



# Trinity Times Newsletter

Developing Imaginations and Foundations

## A Message from the Director:

Dear Parents,

The magical journey we call nursery school is well under way, and each of you has a front-row seat to the adventure! You have chosen a NAEYC accredited, developmental, play-based preschool. That's quite a mouthful, so let's break that down. NAEYC stands for the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Every few years they examine, evaluate, and rate ten crucial components of our program ranging in areas from curriculum, health and safety, classroom interactions, teacher training, family involvement, and more. It's a grueling process that requires extensive record keeping and documentation and many schools opt out, but I find the self examination portion of the process extremely worthwhile. Maintaining NAEYC accreditation is akin to constantly striving for excellence, which is something I whole-heartedly endorse.

Our interpretation of being a developmental preschool means we are committed to knowing and understanding each child as an individual and providing interactions, care, and challenges that are specifically designed to meet his or her developmental needs. It means differentiating our care and program to best encourage each child to stretch his or her abilities and try the untried. To achieve this goal, we work hard to establish a strong relationship with each child. Getting to know each precious child is my personal favorite part of being at TCNS!

As a play-based preschool we believe that children learn best when they are actively engaged in playful, meaningful activities. Play truly is a child's work. Watch a child build, and you will see them applying the laws of physics. Watch kids play family, and you will see them working on leadership and negotiation skills, patience, empathy, and so much more. Play is the venue where children exercise their thinking skills and problem solve. However, we believe there are times when teachers can help shape that play to achieve goals, including academic goals. By changing the environment or posing problems (a well-designed environment is akin to an additional teacher) play challenges the children to explore new ideas and concepts.

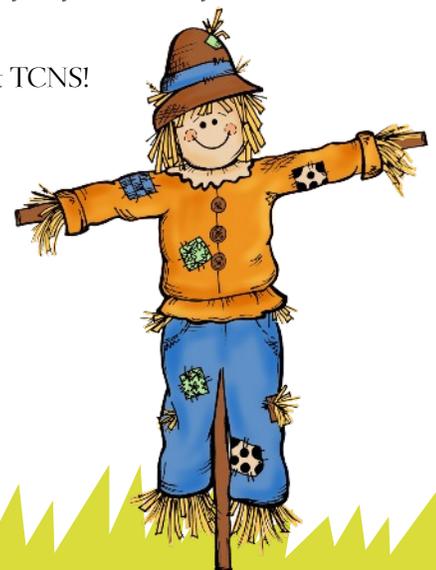
## Dates to Remember:

10/9-No School  
10/13-TCNS Kids work the Pumpkin Patch  
10/18-Parent Advisory Board Meeting  
10/27-Parent Night Out  
10/30-Halloween Parties  
10/31-Halloween Parties

Thank you for choosing TCNS to be your child's first school experience. It is our goal that each child thrives in our care! We want the kids to have fun and be relaxed! We want them to love school and love learning! We want them to feel safe enough to try the untried! We want them to laugh, sing, create, and feel happy in our care! Plus, we want you to participate at whatever level suits your schedule. The preschool years defy the laws of physics because the days feel long and the years feel short. So, join us on this magical ride!

If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via email at [sue@trinitywilmette.org](mailto:sue@trinitywilmette.org), in the office at 847-251-0479, and absolutely anytime on my cell at 847-217-2202.

Here's to a great year at TCNS!  
Sue



# Welcome to our New TCNS Staff!



Deb Bernstein

After working as a sub, Deb is thrilled to join the regular staff as the assistant in the 3-year-old afternoon class. Deb is easy to recognize by her warm, ever-present smile! She is loving, patient and kind and we are so fortunate to have her!! Deb resides in Wilmette with her husband and two young daughters, who just happen to be TCNS alums! Prior to having her kids, Deb worked in the corporate world as a buyer for a major retail giant. However, like many of us, her personal journey took a turn and she discovered she loves working with young kids (and she's great at it!) Please join us in extending a warm Trinity welcome to Deb!



Lindsey Smithwick

We are thrilled to have Lindsey on staff!! Last year Lindsey donated her time and talent by providing music to our Ready-Two-Grow class. Once we learned what a treasure Lindsey is, we knew we had to make it official! Her talent is matched only by her love for the children. Her background is in entertainment, and she even worked as a singer in Las Vegas. Her style is warm and fun and completely interactive! She has a repertoire of fun kid-songs and she encourages the kids to sing, dance and let loose! Lindsey lives in Wilmette with her husband and two young daughters. Her eldest, Sadie, is in the 4's program. Be sure and give Lindsey a warm Trinity welcome when you see her!

