



## Trinity Academy News

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

Perseverance is the determination to continue a course of action, despite difficulty or delay. In Hebrews 12:14, we are urged to "strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord." In order to bring His people into everlasting glory, God not only requires holiness, but promises it to them. The certainty of this promise is revealed in Scripture, providing a clear and confident path towards holiness and glory. This pursuit is joyful when one is wholehearted and vigilant, as exemplified by Paul's determination to press on toward his goal: "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own." (Philippians 3:12)

God's promise to work everything for the good of those who love Him shows his complete commitment to our eternal wellbeing. The glorious chain of salvation ensures that every link remains unbroken, "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son... those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified." (Romans 8:29-30) This unbroken chain undergirds the Christian's perseverance, and it inspires confidence, stability, and courage in Christ.

God's faithfulness ensures that his people will be kept for Him. He has promised. He is faithful. He is sure. God works everything—every single thing—for the good of those who love God and are called by Him.

### Highlights

#### **House System Reveal, January 16-19**

In the third week of January we unveiled our House System, which is an entity that aims to cultivate within Trinity Academy further avenues for family and fellowship. In the TA House System families and teachers are placed in one of six 'houses' for their entire career at Trinity, with the aim to encourage and emphasize the virtues found at the heart of TA that build character, relationships, and school spirit.

With this project over a year in the making, on Monday, we kicked off the event with an assembly, an initial sorting of families into Houses, and, what will now be, an annual schoolwide dodgeball tournament. On Tuesday, we held a lunch fellowship with the houses. Our Wednesday students took part in a whole school scavenger hunt and a lengthened open gym time. And, for our final day, students got together for face painting and games.



*Tolkien*  
WONDER



*Lewis*  
LEGACY



*Joan of Arc*  
INTEGRITY



*Justin Martyr*  
WISDOM



*Livingstone*  
RESPONSIBILITY



*Carmichael*  
KINDNESS



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We created the House System expecting that we will improve on it each year, with room for students to create their own slogans, mottos, and songs; to design 'spirit wear' that reflects their house affiliations; and to create additional events that will provide opportunities for further service and camaraderie.

#### **All-State Choir Performance, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

Several students from Trinity Academy were chosen to perform in the All-State choirs on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Peoria Civic Center. After a full day and night of rehearsals on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning as well, the older students performed in the All-State High School Choir at the Civic Center Arena on Saturday afternoon.

Additionally, three sixth-grade TA students participated in the 6th-grade All-State Choir, arriving Saturday morning at the Pere Marquette Hotel in downtown Peoria for choir rehearsals along with 200 other 6th-grade students from across the state of Illinois. The Elementary All-State Chorus performance was held at the Civic Center Ballroom Saturday at noon. Although participation in these events required an intense time of practice and rehearsal, it was well worth the effort, as students gained experience and expertise, and families and friends who watched the students' performances were wonderfully entertained.

#### **Science Fair, January 30<sup>th</sup>**

On Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, Trinity Academy held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Science Fair. The Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric Schools all participated, with the Grammar School students presenting group classroom projects, and the Logic and Rhetoric School students presenting their projects as posters. These posters and the students' presentations were judged by a team and rated on research, display, and presentation, with the 14 highest scoring posters/students having the opportunity to participate in the regional and state Science Fairs. Consequently, several students from Trinity participated in the IJAS Region 1 Science Fair in Peoria IL on March 11, 2023. Four students won 1<sup>st</sup> place with science projects that explored these topics: "Do Different Liquids Affect Plant Growth?"; "Is There Flavor in a Name?"; and "Let Down Your Hair." These students have been invited to present their projects at the State IJAS Science Fair at SIU April 28 & 29, 2023.

#### **"Love One Another" Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

Although each month TA students will have the opportunity to sit and fellowship with their House family during their scheduled lunch, this February 14<sup>th</sup>, we decided to have each House share love and kindness towards another House in order to make it a day to display Christian love and charity towards one another. The theme for this activity was based on John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

In keeping with traditional Valentine's Day customs, students were encouraged to wear red, pink, and/or white in lieu of their normal uniforms as they served the members of another house by providing food, fellowship, and fun activities. We thank our parents and co-teachers for their support and feedback in this event as we endeavor to cultivate deeper relationships with each other in Christ.



