

# Warrior Express

A Publication of Trinity Christian School

## Superintendent's Perspective



*When I was asked to write my first column for the Warrior Express, I wasn't sure which direction to take. But when I noticed the title of the column, I instantly knew what I wanted to share. Being the new person on campus this semester has afforded me an opportunity I will never have again, to experience all that is Trinity Christian School for the very first time as the new Superintendent.*

*This fresh perspective allows me to "see" things here that no one else seems to notice, the little things that have become taken-for-granted norms of what we do. For example, I clearly remember "seeing" our lunch periods for the first time and realizing what a gift our "lack of cafeteria" truly is. Our secondary students sit outside on picnic tables or in the foyer with teachers and catch up with their friends.*

*Thursdays (secondary) and Fridays (elementary) are our Chapel Days.*

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## Adding New Traditions to Old

Umbrellas lined the Trinity soccer field and peppered the bleachers, shielding fans from a light rain at the start of the first Homecoming game in school history. While the playing field may have been a little slick, the drizzle couldn't put a damper on the festive atmosphere. Under clearing skies, the pep band played the fight song alongside a full student section and supporters of all ages cheered the Warriors on to a shut-out victory over East-Richland.

The Homecoming game was the culmination of a week filled with activities designed to usher in new traditions for Trinity. After the success of the first Homecoming Dance last year, the current



**The Trinity student section cheered on the Warrior soccer team for the Homecoming game.**



**Trinity seniors personally invite faculty and staff to the White Day brunch, a treasured Trinity tradition.**

student body, faculty and administration decided to capitalize on the momentum by adding Spirit Week and the Homecoming Game.

Spirit Week started with students and faculty dressing in a style according to each day's theme which ranged from "Sports Day" to "Twin Day". Fifth-grader Paige Smith thought "Throwback Thursday" was the most memorable. She talked about how the boys dressed like they were from *Grease* and "all the girls had their big hoop earrings on and their leg warmers and stuff."

The fun continued on Friday, as students and staff filled the gym for a pep-rally that included a student versus faculty volleyball match.

"I can't remember the students being as enthusiastic as they were in that particular pep rally," said Secondary Principal Mrs. Debbie Dennis. "It's really encouraging to see students take ownership and bond, form community, and show excitement for the school."

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**Dr. Campbell, Trinity's STEM specialist, interacts with a student in the science lab.**

## Q & A with Dr. Lois Campbell

### What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I love watching students getting excited about science - when they have that a-ha moment in lab - like glow in the dark chemicals or programming a robot!

### What are your favorite activities outside of the classroom?

I have sewn and quilted for over 50 years. I love to can and bake. I also direct a Bell Choir for a church.

### Can you share a fact about yourself that might surprise your students?

I lived and taught school on a Navajo reservation for 4 years. While there, I was an assistant Pow Wow coach for the traditional Native American dancing competitions.

### What is your favorite scripture verse?

My life verse was also my Dad's life verse. It is Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

## Formula for Success

At quick glance, the papers and calculators intermixed with lunch boxes on the desks of students in math teacher Cory Dale's classroom belie the typical learning environment. Between bites of food and light conversation, the high school students work diligently often with the assistance of Mrs. Dale. This is Math Club.

It's easy to see why students join the popular club. As faculty

advisor, Mrs. Dale exudes enthusiasm when discussing the club and its mission. "I want to promote a positive attitude towards mathematics and show students that math can be really fun," she said.

Members meet once a week to work on homework and standardized test strategies in a collaborative environment with Mrs. Dale facilitating. Under her guidance, students have participated in national and international contests in mathematics and computing, including the University of Waterloo International Mathematics Competitions (CEMC) and the American Statistical Association Project Competition.

It isn't surprising that this fruitful environment has spawned another club.

At the end of the 2015-16 school year, math club member Josh Gilliland approached Mrs. Dale about starting a Computing Club. With her support, Josh faithfully mentored one high school student and 4 middle school students in computer coding during lunchtime twice a week and after school once a week.

Not only did Josh pioneer a new club at Trinity, he personally invested in and inspired the five club members.

"He's very, very nice and he helps us whenever we're stuck," said Troy Greskevitch, referring to a particular instance when the members of the club encountered a problem in programming that required a higher level of math.

Due to Josh's efforts, the school was recognized with the Youth Leadership award through the Partners in Education program during their summer luncheon. His legacy will continue as Stuart Gillum, the sole high school club member, will take the helm when the club meets for the first time in November.

The math department has found a formula for success by combining a collaborative environment, a skilled and loving advisor in Mrs. Dale, and a group of hardworking students. The future looks bright for the math and computing clubs at Trinity.



**Last year, Josh Gilliland (L) mentored underclassman Stuart Gillum (R) in Computing Club.**



## New Traditions (cont. pg.1)



### The First Annual Fall Festival attracted over 300 people to the Trinity campus.

The week long celebration ended with the Friday evening game and bonfire followed by the Homecoming Dance on Saturday. Over 70 students and guests attended the dance with a masquerade theme.

The best traditions knit our relationships and deepen our sense of community. Based on that criteria, the first Fall Festival has all the ingredients to become a long-standing event. Complete with outdoor and indoor games, an interactive Fall Walk, face painting, hayride, barrel train, and more, the festival was a great success and attracted over 300 attendees.