## Welcome to the Newest Members of the TCNS Family!

The Hunt Family (3AM) welcomed baby Cora!  
The Brewster Family (PT & 3PM) welcomed baby Warren!  
The Smith Family (RTG) welcomed baby Caroline!  
The Moulton Family (RTG) welcomed baby Morgan!

Peace, Love, and Warm Congratulations!



## "Leave" Compassion Wherever You Go...

Congratulations to TCNS families and friends on the new year of learning and compassion from Trinity United Methodist Church. We are excited to get to know you!

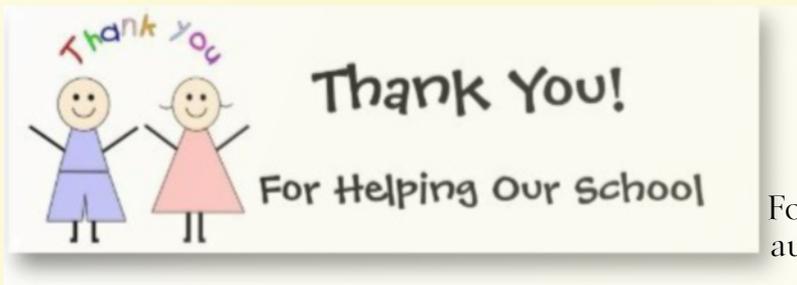
*Catherine Inserra*  
Director of Christian Formation & Student Ministry  
Trinity UMC Wilmette



## Trinity UMC Live Nativity

Sunday, December 10th, 4:30-5:30 P.M.

Animals will be available for viewing beginning at 3:30 pm. If your family would like to participate in the program as an adult or child angel/shepherd, please contact [cath@trinitywilmette.org](mailto:cath@trinitywilmette.org)



## Save the Date!

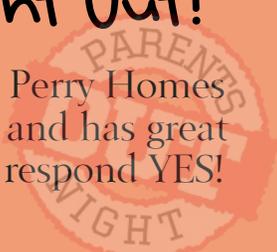
TCNS Fundraiser

Friday, February 10th, 2018

For more info, sign-up party planning, or silent auction ideas, email [Stacy.Shedivy@gmail.com](mailto:Stacy.Shedivy@gmail.com).

## Join Us October 27th for a Parents' Night Out!

Book your babysitter now! Enjoy drinks and a light dinner buffet at A. Perry Homes Studio in Wilmette. This beautiful new venue is warm and welcoming and has great space both indoors and outdoors. Watch for your e-vite. We hope you respond YES!



# TCNS Fall Open House 2017



A look back at  
an afternoon of  
family, fun, and  
friends both old  
and new!



# Classroom Updates



We're off and learning for the new school year! Here is a glimpse of the hard work (and play) going down between drop-off and pickup as told by the teachers themselves.



## Parent Tot



Parent Tot is off to a fantastic start! The children came in on their very first day, ready to explore the classroom and all the things they get to do at school, including play dough, painting, drawing, puzzles, and of course lots of fun toys! As we settle in to the routine of the morning, children are learning some new songs, playing new games, and meeting new friends. Our color of the month is YELLOW, and we are finding yellow in the classroom, on the playground and at home too. We also have a special "class pet" that the children had the opportunity to meet on the first day of school. His name is Brown Bear, and he's a little teddy bear that will make an appearance every school day. It's going to be a great year!

Kristen Bowie and Kathy Stein

## Trinity Kids say the darnedest things!

It was the first full day of school and Jack B. (3AM) was trying to make sense of his new world. "So... do you all live here?" I explained to Jack that the teachers live in a house and we leave the school each day to go home. Jack's wheels were turning and then he said, "So.... Do you all live together in the same house?"



# Ready-Two-Grow



We have enjoyed getting to know your children and helping them feel at home in the classroom. They are settling in and quickly finding their favorite activities. The trains and cars, play dough, water table, dolls, and kitchen are favorites.

