

THE PARISH *post*

Winter 2020



THE PARISH SCHOOL

OUR ANNUAL
Annual Report
ISSUE

See What
We've Been
up To During
the Pandemic

Read About
The Parish Way
and Why We Teach
the Way We Do

Welcome To Our
Gardening Program

Oriana III Goes
To Prison! Why?
See What This
Pup Got Into



Our Mission

To educate children ages 2-12 who have communication delays and learning differences, empowering them with the tools to succeed.

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Head of School

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Terry Clough, CPA
Director of Finance and Operations

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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!

Also, remember to follow us on Instagram @parishschooltx, on Twitter @ParishSchoolTX and on Facebook @TheParishSchool.



twitter: @SPEDwithWendy



fb: @Jennifer Aronstein Beleiff



fb: @Samuel Luna



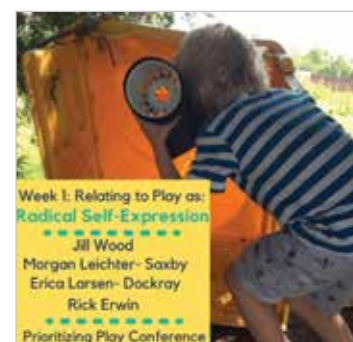
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Letter from Head of School, Cheval Bryant



Dear Parish Community,

I hope that you and your families are well and staying healthy. During my conversations with many of you over this school year, I have genuinely been encouraged by your level of engagement in ensuring our students and our entire community's success as we continue to navigate these trying times. I realize that we have all made personal sacrifices for the greater good of the community. I speak for our entire senior leadership team in expressing gratitude for your patience and understanding!

Despite the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, we have enjoyed many successes this school year. Our amazing students have displayed an enormous amount of flexibility and resilience. They have continued to grow and share their bright minds with us through the challenges and changes. They have continued to smile, laugh and enjoy the things that make them happy. I was reminded of how impactful our talented educators are when I had to comfort one of our students on the last day before winter break. He was crying real tears because he did not want to leave school. What a testament to the love, nurture and care our students receive at The Parish School! Teachers have put their hearts and souls into their efforts to make this school year as close to normal as possible. It has not been an easy task! There are no words to sufficiently express my gratitude for their dedication.

The Parish School Board of Trustees has been equally dedicated to our success this school year. They have been very supportive during our COVID response and in many other ways as well. They have served as a sounding board and provided much needed legal and financial guidance based on their areas of expertise. In November 2020, they engaged with me and key school leaders to develop and approve our new strategic plan, which will guide the school and clinic's direction over the next five years. As a part of our strategic planning process, several surveys were conducted to assess the health of the school in key areas. The results of our Independent School Management (ISM) surveys revealed that our faculty culture, parent satisfaction and executive leadership are very strong, and I am truly excited about the work ahead!

Among the most exciting events to come this spring are the beginning of construction on the next phase of the Margaret Noecker Nature Center - Oak Creek Exploration Zone, and the 2021 gala. Oak Creek will be the premier outdoor learning space for our youngest students. Among its many features include a crawl-through tunnel, a meandering dry creek with bridges, an area for planting and growing vegetables, and a large oak tree that provides a gathering spot for reading and sharing thoughts.

The Parish School's 28th Annual Gala, Superhero Soirée, is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at the Ballroom at Bayou Place. During this fun-filled night out, guests will have the opportunity to peruse auction items, socialize and enjoy cocktails before a seated dinner and program. We hope you can join us for this exciting event that honors our school's greatest superheroes - our instructional staff members!

Each day that I serve the Parish community feels so special to me. I am honored to be on this journey with you!

All the best,

Cheval

Alumni Spotlight: Lórien Wolter

Parish Student: 2011-2019



As a toddler, when Lórien began to speak, her parents Tish and Malcolm realized that she lacked natural conversational skills and could only repeat what was said to her. Doctors introduced them to the term "echolalia," and soon, Lórien was diagnosed with ADHD and autism spectrum disorder. She attended a public school's special needs program for a year before becoming a student at The Parish School at age 4.

Lórien attended The Parish School for eight years. During that time, she was an avid participant in Adventure Play, an afterschool program for all children (public or private, neurodiverse and neurotypical) ages 6-12. The program allows children to build their own playground on a three-acre space using tools, scrap materials and their growing imaginations.

"We were so impressed with AP that we also enrolled our neurotypical daughter, Morgan," said Tish. "AP offers such an amazing opportunity for 'Big City' kids to have a safe, outdoor place to explore and experience freedom in a space designed by them."

With the help of trained AP playworkers, Lórien and Morgan learned how to make things they imagined become a reality, as well as valuable friendship and peace-making skills. Lórien had developed anxiety over flying insects.

Jill Wood, the program director, provided Lórien with patience, understanding and pink bat wings to help her discover her courage, while Morgan proved that you absolutely CAN fly down a zip line while wearing a formal dress, goggles and rain boots!

