

Warrior Express

A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Superintendent's Perspective

On April 15th, I began my twelfth month at Trinity. Wow! Where did the time go? I thought I would share 10 fun facts about me that not many students, parents, or faculty members know.

- 1 I have five sisters who treated me like a king when I was a little boy; they spoiled me rotten!
- 2 I took clarinet and organ lessons when I was in elementary school.
- 3 I participated in the musical *The King and I* when I was in ninth grade.
- 4 I've been on two missions trips to Mexico.
- 5 I was the activities coordinator at Sky View Ranch (Millersburg, Ohio) during the summer of 1974.
- 6 When I was seven years old, I gave my heart to God during Sunday school and then committed to full-time Christian service when I was twelve.
- 7 I played soccer and ran track in college.
- 8 I am married to a woman who was her class valedictorian and a player on the first ever Pennsylvania State Field Hockey Championship Team in her senior year of high school.
- 9 Granddaughters, fishing, hunting, golf, and spending time at my cabin are my hobbies.
- 10 I love being at Trinity Christian School!

*In His service,
Mr. Ken Howard*

Hands-on Science

Trinity Christian School elementary science third grade students like to play in the sand. Instead of being in a playground sandbox, however, this sand was on their desktops in the classroom.

Observation and experimentation are key to the study of science. That's what hands-on science is all about. Theories need testing. Concepts need application. Students need to *experience* science.

That's why Jodi Shoemaker, Elementary Science teacher, had her third grade students using sand, flour, and water to create landforms, after studying them. The same week kindergarteners germinated seeds in soil and second grade students identified and stamped various animal tracks.

"Students need to make use of all their senses," Mrs. Shoemaker said. "They remember what they learn when they do something tactile."

Similarly, biology and physical science teacher Vada Boback has invited guest lab speakers to introduce secondary students to the areas of aerospace and forensic science. Though lab time is built into the weekly curriculum, drawing on additional resources within the local science community has provided further hands-on opportunities for students.

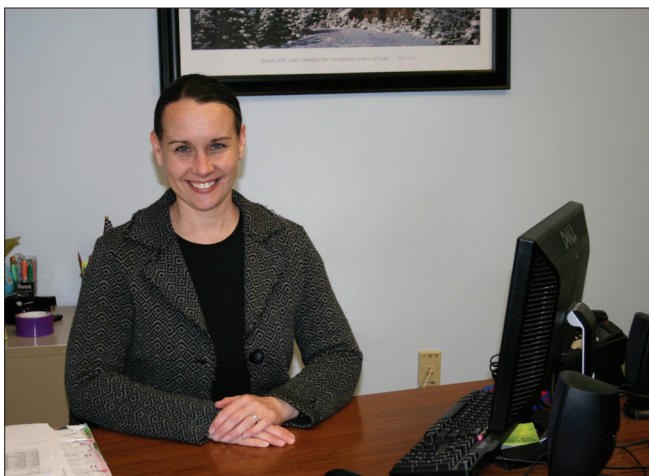
Aleksander Marthinussen, the Aerospace Education Coordinator of the Mid Atlantic AeroSpace Complex in Clarksburg, brought a wind tunnel to campus on his visit earlier this year. The students learned to apply the laws of Newton and Bernoulli by designing and building styrofoam airplane wings, which they then tested in a 40 m/h wind tunnel.

On a separate occasion, Honors biology students examined "evidence" from a fictitious crime scene when Robin Bowen, Assistant Director for the Forensic Science

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Robin Bowen guides students in examining and testing physical evidence for a forensics lab.



Teresa Barnett, TCS Guidance Counselor, also known as the unofficial school “mom”.

Q & A with Teresa Barnett, Guidance Counselor

What are your main duties as counselor?

I oversee scheduling for students of all grade levels, assuring that they stay on track with graduation requirements. I also identify Middle and High School students who may benefit from additional resources and connect them with the assistance they need.

Additionally, it is my responsibility to coordinate and administrate standardized and AP testing, which includes reviewing test scores and providing tools for students to improve test performance.

