



## Trinity Academy News

### From the Administrator's Desk: Mr. David Murray

In the month of October, all students from Preschool to our Rhetoric School, memorized Romans 8:5-8, an endeavor that I have found to be highly rewarding in my personal life and in conversations with my students. In this specific portion of Romans, Paul presents a clear dichotomy — the mind that is set on the flesh vs. the mind that is set on the Spirit. A natural person (in the flesh) has the mind inclined toward sin with all its accoutrements. The objective is to have one's own way. To be in the flesh is to have a wanton independent spirit apart from the will of God. This is the natural way that ultimately leads to death. What is done in the flesh cannot please God.

The other way, the supernatural way, is to have the mindset of the Spirit. It is the Spirit that produces fruit. It is the way of life and peace. It is only by the Spirit of Christ that we can please God. To have the mind of the Spirit is to rely on the moment-by-moment prompting of the One who dwells in us. Those who are the sons and daughters of God, have the Spirit of God. We are a new creation, apart from the flesh, that belongs to the divine. We no longer need to be governed by the flesh with all its inclinations.

What wonderful truths to contemplate in our quiet times! We are His. Let us lean in to hear His voice.

### Highlights

#### **Staff Development, October 15**

Most of our TA teachers traveled to Naperville Christian Academy to meet and visit with our co-laborers in Christ, to see how they conduct classes, as well as to metaphorically compare our 'house' to their 'house,' which was validating. We are thankful that they planned the day, fed us a hearty lunch, and gave us the freedom to move throughout the school and to ask questions. We gleaned a lot from this visit, as it stimulated a lot of thought and conversation.

#### **Debate Tournaments, October 16 and December 11**

We have recently established a debate team spearheaded by Mr. Day. Six Logic/Rhetoric School students participated in our first extramural debate tournament on the WIU campus. In this full-day online debate, our students did very well as they acclimated to this style of competitive debate. One of our students got 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the novice category.

Our second venture into this arena took place at the Thunder Invitational Debate Tournament at Belvidere North (near Rockford). Three of our students enjoyed this particularly rigorous and competitive debate. Though we did not place in the competition, it was an excellent experience for everyone involved.

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#### **Pastor Appreciation Day, October 21**

This year we once again met (in person, unlike last year) to give thanks to our area pastors, especially those of churches our students attend. The student program began the day, followed by a banquet of food, provided by our TPO, and fellowship time with our staff and students. During the program, Mr. Stinnett gave a message and led worship; Mrs. Chatterton led the program; Mrs. Lampitt led call-outs; and Ms. Helmich led the students through the 'history of the world timeline.' Later in the afternoon, our homeroom teachers led classroom activities. We are thankful for all these as well as for our parent volunteers who gave of their time to make this a special day for our ministry leaders.

#### **Hess Family Fall Harvest Party, October 30**

TA families and staff were welcomed to the annual Hess family Fall Harvest Party. A delicious meal of roast steer along with many other foodstuffs was provided and brought by those families who attended. Everyone also enjoyed good conversation, pleasant weather, hayrides, a bonfire, and music by "The Rocking Papas."

#### **Shadow Day, November 4**

Trinity Academy hosted a shadow day for prospective families on Thursday, November 4. A shadow day is an opportunity for prospective students to spend part of the day at Trinity Academy and experience firsthand what it is like to be a TA student. Children that shadow are paired with a TA student as they attend classes and get a true feel for student life at Trinity Academy. We have had one student who attended this shadow day who has since joined TA for the second semester.

#### **ILMEA All-District, November 11**

We congratulate those Trinity students who were nominated to join in the ILMEA All-District 4 Festival Choirs. These students participated and performed in an all day event held at Western Illinois University, Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. These nominated were:

**Senior Chorus:** Brenna Chatterton

**Junior Chorus:** Aimee Howerter, Anna Dixon, Reagan McKim

**Elementary Chorus:** Boston Overstreet, AnnaMary Chatterton, Hadassah Chatterton, Miriam Monteen, Moses Monteen, Rayelynn Moore, Jaycie Stambaugh, Emily Dixon

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### Christmas Program, December 9

This evening was delightful, with meaningful selections of music and recitation, well-performed instrumentation, beautiful solos, melodious harmonies, and enthusiastic participation. The performance was well-attended by families and community members, who all heard of the grace and love of Christ in song and scripture. The students continue to learn and grow musically under the tutelage of Mrs. Chatterton, with much help from Ms. Watkins, their parents and homeroom teachers. The program was filmed and edited and uploaded to YouTube, for anyone who missed it.