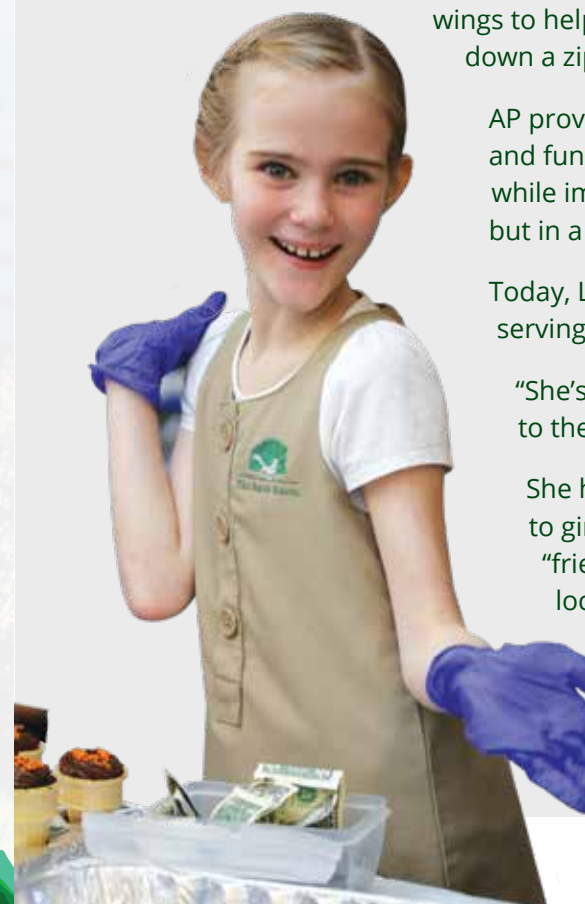
AP provides a place where kids can be kids and experience the freedom, creativity and fun that adults remember from their childhood. What's more, they do all this while implementing the academic and social skills they learn during their school day, but in a child-structured environment.

Today, Lórien attends Memorial Private High School, a private Christian school serving 6th-12th graders.

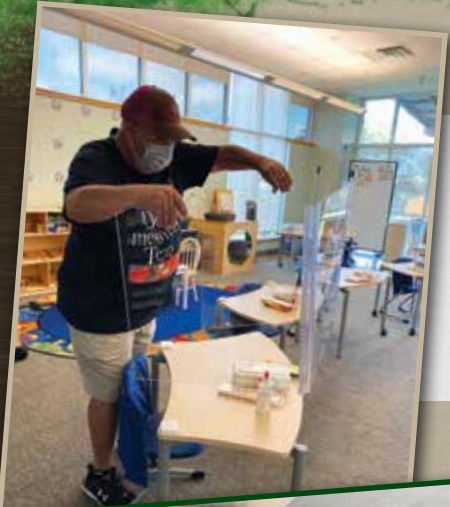
"She's adjusted so well, especially from being one of the oldest students at Parish to the youngest at Memorial Private," said Tish.

She has joined the National Junior Honor Society and is reportedly their "go-to girl" whenever they have a student shadowing for the day because she's so "friendly and helpful!" In her spare time, she also serves as Vice President of the local chapter and State Chairman of the Archives Committee for Children of the American Revolution.

"Becoming a Parish family was nothing short of life-changing," said Tish. "Lórien found her words and thrived at Parish, becoming a confident, well-spoken young lady."



Campus Happenings: A Look Around Campus



Over the summer, Parish staff prepared the campus by putting many precautions in place for a safe return to in-person school. Plexiglass shields were installed on desks in elementary classes; facial shields were provided to all students; each class received a first aid kit to reduce trips to the nurse's office; and electrostatic sprayers were purchased to help thoroughly disinfect buildings.



Elementary classes received a new technology update thanks to a very generous grant from an alumni family. Media carts replaced outdated Smart Boards and 360-degree cameras allow live streaming of our face-to-face classes to students at home.



The Parish School welcomed students back this school year, both in-person and remotely. Staff helped guide students through all the new COVID-19 procedures, which include daily health screenings, social distancing from other classes, scheduled recess locations, and facial covering requirements for elementary students and staff.



Oriana III, the assistance dog-in-training at The Parish School celebrated her 1st birthday on November 2. Students, staff and families sent in handmade cards and special gifts for the puppy. Oriana is being raised by Upper Elementary Teacher/Speech-Language Pathologist, Heather Hillery. Heather is a volunteer puppy raiser for Canine Companions for Independence, an organization that places service dogs with people who have disabilities. Oriana is Heather's third puppy to raise at The Parish School.

Students learned about the importance of exercising their right to vote with a school-wide mock election. The event was hosted by the Upper Elementary Seekers class, complete with candidates, speech writers, poll workers and ballot counters. During morning announcements, candidates gave their election speeches to the school, and students and staff headed to the polls throughout the day. Some classes even created their own voter registration cards. Of course, everyone who participated proudly displayed an "I voted" sticker after submitting their vote!



When asked what their dream outdoor library classroom would look like, students replied, "a cozy spot under a big tree, away from play areas where we can read and learn." Unfortunately, poison ivy and other brush made the available space on campus unwelcoming. Parish librarian, Jill Wood, reached out to Rent-a-Ruminant Texas, who generously volunteered to construct a fence and bring 20 goats to campus to help clear the space. They arrived for a day's worth of grazing, and the opportunity for students to see some adorable goats and witness some creative problem-solving.



Parish grandparents have been helping to keep our campus gardens looking beautiful! If you're a grandparent wanting to get more involved at The Parish School while spending some quality time with your grandchild, join the Parish Grandparents' Garden Group! Email tgarth@parishschool.org for more info.



The Parish School's Board of Trustees approved the start of construction for the Margaret Noecker Nature Center's second phase of development, Oak Creek Exploration Zone. The current preschool playground will soon be transformed into an engaging outdoor classroom – a stimulating and magical play environment with tunnels, sand play, hills, tree swings, building blocks and loose-parts materials – designed to give our children a place where their imaginations can soar and their skills can thrive. Oak Creek Exploration Zone will embrace our 4- to 6- year-olds and our Carruth clients in this new evergreen adventure. A groundbreaking event took place on December 16, 2020, to commemorate the occasion.





