish been?

The transition to Parish has been smooth. Everyone is friendly and welcoming. There are many supports in place with Anne Powers and the other department heads to ensure my successful transition as the Head of Early Childhood.

What stands out at Parish compared to past schools?

I always say, The Parish School is the Disneyland of schools! Everything done here is best practice in education. Inquiry based learning, exposure to nature, Social Thinking, Conscious Discipline, and whole child learning are all part of the educational experience here. Staff are well trained and have the opportunity to receive additional training in various areas of interest. The Parish School's clinicians and teachers focus on the progress of the whole child, not just academically, but socially and emotionally as well.

Favorite part of the school year so far?

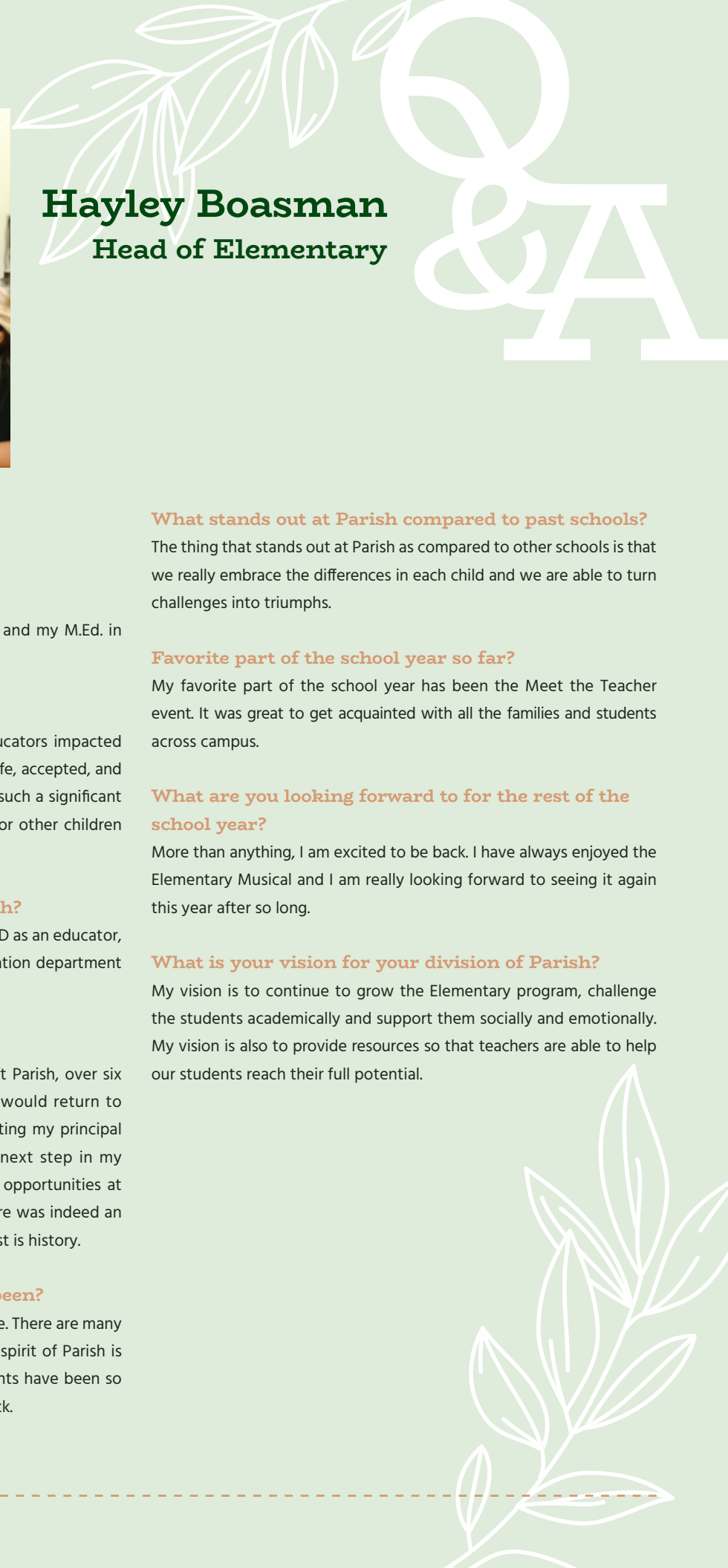
My favorite part of the school year so far has been the first day of school. I enjoy seeing all the smiling faces of students and staff! You can feel the excitement in the air as another year kicks off.

