

# Warrior Express

A Publication of Trinity Christian School

## Principal's Perspective

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Winter/Spring 2012 edition of the Warrior Express! In this issue we are honored to spotlight just a few examples of how Trinity students, teachers, and alumni intentionally advance the school's annual theme of Imitating Christ through community service initiatives and through student-life enrichment opportunities taking place on and off campus.

As you read this issue, we trust that you will discern a heart attitude that bears witness to the conviction that to serve, rather than to be served, is the ultimate imitation of Christ (Mark 10:45). In acknowledging our gifts and talents accordingly, *Educating for Life* becomes so much more than the excelling in academic, athletic, and artistic endeavors. It is in fact the very heartbeat of the school that "prepares God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12).

You may recall that the school's Mission is to help accomplish God's purpose in the lives of students, teachers, staff, and parents as disciples of Jesus Christ, resulting in a positive influence on our community, our nation, and the world. I can think of no better way to fulfill our mission than to see our students and faculty choose to serve others rather than to be served.

In His service,

Johan Pot

Interim Administrator

## Trinity Students: At Your Service

*"Put yourself aside, and put others ahead."*

*Philippians 2:1-4 The Message*

Service. Modeled for us by the ultimate servant, Jesus. Mandated to us by His Word. But how do we facilitate a heart of service in an environment that strives to "Educate for Life?" How does it look in practicality?

This past November, it took the form of students of all grade levels reaching out to needy children by packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Besides shopping for items, they personalized the boxes by wrapping them and writing notes of encouragement to the recipients.

Middle school students were extremely active during the month of December, with each grade hosting Christmas parties. Sixth graders invited students and staff from a local boys' home for games, gifts, and food.

Meanwhile, seventh grade students invited their grandparents, delighting them with refreshments, entertainment, and crafts. Earlier the same week, the eighth graders baked and delivered cookies to the school's neighbors.

These are just a sampling of the various service projects that occur throughout the year. Second graders assembled fleece blankets for patients at WVU Children's Hospital. High school art students joined with kindergarteners to create clay bowls for the purpose of collecting pocket change to be given to a ministry for widows and orphans. When asked about her years of participating in TCS service projects, senior Sahilie Tampoya said the ones that impacted her most were those in which she

saw people being helped directly. "It's like praying for missions, as opposed to actually being present and doing the work," she explained.

Community service is an integral part of the Trinity students' experience. In order to receive a diploma from Trinity Christian School, a student must complete at least 160 hours of community service during their high school career, with an exception made for transferring students. However, the group service projects initiated by the school aren't eligible for inclusion in the graduation requirement. They are part of a larger goal: teaching students to put themselves aside for the benefit of others.



So, have the recipients benefited from the students' efforts? Ask the recent widow who wrote to the class expressing her thanks for the homemade cookies. Listen to the laughter of the students from the boys' home, as they play games during the Christmas festivities. Take a look at the face of the grandparent beaming with pride and emotion while their grandchild serves them.

If you look closely, you may even see the molding of a student into a servant.

## Q & A with Jonathan Gallo, Fifth Grade Teacher

**Q: You have taught in both Christian and public schools. What led you to pursue your career within the Christian school environment at Trinity?**

A: I began my career at Mount Moriah Christian School in Smithfield, PA, teaching a fourth and fifth grade combined classroom. I then decided to pursue my teaching career in the public schools. During those three years in the public schools, I noticed my desire and passion for teaching was diminishing, and I was becoming frustrated. While attending TCS's spring program last school year, I sat in awe as I watched the teachers pray with the students, and observed the good behavior, attitude and talents that the students displayed! I thought to myself, "Wow, I would love to be teaching in this kind of environment again!" I had forgotten how great it was to teach in a Christian school. I applied to TCS and before I knew it, I was hired on staff. Since then, I have loved every moment and saw that God was not just calling me to education, but specifically Christian education.