The original school campus circa 1986

The Parish Way: Why We Teach the Way We Do



When Robbin Parish was in graduate school studying to become a speech-language pathologist, she dreamed of buying a Texas Hill Country summer camp and turning it into a residential treatment center for children with language-based learning differences. She wanted to create a place where children's differences could be embraced, where they could learn the way they learn best, and where they could feel confident and have a place where they belong. In 1983, Robbin's dream became a reality when she opened the doors to The Parish School. Today, the school is situated on 17 beautiful acres in West Houston, with a capacity of up to 146 students, and a mission to educate children who have communication delays and learning differences, empowering them with the tools to succeed. The teaching philosophies of Robbin Parish and long-time head of school, Margaret Noecker, define what is affectionately termed "The Parish Way," a philosophy that we continue to employ at The Parish School every day.

How It Began

Robbin Parish grew up spending each summer at Camp Waldemar in Hunt, TX. While she did not excel in school, she thrived at Camp Waldemar. It was a place where she truly felt the best about herself. It was out of this love for summer camp that Robbin's idea for The Parish School emerged. It wasn't until graduate school that Robbin realized she learned differently. She learned best through discussion of her studies. This realization was the bedrock of her philosophy: to teach children how they learn best and to teach children, and their parents, to advocate for their learning style.

A few years into her practice as a speech-language pathologist, Robbin's client families were frustrated that their children were falling behind in traditional school settings. They asked her to start a school in Houston as soon as she could. Robbin told the families that if they could find the land that looks like a camp, she would do it. Within a week, the parents returned with a property that enabled Robbin to open The Parish School to six students.



Educational Philosophy

The first teacher Robbin hired was Margaret Noecker, a kindergarten teacher who worked at the Kinkaid School.



The two instantly hit it off. They agreed that they wanted to take a language-based approach to educate their students while also providing a multi-sensory and multi-disciplinary learning environment that included lots of play and lots of positive, nurturing energy.

From here, The Parish Way was born.

In the early days, Robbin and Margaret determined their early childhood classes would be led by speech-language pathologists. As the program later expanded to include elementary ages, they decided special education teachers would lead these older students, with speech-language pathologists supporting the classes for 6-8 hours per week as co-educators. The strong emphasis on receiving direct instruction from a SLP for hours a day, day in and day out, was unique to The Parish School at the time. Robbin and Margaret's approach provided significant therapeutic support for the growth of children who have special learning needs.

Building Confidence

Robbin wanted her school to be a very different environment from where children had been struggling, so The Parish School has a casual, camp-like atmosphere. Students call teachers by their first name, just as campers do with camp counselors. Faculty dress casually to not look intimidating or like authoritarian figures to children. Each class is given a name like the "Armadillos," "Tigers," or "Seekers" to give students a sense of belonging on a team. Children who have

language or learning disabilities may struggle socially and might not always be picked to be on teams, so Robbin wanted to make sure all Parish children have a place and a team to belong.

Margaret and Robbin's vision was to create a place where children feel confident, where children feel smart again, and where children can take risks. They believed that a child's confidence could be destroyed very easily and they needed to create an atmosphere where they would want to come and where they would feel able to take chances. Teachers are trained to reframe anything negative into positive rules or comments to nurture students and build relationships and confidence. For example, instead of saying, "no running," they say, "walking feet." Instead of saying, "you're too loud," they say, "use your inside voice." It was so important to Robbin and Margaret for children to feel safe, and that The Parish School was a new start and a new beginning for them.

To further build children's self-esteem, The Parish School does not have grades or grade levels. The idea behind this concept is that if you take away the grade level, you also take away the stigma associated with being behind. This helps everyone feel better about where the child is, rather than comparing them to their siblings, cousins or friends.

Instead of grade levels, children are placed in multi-age/multi-level groupings, allowing them to learn from peer models while also having the opportunity to be a model for other children. The beauty of a multi-age classroom is that the older children can peer tutor the younger children, which in turn, helps cement their knowledge of the topic. When those children move up to the next level, they then become the student and the older students in the lower level then become the teacher. Multi-age groupings also allow students the possibility of staying with the same teacher for multiple years, reducing a learning curve for students and the teachers at the beginning of the school year.

Integrated Arts and Sciences

Robbin believed that every child has a strength, and as the adults in their lives, our job is to find that strength, nurture it, and communicate to that child how special they are. Often children may struggle in every other area but shine through music, art, drama, makerspaces,

nature, library or physical education. Parish students attend each arts and science class at least once a week. These classes are integrated into The Parish School curriculum, and arts and science educators regularly collaborate with teachers to support learning in the classroom.

"Often, children may struggle in every other area, and fine arts may be the place that they absolutely shine," said Terri Garth, The Parish School's Director of Arts and Sciences, who was hired by Robbin and Margaret almost 30 years ago. "It enables them to see themselves differently, and it enables their parents and their family members and friends to see them as abled rather than disabled."

Campus Environment and Enhancements

The campus where the school sits today opened in November 2004, and it truly brought Robbin's vision of a school that looked like a Texas Hill Country summer camp to life. Buildings are constructed of limestone, classes are housed in separate cottages connected by pathways and bridges, and nature trails, an outdoor fireplace and community gardens all add to the look she envisioned. Classrooms feature large, open windows to help bring the feeling of nature indoors, and nature learning class is integrated into the curriculum to allow students to explore their natural environment (see "Big Stakes for Little Gardeners," pg. 12).