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#### **Chili Supper and Silent Auction, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

Trinity Academy hosts an annual chili supper and silent auction in keeping with a tradition that started in the Industry community prior to the inception of TA. Therefore, this event is open to families and to all the surrounding community, at which we serve delicious chili, hotdogs, and desserts. During the evening, we host a silent auction of donated items and services that we have received in the weeks prior. Outside of our end of the year giving campaign, this is typically our largest fundraiser of the year.

This year, we chose to honor Bill Coultas, former coach of the Industry School and long-standing member of the Industry community. A presentation was given at 6:30 p.m. dedicating and naming the gymnasium "Coach Coultas Court," as a reminder of the legacy of those who came before us. This also was the first year we provided activities such as face painting, balloon animals and other games for the younger children in the "Carnival" room, staffed by volunteer older students, parents, and teachers. As might be expected, the Chili Supper was a huge success with a large portion of our TA families and staff, the Industry community, and Industry alumni in attendance. We also praise God that we raised around \$19,000 through the Chili Supper, the silent auction, and through other gifts/donations. We are especially grateful to all of the volunteers that made this event possible.

#### **Concentrated Studies, March 20<sup>th</sup> - March 30<sup>th</sup>**



Each year, at the beginning of the fourth quarter, we set aside two weeks in which the entire grammar school learns one subject more in depth, focusing on either a geographic location or time period from history. The goal of the Concentrated Study is to focus deeply and interactively on a specific subject. It also allows for teachers and students to interact across grade levels. By considering one topic across all subjects, students are encouraged to see how the various academic fields of study are interrelated.



Our focus this year was on the "The Ancients of the Four Rivers" covering the civilizations that flourished around the Nile, Euphrates, Indus, and Yellow Rivers from approximately 4000 to 500 B.C. Teachers designed classes focused on this theme for students of all levels of the grammar school, with the final Thursday culminating in the Wax Museum presentation by the students. Wax Museum participants portrayed various characters who lived in the ancient world, some famous such as Moses and King Xerxes, others common folk.



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#### Grandparents' Day, March 30<sup>th</sup>

Grandparents were invited as honored guests on the afternoon of March 30<sup>th</sup> to dine with the students and teachers and to celebrate the culmination of the Concentrated Studies. Grandparents were treated to lunch and then enjoyed a play based on a book read and performed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. They also looked at artwork in the classrooms and hallways, and meandered throughout the gym and hallways, listening to the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade Wax Museum participants tell about the lives of the ancient characters they were enacting.



#### Classroom Spotlights

##### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. McDonald

What a wonderfully busy year we've had thus far in 4<sup>th</sup> grade! It's hard to believe we've entered the fourth quarter already. Recently, we wrapped up our geology unit in science. Students learned about the different types of rocks, as well as the cycle of weathering, erosion and deposition. We shared our knowledge at the Science Fair by displaying our 'Starburst' rocks in their various stages. To end our unit, we took a look at minerals and gems, and students had a great time mining for their very own treasure.

##### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mr. Williamson



With half of the year gone, a lot of ground has been covered in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and there is so much more to cover. We are up to the post-exile prophets in our survey through the Bible while in history we have been jumping around chronologically to visit the different geographic histories of the world. In logic, we finished our investigation into a game called Hexapawn and built a "computer" out of beads that learned to beat us! Our current literature book is Jules Verne's classic "Around the World in Eighty Days." The students are having fun taking a tour of the world and learning some geography and history along the way.

The Christmas program at the end of last quarter was an exciting time for the class, where they not only sang but performed in the band as well. For the all-school science fair, sixth grade will be exploring building simple machines and applying the scientific method to the building process. After that, we will be looking forward to beginning our prep for the concentrated study which will be upon us before we know it.



### Humanities, Mrs. Monteen

Any study of Humanities must consider the historic struggles between races. Eleventh and twelfth grade students recently completed a critical reading of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a book widely regarded as the quintessential American novel. At the heart of the story, Scout and Jem watch their father, Atticus, defend a black man against clearly bogus charges in a rural Alabama courthouse of the 1930s. Racial prejudice and deep-seated habits are pitted against truth and justice as the two siblings learn to uphold what is right, even when those around you fail to understand. It is not color of skin, gossiping rumors or inherited names that define a person, but the content of their character. History affords us several admirable examples of those who fought to make these ideals a reality for American society.