The children are also learning the classroom routine: coming to the rug for circle time, lining up and holding the railing for safety, and washing up for snack. They are transitioning so well! If one of the children is wondering where Mommy is, they quickly remember that moms, dads, and babysitters always come back after playground time.

Singing at circle time is fun and gets everyone smiling. They love “Wheels on the Bus,” “If You’re Happy and You Know It,” and “The Itsy Bitsy Spider.” Maybe they will sing these songs for you!

We celebrated two birthdays this month and will celebrate three in October and five in November! The children love to wear a birthday crown while everyone sings to them. Parents and caregivers are welcome to read a book and join us for the celebration.

With the beautiful weather we have gone outside almost every day. The children love the sandbox, slides, climber, or just running around with new friends. Pretend play continues outside with wood chips and mounds of sand becoming cakes and ice cream in all favorite flavors.

Next month we start our color unit-immersing ourselves in the color of the day through art, play, books and what we are wearing.

We are off to a great start this year and look forward to the coming months in Ready-Two-Grow!

Ms. Laurie, Ms. Colleen, Ms. Courtney, Ms. Kathy, and Mrs. Z



## 3-Year (AM & PM)

We have almost one month of school behind us, and your kids are just awesome! We have two AMAZING classes! They learned the routine in record time. They are moving from playing with the toys toward playing with each other, and there are lots of smiles!

The kids are using all the areas of the classroom. The easel is constantly busy, and the play dough table is very popular! I wish you could see how they RUN to the squares when we play the little tune that signals rug-time.

Our current rug-time consists of going through the Helper Chart, talking about our theme or area of study, plus



songs and movement activities. We love to hear your kids sing with gusto! The music is meant to be fun!

Speaking of the Helper Chart, we use it a tool to teach letter recognition and letter/sound association. Each day as we go through the chart, we take the time to name the beginning letter of each name and then stress the sound it makes. For example: *"What is the first letter of Mollie's name? Yes, M! Now, let's all say the M sound.....MMMM...MMMMM...Mollie!"*

We recently introduced the concept of patterns. We began with simple A-B patterns and through-out the year we'll build on this lesson. Understanding patterns is a sophisticated and abstract concept that not only supports math and reading but also nature and science. You will see a recurring theme unfold.

In the next few weeks, we'll have fun preparing for our BOO-tiful Halloween Party. There will be pumpkins galore, some seasonal cooking, and lots of non-scary fun. We'll even take a trip to the Trinity pumpkin patch! We'll also begin to weave Spanish into our daily activities. Spanish will be introduced in context as the kids are engaged in fun, meaningful activities. We ask the children to guess what the Spanish words mean. Your kids will not only be learning a foreign language but they are learning the more important life lesson of trusting their instincts. On behalf of all the 3's teachers, THANK YOU for choosing TCNS for your child's very important beginnings! We are thrilled to be sharing our lives with each precious child! Here's to more great weeks in class!

Miss Deb, Miss Ellie, Miss Laurie, and Miss Sue



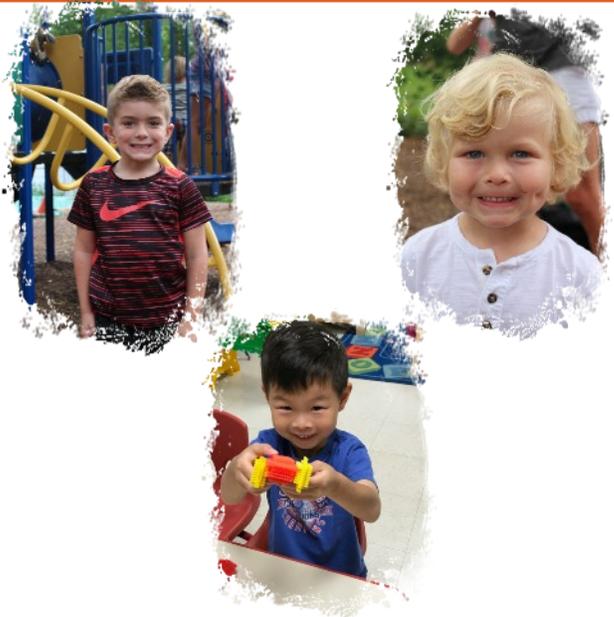
## 4-Year (AM & PM)



As you know by now, the children have settled in and are reacquainting with old friends and making new ones. The song "Make New Friends" is a favorite! They are becoming comfortable with the routine and learning all that the classroom has to offer, as each day brings new experiences and discoveries.

