



Trinity Academy News

From the Administrator's Desk: Mr David Murray

Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

After the death of Moses and days before marching into the Promised Land, God gave this command and promise to Joshua. He was told not to fear, not be dismayed, but to be strong and courageous. These were mandates for the newly advanced commander of the Jewish people. Apprehension and timidity were not options for the one leading the charge.

And yet, there was assurance provided from the true and chief King, "the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Though Joshua had proved faithful and had put his trust in God, these words were given to him and to us as a declaration of God's trustworthiness.

This passage is a reminder that trust in God's consistency and faithfulness is vital to true courage. Joshua knew this truth and was used mightily for God's Kingdom. Neither Joshua's individual strength nor ours accounts for much when the battle-lines are drawn. However, strength in faith, true strength in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10), shakes the foundations of the world.

This promise is still available to all Christians. Here are a couple other Bible verses that uphold this truth:

- Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
- 2 Timothy 1:7, "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."
- Matthew 28:20 [b], "... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

May we serve with courage so that we might display His great glory. "Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11)

Beginning of School / New this Year

Bible Theme

This year our Trinity Family is studying the Old Testament heroes of the faith. As we walk the life the Lord has purchased for us, we are observing the valiant lives of those who have gone before us by examining their examples of faith. Although each OT hero was outstanding in faith, courage and steadfastness, we are honing in on one specific trait that characterized each one of them. For example, in September, we learned about Joshua's courage, while Ruth's loyalty has been our focus in October. Throughout the school year, we will devote a month to David's thankfulness, Isaiah's trust, Gideon's valor, Esther's compassion, Nehemiah's perseverance, Elijah's passion and Joseph's faithfulness. Our hope is that all of us will better learn to emulate these virtues in our own walk with the Lord.

Math and Reading Assessments

Within the first couple weeks of school, we assessed all of our students' math abilities in order to make recommendations for math placement and better serve the students. Additionally, Mrs. Caldwell with some of the Grammar School's homeroom teachers, assessed the lower Grammar School's students' reading levels. The results were telling and the data helps us to better serve these students and their families. Overall, the large majority of our students are at or above grade level in math and reading.

HELD program

We have hired Abbie Heitz, certified in Special Education, to work with students who will benefit from HELD services (Helping Educate those with Learning Disabilities). The HELD program will provide students who have learning difficulties with individual education plans and specialized instruction. We have thought and prayed about providing these services for a while and we are pleased to see this program put in place at long last.

Classroom Beautification

Our teachers have dedicated a lot of time and energy to decorate and beautify their classroom in preparation for this school year. We've painted walls and ceilings, hung pictures, arranged furniture, and laid rugs, in order to furnish cozy sitting areas in parts of our classrooms. The school looks so much more inviting and, in some rooms, more classical.

Co-Teacher Fellowship

In order to provide additional ways of communication between classroom teachers and co-teaching parents, we have begun to implement co-teacher fellowships this fall. This is a venue in which parents meet with the Homeroom Teachers (K-12th Grades) to fellowship, to encourage, and to share concerns over coffee and doughnuts. These fellowship sessions are loosely structured, begun with prayer, in which teachers share what is going on in their current classrooms, with co-teachers and parents encouraged to share positive feedback, ask questions, and voice concerns that might otherwise go unspoken. Our first get-togethers were in September and will continue throughout the school year.

Trinity Academy Gumdo Eagles

Interested students in 6th grade and above attended the first ever class of Koryo Gumdo, taught by Mr. Adams. Koryo Gumdo is a Korean sword skills class that literally means "The Way of the Sword." The September 12th exhibition covered the basics of sword fighting and weapons safety. The goal of this event was to gauge student interest in forming an after-school sword fighting class. There was enough interest to begin this club which will meet regularly when school is in session.

Chess Club

Trinity Academy's Chess Club is off to a great start. The club meets every Thursday after dismissal from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Students, teachers, and their families are offered a chance to learn and play chess. We know this club will help to foster creativity and problem-solving skills, as well as nurture relationships.

Highlights



Logic and Rhetoric School Retreat, September 16th and 17th

This year's retreat was completely different from previous years' retreats. We had the opportunity to stay at the Miller family's "Refuge," where we focused on team building and teamwork. Students were given three challenges throughout the retreat that emphasized communication, imagination, and comradery. On Friday evening, the students' skills were put to the test for our "Strike a Match" challenge where they were to build a fire and cook food that would be taste-tested by our sponsor judges. That evening we had a time of worship and were blessed by hearing Mr. Adam's testimony.

The next morning, we broke off into groups and each of our upper-class students led their group in a time of devotion. We were then led on a beautiful "faith walk" through the woods, by Mr. Day and Mrs. Spangler, who had mapped out and planned a "Walk-through the Bible" hike. We were led along natural structures as the leaders related biblical truths that correspond with our "heroes

of the faith" theme for this year.

