

October - December

Volume 20-04



Trinity Academy News

From the Administrator's Desk: Mr David Murray

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:1-5).

The Word, which was from the beginning, is the source of life. It is in that life that all men can come to find the light, hope, and understanding of Christ. This light has entered into the world, as a man, not to be overcome with the darkness of evil, unbelief, and death, but rather He came to make children of light. John 12:36 says, "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of the light." As the days of the season are diminished and while nightfall is always around the corner, we yearn for the brightness and warmth of the sun. This intense desire for the natural sun is but a shadow of mankind's hunger for true light.

When we meet Christ, we move out of the darkness and enter into that light. Moreover, we become part of the family of light - we are children of the light! "Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8). As kindred of radiance, we are nurtured in the light of Christ. We are strengthened through His written Word, restored through prayer, and encouraged through fellowship with our siblings. And like Christ and because we are in Christ, we cannot be overcome by the gloomy hopelessness of corruption. The battle already has a declared victor - Christ is triumphant! And we, as His children, inherit the same Spirit, that is the Spirit of luminosity to cut through the darkness. Know that as a child of light in Christ, you cannot be overcome.

Highlights

Logic School Retreat, Friday and Saturday, October 2nd -3rd

At the end of our two-week hiatus, we hosted our second annual Logic and Rhetoric school retreat. This respite gave our TA 7th-10th graders an opportunity to grow individually and corporately; it was a time for our students and teachers to fellowship and focus on God. This year's theme of "Faith: Moving Mountains" from Matthew 17 centered on the importance of faith in Christ as a means to be bold in the Christian walk. Our prayer is that we continue to see growth in the lives and the students' hearts in the coming days, months, and years. We would also like to thank our anonymous donor who paid for food and lodging for this year's retreat at the spacious and beautiful LaMoine Christian Service Camp in Tennessee, IL.

Upon **resuming classes on October 5th**, we issued Trinity Academy masks on lanyards for all students and teachers as part of our uniform code. Masks have been worn in hallways, in the classrooms (as directed by the teachers), and in large gatherings (recitations, assemblies, etc.). We have partnered with parents in decision making for mask-wearing protocol, in order to keep our families healthy and to keep joyful learning at the forefront of every class.



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Pastor Appreciation Day, Thursday, October 22nd

Pastor Appreciation Day looked somewhat different this year. Instead of inviting our church leaders to join us at the school, we created an engaging video and wrote cards showing our appreciation for these influential people. For the video, students were asked questions such as, "what is your pastor's name?" –most students knew this; "what do you like most about your pastor?" and "what does your pastor do all day?" Answers ranged from sweet and funny to profound. Most students like their pastors because they are 'funny and nice', and most don't know but think maybe he preaches all day. Some would like to give their pastors a hug. Throughout, the message was clearly communicated that our students' pastors are loved, needed, and much appreciated. To view this video, go to <https://youtu.be/X1aAKpqNidE>

Vendor Fair, Saturday, October 31st

This event was hosted by Angela Hance of Dough Delights and took place at Trinity as in other years, in order to give vendors the opportunity and venue to sell their wares this year. Vendors and shoppers were delighted to participate, even while masking and social distancing. We were blessed that Dough Delights brought in \$1,680 for TA through this fair. Thank you to Angela for organizing and implementing this event.

Pie Fundraiser, October / November

This year Trinity Academy worked with Lee's Baker situated in Roseville, IL to fundraise by selling handmade fruit-filled pies. As pie delivery was scheduled close to Thanksgiving, pie sales far exceeded our expectations. Due to the number of orders, we even had to discontinue sales after a time. Families and friends raised \$4,220, making this 'event' a huge success! We are so appreciative to everyone for selling, purchasing, and helping to distribute the pies. Surprisingly, it was as easy as pie . . .

Service Day, Tuesday, November 17

Armed with rakes and brown bags, students once again headed north to help community members wage war on fallen leaves. There was a lot of mirth and beaming smiles, as Trinity students cheerfully labored at this task in the community, with teachers and parents toiling alongside. Students were so joyful during the day that they actually broke out in song! We are grateful to all those families that joined us this year in this endeavor. It turns out that a few more adults make the work much lighter!