The Parish School individualizes learning for each student and teaches to their strengths. Some children may be visual learners, others may be auditory learners, and some may have auditory processing struggles. For these reasons, classrooms use a variety of pictures and posted schedules to support students' language comprehension. Students can wear headphones if they find a situation too loud or may use special learning apps to support their classwork. Classes are also equipped with a sound system to enhance the teacher's voice during group instruction and interactive media carts, iPads and laptops to further prepare students for success in the digital world (see *Campus Happenings*, pg. 6).

Robbin and Margaret felt having pets on campus had a calming influence that taught children to care for other living creatures. The school features a turtle garden, where a long-time staff member brings her pet turtles



to graze and where students can pay a visit and admire. Teachers also invite animal guests to school to introduce children to care for pets of all kinds (see *Campus Happenings*, pg. 7). There is also an upper elementary teacher currently raising her third assistance dog on campus (see "Parish Puppy Goes to Prison," pg. 17).

"It's really interesting that we have service dogs on campus," said Terri. "That correlates perfectly with what Robbin and Margaret both believed!"

Multi-Sensory Teaching and Experiences

Robbin never believed in workbooks and worksheets. She wanted children to learn experientially and through hands-on learning. For example, students who are cooking and measuring out ingredients hardly realize they're using mathematical or scientific skills since they're having fun making a tasty treat!

During the 2017-18 school year, The Parish School began piloting an approach with elementary students that emphasizes the child's role in learning termed "inquiry-based learning (IBL)." In actuality, this is the child-led, hands-on vision that The Parish School has practiced since its inception, but has become more recognized in mainstream education with a written framework that has been developed around it. With inquiry-based learning, students are encouraged to explore subjects, ask questions, and share ideas instead of teachers telling students what they need to know. In 2018, The Parish School formally adopted the approach school-wide.

"It's so funny that we talk about starting this new inquiry-based learning or project-based learning program at The Parish School when that's what we were always doing," said Terri. "But now, it has a name and it's been expanded and falls exactly in line with The Parish School's vision."

While elementary classes follow the IBL model, early childhood believes in the power of play. Whether singing along to a nursery rhyme, building a fort out of boxes, or pretending to be a Starbucks barista, through these playful interactions, a child works through their emotions and learns language, fine and gross motor skills, social language and academic concepts.

Supporting Whole-Child Learning

In the early 2000s, Parish Speech-Language Pathologist Renee Attaway realized that despite the quality and effective language intervention being provided in the classroom, students were still struggling socially. Studies show 70% of children with learning disabilities have major difficulties socially when dealing with their peers. In contrast, only 15% of kids without learning disabilities struggle socially. Renee sought to learn everything she could about the social mind and discovered the work of Michelle Garcia Winner, founder of Social Thinking®. When she introduced Michelle's methodology to Margaret Noecker, who was Head of School at the time, she was given the go-ahead to work Social Thinking concepts into the Parish curriculum.



Renee Attaway

Today, Social Learning at The Parish School includes both group therapy, overnight summer camps, and a school-based program. Renee trains and supports staff on the most up-to-date research in social intervention. Additionally, Parish infuses Social Thinking into its social-emotional program across campus. From early childhood to upper elementary, all classrooms use the Social Thinking methodology to increase students' social competencies.

Additionally, The Parish School implements the Nurtured Heart Approach®, a methodology where children receive praise, energy and recognition through positive

behaviors they display. The Nurtured Heart Approach is integrated into the school's programming to help students express themselves in socially and emotionally appropriate ways.

Mental health professionals on staff support students' social-emotional needs and provide preventative and intervention strategies to promote successful group learning, regulation, independence and resilience. Suppose a student is having an emotionally challenging day and their teachers are having a difficult time supporting them. In that case, these specialists are available to step in and help the child regulate their emotions, and can advise their teachers and parents on strategies to support that child in the future.

Parents are Valued Partners

From the beginning, The Parish School has aimed to help parents become advocates for their children by the time they leave and transition to a new learning environment. Through adult education sessions, blog posts, and a podcast on education and child development topics, The Parish School provides an education for the whole family.

The other benefit to being at The Parish School is the parent community. Often, when a child has a learning difference or learning disability, extended family may not understand the child's behaviors or the decisions that a parent is making. Volunteering at PTO events, attending a class party, helping out at Family Garden Day, engaging in the Parent Facebook Forum all give Parish families a way to connect and engage with others who are going through similar situations.

Neither Robbin nor Margaret are with us today, but their legacies and The Parish Way will continue thanks to the amazing students and dedicated staff members who enter the doors of The Parish School each and every day.



Big Stakes for Little Gardeners

CAN I MAKE YOU A FRESH SALAD?

HOW ABOUT A CRISPY TREAT USING CARROTS I DUG OUT OF MY GARDEN?



Think about the thrill of a child proudly making you an offer like that! This fall, The Parish School implemented the Junior Master Garden program, a curriculum that can make that gift possible by leading students along the path from planting to plate.

Junior Master Gardener (JMG) is an international youth gardening program that engages students in hands-on, self-directed food cultivation projects. JMG gives teachers text and multi-media support materials with a core curriculum aimed at moving our upper elementary children into a more expansive experience of nature-learning that already gives them so much joy. As students complete selected programs, they're rewarded with one of three different levels of certification. (See next page.)

Students start by selecting what they want to grow, then they design and plot their gardens. So far, each of the two upper elementary groups has built its garden. One group has chosen to grow herbs, and the other has decided on vegetables.