What are you looking forward to for the rest of the school year?

I am looking forward to all the family events this year. With COVID, many schools had to decrease the number of visitors on campus. It's wonderful to be able to have families on campus again. I enjoy meeting all the families and seeing our students share the campus with their loved ones.

What is your vision for your division of Parish?

My vision is to continue to provide a premier Early Childhood educational experience for our students. I also want to continue the great work of the previous Heads of Early Childhood. In using best practices in all aspects of whole child learning, I hope to see our students not only grow but thrive!



Hayley Boasman

Head of Elementary



Where are you from?

I am from the island of Dominica in the West Indies.

Where did you go to college?

I received my B.S. from the University of Houston and my M.Ed. in Administration from Lamar University.

Why did you get into your field?

Moving to Texas from Dominica as a little girl, educators impacted my life in such a positive way. They made me feel safe, accepted, and helped me gain confidence to thrive even through such a significant transition. I have always wanted to do the same for other children and especially for our most vulnerable populations.

Where did you work previously to Parish?

Prior to returning to Parish, I worked in Fort Bend ISD as an educator, then an administrator overseeing the special education department at Dulles High School.

What brought you back to Parish?

Everything really came full circle. Even though I left Parish, over six years ago, it never left me. I always knew that I would return to this amazing place in some capacity. After completing my principal certification and internship, I was ready for the next step in my career path. I reached out and inquired about any opportunities at Parish in administration. It just so happens that there was indeed an opportunity. I was thrilled, I interviewed, and the rest is history.

How has the transition back to Parish been?

The transition back has really felt like returning home. There are many new faces and many changes, but the culture and spirit of Parish is just as I remembered. The staff, families, and students have been so welcoming and supportive. It is wonderful to be back.

What stands out at Parish compared to past schools?

The thing that stands out at Parish as compared to other schools is that we really embrace the differences in each child and we are able to turn challenges into triumphs.

Favorite part of the school year so far?

My favorite part of the school year has been the Meet the Teacher event. It was great to get acquainted with all the families and students across campus.

What are you looking forward to for the rest of the school year?

More than anything, I am excited to be back. I have always enjoyed the Elementary Musical and I am really looking forward to seeing it again this year after so long.

What is your vision for your division of Parish?

My vision is to continue to grow the Elementary program, challenge the students academically and support them socially and emotionally. My vision is also to provide resources so that teachers are able to help our students reach their full potential.



THE PARISH SCHOOL'S 2ND ANNUAL BIKE-A-THON PROVIDES FOR HOUSTON SPCA

The Parish School elementary students organized the second annual Bike-A-Thon, which was held on Friday, May 13, 2022. Four charities were identified as possible beneficiaries, and students had the opportunity to learn about each organization's mission before voting for their favorite. After the votes were tallied, the students elected for Parish Bike-A-Thon donations to benefit the Houston SPCA! Students learned the importance of giving back to the community by bringing in pet food and toys, and other essentials that the SPCA needs to care for their animals.

In the weeks leading up to the event, students asked their families and families' friends to donate items to support their efforts. Students brought in their donations each week as the excitement continued to grow! Also, many students were motivated to work hard to learn how to ride their bikes just for this event.

As they did for the inaugural Bike-A-Thon, Officer R.A. Arriaga and Officer E. Netro from the Houston Police Department stopped by the school

to talk to our students about bike safety, including the importance of wearing a helmet and how to pass other bikers safely.

On the day of the event, you could feel the excitement on campus as students cruised around the circle drive. The Houston Police Department officers, who had visited campus the week before, came back out to support our event and rode in the event themselves. They joined the students on the circle drive to make sure everything ran smooth. New this year, early childhood students were invited to join in the fun, and many of them cruised around on strider bikes and scooters.

The Bike-a-Thon is a great learning event for our students. Not only does this event allow students to work on and use their social thinking and executive functioning skills when communicating with others about the purpose of the event, but it highlights the importance of giving back to their community. And in this case, the students were able to see the mountain of donations that they helped solicit through their hard work and the generosity of their family and friends. Katina C. in the Tigers class and Colton I. in the Navigators class were also recognized with Certificates of Citizenship for being our top fundraisers!