During the intermission, the Village President of Industry, Staci Danner, presented plaques to Chris Trotter and Mr. Murray to show their support and encouragement of what we bring to the Industry community.



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### Academic Highlights

#### **Institute for Excellence in Writing**

At Trinity Academy we use the IEW (Institute for Excellence in Writing) curriculum, starting in 3rd Grade and continuing to employ its writing principles through the Rhetoric School. We have found that IEW creates a solid and sophisticated writing foundation. In our August and September co-teacher training sessions, Mrs. Spangler reviewed this curriculum and explained how it is utilized in the classroom. After these sessions, some of the co-teachers requested additional resources to help learn and navigate the process, which was readily provided.



#### **Special Services**

We have hired Reading Specialist, Courtney Caldwell, to help some of our students. She has done an excellent job working in conjunction with teachers and parents to identify needs and implement strategies that will help students to read at grade level. Also new to TA is our Speech Language Pathologist, Krista Groenewold, who has evaluated and is working to provide speech services to several students.

Additionally, we have been looking into programs that assist students who have special needs, something that has been on our heart for a long while. We gleaned some useful information in discussion during our visit with staff at Naperville Christian Academy and will continue to search for useful tools to use in our programming in the future.

### Thanksgivings

#### **Trinity Parent Organization (TPO)**

The TPO has gone out of their way to lavish the staff and office with food and gifts this year. They have purchased items, including new Keurigs and other equipment, for the teachers' workroom, the office, and for the kitchen. We are blessed to have such a supportive, prayerful, and giving family of parents.

#### **Grants**

In December, through an **Ameren Grant**, our lights and light fixtures in the gym, classrooms, and the exterior canopies were all replaced / renovated. The grant covered the entirety of the nearly \$45,000 cost (parts and labor). It is estimated that this remodel will save about \$5,000 annually in energy costs.

We have been awarded the **Video Storytelling and Social Media Training Grant** by the Tracy Family Foundation in the amount of \$4,000. This money is earmarked for equipment, training, and to increase our social media influence.

Also provided by the Tracy Family Foundation, **The United States Rural Schools Safety Project Grant** of \$5,000 will provide our staff with training regarding how to deal with major catastrophes and how to best work with other schools in the area during an emergency.



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### **Other Gifts**

Additionally, we are blessed to be the recipients of so many gifts given during our annual fund drive as well as support given regularly and some anonymous one-time gifts. Although we acknowledge these provisions as prompted by our Lord, we are thankful to all of you who hear his voice and follow his leading in praying and giving. We are especially blessed that you see his hand in what we do.

### **Upcoming Events**

Trinity Academy's whole school **Science Fair** will be held on Monday, February 14 from 2:00 to approximately 3:00 PM. All families and visitors are welcome.

On Saturday, February 19, Trinity Academy will have its annual **Chili Supper** and silent auction. Food is served beginning at 4:30 PM, and the silent auction begins at 4:30 and ends at 6:00, 6:30, and 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

### **Needs and Opportunities**

#### **Grain Donations**

We are excited to announce that we have set up an account with Russell Grain, Inc. Farmers and local community members can now donate loads of grain to Trinity Academy through this relationship with Russell Grain. It is a simple way to make a lasting difference. And we received our first grain donation in November! We are very grateful!

#### **Amazon Smiles**

If you shop on Amazon or are an Amazon Prime customer, sign in first to smile.amazon.com. Log in and then select Trinity Academy, Industry, IL as your charitable organization. A small percentage of each purchase will go towards supporting Trinity Academy.

#### **Prayer**

Please keep praying for all the staff, students, and their families at TA. We have several students and family members of staff who are suffering from chronic illnesses. Please pray for God's mercy and healing for these members of our community.

#### **Board Positions**

We have open seats on the board. If you are being led to serve God in this way or just want to find out more about it, contact Kea Runyan at [directors@trinityeagles.org](mailto:directors@trinityeagles.org)

*Psalm 96:1-3*

*"Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!*

*Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!"*



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