



Trinity Academy News

From the Administrator's Desk: Mr. David Murray

"For to us a child is born; to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

This familiar Christmas passage in Isaiah was written 700 years before Christ's birth. And though it is a precious celebratory passage for the advent season, the historical context of the message gives further depth to the declaration.

You see when the prophet Isaiah shared this message of a future hope to the Israelites, they were about to be destroyed by the Assyrians. This hope of a future king was a gift from God that bolstered the people of Israel even as they were being dragged off into captivity. God would give the Israelites a Savior.

This liberator would be different. In contrast to Israel's former kings, he would be the, "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father," and "Prince of Peace." He would be a gift from God (and of God) and the government would rest upon his shoulders.

As a Wonderful Counselor, Christ was filled with marvelous, otherworldly wisdom that dumbfounded the Pharisees and freed those caught in the philosophies of the age. As the Mighty God, Christ could call down legions of angels to save and destroy (Matt. 26:53), but instead he laid down his life. As the Everlasting Father, Christ cares for his people with paternal devotion forever. And, he is the Prince of Peace, which brings mankind into right relationships both with Him and one another.

It is wonderful to contemplate that this was an announcement of Christ's birth 700 years before he was born in the manger. Yet, Christ took on flesh in order to give the Israelites and us wisdom, protection, peace, and fatherly care as we enter into relationship with Him. As they looked forward in hope and as we rest in Him, Christ is King.

Highlights

Pastor Appreciation Day, October 20th

Thanks to our TPO for all of the help with Pastor Appreciation Day. The food was great, the fellowship was wonderful, and the students did a remarkable job leading worship. Thank you to all who gave of your time to make this a special day for our ministry leaders. Here is what one of the pastors had to say,

"To you, and all of the teachers, beautiful children, and suppliers of our wonderful Brunch, it was an awesome experience to share in The Lord. I am certain that I was the oldest in attendance, but that only made me more appreciative of the skillful and spiritual experience that was mine - it actually took a few years off in my ability to enjoy a totally youthful environment. You are doing a wonderful thing for The Kingdom, and you have my prayers."

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Service Project, November 3rd

Our staff, students, and a few brave parents joined together to bless individuals in the community by doing fall clean-up in their yards. The students worked hard and the homeowners were extremely grateful for the help. Students were served popcorn upon their return, which was received with much gratitude.



ILMEA - November 5th

Trinity Academy was well represented at the Illinois Music Education Association District Festival at Western Hall on the campus of WIU on the afternoon of Saturday, November 5th. Participating students auditioned and / or were chosen for this honor. They sang/played some hard pieces and had a wonderful time immersed in a full day of music. Additionally, they learned more about music theory and dynamics, as well as paying close attention to conductor direction. We so appreciate Mrs. Chatterton for making this day possible for them, as well as our chaperones who labored to make this day go smoothly. All of the extra rehearsals, exhaustion, and apprehension bore fruit in the joy of making music, as seen on the faces of the students as they performed. They came away with the realization that with practice and diligence, they can do hard things. They have indeed worked hard and are seeing the fruit of their excellent work.

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Christmas Program, December 9th

Once again our students brought us joy this year, as we were cheered with spirited songs centered on the theme of "White Christmas," melodies such as "Little Snowflake," "Suzy Snowflake," and even "Marshmallow World," as well as the well-known Christmas favorites, "Silent Night," "In the Bleak Midwinter," and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." The older students gave a wonderful and rousing performance of a "White Christmas Choral Medley," from Irving Berlin's motion picture and arranged by MacHuff. Of course, after the concert, we all enjoyed a dessert reception provided by parents and staff. With more than 400 in attendance, this was another great event held at TA.

Visit to Maple Avenue Christian Church, December 13th

Upper-level students were invited to help out and showcase some of our choral talent at Maple Avenue Christian Church this December. Our 7-8th graders served during a 'grandparents' event at MACC, after which the 7-12th grade choir gave a short performance.



Caroling, December 20th

Students, parents, teachers and staff met at 8:30 a.m. at various locations in Bushnell, Macomb, and Rushville to sing Christmas carols to residents in nursing care facilities. This was an occasion for us to share Christmas cheer through the gift of song with community members, and our offerings were well received. While some residents and staff joined us in singing familiar Christmas choruses, others just listened thoughtfully. May Christ be glorified in both the giving and receiving of our offering to this community.

CEO Program Presentation, November 28th

McDonough County CEO presented to our students an overview of the program which is offered to youth in the area. The purpose of the program is to prepare youth for leadership, to encourage them to become entrepreneurs, and to teach them how to contribute to their communities. Several of our students are taking / have taken advantage of this program, and they have gleaned much from our local community businesses and leaders.

