

# THE MUSTANG REVIEW

SPRING  
2023



## *A conversation between* **GENERATIONS**

School founder Yvonne Streit and Head of School David Mendlewski sit down to discuss the school's legacy and its impact on the future. Pg 4

### **A (BRAND) NEW LOOK!**

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Get a good look at our new logos and branding and learn more about the process behind it.

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# THE MUSTANG REVIEW

## HEAD OF SCHOOL

David Mendlewski

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott W. Reid, Interim Chair

Barbara W. Bellatti

Zachary Hodges

Peggy McGaughy

Vivian Streit Shudde

Nicholas N. Shum

Yvonne Tuttle Streit

J. Scott Thompson

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Mary Whalley

Aaron K. Young

*"Each person comes with his or her unique gifts, challenges, and ways of learning. We want to teach skills that will equip our students to become contributing members of society, and, in turn, give them purpose, self-confidence, and self-esteem."*

—Yvonne Tuttle Streit, Founder



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& TUTTLE SCHOOLS**  
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**TOM WILSON (1960 - 2022)**

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On October 25, 2022, The Briarwood School lost a cornerstone when Thomas Wilson, the Chairman of the Board, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Since Tom's passing, the Board has regularly found projects where Tom had assisted Briarwood in more ways than we knew — I think of these as Tom's "angel dust." Indeed, to share the burden of filling Tom's shoes at Briarwood, we have modified the leadership structure of the

Board to create an Executive Committee of four Board members. Although we certainly feel the loss of Tom's leadership, one his lasting gifts to Briarwood was a Board full of capable leaders, and I am confident in the leadership of the Executive Committee and the Board.

Briarwood is in good hands, and we will continue to benefit from Tom's leadership for years and decades to come. He actively led the Briarwood Board until just days before his passing. He wrote a message for this Newsletter in October that I have excerpted below. If you knew Tom, I hope you hear the voice of our dear friend as you read his message.

Regardless of whether you knew Tom, we can all join in celebrating his vision for Briarwood's continuous improvement that is reflected in his message. The Board remains committed to ensuring that every Briarwood student is taught in the way that they learn best so that they can grow to be contributing members of society with purpose and self-confidence. Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts, ideas or suggestions.

Sincerely,

**Scott Reid, Acting Chair of the Board**  
boardchair@briarwoodschoo.org

## FROM THE LATE TOM WILSON



As The Briarwood School begins its 55th year, the Board of Directors is charged with the tasks of maintaining all of the policies and practices of Briarwood that make it such a terrific place for education. At the same time, the Board must look to the future to determine what improvements can be made to the school in the next one to five years. It is very much a balancing act. By being too tied to the past, the

School could miss opportunities to serve more students in even better circumstances. However, by being too focused on change, the School could lose significant characteristics that make it the premier school that it is. This is a project the Board wished to embark upon during the past two years but shall we say, the world got in the way of those plans.

What this means for parents, staff, alumni, and others interested in the success of Briarwood, is that many of you will be contacted for your input on what makes Briarwood special, what could be improved at the school, and how can we retain the good while making room for the improvements.

The past two years have proven what a terrific group of administrators and teachers we have had at Briarwood. The passage of time however has also shown that to every season, there is an ending. Several senior administrators and teachers, as has happened in education throughout the United States, chose to retire. Chief among those was Carole Wills who led the school for decades. Half of the Board is also new over the past two years. With the fresh viewpoints, we have an opportunity to set a path for Briarwood that will keep it on the cutting edge of education for students with learning differences. However, we all know, both on the Board and in the administration of the School, that we must act

responsibly to retain the special aspects that now has Briarwood at near maximum enrollment. To make the correct decisions here, the Board needs to recall the past but look to the future by answering several important questions such as, do we need to grow our facilities to serve more students, or do we instead become a place where educators come to learn how Briarwood succeeds, or do we do some of both.

We are fortunate to have Briarwood's founder, Yvonne Streit, with us on this journey as a source for understanding the decisions that have been made over the years to build the terrific school that Briarwood is. We also have the good luck of having a new Head of School, David Mendlewski, who brings to the table years of experience in the education of students with learning differences who can make sure the Board is fully aware of the developments we are likely to see in this specialized area of education.

The Board knows it will need to invest in its teachers, not only with proper compensation, but also opportunities for personal development in their teaching careers. We also know that we will need to invest in our facilities to make sure that we are fully serving those who need Briarwood most and doing so in the quickly changing world of technology. We are in a great position both in having built our endowment to help support these efforts while also ensuring the sustainability of the school. We continue to have a fantastic group of financial supporters both at the fund level and from individuals. We still need to guard the financial security of Briarwood, but we have built a circumstance that gives us the ability to take some significant action if the plan we develop over the next eight months calls for such.