The hard work of the students and event coordinator and Parish SLP Miri Tusing was apparent as two large truckloads of donations were delivered to the Houston SPCA. According to the organization, it was one of the largest donations they had ever received. The students were rewarded for the efforts with cold treats provided by the school's Advancement Department.

The success of the past two Bike-a-Thons has led to the creation of The Parish School's Philanthropy Committee, which will help plan and organize more community events. We are so proud of the work our students have done to help support the community and for the skills they exercised!

“The bike-a-thon brought so much joy to my heart! Through thoughtful lessons on giving back to those in need within our community and teaching our students the importance of service, we were able to support our community in such an amazing way. My hope is that we are creating a love of service and giving back in our students that grows and leads to even more positive impacts in our community.”

- Miri Tusing



COMMUNITY DONATES 148 PACKAGES OF SOCKS FOR SOCKTOBER

This October, Parish students wanted to show that even a small act of love, such as donating a pair of socks, could make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors who are homeless. While researching the needs of the homeless community, The Primary Community Service Club learned that socks are the items least donated to homeless shelters. With that in mind,

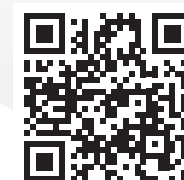
our students asked their peers to bring new socks to morning carpool. After three days, the club collected 148 packages of socks — approximately 700 pairs of socks. They researched the options for where they could donate the socks, and chose the homeless ministry at St. Joseph's Church.

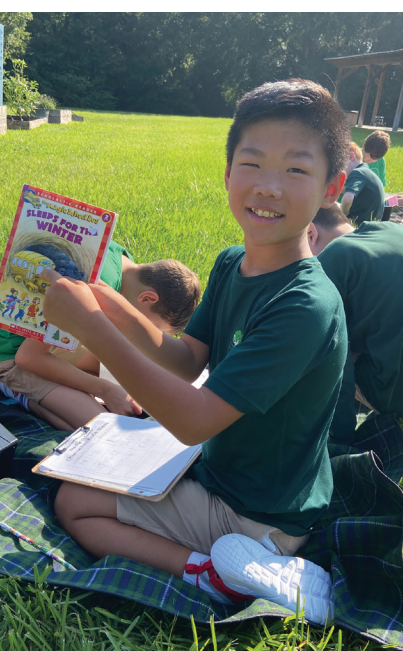
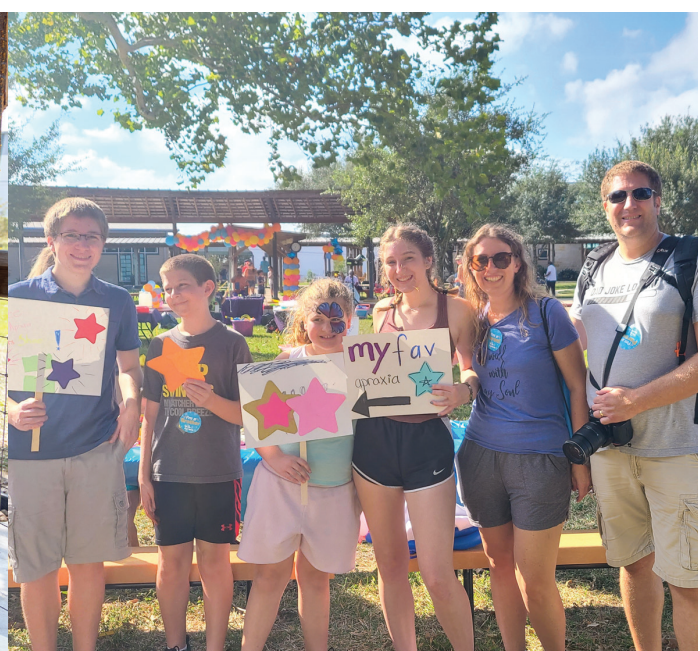
Story Stroll

Paula, a senior at Memorial High School, built a story stroll at The Parish School for her Eagle Scout project. A Story Stroll is a fun way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Pages from a children's book are attached to the stakes, which are placed along an outdoor path, which are positioned on the perimeter of the Parish campus. Over spring break, Paula and a group of volunteers worked to clear brush and install the story stroll posts by digging holes and setting in concrete. We are thankful to Paula and all the volunteers who created this fun campus feature that Parish students will use for years to come.