We've seen how responsive children become when exploring their environment. The Margaret Noecker Nature Center has been the foundation for this embrace of nature and for the progress we can see in their development. We've watched them experience wonder, become more communicative, fit more easily into a working team, feel pride in themselves, and build interpersonal relationships. JMG piggybacks on that success by creating new opportunities to increase their interest in science, pursue independent and group learning, and take an active interest in nutrition.

Nature Learning Educator Lisa Smith completed JMG teacher training in 2019 and leads the program at The Parish School. Lisa explained that upper elementary classes are the first to participate and will earn their certifications in the Golden Ray Series, a 12-week unit that's a stepping stone to full JMG certification.

Junior Master Gardener Class Components and Projects

Sharpening Science Skills: Includes lessons on plant growth, plant classification, veggie research and food energy.

Lessons: Includes topics like nutrients to grow, plant parts we eat, paper towel gardening, and a one-week dinner tracker.

Features: Using ingredients from the children's gardens in recipes such as cinnamon carrot crunch, garden skillet sizzle, leaf lettuce and strawberry salad, and spinach quesadillas.



Level One JMG Certification Programs

Junior Master Gardener® Certification: The top, level-one program, earned by meeting requirements for all 44 teaching concepts in the eight-chapter JMG Teacher Guide And Youth Handbook. In all, students will complete 44 group activities, 44 individual activities, and eight community service/leadership projects.

Golden Ray Series™ Certification: Can be a stand-alone program or a steppingstone toward full Certified Junior Master Gardener recognition. Teachers can choose any combination of 12 activities from a selected chapter in the teacher guide or handbook, one life skill/career exploration activity from the handbook, and participation in one community service project.



"Our goal for the future is to start with lower elementary students and have those students fully JMG certified by the time they complete upper elementary," Lisa said. "Full JMG certification takes two years."



Junior Master Gardener is part of the University Cooperative Extension Network, and is backed by years of research by universities and institutions that include Texas A&M Health Science Center, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the UT Health Science Center Houston – School of Public Health.

"Junior Master Gardener is an internationally recognized program, and we're so happy to bring it to The Parish School," Lisa said. "It's almost selfish on my part, because I'm having as much fun as the kids!"

TOP REASON STUDENTS ARE EXCITED TO JOIN THE JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM:

- To learn to garden.
- It helps the environment.
- In the future, it might be a job.
- You can feed yourself.





Summer Camp

June 8-July 1, 2021

Promoting hands-on learning, growing self-esteem and developing communication.

Language. Learning. Lots of fun!



Located on The Parish School's beautiful, 17-acre campus in West Houston, Camp Acorn offers the following programs:

- **Language Intervention Camp:** Classroom-based language therapy led by speech-language pathologists and certified teachers for children ages 2-12 who have communication delays or learning differences.
- **Adventure Play Camp:** A unique opportunity for children to engage in self-directed outdoor play and construct their own playground with the support of trained playworkers. Open to all children ages 6-12 -- those with language needs, their siblings, and the general community.
- **Sibling Day Camp:** A fun-filled camp experience for siblings of students attending our language intervention program.
- **Early Morning and Afternoon Enrichment:** Elementary classes offer a variety of extracurricular activities: cooking, yoga, art, splash day and more! Early Childhood students have an opportunity for rest time and participation in fun physical activities, arts and crafts, and more.



THE PARISH SCHOOL

Application Online!

www.parishschool.org/campacorn

11001 Hammerly Blvd., Houston, TX 77043 | 713.467.4696 x.1116



SUPERHERO SOIRÉE

THE PARISH SCHOOL'S 28TH ANNUAL GALA

Saturday, May 8, 2021 • 6 pm–Midnight
The Ballroom at Bayou Place

www.parishschool.org/gala

The Parish School Launches Season 3 of Unbabbled



Navigating the world of special education, communication delays and learning differences can be a challenge. Tune in to hear Stephanie Landis and Meredith Krimmel, two Parish speech-language pathologists, as they interview guests from parents to industry professionals. Each episode covers a different topic related to education or child development and provides guidance, insight and hope to those touched by children who learn differently.

Topics and Guests Include:

- Understanding Childhood Apraxia of Speech with Expert Nancy Kaufman
- A Parent's Perspective with Justin Keller
- The Importance of Early Intervention with Anne Powers
- Autism Spectrum Disorder 101 with Dr. Cathy Guttentag
- High-Risk Behavior in Children and Teens with Dr. Crystal Collier

And More!

Listen online at www.parishschool.org/podcast or subscribe to "Unbabbled" for free in any podcast player, such as Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts or Spotify. Please give us a rating and review, too!





Giving Voice to Children UN Luncheon

UnLuncheon Raises More Than \$130,000

The Parish School raised more than \$130,000 with its virtual UnLuncheon/12th Annual Luncheon held October 1. Current Parish mom, Jennifer Campo, welcomed guests on behalf of her parents, Mo and Ric Campo and Camden Living, who were one of the presenting sponsors of the event. Sponsors and ticket holders watched the special video presentation which featured Head of School, Cheval Bryant and provided an overview of The Parish School and its mission to educate children who have communication delays and learning differences, empowering them with the tools to succeed.

Current Parish parent, Michael Hold, MD, gave an engaging testimonial that described his son, Michael Hold, Jr.'s journey to The Parish School and the improvements he has made since he began attending the school in 2019.

"We really saw right from the beginning how Michael was progressing," said Dr. Hold. "We cherish some of the fond memories his first year, including the winter program, where he went up in front of an audience of adults and sang with his peers. We could not have imagined that being a possibility with him, but he did it."