**Q: One of your passions has been serving through missions. How have these experiences impacted your teaching?**

A: Missions is a huge passion of mine. I have served in Mexico, areas here in America, and to a remote village in the jungle of Papua New Guinea. These experiences have impacted my



relationship with Christ, helping me to have a gracious attitude and demonstrate Christ's love through all that I do.

**Q: Though you have been teaching for 6 years, this is your first year at TCS. What has been your most memorable experience thus far?**

A: The staff, teachers, children, and parents are wonderful, and I consider each as a family member. I have been amazed by the outstanding parental involvement here at TCS. They have blessed me and the school in so many ways! Finally, I feel that each and every day here at TCS is a memorable experience.

Having the opportunity to share Christ's love and to teach academics in a Christ centered atmosphere is something I value and look at as an awesome experience.

## Did you know...

**TCS students Daniel Woods, Abbey Isabell, and Claire Kelly qualified for the Regional Spelling Bee.**



**High school girls enjoy an evening of fun at the Sisterhood "Splash Bash."**

## All Work and No Play

We all know the saying: all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Well, it's true for Jill and the girls, too. The administration and teachers at Trinity recognize the importance of having social events for students.

Who doesn't remember decorating Valentine's Day boxes? Class parties for the elementary students are held, not only on Valentine's Day, but also at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Spirit Days, such as Pajama day and Dr. Seuss day, allow students to show their creative side. The younger students also take off-campus excursions throughout the year to places such as Laurel Caverns, the Pittsburgh zoo, or the local pumpkin patch.

Middle school students always look forward to biannual "Fling" events. These themed evenings are organized by students under the supervision of Middle School teacher, Lori DeVault, and feature video games, group activities, food, and music. Students and faculty alike have great fun with middle school Spirit Days that, in the past, have included Twin Day and "Dress like your Favorite Teacher."

Once in High school, TCS students look forward to the annual Formal. Guys and girls, looking their best, meet for a memorable evening of dinner and dancing at an elegant Morgantown venue, such as the Waterfront hotel or the classic Hotel Morgan. Another highlight for high school girls are the Sisterhood events. Organized by the senior girls, this year's "Splash Bash" found upperclassmen mingling with their younger counterparts over games, food, and lots of laughter. "It was really fun to just hang out with all of the girls and get to know the upperclassmen better," commented a freshman.

Work is important, especially when it comes to education, but having some fun, while building long-lasting relationships, is also an important component of Educating for Life.



## Spotlight on: *The Arts*

### Chapel and Worship Arts

One of the distinguishing elements of Trinity Christian School is the weekly chapel time. Prior to the start of every school year, the Bible teachers and Chapel Director Seth Campbell meet to determine the scripture and theme for the year. The chosen theme is then interwoven throughout the curriculum, and becomes the foundation for all of the chapel messages.

The goal of chapel is to inspire spiritual growth and give application to what is taught in the Bible classes. "We don't want chapel to be a substitute for a church service," said Mr. Campbell. Instead, as students from various denominations join in worship together, it serves to build unity in the school.

Students gifted in music, technology, and drama contribute significantly to the gatherings. At the elementary level, 4th and 5th graders make up two worship teams that alternately serve under the guidance of Rose Ann Hagee. Mrs. Hagee also directs a middle school puppet team that occasionally ministers at elementary chapel.

High school students serve on the worship team, produce videos, and perform skits in the secondary chapel. The participants are mentored by their teachers as to song selection and corporate worship leading, with an emphasis on biblical soundness and unity.

Spiritual Emphasis Week, held in March, was a culmination of the year's theme of "Imitating Christ." Elementary chapel included props, game shows, and guests to make for a memorable week. A first this year, high school students gathered with students from middle school for times of Bible study and discussion. Chapel is an integral tool for building a Christ-centered foundation in the lives of students.