Scan this code to hear what Paula had to say.







The PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

Publishing an annual report reminds each of us of how fortunate we are to have individuals and families who care so deeply about The Parish School. The hundreds of names on the following pages represent far more than a donation. All of the individuals listed have a specific reason — and perhaps even a personal story — that has motivated them to support our school financially. We continue to grow stronger every year because of the incredible support — beyond tuition dollars - we receive from our parents, grandparents, board members, alumni parents, alumni, faculty and staff, and friends. We are grateful and thank you for your support at all levels – whether it is \$1 or \$1 million, you make a tremendous difference in the lives of our Parish students.

THANK YOU.

THE 14TH ANNUAL “Giving Voice to Children” Luncheon

The 14th annual “Giving Voice to Children” Luncheon, held on October 6, 2022, raised more than \$58,000 to support children who have communication delays and learning differences. The luncheon, held annually to benefit The Parish School and its financial assistance fund, makes a Parish education possible for families who may otherwise be unable to afford this specialized learning environment. This year’s event was chaired by current Parish parents, Averill and David Conn and alumni parents, Stacey and Brian Merchant. Over 200 guests gathered at The Junior League of Houston to hear from keynote speaker Greg Santucci, an Occupational Therapist and Founding Director of Power Play Pediatric Therapy in New Jersey. Through his work, Greg is committed to providing neurodevelopmentally informed services to children, as well as workshops to parents and professionals promoting compassionate, collaborative and brain-based interventions to support children of all abilities. In his keynote presentation, Greg discussed how to better support children by shifting from behavior management to connection and collaboration.

Guests turned out in support of award honorees Renee Attaway-Storer, MS, and Randi Raizner, Ph.D. Renee, a Speech Language Pathologist, was honored with the Golden Oak Award for being instrumental in adapting and preserving the Social Learning program at The Parish School and Carruth Center while developing and leading two sleep-away summer camps for children with social cognitive challenges. Dr. Raizner, a neuropsychologist, was honored with the Robbin Parish Award, named in memory of The Parish School’s founder, for her extensive background in neurodevelopmental disorders, behavior, emotion, and child development. She has served as a consultant for Parish since 2006. Additionally, TBG Partners, a landscape architectural firm, was recognized as the Community Partner of the Year for their partnership in creating natural play environments at The Parish School’s Margaret Noecker Nature Center.

Emotional testimonials by Stacey Merchant and Averill Conn, connected with guests in the room. “Our family decided to move to Houston so John could get the therapy he needed at The Parish School. There truly isn’t a school like The Parish School anywhere in the country,” said Stacey. Averill added, “we feel so fortunate to be a part of The Parish School community, and we are so grateful to Parish for helping Jamie to realize his full potential. The support he received should be the model for every child who has language or learning delays.” After the event, those who wanted to hear more from Greg Santucci were invited to a free adult education presentation that evening, where he dove deeper into understanding how sensory processing impacts behavior.



The Parish Children’s School and Subsidiaries Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

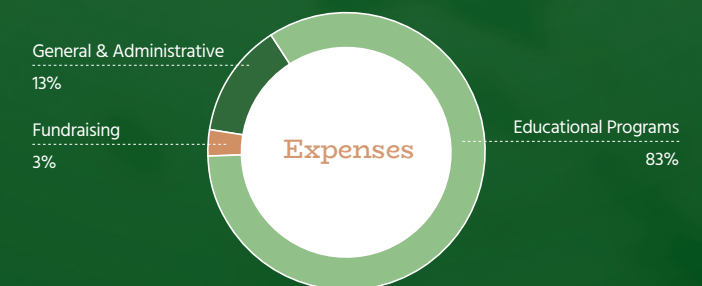
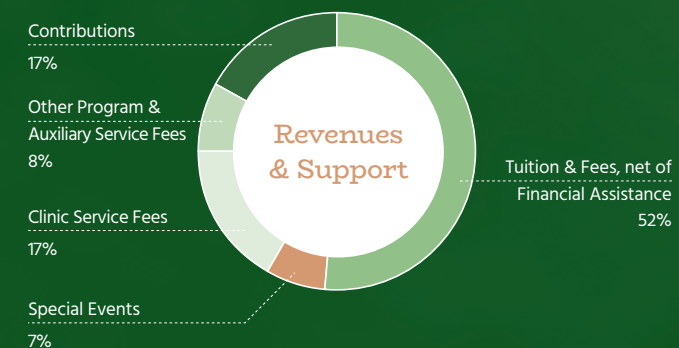
As of July 31, 2022