The Board looks forward to the journey we will take in the coming months, and we look forward to your input and support of our efforts. Together we can give The Briarwood School the jump start on another 55 years of leading education for our students.

*Tom Wilson*  
*Chair of the Board, 2017-2022*

*A conversation between*

# GENERATIONS

with David Mendlewski & Yvonne Tuttle Streit

By Penny Khuri

**O**n a bright, hot July morning, Head of School David Mendlewski drove down Briar Forest to San Felipe to visit with school founder Yvonne Tuttle Streit at her residence, something he does almost weekly. Over the last year, Mr. Mendlewski and Mrs. Streit have built a solid friendship: He asks all the questions, and she shares her advice and wisdom. At nearly 95 years of age, Mrs. Streit is still actively involved in the goings-on at the Briarwood School and the Tuttle School, sitting on the board and acting as advisor and mentor to David and the other board members.

I sat down with David and Yvonne to discuss the legacy of the school and the impact it has on the future for both schools. This is the conversation between the first and newest generation of Briarwood and Tuttle leadership.



**RIGHT:**  
Head of School David Mendlewski and  
school founder Yvonne Tuttle Streit

## ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CARING

**David (DM):** When you started the Tuttle school as a family school for your daughter, you began with values; you and I agree that caring is the most important basis for the foundation of the school.

**Yvonne (YTS):** Whoever comes in, that is the prerequisite. The main thing is that we care. You have to read between the eyes and in the heart. The integrity is woven into it. If the teacher says, “You mean a lot to me,” the student knows he can learn, because he’ll think, “They like me!”

**DM:** It’s true, and kids come to us from other places that may not have been as caring. From the receptionist at the front desk to the assistants in Tuttle, one can see that everyone at Briarwood cares and wants the students to be successful.

**YTS:** When children know that you care, they feel successful.

**DM:** What’s evident—when we think about the next 10, 15, and 20 years—is that the element of caring will still be there. And we have to think about what the students need and that is where teacher intervention is crucial.

**YTS:** The first 2-3 weeks of school, I would do things to put the students at ease, to get to know them, and they get to know me. I would visit their homes, get to know the brothers and sisters and parents. I love the quote from Calvin Coolidge:

Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not: unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

Our learning disabled kids can acquire this. The hardest task can be accomplished. We can really teach our kids that. We can give them that. It’s amazing when you tell a child you’re not going to let them go.

**DM:** How do you feel parents can contribute?

**YTS:** Parents, be patient with your children. You have to ask yourself, “What do I want for my



**LEFT:** Yvonne Streit works with a student in the 1980s

**BELOW:** Teacher Matt Krocak coaches Middle School students on how to create a podcast with video in Briarwood’s state-of-the-art iLab

“When kids know that you care, they feel successful.”



children?” and then give them options. Can you accept that there are certain things that you can’t change? Sometimes you have to make parents aware of the effect of their expectations on their kids.

We used to talk to parents about how a learning disability is like a freeway from here to Dallas with a bridge out. What are you going to do about it? You can either fix the bridge or you can detour around it, but we find that you can’t fix the bridge, so you have to find ways around it. Teach kids how to compensate for their disabilities.

**RIGHT:**  
 Briarwood School founder  
 Yvonne Streit poses with  
 the next generation of  
 teachers at Briarwood,  
 including from left to right,  
 Educational Technology  
 Specialist Amy Traynor,  
 Reading teacher Elisha  
 Kalvass, and TOPS Instructor  
 and Briarwood alumna  
 Jennifer Soley Hopkins '87.



**BELOW:**  
 Yvonne Tuttle Streit with  
 a colleague; 1980s



**“Try to find  
 an ember of  
 God in every  
 person you  
 meet, and  
 then fan it  
 into a flame  
 and get out  
 of the way!”**

—YVONNE TUTTLE STREIT

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**ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DATA**

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**YTS:** If the data shows that one can learn—algebra for instance—if you work at it, you can learn.

I was friends with John Cooper, who was head of the Kinkaid School. John was a superstar educator. He visited me and asked, “Yvonne, I’ve brought you six kids! Where are they?” I pointed out Kenneth. John said, “That can’t be Kenneth!”

Kenneth couldn’t sit still or complete tasks at Kinkaid, and he could at Briarwood. He was

standing up, giving a report. We allowed him to stand in the classroom. Something simple. That’s what he needed.

Another student, when standing, couldn’t follow instructions. When he walked around he could follow instructions. We found out he had a severe balance problem; sitting in a chair, he would wobble. We put him in a triangular table, in the corner, so that his arms touched the wall on either side. He was a star!