Classroom Spotlights

2nd Grade (Mrs. Dixon)

During the first fourteen weeks, the second graders have memorized 29 Bible verses and ten poems for literature and math. At this stage, students have the ability to soak up an incredible amount of information that will be examined when they are older, so second grade focuses on building the memory muscles in all subject areas. In math, mastery and fluency of addition facts has been emphasized along with skip counting. In grammar, jingles that define terms and explain relationships between parts of speech have been sung over and over. In Bible, we have reviewed the names of the books and parts of the Bible and read through key accounts in the first six books of the Old Testament. They have learned lists of the twelve tribes, the ten plagues, and the items in the tabernacle. In history, students were introduced to ancient history from cultures around the world with an emphasis on the ancient Greeks and Persians, so they learned the names of the Greek and Roman gods and the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. All of these pieces of information that they are gathering are stepping stones to the next level.

3rd Grade (Mrs. Bean)

Third grade started out the year learning to THINK before we speak. Is it true, helpful, inspiring, necessary, and kind? That was our first memorization and it has served us well many times. The students start each school day writing in their Bible Journal. We have a verse of the day that we discuss during homeroom time. We began with verses about love, how God loves us and how we should love others. Next, we looked at verses about joy and recently have moved to verses about peace. As the year progresses we will work through the "fruit of the Spirit." This Bible study has already bore "fruit" in our classroom. During our Bible class, we are studying 1 Samuel. The favorite lesson that we have covered so far has been about David and Goliath. The students really enjoyed going outside and measuring how tall Goliath was, and trying our hand at using a sling similar to what David would have used. We are very happy that David's aim was much more accurate than ours. At the end of the first quarter, each third grader had the chance to be a teacher for one class. They all did a fantastic job! They turned in written lesson plans and really put a lot of thought and effort into presenting their lessons. They made their teacher very proud. This class seems to really enjoy science. We learned about the scientific method, and have conducted several experiments. Right now we are watching different kinds of seeds sprout and learning what conditions are necessary for seeds to sprout. So far the bean sprouts are growing the biggest and fastest. What else would you expect in Mrs. Bean's third grade class?

High School Science (Mrs. Johnson)

Our five, grade 9/10, students are being challenged with their Physical Science class (Physics + basic Chemistry). This is an advanced science class that includes material and calculations that are new to many of the students. We have covered topics ranging from "Finding your Way in God's World" to "Matter" to "Mechanics". Recently, we performed a lab where the students measured the velocity and acceleration of a ball sent down a ramp, measuring the elapsed time the ball traveled over 5- 10 cm intervals. Calculations are still in progress, with the students graphing their results in Excel. Each student ran their own time trials—plans are to complete the data analysis and graphing in November. Our four grade 11 students are being introduced to Chemistry, another advanced science class with a laboratory. Chemistry shows God's creative hand, where the atoms and molecules are put together with order, planning, and purpose, and fit together in ways that are

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beautifully intricate. The students' current focus is balancing chemical equations. Like all students new to chemistry, this was a struggle initially, but they have gained confidence and progressed to more complicated equations. The students work well together, helping each other, and learning from each other.

8th Grade History (Mr. Adams)

On Thursday 10/21, my 8th grade students and I read together some of the tragic yet beautiful poems from the First World War. These poems grant us an invaluable look into how those soldiers felt as the world was seemingly trying its best to destroy itself. It's always a humbling experience to read about hardships that we can only try to imagine today.

Thanksgivings

Our End of the Year Campaign ended with \$44,455 towards our \$65,000 EOY Giving goal. Praise God! He continues to provide and shows His grace day-by-day.

Upcoming Events

Chili Supper/Silent Auction, Saturday, February 18, 4:00-8:00 pm: We are looking to bring Trinity Academy friends and family, Industry School alumni, and Industry and surrounding area community members together for a fun filled evening. The Chili Supper will be served from 4-7:30 pm (cost: free-will donation). Dedication of the Industry School Gymnasium as "Coach Coultas Court" will take place at 6:30 pm. Silent Auction with all proceeds supporting Trinity Academy will be held throughout the evening. Auction tables will close at 6:00; 7:30; and 8:00 pm.

Grandparents' Day and Wax Museum, March 30: We invite grandparents, parents, and community members to join us in culminating our Concentrated Studies course with a Wax Museum and other programming to highlight what the students have been learning the previous two weeks.

Spring Program, May 5: Our Spring Program is scheduled for Friday, May 5th at 6:00 PM. The community, friends, and families are welcome! Look for more details to come. Note: This is a great time to invite prospective families to see the quality of what happens here at Trinity."

Needs and Opportunities

Trinity Wish List - Sponsored by the Trinity Parent Organization

TPO discussed ways to support the school throughout the year. They asked the Trinity staff to share requests of needed items and projects we could complete for them. They have compiled an updated list which can be shared with those who want to help. If you would like to join us in supporting our teachers in this way, contact the office by phone to see how you can help.



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Prayer

We always need prayer: please pray for protection and provision, unity and wisdom, joy, and lovingkindness in all we do. Pray earnestly for our students and their families; for teachers and staff; for the Administrator of the school; and for the Board of Directors.

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

Our memorization verses in November:

Psalm 18:1-3

I love you, O Lord, my strength.
The Lord is my rock and my fortress
and my deliverer, my God, my rock,
in whom I take refuge, my shield,
and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

