

Fall 2017

A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Warrior Express

Superintendent's Perspective



Joshua 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Our annual theme is appropriate as I think about all that we accomplished last year and all we are embracing as we move the school forward in 2017-18.

Last year we launched a full-day preschool, and reintroduced and expanded our Summer Camp program.

Going in to this year, we decided to make significant investments to upgrade our science and math curricula. Additionally, we introduced individual diagnostic tools in math to identify and accommodate the diverse needs of our students.

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STEM: Aiming High

Admittedly it was a strange sight. A group of students, faces half-covered with protective eye gear and lifted to the sky, seemed riveted by the solar eclipse that held their collective gaze.

Only days into the school year, the school-wide commitment to focus on STEM for 2017-18 was solidified through the shared experience. All grades from kindergarten through twelfth participated, with the older students assisting the little ones in safely viewing the eclipse.

The event was the first of many designed to amplify the annual theme of “Be Strong and Courageous” with a STEM focus. Other activities for the year include a Family Science Night, field trips to WVU planetarium and

farms, and a visit by astronaut Jerry Ross. Ross’s visit, slated for January 2018, will be presented in cooperation with West Virginia University.

Even the English department is taking part by having students in grades six through 12 read “Hidden Figures” by Margot Lee Shetterly as part of their curriculum. The true story, that spawned an award-winning film, centers on African-American women instrumental to the 1940s through 1960s Space Race. Of further interest to students, two of the book’s main characters, Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan, have West Virginia roots.

The year will round out with robotics for the elementary students and a science competition for grades fifth and up.

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The preschool classes enjoyed studying space science during a Kindernaut unit.



Dr. Lauren Neely visits with guests during the 20th Celebration.

Q & A with Alumna Dr. Lauren

Dr. Lauren Neely, member of the first Trinity graduating class of 2001, is a Mission Planner under contract with LJT & Associates, Inc.. LJT & Associates is currently the prime contractor for the Range Operations Contract at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. We thank Lauren for sharing her story.

Q: Do you recall a moment in time that you knew you wanted to study space exploration?

A: I first got interested in NASA in the summer of 1994. I went to see the movie Apollo 13 and absolutely fell in love. I walked out of that movie wanting to work in Mission Control. From that point on, I got my hands on as many space-related things as I could.

Q: Did any particular person inspire you to pursue your field of study or career?

A: I can't think of any one person. It really was the movie Apollo 13 that inspired me to pursue engineering. At some point, I decided I wanted to be an astronaut and someone told me that astronauts were basically mechanical engineers in space, so I sort of vectored my career towards engineering from then on. I didn't end up attempting the astronaut route, but I did end up getting my bachelors in electrical engineering.

Q: Were you ever afraid that your dreams were out of reach? If so, how did you overcome that and how would you advise our students?

A: Like most college students, fear of failure was a pretty constant companion throughout my undergraduate years. A more recent example came as I was working on my PhD. I had made some really good progress when I sort of slammed into a wall. It really felt like I was staring up at a sheer cliff face and I couldn't go any further. Something inside me said, "Just start climbing. Don't look at the top; look for the first hand hold," so that's what I did. I worked with my advisor and started slowly putting the pieces together and a few months later, I was suddenly

at my thesis defense. I guess my best advice is just don't quit. It may feel like everything is against you and there is no way forward, but you may be surprised by what can be accomplished if you just keep pushing.

Q: How did your education from Trinity help to mold you into the person you are now?

A: I think the best thing about Trinity is that it provided a safe environment for me to learn. I was able to focus on my dreams because Trinity removed a lot of the other worries that high school students have to deal with. I was in a class with a bunch of driven people and we all motivated each other to do well. You could tell people really cared about you as a person, both your spiritual life and your academic life. I probably didn't realize it at the time, but having that support system really gives students their best possible chance at success.

Celebrating 20 Years



Dr. Nabil Jabbour and Dr. Greg and Catherine Wroblewski look at a photo from 1997.

Laughter and lively conversation filled the school lobby when approximately 150 people gathered on Saturday, September 30, to reconnect and commemorate 20 years since Trinity High School was founded in 1997.

School founders, former and present board members, faculty, staff, and alumni were among those who shared memories, viewed memorabilia, and attended a brief program honoring those who have invested into the school through the years.

The celebration was held during Homecoming weekend, a tradition that continues to grow at Trinity.



Guests examine items on a time line.

STEM (cont. pg.1)

The commitment to STEM extends past the activities of this school year. The school launched a new science program (Full Option Science System – FOSS), which allows for hands-on, minds-on science curriculum that incorporates a variety of STEM topics including Gravity and Kinetic Energy and Earth and Space Science.



The kindergarten students, accompanied by teacher Jodi Shoemaker, gather colorful leaves for a FOSS project.

Trinity Royalty

For the first time in school history, high school students elected a Homecoming court, adding a new tradition to a growing list of Homecoming festivities at Trinity.

After being named to the court by their peers, members were honored at half-time of the Homecoming soccer game. Molly Rubenstein and Kellen Alderman were named Queen and King at the Homecoming Dance the following night.

The students selected for the court are (below L to R) junior escort and attendant Caleb Rice and Reagan Sharp; senior escorts and attendants Cameron Kellar, Brianna Wightman, Kellen Alderman, Molly Rubenstein, Joseph Zini, Emily Saurborn, Frankie Kerekas, and Yohanna Berhanu; sophomore escort Joshua Rosen; freshman attendant Katie White; and sophomore attendant Gabriella Johnson. Missing from picture: freshman escort Mason Steptoe.



Golf Team Competes at States



2017 Trinity Golf Team – Photo courtesy of Superior Photo

The Trinity golf team looks forward to the 2018 season after experiencing growth and success in 2017. On their road to the state tournament, the team placed third at OVAC and second in both the Mason Dixon and regional tournaments.