The children enjoyed drawing pictures of their families which were laminated for use as placemats. They also counted the people in their families to make their own number apple tree. It was fun to see their faces light up when discussing their loved ones! The children also enjoyed learning new songs about family in English and Spanish! Miss Agata is fluent in Spanish and will be happily teaching more Spanish words and songs!

We began our friendship unit with the book, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" which is a guide to daily happiness for kids. We discussed ways to be kind to others, inside the classroom and out. We have displayed the buckets that the children worked so hard on, to show the parents and as a reminder about kind-



ness. We are hoping that they are filling your buckets too!

Fall is upon us now which begins our study of the honeybee. We will learn more about their hives, stages of life and their search for nectar to make honey. Do not be surprised to see your child dancing while singing, "Buzz Buzz Buzz Goes The Honeybee!" We will also be concentrating on Fall with books and various art projects which will lead us into Halloween. We promise there will be lots of fun activities during the month of October!

A very special thank you to the special guests who have come in to read to the class! Remember you can come to class anytime, it does not have to be your child's birthday. Additionally, thank you to those who came to the Trinity Fall Open House. It was hot, but fun for all! Thank you for sharing your children with us! We have enjoyed getting to know them and look forward to a wonderful year!

Miss Ellie, Miss Agata, Mrs. Hampton and Mrs. Lezama

# Kindergarten Enrichment (AM)

This month has been a time of new beginnings: new friendships, new teachers, new excitement and adventures in learning. On the first day of KE, the children loved the story of Miss Mingo, a teacher who is a flamingo. In Miss Mingo and the First Day of School, she wishes the children to feel comfortable on their first day of class and teaches them a wonderful lesson on how all of us are unique and



appreciated. Each child wrote about and illustrated their own uniqueness.

We are practicing our letter sounds following the letter sequences in the Jolly Phonics program (used in the District 39 Kindergartens). We've been brainstorming lists of words that begin with each sound. The kids especially enjoy practicing the songs for each sound. Speaking of music, we have learned many new songs and dances, including "Getting to Know You," "There Was an Old Woman," "Jump Jim Jo," and a Scottish dance.

We completed the designs for the covers of our portfolios, which included drawings of our families, homes, roller coasters, and more! These will hold all the children's writings, art and projects, to be presented at the holiday party and again at graduation.

We read and compared A Squiggle Story, a book about a young boy who writes a story even though he is still learning to make all of his letters, to Harold and the Purple Crayon. The kids pointed out that both characters use lines, curves--and yes, squiggles!--to write their own adventures. Some of us even realized that all letters are made of lines and curves too. We kept both stories in mind as we wrote and illustrated our first journal entries of the year.

Finally, we have started to read many books concerning kindness, empathy, and communication skills that will help the children gain friendships and acceptance. We started with Kathryn Otoshi's One, and will continue with stories like When Sophie Gets Angry-- Really, Really, Angry, and In My Heart: a Book of Feelings. As we name and describe our feelings, we are adding strategies

to our mental toolboxes to help regulate "big" emotions and use our words to solve problems.

We're off to great new beginnings!

With love, Mrs. Dashiell and Ms. Lauren



# Kindergarten Enrichment (PM)

Afternoon K.E. has had a blast exploring the puzzles, manipulatives, light table, library, and other materials in the K.E. room. We've also been excited to make new friends and learn more about one another. During free choice, there is wonderful imaginative play happening around the train table, at the magnet board where we've tried our hand at engineering marble runs, and at the easel and art center, where students have been creating colorful portraits and designing lots of books.



Book-making has been a near-universal interest in class, so we'll pick up that thread moving forward and begin our first author study in October.

We kicked off the year by reading The Dot, Ish, and Sky Color by Peter H. Reynolds. From these books, we learned that we are all artists, and that there is no "right" way to express yourself creatively. Each child created a self-portrait, incorporating some information about themselves into their art. Some music lovers were surrounded by music notes in their portraits, while one outdoorsman drew himself framed by trees and bugs. By looking at each other's work and reading the accompanying captions, we discovered that we each have special interests, qualities, and talents.