The big draw to the virtual event was keynote speaker, Ellen Dodge, MEd, CCC-SLP, who provided timely advice for teachers and parents on how to help children better control their emotions and communicate their feelings. Ellen is the Education Director and author of Kimochis' Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum, which helps promote better understanding and stronger, more resilient relationships with others. Her decades of research and training have allowed her to publish numerous books and articles on the importance of teaching social-emotional learning tools and practices.

As an added benefit, UnLuncheon sponsors and ticket holders received a link to download Ellen Dodge's feelings resource cards and were invited to attend a follow-up question and answer session, where they could chat with Ellen and ask questions about her method.

"It was a pleasure to learn from Ellen and feel supported," said Parish mom, Parul Shah. "I highly encourage other parents to view the UnLuncheon video and try Ellen's cards!"

The UnLuncheon was presented by Mo and Ric Campo, Jenny Elkins, and Susan and Faye Sarofim, and supported by technology sponsors, Adonia and Kevin Cokinos.

The Parish School's luncheon is held each year to benefit the school and its financial assistance fund, which makes a Parish education possible for families who may otherwise be unable to afford this specialized learning environment. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was moved online, but allowed for anyone, anywhere to view the event from the comfort of their own home or office at their own time.

Through online event donations, The Parish School raised more than \$30,000. An unexpected and extremely generous donation of an additional \$100,000 came into the school, which put the UnLuncheon as the highest grossing luncheon to-date!

Ellen Dodge's 5 Keys to Communication

These key strategies allow grown-ups to practice, manage, regulate and stay connected with their children.

1. Get someone's attention
2. Use a talking voice
3. Use a talking face and body
4. Choose helping words
5. Redo hurtful moments

For more info on Ellen and Kimochis, visit www.kimochis.com.

PARISH PUPPY GOES TO PRISON

The following story was submitted by the Upper Elementary class, the Seekers, whose lead teacher is Heather Hillery, a volunteer puppy raiser with Canine Companions for Independence. Heather is currently raising her third CCI puppy at The Parish School - Oriana III, who has been invited to attend training at the Federal Prison Camp Bryan.

For this assignment, the students worked with their teaching team to collectively write the "Puppy Goes to Prison" article. Additionally, they have included a weather report, comics, upcoming events and other items you might find in a newspaper.

While Oriana's trip to prison has been temporarily put on hold due to COVID-19, we're sure you'll still enjoy the Seekers' work, that tells you all about her adventures to come!



Written by the Seekers Class: Lucas, Elyse, Makaia, Will, Anil, Andrew, Aidan, Tai, Matthew and John

The Seekers are raising a puppy named Oriana III. She is not our puppy. She belongs to an organization, Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), that gives highly trained assistance dogs free of charge to Veterans and people with disabilities. Oriana came to The Parish School in January 2020. She is being raised by our teacher, Heather Hillery. Heather is a volunteer puppy raiser for CCI. Oriana is the third puppy that she has raised in our school.

But now... **Oriana is going to prison!** Why? How? What, you ask? Well, Oriana is going to prison with her puppy raiser, Heather, who is driving her there. She's going there because she is going to be practicing her commands in a different place with a different person. She is going to the Federal Prison Camp Bryan in Bryan, Texas, where she will live and work with a female inmate for four weeks. The inmate will take Oriana to



There are special rooms for the inmates and puppies to live in.



lunch, dinner, yard time, free time, and cell time during the day and night. The inmates will have all of the equipment for Oriana, like her toys, her food bowl, her bed, her leash, and her treats; you can't forget her treats.

The CCI program was started at the Federal Prison Camp Bryan by Barb Kubiak in April 2010. CCI sees the most success with puppies that are raised inside the prison system because of the constant attention the animals receive from their puppy raisers. The women inmates have said that the program "is very rewarding...it's an amazing feeling." "The dogs bring a calming effect to the prison. Everyone wants to be involved." "Not only do we teach dogs, the dogs teach us."

Right now, there are no puppies at the prison because CCI is not breeding puppies during the COVID pandemic. The inmates miss the puppies. They are having a camp for puppies that live in Texas so they can help to raise the puppies, give the puppies a different experience, and let the regular puppy raisers have a break. Only nine puppies were selected for the special puppy camp and Oriana is one of them. We wish her well and we look forward to our first postcard from her.

HOW ORIANA GOT TO PRISON

Creative Writing by Aidan T.

Hello humans! I am ORIANA. Why do you like to look straight at me, and then ignore me every time when I talk? BARK! Well, I guess you can't speak dog. I'm not trying to scare you, but I'm really scared about PUPPY GOES TO PRISON! WHAT! AND WHY??? Here is how my story happened. I used to be a good girl when I helped people with stuff and got treats that were made out of candy! My friends got what they

needed, and we started to steal treats from other dogs. More dogs kept doing it, and eventually I made a gang of dogs over the dog years. It was amazing, but there was a big accident. I was captured by a police dog. He took me to prison, and dognapped my friends. We were taken away in different trucks. I was put in prison. I was thinking how to escape, but knew my bones were taken away. I started crying in my cell until I got an idea. I got my hand on the lock from the outside and unlocked my

cell. I was free! But then, the police dog ran after me with a human. So I start running for my life. I knew I wasn't going to make it because the dog was very fast. He was gaining on me so I flew out a window into the garbage truck. I escaped from the puppy prison, and I was taken to a landfill. I found my bones! But, I forgot to get my friends out of that prison. I could choose to get my friends out of prison, or to get caught again. I was thankful. I got out alive!