I also assist Mr. Howard, Superintendent, with our Trinity Christian Virtual Academy students, helping them schedule courses and monitoring their grades.

Can you explain how you aid Trinity students with the college admissions process?

We have hosted almost 20 representatives from various colleges this school year. West Virginia University sends an admissions representative who walks the students through the application and gives them immediate feedback on acceptance and financial aid. I help our students with their college applications and continually inform them of scholarship opportunities. I also arrange for the seniors to visit the annual college fair held at the WVU Coliseum.

You’ve taught classes at the collegiate level. How has that experience informed your approach to students as Guidance Counselor?

Because of my experience at the university level, I am familiar with the requirements and tools that students need to succeed in higher education.

Some have referred to you as the school “mom”. Why do you think that is?

I’ve stitched pants, braided hair, and wiped tears. I’ll help any student with anything they need!



Visitors to the Arts Gala view art created by students.

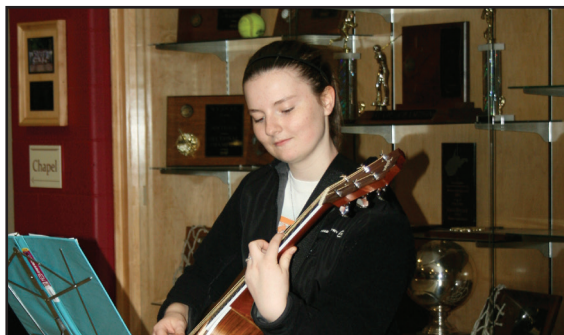
Celebrating the Arts

When Beverly Mayle was named as the Trinity Christian School secondary art teacher two years ago, she brought over 25 years of teaching experience to the position. She also brought a vision for the Arts Gala.

Now in its second year, the Arts Gala has quickly developed a reputation as a delightful event with a relaxed, coffeehouse atmosphere. Held in March, attendees perused individual and collaborative art works created by student-artists of all grade levels while enjoying live music performed by student musicians.

The evening culminated in a Silent Auction. Good natured competitions ensued, as guests slyly bid against one another, hoping to score the winning bid and take home their prized selections.

Mrs. Mayle said the funds raised from the Arts Gala will be used for art materials. “I am thrilled that the families here support the arts in such a great way,” she expressed, adding that “even if their child didn’t have any artwork displayed, families still came out to support the students.”



Live music enhanced the atmosphere at the Arts Gala.

Early Education

Off to a Great Start

Whether running a race or building a home, there is no underestimating the importance of a good start. That is what Preschool at Trinity Christian School is all about: laying a good foundation for a lifetime of spiritual, academic, and developmental growth.

“When we chose Trinity for our children, we knew it was different,” said Amanda Mullens, mother of two daughters who have completed preschool. “Of course they were taught shapes, colors, and numbers. But, they also learned about love, manners, and consequences. What a better way to back up what we are teaching them at home!”

Partnering with families is a key component of the program. Teachers Christy Goff and Rose Ann Hagee make a point to interact with parents by communicating frequently, photographing events, and including them in field trips. The Christ-centered and child-focused instructional time allows for



Preschool students enjoy a variety of developmental activities.

plenty of free-play and activity-based learning experiences, while preparing students for the next step.

Both classes' age levels operate on a half-day schedule. A typical day in Pre K-3 opens with prayer and pledges, followed by Bible circle time. Exercise, art activities, and learning phonics and numbers round out the activities of the day. The Pre K-4 day is similar, with the addition of writing and skill development. A Beka, a Christian, phonics-based curriculum is primarily used, giving students a strong foundation in reading.

New for the 2013-14 school year, Trinity will be offering 2-day options for Pre K-3: Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. The Pre K-4 class will continue to operate on a Monday through Thursday week. A morning session is offered and an afternoon session will be added if enrollment allows. The class sizes are limited, to assure a personal, home-like environment.

Andrea Steptoe, TCS parent, expresses the heart of the preschool mission when she relays her family's experience. “My children were nurtured and taught with such loving care and prepared so well for their transition to elementary school.”