### A Dream Come True

A year ago, if you would have asked Chris Kolar, TCS band teacher and director, what he envisioned for the future of the program, chances are it included a Jazz band. A year later, that is exactly what Trinity has, complete with 16 members.



**Angelo Wolfe, right, performs with fellow TCS band members.**

"The Jazz Band is the first step in offering as many opportunities as we can," said Chris. The band, along with the Middle School concert band, will be competing at the ACSI Academic Day held in April at Trinity.

Additionally, the band will perform at the Region 10 Ratings Festival in Bridgeport and a regional band festival at Cedar Point. After the competition, the band members will have a day of fun in the park to cap off the year, while looking forward to future developments for the Trinity band program.

### *Did you know...*

**Junior Angelo Wolfe received the honor of participating in both the WVU Honors Band and the All-State Band.**



**Art I students with their artwork based on their study of artist Deborah Butterfield's work.**

### First Annual Arts Gala

As a new member of the faculty this year, middle and high school art teacher Beverly Mayle has a vision for giving her students opportunities to develop their own skills, as well as learn to appreciate each other's creative abilities.

Done in cooperation with elementary art teacher, Nettie Pollock, she has organized Trinity's First Annual Arts Gala which will feature artwork from elementary, middle, and high school students. Though it is a fundraiser to purchase materials for the Art department, it is a wonderful opportunity for students to display their artwork for parents, community members, and each other.

In addition to the Gala, TCS students have participated in a self-portrait art contest, with Ali Staud, Sarah Mitchell, Jackie Halapy, Brent Scott, Brandi Flynn, and Becca Broadman receiving recognition for their entries.

# Alumni News

## **Lauren Neely '01**

Lauren is a NASA contractor at Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. As a project manager, her job is to coordinate the Range support for rocket launches, as well as coordinating efforts for other engineering projects she is assigned. She recently finished a mission up at the Poker Flat Research Range outside of Fairbanks, AK. To learn more about it, check it out at <http://lightyears.blogs.cnn.com/2012/02/22/rocket-launched-into-northern-lights/>

## **Abigail (Kinney) Crawford '05**

A 2009 graduate of WVU Nursing School, Abigail worked in a Level III NICU in Fairfax, VA. She recently resigned from the position to pursue, full time, a master's degree at George Mason University, VA, with the goal of becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner providing care to rural populations. She married her college sweetheart in 2011.

## **Rebecca (Street) Prudnick '06**

After their marriage in 2010, both Rebecca and her husband, Colton, are studying medicine at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. She will be completing her third and fourth years of medical school at Thomas Memorial Hospital in Charleston.

## **Sara (McClymonds) Karsten '06**

A 2010 Wheaton College graduate, Sara married fellow Wheaton alumnus Wesley Karsten in October of the same year. She is employed at Wheaton Christian Grammar School, where she teaches junior high math.

## **Bobby Peters '07**

After serving as a Marine, Bobby is currently studying pre-law at WVU. He and his wife, Kristin, were married in June 2010. This year Bobby returned to Trinity as a Debate teacher and coach. His first year team recently captured numerous honors at the John Marshall Speech and Debate Tournament.

## **Jon Mitchell '09**

Currently a junior at Belmont University in Nashville, Jon recently began an internship at Big Idea Entertainment. As an intern, Jon aids the staff in the production of current VeggieTales episodes, marketing promotions, and web projects. He also assists in the management of Big Idea's library.

## **Amalia Khweis '10**

Amalia is presently studying secondary education at Fairmont State University. Starting next January, she hopes to be interning at a church in South Africa, doing full time ministry. Meanwhile, she has plans to assist international students attending WVU, while continuing her classes.

**Trinity graduates:** We would love to hear from you! To stay in touch and let us know what you're doing, visit [www.tcswwv.org](http://www.tcswwv.org) and click on the "Connect" tab > "Alumni Contact" and fill out the form.



**TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

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**TCS first year Debate Team won honors at a statewide tournament**

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