We add these new events to a list of treasured traditions that include our Veterans Day Program, the White Day Brunch, the Baccalaureate Dinner, and the eighth grade West Virginia trip. All of these events mark an investment into our unique Trinity culture and identity, helping to build memories that will last for years to come.

## Students Earn High AP Marks

Trinity students recorded AP test scores far above the national average for 2015-16. Adding to the significance of the data, our students who enrolled in an AP class were required to take the national exams while not all AP students at the national or state level took the corresponding exam for that course.

Overall, 89% of Trinity students reached the AP Exam passing rate (3 or higher) compared to the National Average of 59%. Our students also ranked well above the Private School Average of 71%. Congratulations to our students and teachers for their high achievements. Here is a breakdown of test score averages by subject.

AP COURSE	National PR	WV PR	Trinity PR
Biology	60.5%	47%	94%
English Literature	55.3%	46%	100%
Chemistry	52.3%	39%	50%
Calculus AB	59.4%	43%	100%
Human Geography	51.7%	48%	100%
Statistics	60.3%	50%	80%

“PR” signifies “Passing Rate”

## Elementary Robotics

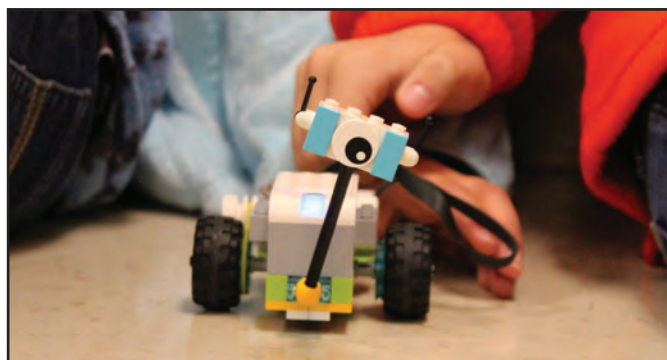
Working in pairs, Trinity fourth-grade students learned engineering skills using iPads and WeDo LEGO Robotics during a recent STEM unit.

“We learned to program,” said Noah Hagedorn, indicating the lab was his first experience with robotics.

Classmate Noah Toler enjoyed the three week unit, expressing, “It was really fun to do.” He and his partner Kayla Trickett built and programmed several robots including a helicopter and an earthquake simulator.

Kayla really liked programming the robots. “You could make it talk; you could make it move backwards, sideways, forward,” she said.

To prepare for the STEM unit, Dr. Lois Campbell received certification through the NASA IV&V Educator Resource Center (ERC) in Fairmont. She will teach another robotics lab with the fifth-grade class in January.



## Superintendent's Perspective (cont. pg.1)

*For those who have been here awhile, it's part of our schedule, that's just what we do. But the first time I got to experience our student-led chapel services, I was moved to tears as I saw the gift that TCS provides our children. They get to worship our Lord during the school day!*

*I often spend time talking with students to understand the school from their perspective. One morning, as I was chatting with a group of students, I asked them why the “We Are Warriors” shirts were so popular. Several reasons were given, but the one that stuck with me came from a student who said, “Ms. Stellato, I wanted one of those shirts because they describe who we are. We are the Warriors. It's our group...our school...what we do. It's kind of like our family motto.” He had no idea how his comments helped to focus my perspective in my new role.*

*When I think about all that our school has been through, from starting in trailers 19 years ago to the remarkable place that it is today, I am truly honored to be welcomed into the family. From my perspective, we ARE the Warriors and this is our family motto. I look forward to seeing what the Lord is going to do in and through Trinity Christian School for many years to come.*

# Alumni News

◆ **Angie Candell (Poag) '05** is a fine art wedding photographer and the owner/operator of La Candella Weddings. Known for her ethereal style, Angie's work has been published extensively online and in print including Whirl Magazine, Bellissima Bride, Gladys Magazine, and Galia Lahav Haute Couture. Angie graduated from Taylor University in 2009 with a degree in Photography.

On a personal note, Angie is the daughter of TCS teacher Joyce Poag. Angie and her husband make their home in Western Pennsylvania.

◆ **Jourdan Hall '10** earned a bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. After taking a year off to gain experience as a Patient Care Technician at UPMC Presbyterian, she resumed her studies as a medical school student at Virginia Tech for the class of 2019.

◆ **Rebecca Berhanu '12** is busy with her current studies as a WVU Pharmacy student. Yet when she heard of the plight of West Virginians from the southern part of the state who were affected by flooding this past June, she was inspired

to help. A talented musician and former TCS Praise Team member, Rebecca wrote and recorded "West Virginia Strong" through Mon Hills Records. The song is available on popular digital or music streaming sites including iTunes, Google Play, Amazon Music, and CD Baby with all proceeds being donated to the flooding relief effort.



**Trinity Graduates:** We want to keep in touch! Please submit your contact information through our website at [tcsww.org/connect/alumni/](http://tcsww.org/connect/alumni/) and like our Facebook alumni page at [fb.me/tcswwalumni](https://fb.me/tcswwalumni). We look forward to hearing from you!



## TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

200 Trinity Way • Morgantown, WV 26505



**The elementary students sang enthusiastically for the annual Veterans Day Breakfast and Program.**



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