After lunch and a time of swimming and exploring, students were put to the test a second time during the "Bushcraft Bungalow" challenge. Students were divided into three teams and were required to build a shelter out of natural materials. Their shelters were put through three tests: Hurricane (Mr. Day slapping the shelter with a large piece of cardboard); Monsoon (Mr. Murray throwing a bucket of water on the shelter); and Earthquake (Mr. Adams otherwise testing the structural integrity). It was very impressive to see what these students could do in a



short period of time.

However, the main event where students' creativity, comradery, and teamwork came into focus was the "Boat Regatta." Students could only use cardboard, tarp, and duct tape to build a boat worthy to race in the regatta. After a while, their hard work and determination come to fruition! After multiple heats, a consolation bracket, and a championship race, the USS Victorious came out on top with both the fastest time and championship!



July - September

Volume 22-03

We are so grateful to have spent this time with our students. Their excitement and joy are heartwarming. We are thankful for your prayers and support as we continue to seek His will and His direction to best invest in the treasures He has entrusted to us. The Lord is good, all the time!

Smiles Day Parade in Rushville, September 23rd

Our students participated in their first marching band competition through the Smile's Day parade in Rushville, IL. We had very good TA representation with many parents, students and staff in attendance and good weather, though it threatened rain (but didn't). The students took first place in the small schools category and won second place overall! As part of the awards, the marching band was given \$200 in prize money, which will be used by the music department.



4th Grade Classroom Spotlight (Mrs. McDonald)

The first quarter for 4th grade has gotten off to a great start. As all grammar school classes began their science classes studying the Scientific Method, we chose to investigate the question, "What happens when a gummy bear is left in water?" Students enjoyed using all their senses (even hearing) to observe the traits of the gummy bears, both before and after sitting in water for three days. Our fourth grade scientists were pleased when their results confirmed their hypotheses. If you don't want to soak a gummy bear in water yourself, find a TA 4th grader to explain what happens.



www.trinityeagles.org

Humanities 11/12 Spotlight (Mrs. Monteen)

Recently, our six upper-level students took up the great dilemma of Mary Shelley's masterpiece, Frankenstein: Should Victor, at his created monster's demand, have produced a female companion? At the beginning of class, they were divided into two teams and given the task of arguing the affirmative or negative. Strong reasoning emerged on both sides of the debate. "Only God creates life. The monster is not human, but evil evidenced by his murderous rage. Victor Frankenstein should never create another being." "The monster has displayed both consciousness and moral understanding, two solely human characteristics. As God intended ALL creatures to live in relationships, to deny the monster a companion would go against the created order." Mr. Murray presided as judge and declared the negative position winners by the slimmest margin. This debate helped students relate to the characters of the novel, carefully consider universal questions of truth, and hone their rhetorical skills of persuasion. It was also a rousing good time.

Thanksgivings

We are always grateful to the Lord for his protection and provision and especially for the joy he brings us daily as we learn and teach. We are thankful for the openness of these students to God's word and the simple trust they have in his faithfulness. We are thankful for all of our dedicated teachers who love the Lord and the children he has entrusted into our care.



Fundraising Profits

Once again, two fundraising efforts were successful. Thursday, September 8, we held the Raffle Drawing for the donated Jeep, which netted \$10,150 in ticket sales. Our TPO also sold Mums once again, bringing in \$3,593 plus a \$750 donation.

Laptop Donation (9/2)

Bryce Phillips, a community member from Ingraham, IL, has graciously donated 20 laptops to Trinity Academy. He works in IT at a hospital and has made it his mission to take their discarded laptops and repurpose them for Christian missions. Here is what he said regarding his donation, "I have been so blessed that I have been able to help in this capacity. I am not a member of any particular missions group, as I do this on my own. I have felt led over the last several years to rebuild these computers for use in God's work." We are grateful for how God provides and for Mr. Phillips' generous donation.

Chair Donation

We have received a donation of adult-sized classroom chairs from the Royals program in Macomb. They were needed and we are thankful to have them!

Upcoming Events

Shadow Day, Thursday, November 3: These days are a time for prospective families to attend TA to learn more about our school. Additionally, on Shadow Days the prospective students can 'shadow' and attend our classes alongside their peers.

Christmas Program, Friday, December 9th at 6:30 pm: This is an evening of Christmas music performed by our band and choral groups by all our students (PreK-12th). The whole community is welcome to attend.

Christmas Caroling, Tuesday, December 20th: Prior to our Christmas Break, we visit the local communities and share some Christmas cheer! On this day we meet directly at an assigned location and then come back to TA for class festivities.

Needs and Opportunities

Grain Donations

We have an account with Russell Grain, Inc. Farmers and local community members can now donate full or partial loads of grain to Trinity Academy through this relationship with Russell Grain again this year.

Prayer

Pray for continued grace and wisdom for our leadership; deep wells of delight for our students, teachers, and families; as well as God's continued permeation throughout every nuance of Trinity Academy.

If it is the Lord's will, pray for a development director.

Board Positions

We have filled another seat on the board and still have an opening. 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

July - September

Volume 22-03

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.