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,165,565
Property and Equipment	5,384,688
Other Assets	841,228
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 13,391,481
LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$ 293,608
Deferred Revenues	2,496,111
Notes Payable/Capital Lease Obligation	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 2,789,719
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 9,018,154
With Donor Restrictions	1,583,608
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	-
Total Net Assets	\$ 10,601,762
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 13,391,481

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

As of July 31, 2022

REVENUES AND SUPPORT	
Tuition and Fees, net of financial assistance	\$ 4,211,167
Clinic Service Fees	1,380,629
Other Program & Auxiliary Service Fees	655,254
Contributions	1,349,847
Special Events	528,174
Other Income	(81,242)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 8,043,829
EXPENSES	
Educational Programs	6,088,069
General and Administrative	924,556
Fundraising	298,075
Total Expenses	7,310,700
Change in Net Assets	733,129
Net Assets, beginning of year	9,868,633
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 10,601,762



2021-2022 Donors

THE PARISH SCHOOL RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING GIFTS BETWEEN AUGUST 1, 2021 AND JULY 31, 2022.

SEEDS FOR GROWTH, THE ANNUAL FUND FOR THE PARISH SCHOOL

Giant Redwood (\$50,000+)

The Carruth Foundation
Cerise Family Foundation

Might Oak (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Ruth and Ted Bauer Family Foundation
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Ellwood Foundation
Steven and Melissa Kean
Daniella and Patrick Simpson

Evergreen (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Arena Energy Foundation
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Betty and Art Howe
John Keeton
Mary Potishman Lard Trust
MD Anderson Foundation
Jeanne and Joe Bob Perkins
Maria and Joe Probst
SK Foundation

Black Walnut (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

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Bailey and Simon Haidamous
Trina and Hunter Hebert
Reynolds and Reynolds
Aisha Albimani and Lyle Wincentzen

Sycamore (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

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Janet and Matt Eckert
Ginger and Phillip Gobe
Laurie and Alfredo Gutierrez
J Squared Family Foundation
Jennifer and Robert Lee
Willard M. & Ruth Mayer
Johnson Charitable Foundation
Matthew Steinmetz

Cypress (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

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Sarka and Tom Posey
Caroline and Jeff Shaddix
T. L. L. Temple Foundation
Shelly and Robert Thomas
Jo and Dennis Tuck
Karen and Bob Webster

Acorn (\$500 to \$999)

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Oksana and Kyle Barrow
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Julie and Mike Bryant
Lizzie and Stephen Clarke
Judi and Tom Elliott
Nancy and Eddie Goldsberry
Sydney and Barry Goss
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Hoffman
Eva Hold
Michael Hold and
Christell Lara-Hold
Chris Gwyn and
Hayley Hubbard-Gwyn
Kelly and Chris Ivie
Amr Kenawy and Mayan Khattab
Sarah Fuller Luna and Samuel Luna
Jack Hurt and Ann Neyland
Leanne and Kieran O'Brien
Megan Oden
Maria and Christopher Pappas
Sarah and Aaron Polatsek
Michelle and Clifford Shedd
Palmi Testa
Ann Wagoner
Mary and Temple Webber

Holly and David Wilbourn
Janice and Michael Willett
Mrs. Joan Yust

Sprout (\$1-\$499)

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Fabiana Aponte
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Jimmy Branham
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Sheri and Drew Bryan
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Kristen Callahan
Ernest Camarena
Kevin Camp and Crystal Lazo
Laura Causey
Emel Cayir and Mehmet Cepni
Liz Chapa
Krissy Christofakis
Terry Clough
Katherine Cokinos
Averill and David Conn
Ellen and Robert Conner
LaToya and Michael Cormier
Lucia and William Cropper
Joshua Crowe
Rachel Czar
Tari and Robert Daugherty

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Brandy and Josh Degges
Nicole and Chad Devens
Virginia and Vernon Dietz
Minerva and Luis Dimas
Rachel and Adam Dunn
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Aaron Fink and Elyssa Fink Gottheim
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Patrice Chauvin and Brian Holasek
Sherry and Mark Hordge
Sarah and Eric Hudson