**DM:** And since then, we’ve certainly learned so much about learning differences. Well-known ADHD expert Dr. Ned Hallowell, for example, says relationship building is critical. So we now infuse that into the environment for our students. We’ve also learned that movement is critical for the students to help them focus and remain attentive. Collaborative work is also critical for students with learning disabilities. Success for each student is being able to collaborate and work with one another. Getting to know people and having relationships is so important.

**YTS:** Try to find an ember of God in every person you meet, and then fan it into a flame and get out of the way! It’s the truth. You have to find something good in the person. You establish the need for interdependence. It starts with that fact, we are all interdependent. Let those kids know that. When a child asks for help, we say, “If you need my help, I want to help you.”

**DM:** And it’s easy to grow impatient.

**YTS:** David, you and I have that same problem! We are a bit impatient! We want things faster!

**“The only thing that is important is the culture. True caring makes the difference.”**

—YVONNE TUTTLE STREIT

There’s a balance, and priorities come in. We have to slow down.

**DM:** We say that now! Slow your roll, tap the breaks. I learned that from you.

**YTS:** Teach it back to me! (laughter)

**DM:** With every challenge you face, you often talk about balance, which is essential. Having persistence to go through it but also to step back and reflect at times to figure it out.

**YTS:** You have to keep at it long enough to make the difference, but not so long that you’re kicking a dead horse. Bring in someone to help. What will keep Briarwood together for many more years is spirit.

I’m totally convinced that if you bring God into the picture, you can’t beat it. “Indescribable but undeniable.” Make friends first. Build trust. Someone told me once that my daughter Vicky, who is nonverbal, doesn’t understand words, but I think she would walk through fire if you asked her to, because of trust.

**DM:** Trust in each other and in the data. As we look to the future of Briarwood and Tuttle, we look at scientifically proven, data driven methods. This is the future of the schools.

**YTS:** Indeed, the data is important, but unless we maintain the culture of making friends first, all the data in the world won’t make a difference. The only thing that is important is the culture. True caring makes the difference.

## STAFF STORIES

**PENNY KHURI**

Director of Marketing and  
Communications



**W**hen my son Gregory came to Briarwood midway through the sixth grade, nobody knew quite what to do with him. We had an “all hands on deck” meeting about him, giving them the “owners’ manual” for Greg. Every person in the room listened, and I was so thankful; it meant everything to me. Mrs. Streit is so right about building the relationships with the parents. We are giving you our children, and asking you to help us find hope, to help figure out our children’s path.

It was wonderful to get to know the senior class last year. Every single student got into college, but the ones who were really interesting to me were the ones doing something different. It is wonderful to know there is no “one” track. It’s so important for the faculty and staff to always give the parents hope that things will be ok, that there is a unique path for their child.

When my son was little, we had no idea what would become of Gregory. Now, here we are at Gregory’s senior year, and there’s a very real possibility that he will go to his first choice for college, because he’s been loved and cared for by the teachers and staff. No matter where he lands, Gregory has learned and is successful because he has been taught the way he learns best.

# A (BRAND) NEW LOOK

By David Mendlewski

As part of honoring the past and looking toward the future of Briarwood this year, many of you have probably noticed that we have an updated brand!

We are very excited to “roll out” the finished product and integrate the new cohesive brand into more aspects of student, faculty, and parent life both on and off campus. As we continue with the brand implementation, I thought it important to walk through how we got here.

This was a surprisingly arduous, yet enlightening, process. The first step was finding the right professional partner, and we found that in Primer Grey, a small branding agency based here in Houston, with a 13-year track record of working with small businesses and nonprofits.

Given the history of our school, their approach was to understand our background and all facets of our culture before designing anything. Team members from the administration and the teaching staff of both Briarwood and Tuttle



dedicated hours talking through history, perceptions, communication, and forward looking goals.

One of the most important takeaways from this process was the distinction between the two schools and how important they are to each other while also being individual entities. This understanding became a driving force to how Primer Grey approached the brand, while understanding that there is a delicate balance between specific identities and unity as the greater whole. We sought to give each school a more distinct identity, while maintaining a consistent look for Briarwood as a whole.

You’ll notice that the “old” school colors carried over. But instead of using blue and red to represent both schools, they were “split up” to give each school their own identity. Blue for Briarwood and red for Tuttle to promote that idea of unity and cohesion.

Our mascot, the beloved mustang, was also updated to feel bolder and distinctive from other area schools using the same style mascot. Crests were incorporated into the brand to feel more academic, taking inspiration from logos of prestigious universities. The end result was a mix of classic academic motifs and modern elements. A perfect representation of leaning into the past to move into a bright and prosperous future. We hope you’ll agree!





