



Principal's Perspective

Dear Friends,

How do we "Imitate Christ?" As a school, that is the challenge that we have issued, from the board, to the staff, and on down to the youngest of our students. Based on the second chapter of Philippians, this theme for the 2011-2012 school year has set the tone for some new initiatives within our TCS community. In this issue of the Warrior Express you'll learn more about the Teacher Mentoring and the Advisor/Advisee programs. These have been implemented as vehicles to practically walk out the mandate laid out in Philippians 2:1-4, "Put yourself aside, and put others ahead." And later, "Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand." (The Message)

As a staff, we desire to equip the students to "Imitate Christ," whether it is in the classroom, on the playground, at a sporting event, or in the home.

We know the ability to be more Christ-like can only be born of His grace and power within us. Therefore our theme for the year really becomes our prayer: that we would decrease, so that He might increase. We look forward to partnering with you in this challenge.

Serving Him together,

P. Michael Staud

Administrative Principal

Class of 2011: Leaving a Mark

"I want to leave a legacy. How will they remember me? Did I choose to love? Did I point to You enough to make a mark on things?" Nichole Nordeman

On May 27th, when yet another graduating class walked through the doors of Trinity Christian School for the last time, emotions ran high. Great memories intermingled with excited anticipation for what the coming days would hold.

In that way, the commencement ceremony of the Class of 2011 was no different than those that preceded it. But, this class left its unique mark on the Trinity community. From speeches peppered with humor to the upbeat recession, the ceremony itself reflected the class's fun personality.

However, one shouldn't be fooled by the relaxed atmosphere of the evening. While the class of 2011 knew how to celebrate, they also knew how to work. This class of 26 students amassed an impressive 64 scholarships and over 30 awards of varying types. They excelled in music, sports, and academics. They touched the lives of staff and fellow students with their strong work ethic and their service within the school.

They also touched lives in the community, logging over 5000 community service hours throughout their high school careers. They worked at Chestnut Mountain Ranch, participated in the Adopt-a-Highway Program, and oversaw the school's Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection. Additionally, they conducted a successful Fair Trade Market, raising awareness of the unfair trade practices that contribute to poverty worldwide. In three days, they raised over \$2,700 for the cause.

By now, the graduates of the 2011 class have walked through new doors. In doing so, by the grace of God, the mission of TCS to "help accomplish God's purpose in the lives of students" is being fulfilled.

Have these students, who have left their significant mark on Trinity, been marked, as well? Nathaniel Friend, music major at West Virginia Wesleyan, expressed that "TCS has grounded and propelled me into higher education and prepared me for the ups and downs of life in college, to God's glory." When asked the same question, Allie Beto, a WVU biology/pre-med major, said, "Trinity left a mark on me in many ways. The relationships I formed with my teachers and classmates and the growth I experienced in Christ linger with me. As I have moved outside the walls of Trinity, I realize how fortunate I am to have gained the ability to stand firm in my beliefs."

In fondly reflecting on the Trinity Class of 2011, our prayer remains that alumni and current students alike would continue to cultivate a Christ-centered worldview and "have life and have it more abundantly."



Students shop for jewelry at the Fair Trade Market.

Welcome

Johan Pot, Business Manager

As the new Business Manager, Johan Pot would be the first to say that he has joined the Trinity family as a response to the Lord's call. He, his wife Kelly, and their 4 children are excited to return home to West Virginia after a 17-year absence in Ohio. The Pots are relocating from Cincinnati where Johan was vice president of business development for NFI Industries, one of the nation's leading supply chain logistics organizations.



Prior to being acquired by NFI, Johan served as vice president & general manager of Quick Pak, a promotional packaging services company owned by publicly traded Multi-Color Corporation. Johan's tenure at NFI and MCC was preceded by 5 years of operations planning management at Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works in Columbus, OH. He earned his MBA from West Virginia University after completing a double major in business management and political science at Fairmont State University.

With his extensive experience, Johan is well equipped to fill the role of Business Manager. In this newly created position, he will be overseeing the internal and external fundraising efforts, as well as managing the business arm of the office. But, it was his heart for the Lord, and His work through Trinity, that were the deciding factors in bringing him and his family to the Morgantown area.