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Paige and Randy Jackson
Sarah Janssen
Erin and Rob Johnson
Lara and Geoffrey Jones
Jami Jones
Paula and Happy Katz
Richard Klein
Rena and Mike Koinis
Stephanie and Robert Koller
Taylor Kopycynski
Meredith and Jeremy Krimmel
Kroger
Stephanie and Paul Landis
Kelsan Landry
Allie Lange
Ms. Gabriela Lara
Toodie and Eric Larson
Terri and Tom Lawrence
Megan Lenz
Amy and Marshall Lerman
Cheryl and Jimmy Lesch
Stacy and Jim Leste
Gwen and Richard Lilliott
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Megan Logue
Sudhakar Mahajanam and
Sudha Yellapantula
Deborah Martin
Gina and Justin Martorello
Amanda Mayer
Rebecca and Shawn McGaw

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Mary and Derek Mecham
Amanda Medrano
Maritza Medrano
Virginia Melo
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Melinda Millar
Brande Miller
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Nancy and Jim Mosley
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Rosie Oztemel
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Meagan and Nick Rosales
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Cherokee Salutan
Sibi Samuel
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Kristen and Pat Scanlan
Kaitlyn Schmidt
Amanda Morris-Schnall and
Neil Schnall
Stephanie von Stein Schusterman
and Mark Schusterman
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Lindsay and Jace Sharpton
Catherine and Jeff Shoaf
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Remediation Center
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Sam Sprouse
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Laura and Jay Tarnow
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Monica and Jeff Tomlinson
Elsie Torres-Verdejo and
Ricardo Verdejo
Miri Tusing
Robynn Vasquez
Ofi and Vuk Vujasinovic
Kim and Jeff Wallace
Cristina and Chris Walter
Kate Wasserman
Bonnie Weaver
Molly and Marc Weisselberg
Brooke Wesneski
Ashley and Dave Willett
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Mary Williams
Maggie and Theodore Wissink
Brandy and Matt Wolkenberg
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Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Wozny
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wozny
Melinda and John Wright
Maddie Wright
Kate and Joshua Wythe
Meghan Bertani-Yang and Timothy Yang
Lily Yoder

2021 "GIVING VOICE TO CHILDREN" LUNCHEON

Presenting (\$10,000+)

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Mo and Ric Campo
Ashleigh and J.R. Rickertsen

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Jody and Mike Harrington
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Tina Shoemaker
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Dr. and Mrs. Bob Stephen
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Hayley and Cody Wagoner

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Laurie Hill Gutierrez
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Charles Lewis
Becky Smith
Erin and Jose Vallejo
Carol and Daniel Ward
Mary and Temple Webber

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Zoey Stringer
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Kirland and Ellis, LLP

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Cleary, Conner, Goss, Hawthorne
and O'Brien Families
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Chris and Craig LaFollette
Sarah and Sam Luna
Tish and David Peden / Jack Hurt
and Ann Neyland-Hurt
PlainsCapital Bank
The Raber and Rickertsen Families
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Mallory and James Shaddix
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GIFT TOTALS

August 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022

SEEDS

\$530,700

2021 Luncheon

\$185,325

Gala

\$503,256

MNNC

\$47,310

Poinsettias

\$15,425

Cyberauction

\$21,960

TOTAL \$1,303,976

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report to recognize gifts received. If any errors or omissions have been made, please accept our sincerest apologies and notify us at advancement@parishschool.org or call us at 713.467.46696



Passion for Parish – Brandy Wolkenberg, Board Member of the Year and Above and Beyond Awards – Ashley Rickertsen and Laurie Gutierrez*, Volunteer of the Year – Courtney Davis



PTO President and Vice President Sydney Goss and Meghan Bertani-Yang

Celebrating the 2022-23 Volunteers of the Year

An important annual Parish tradition is to celebrate the parents and volunteers for their support of the school this past year. From helping in classrooms to organizing events to beautifying our campus, there are so many people that make this school better — our room moms, event chairs, office helpers, and more. Please join us in wishing them each a sincere “thank you” for supporting our school and students.



THE PARISH SCHOOL

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30TH Annual Gala
APRIL 15, 2023



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