Junior Mark Spruill was the Mason Dixon low medalist and the OVAC runner up. In referring to his and the team's achievements, Mark said, "It was a really good season, but at the same time it offered a lot of new challenges. It was really exciting to get to go to States because it finally felt like you've achieved something."

Coach Mike Baldy commended his team while expressing optimism about next season. "Those kids worked hard to become much better golfers and they were rewarded with a state tourney appearance," he said. "With our entire top eight back next season, we are extremely excited about what we could accomplish."

Superintendent's Perspective (cont. pg.1)

We are focusing on experiential learning through meaningful field experiences at all grade levels including an academic trip to Washington, D.C., for the entire high school this March.

We continue to cultivate social and spiritual development. We added to our Homecoming tradition (read "Trinity Royalty"), created a new family mentor program, expanded elementary sports, and added a Middle School Life committee. We introduced Mentor Mondays as a commitment to the value of older students leading the younger ones and also reinstated the position of Chaplain.

We recognize that it is only by His strength and power that we can accomplish all these initiatives and more.

*Please join me in praying for our school and that we will continue to be **strong and courageous** in all He is leading us to do!*

Alumni News

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

20 Year Celebration



Over a dozen alumni, some accompanied by spouses or family, attended the 20 Year Celebration. It was great to reconnect, and we want to keep the momentum going! With the support of our board of directors, we welcome your input and support to form Trinity's alumni association. To ensure success, we need your help to reach out to graduates, and create and run alumni events. Please contact Kimber Morgan at kmorgan@tcsww.org if you are interested in being part of the alumni group. Don't forget to update your contact information at tcsww.org/connect/alumni. Like our page on Facebook at facebook.com/tcswwalumni/.



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Trinity Christian School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic or other school administered programs.

School Advancement Updates

Fall 2017



Mortgage Elimination Challenge (MEC) Launch!

We have launched our Mortgage Elimination Challenge again this year to drive Trinity Christian School forward to being mortgage-free. We have asked all of our board members, staff members, and parents to prayerfully consider continuing or making a monthly commitment toward our MEC.

All gifts count! Through monthly commitments and one-time contributions, our goal is to build upon and increase the participation and gifts we received in 2016. Giving information and forms are available in the school office.

ISO Sponsor for Astronaut Guest Speaker

We are seeking a corporate sponsor to bring in Astronaut Jerry Ross. On Tuesday, January 30, students will learn about Dr. Ross's experiences in space and have an opportunity to ask questions for Dr. Ross. The total cost of bringing Dr. Ross to Morgantown will be shared with WVU, and the fee for Trinity is \$3,000.

If you know of a business that may be interested in this sponsorship opportunity, please call or email our Secondary Principal, Debbie Dennis, at ddennis@tcsww.org.

Corporate Sponsorships

As part of our annual advancement plan, we welcome businesses to partner with us as a corporate sponsor! Corporate Sponsorships are an annual financial commitment opportunity with specific benefits according to the level of commitment. In our Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities packet, there is also information about advertising options.

Already, we have corporate sponsors at all levels!

Lead Warrior Sponsors

CityNet
BMEC, Inc.
Jack's Recycling

Courageous Warrior Sponsors

Anderson Excavating
Laurel Aggregates

Honorable Warrior Sponsors

Falcon Consulting & Management
Cira & Associates Consulting
GreenPro Environmental

Please contact kmorgan@tcsww.org to receive a Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities packet.

Giving Thanks!

In addition to our new corporate sponsors, we thank God for several, unsolicited donations totaling more than **\$10,000** to benefit the girls basketball team, the Trinity soccer team, our Chapel technology updates, and the purchase of a new Promethean Board.

Praise God for the many ways He provides for our needs at Trinity!

Read more updates on the back! ►►►



Hoop-A-Thon

Our Hoop-A-Thon fundraiser by student sponsorship will be on Friday, March 2 during the school day. For the Hoop-A-Thon, students gather supporters who will sponsor them on a per-hoop donation basis or a one-time commitment. Students in grades Pre-K through 12 will then shoot as many hoops as they can in a set amount of time.

To be a supporter or to be a volunteer hoop counter or time keeper during the Hoop-A-Thon event, please contact jsheffstall@gmail.com.



Fall Festival 2017

Thank you to all of our families who attended, staff members who volunteered, and students who volunteered to make our Fall Festival a fun event! We hope families enjoyed time together and walked away with fun, fall memories. We saw about 400 people come out and enjoy the activities and raised about \$5,000.

Thank you to our sponsors **Clear Mountain Bank, Laurel Mountain Orthodontics, and Valley Healthcare** for sponsoring our Fall Festival!



Pavers and Bricks

Leave a legacy for the next generation by purchasing an engraved brick or paver on the walkway that will be located by the newly constructed pillars on our campus. We are accepting pre-orders now. To ensure placement for the first installation in the Spring of 2018, orders must be received by January 31, 2018.

Please email jkelly@tcsww.org for a brick and paver order form.

Scrip: Shop and Fundraise!

Scrip gift cards are a great win-win way to support Trinity! With Scrip, purchase gift cards at face value from your choice of hundreds of retailers, such as Starbucks, Amazon, and Target. You spend the gift cards in lieu of cash or credit on items you already purchase. Trinity will then receive a percentage for each gift card you purchase! It's easy!

Simply complete a Scrip order form with your payment and receive your gift cards within the following week!

Download a Scrip order form and see other fun and easy ways to support Trinity under "Other Ways to Support" at tcsww.org/connect/ways-to-give.

Questions?

If you have any questions about school advancement, donations, or how to get involved at Trinity, please contact one of our Advancement staff members at 304-291-4659.

Trinity Christian School

tcsww.org

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