PUPPY ESCAPES PRISON!

By Lucas B.

At Federal Prison Camp Bryan, the prisoner called Oriana has escaped prison on January 1, 2021. There is evidence that Oriana escaped prison by chewing through the prison walls and bars. She stole a cop car and drove the car to Houston. After that, she drove the car off a cliff and went to The Parish School to get back to the Seekers classroom.

Ever since the incident, pet stores had been robbed and soon there was nothing left in the pet stores to loot. We are on a sharp lookout for Oriana. Please, if you see her, call 911 and send the location of the sightings. We will pay you \$150.00 if you catch the thief.

Andrew T. is one of the people who witnessed a dog that was running out

of pet stores. "Thank you for having me on the news! When I first saw the dog walking out of a pet store, I freaked out. I thought I was going to die."

Back to the reporter. Thank you for your story. Please call 911 and help us catch Oriana. Thank you for your support.

THE K-9 WEATHER CHANNEL

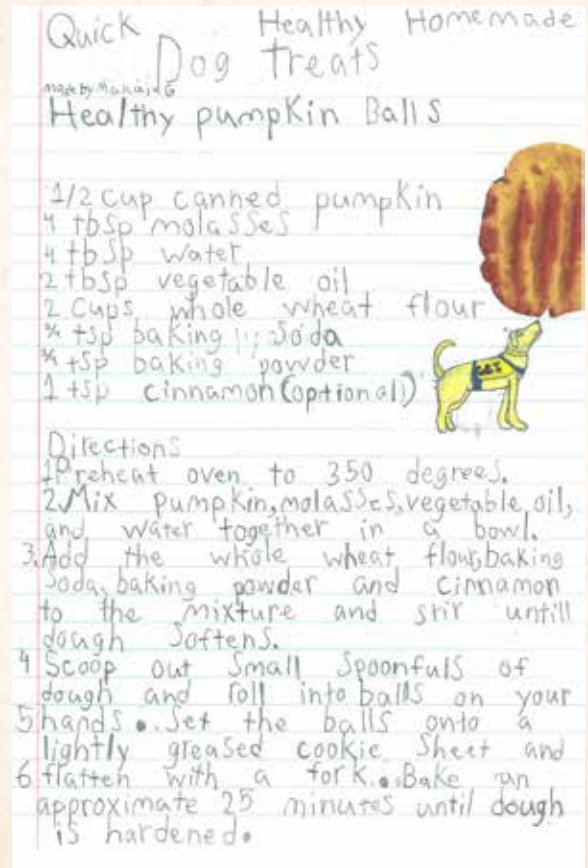
By John Z.



Hello everybody. Welcome to the K-9 weather channel! As always, I will be your host John Z. Today we will be looking at the weather. Let's check it out! It looks like in the United States of Dogville, in the west where Toy Town, Dog Hair Heights, Chewy Mountain, and in Vet o' Pet is located, they are having a flood of dog treats! In the east where Dog Pool Docks is, a tornado of dog toys is heading their way! In Dogville DC, in the north, clouds are coming their way. When it comes, it will drop dogs! Now in the south, in Doge Castle, it will be snowing steaks! That is it, thank you so much for reading this. If you're watching this, then thanks for watching. That is it for today and see you around! This is the K-9 weather channel host: John, signing OFF!



Puppy Goes To Prison Comic by Andrew T.



Dog Treat Recipe by Makaia G.

PUPPY JOKES

By Anil M.
(answers on pg. 19)

These dog jokes will make you howl with laughter!

What kind of dog does Dracula have?

What does a dog and the cell phone have in common?

Why was the dog such a good storyteller?

What kind of dog doesn't bark?

Dear Becca,
I'm Elyse B., I am a student at The Parish School. We are making a puppy goes to prison newspaper. My job is to interview people from the prison program. Here are the questions about the prison program.

- Puppy goes to prison interview questions:
1. How do you like puppy prison?
 2. Are your dogs excited?
 3. Are you excited?
 4. Will your dogs have fun?
 5. Do you hope they have fun?

From, Elyse B.

DOG SPORTS

By Matthew W.

Disc dog is a game that you can play with your dog. You can play at home/practice. You throw a disc and you watch your dog catch the disc.

Dock diving is a dog sport where you throw your dog's favorite toy over water and you see how far your dog goes without touching the water.

Agility is a game for you and your dog. It needs a lot of practice. Your dog has to beat a course while off a leash with nothing to guide the dog.

Dog carting is a dog sport that any breed of dogs can play. It's a dog sport that your dog pulls a cart that has stuff in it.

****Warning: Not all of the rules of the dog sports are here and I don't think that guide dogs can play the dog sports.**



THE PARISH SCHOOL



Save The Dates

*Life After
The Parish School*

Thursday, March 25, 2021

*Spring Family
Garden Day*

Saturday, March 27, 2021

*27th Annual
Elementary
Musical*

Thursday, May 6, 2021
(Tentative)

St. Thomas High School
4500 Memorial Dr

*28th Annual Gala:
Superhero Soiree*

Saturday, May 8, 2021

The Ballroom at Bayou Place
500 Texas St

Honoring The Parish School's
Instructional Staff

www.parishschool.org/gala

*Parent &
Volunteer
Appreciation*

Friday, May 21, 2021
(Tentative)

Camp Acorn

June 8 - July 1, 2021

*Last Day
of School*

Friday, May 28, 2021

SEEDS for Growth

The Parish School's Annual Fund

! ? What does my donation support?