The Pots' three daughters, Kasey, Kylie, and Kaylen, all attend Trinity, while Kelly stays home with 2-year-old Jacob. Kelly is passionate about photography, and has a business that specializes in infant and children's photography. Johan's sister, Inez Hill, teaches French at Trinity. So, as an extra blessing, Johan will be going to work with his big sister!

Did you know...

The computer lab has been upgraded with 30 new all-in-one computers and 10 laptops, thanks to a grant from a generous donor.

Spotlight on: Linda Morris

Linda Morris began her career in education by working as a teacher's aide while she finished her degree. Her first classroom experience was spent teaching first and second grade in one room in the Monongalia county public school system. After much prayer, she decided to leave her public school position to serve the Lord in Christian education at Alliance Christian School, teaching first and fourth grades. She has been teaching first grade since the merger of Trinity Christian School and Alliance Christian School seven years ago. When asked what she has liked

the most about teaching, Linda expressed, "My favorite part of teaching at Trinity is leading young children to Jesus; teaching them how to solve problems and show His love to others."

September is always a special time in Mrs. Morris's classroom. The first graders have an entire week devoted to the study of Johnny Appleseed, a missionary who shared the love of God with everyone he met. Math lessons for the week have an apple theme, along with other classroom activities, such as special stories and a movie. The week culminates on "Johnny Appleseed Day", when students dress up in pioneer clothes to celebrate Johnny's birthday and have a taste of some apple treats.

Many lives were touched by Johnny Appleseed's life. In that way, he and Linda Morris have something in common. When she's not touching lives in the classroom, she enjoys reading, crocheting, and volunteering, as well as spending time with Ron, her husband of 43 years. You might even catch a glimpse of them riding through Morgantown on Ron's Harley!



Mrs. Morris and her first grade class on Johnny Appleseed Day.

High School Initiative

Up for Debate

Trinity alumnus, Bobby Peters (07'), returns as the teacher of Debate, a new elective being offered to all students at the High School level. The focus of the class is public forum debate, with an emphasis on apologetics and critical thinking. A former Marine, Bobby is currently studying pre-law at WVU, with minors in Business and Speech Communications. He is also Co-captain of the WVU Policy Debate Team. So why would a man with such full schedule take time to teach this course at Trinity?

Having been in the Marines and in the college environment, Bobby recognizes the need for Christians to understand their faith and to be able to intelligently discuss it in a rational manner. He is passionate about equipping young men and women to know and defend what they believe. In talking with one of the students, it is evident that the class is already making an impact.

Alexis Zini chose to take the Debate class because she felt it would benefit her in preparing for college. However, she has

found a added benefit in the spiritual component of the class. “I never realized that everything we’re learning in a debate class can be applied to our faith,” said Alexis, a sophomore.

The eight students currently taking the class will put their new skills to the test at a tournament at Parkersburg South at the end of October.

Did you know...

The Math curriculum has been updated schoolwide, including electronic math books for third through fifth grades.

Middle School Initiative

Study Skills

For the first time this year, each middle school student will be taking a Study Skills course. This mandatory class, offered at the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades levels, aims to improve each student’s success in school. Guided by their teachers, students will work on organizational skills, understanding their individual learning styles, prioritizing, goal setting, and developing study strategies.

Not only will this course equip students for their current studies, the intention is to help them transition smoothly into the more rigorous high school years.

Schoolwide Initiatives

Teacher Mentor Program

New this year, the Teacher Mentor Program is a professional growth ministry for teachers in their first few years of employment at Trinity. Teachers are matched with a mentor, with whom they meet on a regular basis in order to help identify needs and modify support to those needs. Time is spent in discussing things such as long-term strategies, developing more detailed lesson plans, creative ways to engage students, and Biblical integration.

“Knowing there is another teacher in the school who is taking the time to encourage and pray for me has been a blessing,” said Randy Fraas, a teacher benefitting from the program. “I am glad that TCS has invested in their teachers in such a way.”