**THE BRIARWOOD  
& TUTTLE SCHOOLS**  
EST. 1967



**THE  
BRIARWOOD  
SCHOOL**  
EST. 1967



**THE  
TUTTLE  
SCHOOL**  
EST. 1967

**TUTTLE  
MUSTANGS**



**BRIARWOOD  
MUSTANGS**



Upper School students model some of the spirit gear incorporating the updated version of the beloved Mustang mascot.



# 2022

CONGRATS GRADS!



**GO MUSTANGS!**



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Patrick Dunn**  
CLASS OF 1981

Patrick graduated from the second class at Briarwood in 1981! He started out in the original building, and has watched Briarwood grow to the expansive facility it is today. As a diagnosed dyslexic in elementary school, Patrick was able to participate in numerous activities not typically available in standard academic settings. He was the student council president and a senior coach for the junior varsity track team.

Patrick would like to recognize some Briarwood faculty key to his personal growth: Barbara Lasater and Chima Clanton for facilitating a love of drama, public speaking and English, Jeff Chambers for his encouragement in math, and Coach Whitmore's inspirational modeling of sportsmanship and encouragement.

Patrick attended Schreiner College and graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Commerce. He became a State Farm Insurance agent for the next 35 years and was responsible for "total losses for the entire country." In 2019, he retired and set his sights on entrepreneurship. His son started a fencing company in high school, and they began a partnership and expanded the business. In fact, they just completed a fencing job at Briarwood! We are so happy to reconnect with him!



**Ashley Ackerman**  
CLASS OF 2012

Briarwood recently welcomed alumna Ashley as the newest member of the Admissions Department. Not only does she assist families in the application process, but she also uses her talent in graphic design creating marketing materials and social media content.

Ashley came to Briarwood as a third grader diagnosed with dyslexia and ADD. She took advantage of everything Briarwood had to offer, including cross country, basketball, track & field, volleyball, student council, yearbook, theater, and set design. In her spare time, she was recommended and accepted into a four year program offered by the Glassell School of Art.

After graduating from Briarwood in 2012, Ashley attended Lake Forest College in Chicago and received her Masters in Visual Communication and Design. When she has time, Ashley enjoys working with glass mosaics, painting, and ceramics.

We're delighted to have her back on campus sharing her expertise and passion for Briarwood!



**Ryan Garza**  
CLASS OF 2020

Ryan came to Briarwood as a first grader diagnosed with severe dyslexia and dysgraphia. He received intense remediation through seventh grade and credits Briarwood for his ability to read just about anything!

His academic journey continues at Schreiner University where he is beginning his junior year. Ryan has excelled academically and has even resurrected a university program that was halted due to COVID, Mountaineer and Adventure Program (MAP).

MAP offers an opportunity for students to reach outside the box and embark on a volunteer adventure trip of a lifetime while building leadership skills. Ryan coordinates, plans, and leads these adventures including skiing, kayaking, fishing, and other activities. To date, his journeys have taken him to New Mexico, Big Bend, and Montana.

Ryan earned a four year achievement scholarship for maintaining a high GPA and recently earned an "engagement scholarship" for his involvement on campus. According to his family, much of his college success is due to Briarwood. We're so proud of the young man he has become!

# BRIARWOOD ATHLETICS AND CHARACTER

## OUR BRAND & PHILOSOPHY

By Penny Khuri

Coach Rayna Williams, Director of Athletics, is a firm believer in the value of daily physical activity for students. For Briarwood students with learning differences such as dyslexia and ADHD, movement is critical. Team sports build self-confidence, social skills and discipline, but the biggest benefit is that it gives Briarwood students a sense of belonging and normalcy. Many come from school experiences that were stressful and did not leave time for extracurricular activities, much less team sports that involve daily practice and a busy game schedule. Briarwood is, in a few words, a game changer for many of our students. And no matter what level of skill or experience, any Middle and Upper School student athlete can compete and be part of something bigger than themselves.



## ATHLETICS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In October, The Briarwood School virtually hosted world-renowned author Dr. Ned Hallowell, who spoke to parents, faculty, and staff about the intrinsic value of physical activity for children with dyslexia, ADHD, and other neurological differences. In a podcast with Dr. John Ratey, author of the book *Spark, The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain*, they discuss how exercise affects the brain. Dr. Ratey states:

Most people don't realize it, but when you exercise, you are using more of your brain. When we move physically, we are using more of our brain than in any other human activity. And the way we think about the brain today is that the brain is like a muscle. The more we use it, the better it gets. And exercise challenges, moves, makes the brain really work.

When we move, we release these neuro-transmitters, which then has an effect on our attention system throughout the brain. So it stands to reason that exercise is a very good treatment or co-treatment for attention deficit disorder.