- Classroom enhancements, programming and technology that impacts every student and teacher every day
- Tuition assistance/scholarships for deserving students
- Professional development for faculty and staff
- Offset basic school operations, as tuition covers on average between 75-80% of budgeted expenses

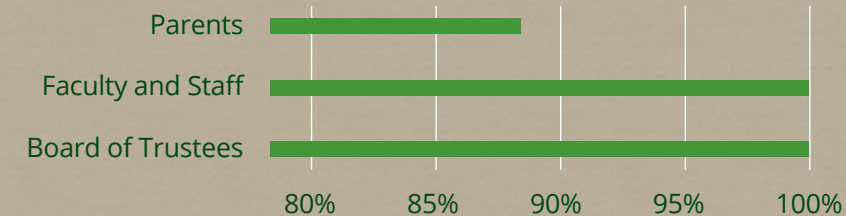
! ? What covers the annual cost of educating a child at The Parish School?

Donations 25%

Tuition 75%

All 124
students benefit!

2019-20 Participation



Supporting SEEDS for Growth is one of the best ways you can show your love and appreciation for The Parish School. Donations to the annual fund have an immediate and meaningful impact on students and teachers. Support SEEDS for Growth today! All gifts, no matter the size, will help...

Make a donation at www.parishschool.org/seeds.

If you have any questions, contact Holly Wilbourn, Director of Advancement at hwilbourn@parishschool.org.



The Parish Children's School and Subsidiaries Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of July 31, 2020

Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 6,333,431
Property and Equipment	5,145,798
Other Assets	395,672
Total Assets	\$ 11,874,901

Liability Payable and Accrued Liabilities	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 334,896
Deferred Revenues	1,993,140
Notes Payable /Capital Lease Obligation	992,442
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,320,478

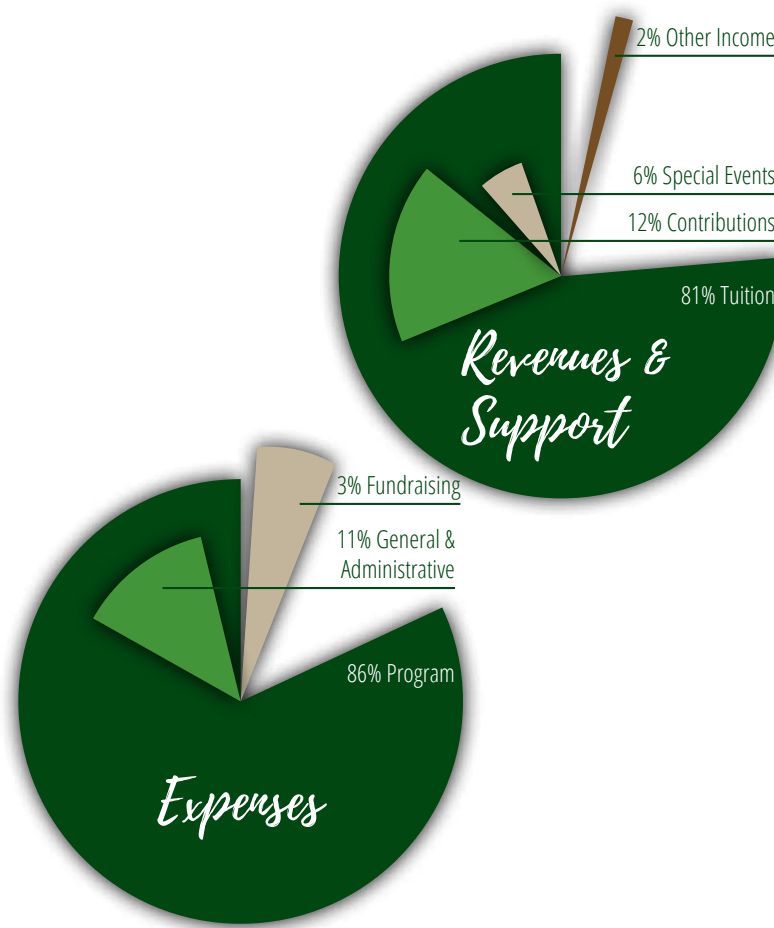
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 6,557,502
With Donor Restrictions	1,996,921
Total Net Assets	\$ 8,554,423
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 11,874,901



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets as of July 31, 2020

Revenues and Support	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 5,979,547
Net of Financial Assistance	
Contributions	845,966
Special Events	474,489
Other Income	122,190
Total Revenue	\$ 7,422,192

Expenses	
Educational Programs	6,083,868
General and Administrative	807,774
Fundraising	247,409
Total Expenses	\$ 7,139,051
Change in Net Assets	283,141
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	8,271,282
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 8,554,423



2019-20 Donors

We appreciate your donations from \$1 to \$1 million! Your generosity serves children who have communication delays and learning differences by funding financial assistance, the Margaret Noecker Nature Center, professional development for staff...and so much more.

Thank you.

Special thanks to everyone who donated to our SEEDS for Growth campaign, notated with an asterisk. SEEDS for Growth, one of our most important fundraisers, is an annual campaign that raises funds to cover the gap between what tuition covers and the actual cost of a Parish education. During the 2019-20 school year, 100% of staff and board members contributed and 88% of parents gave. Additionally, grandparents who contributed \$500+ to this special fund are listed with their grandchild's name. If you're interested in giving to this important campaign this school year, please visit our website or email hwilbourn@parishschool.org.

The Parish School received the following gifts between August 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020.

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