Continuing Education Awards

This program, the first of its kind in Trinity’s history, is being established to acknowledge the academic excellence our teachers bring to the classroom. Three teachers, one elementary, one middle school, and one high school, will be awarded a \$500 continuing education grant to help support their commitment and dedication to teaching. Parents, students, and fellow teachers are all encouraged to nominate teachers they believe are creating academic excellence in their classrooms. Nomination forms will soon be available and the grants will be awarded in the spring during Teacher Appreciation week. Please contact the school office if you would like more information on nominating a teacher or contributing to the program.



Students meet with their Advisor for an informal group session.

Secondary Initiative

Advisor/Advisee Program

If you were to visit Trinity on a designated Advisor/Advisee day, you may find a lively group of secondary students chatting or snacking on a bagel while waiting to speak with their advisor. Not unlike traditional academic advising programs, these meetings provide individual mentoring to each student during their middle and high school years. Where the TCS program aspires to be different, is the addition of a spiritual mentoring component.

Occurring once or twice a quarter, the private meeting time gives each student an additional level of academic and social accountability, while affording an opportunity for staff members to encourage and pray with students on a personal level.

Teacher Perspective

Conni Bolen: Learning Moment

Two of the classes I teach here at Trinity, Bible and science, often cross curricular content lines. I recall a time when we were discussing the textbook’s statement that energy cannot be fully understood; we can only see and feel the effects of energy.

I was telling the class that they could not see electricity, but if they touched a live electric wire they would feel the effects of the electrical energy. If a student would flip a light switch, he would be able to see the light energy, etc.

Suddenly, I was interrupted by a student who excitedly exclaimed, “That’s like the wind Jesus talked about. You can’t see it, but you can see what it does.”

I did not mind the interruption at all. It was an “Aha!” moment. Because we had been studying the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in our Bible class, I had planned to use that very illustration for Biblical truth integration with the science lesson. To have a student discover that kind of a connection between a science concept and a Biblical concept was a rewarding moment for me. The discussion that followed was a worthwhile learning experience for students and teacher alike.

Fireworks in School!

Parents, are you aware that teachers and staff members at Trinity are deliberately trying to set off fireworks in school? I'll bet your child did not come home and breathlessly say: "Mom, I went to science class today, we were talking about the stars, and how there are so many of them, and...BOOM! A purple firework went off and... Wow! It was beautiful!" Or, "Dad, I went to sing at choir today, we started a new song, and the director got us all singing in harmony, and then KABLAM! POP! POP! POP! A big red and green firework went off with a bunch of loud bangs."

Before you call the Principal to find out why you have not heard about this, let me explain. The beautiful explosions, colors, and bangs are in your child's heart and mind. Every class, every activity, the chapels, the athletics, and even the simple act of walking into the lobby are all purposefully designed to reveal the light and energy of God. History, math—yes, everything. This is the genius of a genuinely Christian school.

Crucial to your son or daughter coming to this awareness of God's reality and presence is the impact you make on them in your home and church. Are there fireworks at home? Are there fireworks in church? This is not complicated. As you seek to imitate Christ in your personal faith walk in your home, the fireworks of God explode there for your child. As you engage in regular acts of worship with your church, rockets arc across your child's soul. And have you seen the ruckus when the finale of a fireworks show ignites the night sky? That's what happens in your child's soul when home, church, and school reveal the

reality of God in harmony. And it happens when you "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus..." (Phil. 2:5).

Did you know...

Our K - 5th graders are learning Conversational French, in a weekly class that incorporates technology and music.

Fanning the Flame

- 🔥 The school year at TCS starts off with "Koinonia," which combines community service with team-building activities for the various grade levels within the school.
- 🔥 High School students must complete 40 hours of community service per year to graduate. Last year, the 9th-12th graders performed over 5000 hours, combined.
- 🔥 Fall is field trip time! Students have already visited the Pittsburgh Zoo, Duda's Farm, Rich's Farms, and sites throughout the state for the 8th grade West Virginia trip.
- 🔥 The Middle School and High School Choirs held their first "A Sweet Note" fundraiser. This fall celebration featured fabulous entertainment and delicious desserts. You won't want to miss it next year!
- 🔥 Representatives from 6 colleges have already visited Trinity this fall to meet with prospective students, with more visits scheduled. Seniors also attended the College Fair at WVU.



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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