Head of School David Mendlewski models this same philosophy almost daily. He rides his bike to work each day and hosts a quarterly "Bike Ride with the Head of School," inviting students and their parents to join him on a ride through nearby Terry Hershey Park bike trails. Mr. Mendlewski founded "Focused Riding," an academic skills based summer mountain biking program for students with ADHD at his former post, and sees great value in athletics for students with learning disabilities.

## IMPROVEMENTS

Coach Williams has made many positive changes to the Athletics program this year. She has three new coaches on staff: Dave Parkett (Middle School flag football and boys basketball), Adam Dyer (Middle School soccer), and Ashley Ackerman (Middle School volleyball and girls basketball). The department is working to build each sport "from the bottom up." The Upper School coaches are collaborating with the Middle School coaches to use the same coaching and play strategies so that athletes have a smooth transition into high school sports. So far this year, the Middle and Upper School teams have brought home some serious hardware:

- MS Boys Flag Football: 2nd Place State, WHCAC
- MS Girls Volleyball: All Stars Ellie Ritter & Brooke Muirhead
- US Varsity Volleyball: Individual players Aubrey Black and Emily Newingham
- Honorable Mention, All District Team: Carter Camfield & Reese Kennedy, 2nd Team, All District: Taylor McLaughlin, 1st Team, All District
- US Varsity Flag Football: 2nd Place, All State, TCFL
- US Varsity Cross Country: Boys Team 6th Place State, TAPPS
- US Varsity Cross Country: Girls Team 4th Place State; Christiane, 9th Place,
- 1A, All-State Cross Country team, TAPPS

Another significant change this year has been moving the Upper School varsity teams to a district more aligned with Briarwood's student population size, placing the Briarwood teams in the TAPPS 1A division. Coach Williams has also scored some pretty nice new equipment:

- A rebound machine for basketball was delivered in September, complete with the new school mascot logo.
- 4 tents for outdoor competition (2 with the new school branding logo).
- New team uniforms - phasing out old uniforms, replacing with new ones with the new school logo.
- The soccer team now has personalized corner flags.

Sources:

Spark: by Dr. John Ratey; Dr. Ned Hallowell podcast: <https://www.distractionpodcast.com/2020/09/01/exercise-and-adhd-are-a-winning-pair/>

Yale link, Other articles



A bonus for families and sports fans are the expanded concession sales, and the ability to process payments with POS systems, making it fast and easy to buy tickets and snacks with credit or debit cards. Coach Williams does have a wish list: permanent "shade" for the athletic field, track, and tennis courts!

## CHARACTER COUNTS

If you talk with Coach Williams, you will quickly learn that the most important quality for the entire program isn't the number of wins, championships, or regional and state accolades. Character is the highest priority. Coach Williams has been a member of the faculty at other schools and says, "Our student body has great character and qualities I've never seen at other schools. Many of our students come here with 'survivor qualities' having overcome so much just to be here. They have a leg up because of that. They have grit, determination, and heart." She says, "It's not just about winning. You are a winner even if the scoreboard says otherwise, as long as you play your best, with honor and integrity."

# Breaking New Ground!

## PROJECT BASED LEARNING AT BRIARWOOD

By Matthew Giorgio

**F**ifth graders at Briarwood have officially broken ground on their year-long Project Based Learning (PBL) project. Spurred on by their own desire for a more authentic, gourmet-style pizza offering at lunch, students began asking themselves how they could create their own pizza here on campus.

Made possible through a generous donation, the skill and craftsmanship of our Facilities team of Alex Hernandez & Alberto Santos, and led by the vanguard of Mrs. Chelsea Glenn and Mrs. Libby Hall, the students' vision grew to fruition this fall. First, the soil was set and a healthy crop of tomatoes, basil, parsley, and marigolds took root.

Students used the garden not only as ingredients for their homemade pizzas, but more importantly as a tool to work through their curriculum. Together with Mrs. Glenn and Mrs. Hall, Ms. Kristin Spiller and Mrs. Evelyn O'Krinsky led students through PBL lessons including writing "How to..." pieces in Language, finding area and working with fractions in Math, exploring the symbiotic relationship between plants and insects in Science, and uncovering Indigenous farming practices in History. This was one project in which the students did "leave the classroom" to participate!



**First the soil was set and a healthy crop of tomatoes, basil, parsley, and marigolds took root.**



Fifth Grade Science teacher Libby Hall shows her students how to transplant a herb properly; students enjoy learning how to plant a vegetable garden. Dirty hands means a good day's work!



# Keeping Up With Tuttle School Pathways

By Ruth Wilson

At Pathways, our overall goal is to prepare our students for the real world, no matter what that may look like to each individual.

Each student has a different journey. Some may leave here and gain rewarding job opportunities, and others may require additional support both at work and at home.