Hands-on Science (from page 1)

Initiative at WVU, conducted a forensics lab. Ms. Bowen, author of *Ethics and the Practice of Forensic Science*, also entertained the students' questions about the field.

Tenth grader Dominic Raymond felt Ms. Bowen's visit was beneficial. “She answered all the questions very honestly. It was informative and helpful if anyone was considering that field.”

Youth Science Discovery Experience, an intensive program attended by six students and Mrs. Boback this past fall, offered another opportunity for students to experience hands-on science. The team from Trinity, working with a hydrologist, was taught to measure and analyze the input and output of the Yellow Creek watershed. “It was really helpful to touch the instruments, put on waders, and go into the creek itself,” said ninth grader Alyssa Boback. “They asked you questions and taught you to think outside the box,” she added.

Applying the knowledge they've accumulated throughout the year, high school physics students pay an annual visit to Kennywood amusement park for Education Day. Working in groups, they take a test that includes measuring acceleration speeds of rides, estimating food sales, and answering questions about the centripetal force of a ride. Debbie Dennis, physics and chemistry teacher, has received positive feedback from the student participants.

“Students find it beneficial to see the real life application of physics. They have the head knowledge but this trip helps them to notice physics in the world around them,” she said.

Making science real. It's a focus of the science faculty that will benefit students for years to come.

School-wide Initiative

Summer Camps

Want to avoid the cries of “I'm bored!” this summer? Summer Camp at Trinity is the answer! This year, we're excited to introduce a full selection of camps for students entering first through eighth grades spanning six weeks this summer.

Does your child loathe getting up in front of the class? He can build his skills and confidence at Public Speaking camp and wow his classmates when he returns to school in the fall. Do you have a budding astronaut at home? She can learn about constellations, solar systems, and galaxies using the state of the art NASA Star Lab at Space is the Place camp.

Camp Director Dan Gottron and the TCS camp staff have been working hard to create a diverse list of options. From Wildlife to Plantlife, Music to Art, there is a camp to fit any student's interests. It's all in keeping with our mission to help accomplish God's purpose in the lives of students.

For more information, please call 304-291-4659 or email eward@tcswwv.org.

Alumni News

Jacob Wagner '10

Majoring in Business Management at WVU, Jacob is currently interning at Pikewood Creative while he pursues a career in audio and video production. As an intern, Jacob is assisting with researching voice-over talent, creating spreadsheets for recordkeeping, and music selection.

Rachael Kelley '10

Rachael is an English Writing Major, with minors in History and Honors, at West Virginia Wesleyan College. She was recently inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, a national collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Allie Beto '11

A Public Relations Major at WVU, Allie is currently serving on the Advisory board of the Dominion Post. As a participant, she and fellow board members offer feedback about the paper, in addition to submitting articles for publication on the Opinion page. Allie's published pieces include a feature on WVU women's assistant coach, Lester Rowe, and a commentary on the reality series Buckwild.

Rachel Hawkins '11

Currently a sophomore at Central Bible College, Rachel is planning to intern this summer in Landour, India. She will be

working with missionaries to share the gospel, in addition to caring for children at boys and girls homes. She's hoping to go on treks into the mountain villages to share the gospel there, as well.

Seen around campus:

Ian Morley '10

Currently the Tech Director at the Morgantown CMA church and a Theatre: Technology and Design major at WVU, Ian is creating the baccalaureate video for the Trinity Class of 2013.

Adrianna Chico '10

As an Elementary Education major at WVU, Adrianna has returned to Trinity as a volunteer in Mrs. Street's fourth grade classroom. Among other duties, she assisted students with one-on-one homework help.

Ryan Wise '11

Ryan has been a great contributor to the Trinity athletic department this past year. He was an assistant coach for the high school girls' soccer team, the head JV basketball coach for the high school girls and an assistant to Coach Cary Woods for the Varsity team.



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

200 Trinity Way • Morgantown, WV 26505



The student-led Night of Worship featured the high school worship team.



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