To further our perception of the times, each student was assigned a figure who they studied and presented to their classmates. Some individuals took an active role in public demonstrations, like Diane Nash who championed the Freedom Rides of 1961 and refused to see them broken up by violence. Others, like US Congressman William Levi Dawson, worked quietly and steadily to change laws to reflect the Constitution's charge that "all men are created equal." Jackie Robinson and Katherine Johnson maintained excellence in their fields, paving the way for other black men and women to follow in breaking color barriers. And Fred Grey, who aspired to be a simple Church of Christ minister, answered a professor's encouragement to study law, eventually arguing cases before the Supreme Court and representing Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. As we look on these lessons, our understanding of what it means to be human and our resolve to serve God's kingdom, available to everyone, are strengthened.

### Speech & Debate Team, Mr. Day

Congratulations to the entire Speech and Debate Team for a successful trip to Milwaukee to compete in the NCFCA Region #6 Qualifying Tournament. In short, the mission of NCFCA is "to challenge and equip ambassadors for Christ to communicate truth with integrity and grace." Our students competed against the best speakers and debaters from Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. The tournament was three days long, starting each day at 8 a.m. and concluding at 10 p.m. By overcoming adversities and enduring long days of competition, God is surely strengthening them for the future. Our students are gaining in experience and achieving more and more success each time they compete. But most importantly they are being trained to represent Christ and do all to the glory of God.



Our competitors included Gabriel Watkins (Biblical Presentation); Emma Taylor (Value Debate); Eli Norton (Impromptu and Value Debate); Brenna Chatterton (Value Debate); Gloria Monteen (Value Debate); Wes McEwen (Impromptu and Value Debate); Mark Norton (Impromptu); and Aimee Howerter (Extemporaneous). We want to especially congratulate Brenna Chatterton for making it to Octofinals in Value Debate and qualifying for the Regional Championship Tournament. And we are so thankful to Mr. Stinnett for coaching the debate team and to Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. Monteen, and Ms. Helmich for chaperoning.

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#### Thanksgivings

As always, we pour out praise to our Lord for the continued fruit of the good work at Trinity Academy. We celebrate with our students' spiritual growth, with the hunger for knowledge and academic caliber, and how the families' lifestyles are changed through the hybrid model.

And we are, as always, thankful to all of you who support us with your prayers and gifts.

#### Prayer

Please urgently pray for good health among students, teachers, and staff (volunteers also) as, with recent variable weather, illnesses have been intensifying this spring. Pray always for strength, stamina, perseverance, joy and unity as we finish the school year.

Pray also that the Lord will bless Trinity Academy abundantly with like-minded partners, families and students that are committed to this God-given mission, as well as the faculty and support staff who are called to serve in this beautiful school.

#### Upcoming Events

**Spring Program and Exhibition Night**, 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>: Families and community members are all invited as Trinity students perform in song and recitation at this end of school year program.

**Graduation**, 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>: Trinity Academy's first graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

#### Needs and Opportunities

##### **Trinity Wish List - Sponsored by the TPO**

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 to see how you can help.

##### **Open Positions at Trinity Academy:**

We are hiring the following positions for the 2023-2024 school year:

Grammar School Teachers

- 1st Grade Homeroom Teacher
- 2nd Grade Homeroom Teacher

Logic School Teachers/Rhetoric School Teachers

- Mathematics: Advanced Mathematics (for middle/high school)
- Humanities: Literature/Humanities (for middle/high school)

Across all levels:

- Art Teacher



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TA is searching for well-qualified staff and faculty members who demonstrate an understanding of classical Christian education, a love for learning and teaching, and a calling to serve Christ at a classical Christian school. We're seeking talented, faithful teachers and staff who are interested in joining the Trinity Academy family.

### **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 [kea.runyan@yahoo.com](mailto:kea.runyan@yahoo.com)

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely,  
and may your whole spirit and soul and body  
be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.  
I Thessalonians 5:23-24

. . . being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you  
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 1:6



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