Whatever path a student may be on, we are committed to preparing them for what is ahead! We assess our students' interests and abilities, and equip them with the skills to benefit them in the long term.

## SEMESTER UPDATES

This semester we have students working at Chick-fil-A, Lake-side Country Club, The Brookwood Community, and Memorial Hermann throughout the week. While on campus, we focus on vocational, social, and life skills, spending the first moments of our days working on hygiene and prepping for the day ahead.

The Pathways program volunteers weekly in the community because we recognize that volunteering not only serves those in need, but it helps increase empathy and love for those less fortunate than us. It's an incredible tool for Pathways, and fun too!

We also have handcrafted products and sell them to support our program. Students are able to set up booths at markets, which continually grows in the community!

Another exciting part of the program is the Pathways Cafe we recently opened on the campus of our school. Generous donors saw an opportunity to support job skills, and helped us get the dream off the ground! Not only do students learn the ins and outs of business sequencing in a workplace, but they've gained a new confidence in their abilities.

We take a weekly trip out on the town to continue working on our personal skills in the community. We make shopping lists, go grocery shopping, work on money skills, and continue shaping our skills as a whole. We follow up our weekly shopping trip with a weekly restaurant outing to spend time with our peers, practice ordering, staying in line with our dietary restrictions and needs, and to ultimately gain more confidence.

We are in the midst of growing our program, and we have plenty of space to grow. We would love to see new faces in Pathways; everyone is welcome to come take a tour, or shadow for the day!

## CONNECT WITH US!

ruthwilson@briarwoodschool.org | Instagram: @tuttlepathways  
Facebook: Tuttle Pathways - Houston Transition Program



A trip to Chick-fil-A!



Celebrating Neurodiversity Day!



Bowling is a Special Olympics team sport at Tuttle



The crew at the newly opened Tuttle Cafe!

# MAKING HISTORY COME TO LIFE!

By Kim Black

Exploring the Oregon Trail  
with Coach Gore

Whether it's joining a webinar, traveling to a nearby school for a presentation, or attending a weekend long conference, professional development is something you're always pursuing in your career as an educator. While these opportunities are vast and highly beneficial, The Briarwood School has been blessed with an incredible opportunity to expand professional development in a completely immersive way: through a gracious grant from The Henry Bean Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship provides teachers the opportunity to choose a topic or place they want to immerse themselves in, dive in, and bring it back to the classroom! Coach Gore has taught History at Briarwood for the past 22 years, and is truly one of the best. Her love for the subject is contagious, and she did not hesitate to apply for this opportunity.

In 2022, Gore took ten days out of her summer to explore the Oregon Trail. She began the journey in Independence, Missouri and zigzagged through the west on the trail until she reached Oregon City, Oregon, traveling a total of 1,841 miles and soaking up every minute of it!

She captured and shared her journey on Facebook and Instagram, keeping her students and followers submerged in the adventure. Coach Gore is now using her photos and videos in her middle school History classes, expanding their understanding of what the early settlers experienced—making history come to life! She remains grateful for the opportunity, and was overwhelmed by the love and support she received along her journey.





The Briarwood and Tuttle schools are over the moon about the success of last year's Gatsby Gala 'Take 2 in 2022,' after a two year pandemic hiatus! Our fabulous gala team, led by chairs Jenny Mock and Janet Lewis helped bring in \$400,000 to the school to fund tuition assistance, teacher endowment and critical programs that contribute to the betterment in our students' lives. Thanks to everyone who participated in this fabulous evening at Lakeside Country Club!



# GALA DONORS

## \$2,500-\$4,999

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Kian Chance, Photographer

Al Farb, Master of Ceremonies

Tuttle School Student Volunteers

Upper School Student Volunteers

# 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL **BREAK 'EM** FOR BRIARWOOD - CLAY SHOOT

The weather was perfect on November 10 as The Briarwood School hosted the inaugural "Break 'Em for Briarwood" Clay Shoot event at Westside Sporting Grounds in Katy!

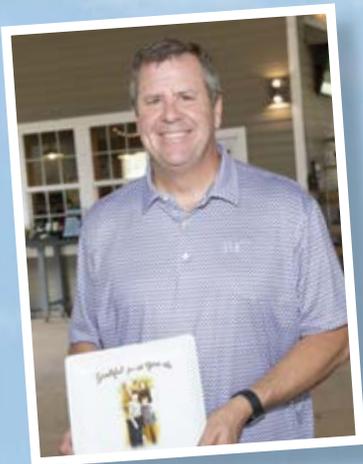
Our participants arrived at 8:00 a.m. sharp for registration, breakfast, and camaraderie; then it was off to the courses for some friendly competition—all for a great cause—to support the mission of Briarwood and Tuttle Schools.