Christmas Program, recorded on Thursday, December 10th

As with other events, we did not hold an in-person concert, but rather recorded the program on video. Standing on bleachers in the gym, wearing their uniforms and Trinity masks, students recited scripture and sang from their hearts songs of worship and adoration for Christ our King. Besides some traditional Christmas songs, we heard students in grades 7 - 10 recite John 1:1-12 in Latin; 3rd grade students reciting a poem about honoring Christ at Christmas, written by one student's grandfather in 1962 when he was twelve; and grade-level band performances including an upbeat rendition of several well-known Christmas tunes. Although we weren't



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able to attend this year's performance, this video will be much appreciated as part of our history in years to come.

Archery Tournament, Saturday, December 12th

Participating in an in-house (intramural) archery tournament, our students competed against each other in three tiers: grades 4-6, 7-8, and 9-10. Within those brackets, we gave gold, silver, and bronze medals. Students were enthusiastic to show what they could do and are proving themselves to be quick learners and soon-to-be skilled archers.

Caroling, Tuesday, December 22nd

Early in the morning, families and teachers met in one of three locations to participate in Christmas caroling in our local communities. Desiring to share the cheer of exuberant voices with community members who may not have to opportunity to get out, we met to carol outside some the local nursing homes in Macomb and Rushville. Wearing festive garments, we sang out our praises in our best voices, bringing Christmas warmth to those gathered nearby to listen. The caroling was amazing! The folks in the nursing homes were extremely appreciative. Many were singing along through the windows (some with tears) and great big smiles— some of them grandparents to our students. Upon arriving back at school, parents coordinated class parties involving Christ-centered discussions and fun activities, such as painting Christmas trees with feet, charades, races and competitive balloon popping.



Thanksgivings

It has been wonderful to be able to meet in person most of the autumn term. Students, teachers and parents are so happy when the doors of the school are open and regular activities can transpire. We thank God for good health as we have implemented safety measures this year. And we thank him for our administrator, teachers, and other staff who have been so gracious, courageous, flexible, and unified in the midst of the uncertainties of this past year.

We are so thankful to Scot Williamson for his expertise and willingness to produce quality media productions of Trinity events. This year especially he has put in extra time and effort filming and editing our Christmas program and producing the Pastor Appreciation Day video.



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A big thank you goes to Erik and Claire Monteen for their work in getting the boiler up and running! We are thankful for a warm building at the beginning of the cold season.

During our Christmas break, internet service was expanded to the north and south end of the school building allowing all teachers to have access. Thank you to Schuyler/Industry School for donating the equipment and to Bob Osborne and Mark Sullivan for installation.

Our TPO, our parent organization, has truly excelled this year! They have kept the teacher workroom stocked with food and drink; help decorate hallways and classrooms; participate in activities such as community service and caroling; and are ready to help with anything we need.

The End-of-Year Giving Campaign has been a tremendous success. Each year end we send out letters to request prayer and financial support for Trinity Academy. This letter helps us to find potential donors who in turn help to bridge the gap between the cost of educating students and what TA charges families. Though we have been incredibly blessed this year to meet in person, we have not been able to hold our normal fundraisers, so this campaign has been a tremendous help especially this year. So far, we have raised just over \$30,000 towards our \$35,000 goal! We are especially thankful for those who provide matching gifts. We are humbled and amazed at Gods' provision through the generosity of those who are moved to give to and pray for this mission.

We are thankful to those of you who care for us in so many ways. Thank you for your prayers and support. God bless you all!

Needs and Opportunities

As always, but especially in the following months, we ask for continued, insistent, faithful prayers for wisdom, clarity, unity, safety, and good health for all children, parents and staff.

As the terms of several members of the board will end within the year, we look for others willing and called to serve in this capacity, which is a great blessing to all they serve and to themselves as well. If you feel God leading you to this ministry, contact Claire Monteen at directors@trinityeagles.org.

John 1:9-10

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God . . .