Matthew Ignas took home the coveted title of Top Gun winner, and the "Trust the Process" team, which included

Thomas, Mona and Matthew Ignas, and Richard Bonnet, won first place in the team competition.

Major sponsors of the event included Jenny and Michael Mock, Jen and Scott McNab, Patricia and Tom Ritter, Banahan Martinez Weatherford, PLLC, and Denis and Linda Husers. We are looking forward to the 2nd Annual "Break 'Em for Briarwood" Clay Shoot event in 2023. Get your four person team ready, and stay tuned for more details.

In the meantime, see details about the 2022 event at [briarwoodschool.org/giving/annual-clay-shoot](https://briarwoodschool.org/giving/annual-clay-shoot).



# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIPS



**BRANDON WALKER** 11th  
**MICHAEL WOOD** 9th  
**MADDIE ELKINS** 8th  
**BLAKE HUDDLESTON** 8th  
**SEBASTIAN MILLER** 8th

**Outstanding Performance in a Specialized Area.** The award is presented to one student from each grade level, 7 through 11, who has truly shown outstanding performance in the arts, theater, science, language arts, math, or social studies. This student is recognized as exceptional in the area for which he or she is nominated while meeting Briarwood's standards for attendance, attitude, and effort.

**MILLIE LECOQ** 9th  
 Algebra I

**Outstanding Overall Progress.** The award is presented to one student from each grade level, 7 through 11, who has made overall outstanding individual progress. These students accept the opportunity being offered, are able to internalize the education, and take the responsibility for making progress. The students also meet Briarwood's standards for attendance, attitude, and effort.

**EMMA PETTY** 9th  
 Foundations of Fitness

**JUSTIN COX** 11th  
 US History

### MILLIE LECOQ

**Rebecca Roth Scholarship.** This scholarship was created in memory of Becca Roth, a former Briarwood student. Her family wishes to keep her memory alive through others who can benefit through her dreams.

### ELLEN JONES

**Marcy Schroeder Scholarship.** The Schroeder family set up this scholarship in memory of Marcy Schroeder, a grandparent of a dyslexic student.

### HANNAH JACKSON

**Paige Suvalsky Scholarship.** Rita Blumenfeld set up this scholarship in honor of Paige. Paige graduated from Briarwood in 2014 and from the University of Arizona.

### JOANNA CRANE

**Grant Briers Scholarship.** Grant was a primary student at Briarwood. He will be remembered through his scholarship.

### EMMA AYERS

**The Jeanne Marie Drane Dunn Memorial Scholarship.** This scholarship has been set up by Judith Ann deBoisblanc in memory of Jeanne Marie Drane Dunn, mother of Patrick Dunn, Briarwood graduate of 1981.

**LOGAN BECKELMAN, Lower**  
**MADDIE ELKINS, Middle**  
**JULIA DUMAS, Upper**  
**ISABEL FOLEY, Tuttle**

**James Wills Scholarship.** Carole and Jim Wills chose to remember their son, James through a scholarship in his name.

**DANIEL AYOADE, Lower**  
**KEATYN LESSNER, Upper**  
**CARMEN STICKNEY, Tuttle**

**Carole C. Wills Scholarship.** The Briarwood School has set up a scholarship fund in honor of our beloved retired Head of School, Carole Wills. A student from each school was selected.

### ANNA DEFAZIO

**Ashley Ackerman Scholarship.** Susan and Asche Ackerman set up a scholarship fund in honor of their daughter, Ashley, class of 2012.

### ELI HENKEL

**Ross Ackerman Scholarship.** Susan and Asche Ackerman set up a scholarship fund in honor of their son, Ross, class of 2014.

### ASHLEY FLUSCHE

**Friends of Briarwood Community Scholarship**

## 2021-22 STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



**KATY WARREN**  
 12th Grade



**BRANDON WALKER**  
 11th Grade



**MASON JOEST**  
 10th Grade



**JAMES WHALEY**  
 9th Grade



**SAM SONDOCK**  
 8th Grade



**MIA MCNEELY**  
 7th Grade

## ANNUAL GIVING FUND 2021-22

### Legacy Circle (\$10,000+)

Carole and Jim Wills  
Friend of Briarwood

### Founder's Circle (\$5,000-\$9999)

Ms. Sarah D. Davies  
Mrs. Jennifer Hopkins  
Rynda and David Lofton  
Ms. Blakley Rogers  
Mr. and Mrs. George Strapulos  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson  
Tanya and Michael Wood  
Kimberly and Michael Yen

### Head of School Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Mr. and Mrs. Rolland St. Aubin  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher D. Kiefer  
Mr. and Mrs. Rashard Lewis  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Sullivan  
CGF Welch Family Charitable Trust

### Leadership Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Sally Whitliff

### Educator's Circle (\$500-\$999)

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Friend of Briarwood

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Mike Mahistedt  
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Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mayer  
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Judy and Mark Patterson  
Paige A. Schock  
Lesly Shipman  
Marsha Smith and Frank Jones  
Diana and David VanHorn  
Sondra and Robert Whaley  
The Stead Family

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Judy and Harry Brookby  
Robin and Eva Brown  
Jackye Bryan  
Debi and Bart Duckworth  
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Cassie Trujillo  
Kristian Robert Wilkins  
Rayna Williams  
Kimberly Wright

**DIRECTED GIFTS  
2021-22**

**Foundation Gifts**

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The Ellwood Foundation  
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The Donald W. and Gayle A. Keller Foundation  
William S. and Lora Jean Kilroy Foundation  
M. D. Anderson Foundation  
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**The Tuttle School Van Donations**

Martha Benham  
Donna and Paul Bishop  
Emily and Stuart Bodden  
Shaun Boller  
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Alejandra and Federico Gonzalez  
Rima and Ahmed Hashmi

Lillian and Michael Howard  
Tuck Leong Ho and Sabrina Wu  
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Monica and Mike Reeves  
Andrea and Daniel Shanahan  
Lance S. Smith, MD PA  
Wendy and John Welch  
Julie and Christopher Whitten

**Carole C. Wills Scholarship Fund**

Ms. Charlotte Christman

**Matching Gifts**

Chevron Matching Gifts  
ExxonMobil Foundation  
Twin Eagle  
Shell Giving Program

**Corporations**

Albertsons/Safeway  
Amazon Smile  
Kroger  
Martial Arts Training and Techniques, LLC.

**In Memory (Of/From)**

*Brian Boles*  
Mr. and Mrs. Chris C. Boles

*Glenn Boles*  
Mr. and Mrs. Knut Bulow  
Mr. and Mrs. Terrin Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary M. Orlander  
Ms. Donna R. Walden  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walker

# 55 YEARS & counting!

For 55 years, The Briarwood School has stood by our philosophy that every student can learn, and every student has the right to be taught in the way that he or she learns best. Gifts to the Annual Giving Fund ensure that we are well-positioned to provide a quality education in a specialized instructional setting where no student is turned away because of a learning difference or an inability to pay for tuition.

In celebration of our 55th anniversary, the 2022-23 Annual Giving Fund's theme is affectionately known as the "55 Years and Counting" campaign. The Annual Giving Fund supports tuition assistance, staff development, technology and athletics programs along with so much more at Briarwood and Tuttle. We are grateful for the continued generosity of our philanthropic community, which includes our Board of Directors, parents, grandparents, alumni, faculty and staff, corporations, organizations, foundations, and friends. The Annual Giving Fund kicks off each year in early September and wraps up on June 30th.

Visit [briarwoodschoo.org/giving/annual-giving-fund](http://briarwoodschoo.org/giving/annual-giving-fund) for more information.





# 336 TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

116

Lower School

77

Middle School

98

Upper School

45

Tuttle



8:1

Student to  
Faculty Ratio

8

Average Class Size

85

Faculty Members



\$258,000

Over \$258,000 in need-based tuition assistance  
and scholarships to our students.



22

Size of  
Graduating Class



100%

Postgraduate  
Placement

# BEYOND BRIARWOOD & TUTTLE

# 2021 - 2022 FINANCIALS



- Tuition and Fees: \$7,766,000
- Fundraising: \$423,000



- Salaries and Benefits: \$6,913,000
- Administrative Expense: \$425,000
- Facility Maintenance: \$365,000
- Tuition Assistance: \$357,000
- Instructional: \$255,000

## FUNDRAISING AT A GLANCE

### ANNUAL GIVING FUND

If you make only one gift this year, please consider donating to the Annual Giving Fund.

### RAFFLE

Students participate in philanthropy at Briarwood & Tuttle.

### BENEFIT GALA

Our special event fundraiser that builds community and raises much-needed dollars for Briarwood and Tuttle.

### ENDOWMENT FUND

*Directly Supports the Operating Budget*

*For Future Planning*



**THE BRIARWOOD  
& TUTTLE SCHOOLS**  
EST. 1967

12207 Whittington Drive  
Houston, Texas 77077

{Name}  
{Street}  
{City/State} {Zip}

Join us for a night of fundraising and fun

**The Briarwood &  
Tuttle Schools**

# HAVANA NIGHTS

*Cheers to 55 Years*

Friday

**March 24<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Hosted at

THE *Ballroom*  
AT TANGLEWOOD

5430 Westheimer Rd.

GALA 2023