We continued to discuss our identities as we talked about the range of emotions we all possess inside of us. Books like In My Heart: A Book of Feel-

ings, My Many Colored Days, One, and When Sophie Gets Angry-- Really, Really Angry, helped us understand that while it is okay to feel any emotion, they are not permanent. The kids are also learning that they can use different strategies to keep their emotions from taking over them. We've practiced naming our emotions in our journals, as we've written about how we feel on a given day. Ultimately, we've realized that feelings come and go, but who we are as people stays the same.

We'll continue exploring the idea of identity in the coming month as we begin to compare data about our heights, birth month, eye color, family size, and more. The kids will pair up with a buddy to compare similarities and differences between them.



We will practice using different means of displaying this information with Venn diagrams and pictographs. Identifying traits and analyzing similarities and differences is laying the foundation for strong critical thinking skills.

We have also been practicing these during our "Friday Brain Puzzle" sessions, in which we work as a team to identify relationships between objects, as well as solve figural and pictorial analogies.

Thanks to those of you who were able to stop by the room during the Fall Open House. Please be sure to visit the room throughout the year as well to find out what we've been exploring lately, and what's keeping us curious!

Ms. Lauren & Ms. Anne



# Roll Out the Specials!

One of the many features that distinguish TCNS from other early childhood programs is our wonderful array of enrichment programs. The following programs begin in October and continue until the end of the school year.

## Music & Movement (Valerie Dashiell):

On alternating weeks, Val gets the kids in our 3's & 4's Programs dancing, clapping, marching, and singing to music that ranges from classical to country to rock! She often incorporates rhythm sticks, instruments, and the parachute.

## Music and Movement (Lindsey Smithwick):

We are thrilled to have Lindsey join our staff this year! Last year, Lindsey volunteered her time in the Ready-Two-Grow program, and based on the smiles we saw, we knew we wanted to make it official! Lindsey will be working in all of our 2's 3's and 4's classes. With guitar in hand, she'll get the kids moving and shaking and singing with gusto! Her style is super-fun and super-interactive!

## Radiant Child Yoga (Christine Quinn):

Radiant Child Yoga uses imaginary animals and stories, which captivate the children who, in their delight, have no clue how healthy and relaxed they are becoming! It could be called "creative movement" except that Radiant Child Yoga contains all the essential ingredients of yoga-breath awareness, mind-body fitness, and the opportunity to experience the "self-within." Christine is a former TCNS mom and Parent Advisory Board Chair. She currently teaches adult and children's fitness, health and wellness classes. She will be working with our AM & PM KE Classes once a week.

## Cooking (Miss Laurie):

Kids love cooking! They love to mix, crack, blend, stir, chop, sprinkle and EAT! Cooking involves math, science, and FUN! Miss Laurie's recipes are exciting and kid-friendly. Miss Laurie will spend some time in each class cooking up her brand of fun!

## Spanish (3's & 4's):

We will soon begin weaving Spanish into the day! Spanish will be introduced in context, while the children are actively engaged in meaningful activities. In the 4's Program, Miss Agata will also include Spanish games and songs at rug-time and on Centers Days.

## Science (Valerie Dashiell):

Every other week, Val joins the 4's with her bag filled with hands-on fun and engages the kids in experiments that bring sophisticated science concepts to life. Each lesson will have an accompanying write up, so you can follow-up at home.

## Centers Day in the 4's:

While technically not a "special," Centers Day is a fun way to ensure that each child takes time to focus on academic skills in a small group with a teacher every week. There are 3 or 4 centers, which can range from letter sound association, number recognition, number value, sequencing, story writing, and lots more. We use play based materials and the kids love when it is time to rotate to the next center and check out the fun!



# Is CPR training on your to-do list?

## Need a refresher course?

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15 A.M., TCNS will host an on-site, 2-hour CPR class led by R.H. Sanders and associates. The class is \$20 per person to be paid at the event. Due to limited space and time, the class will be capped at the first 20 people. However, if enough interest is generated, a second date and time will be scheduled.

R.H. Sanders & Associates is one of the largest Emergency Training operations in the country. All of their training programs are certified by the nationally recognized, Emergency Response Institute (ERI). For classroom safety, they provide a free CPR practice shield for each student. CPR technique handouts will be provided to each participant.

If interested, please e-mail: [rblaylock@yahoo.com](mailto:rblaylock@yahoo.com).

\*On-site babysitting will be provided for \$5 per child.

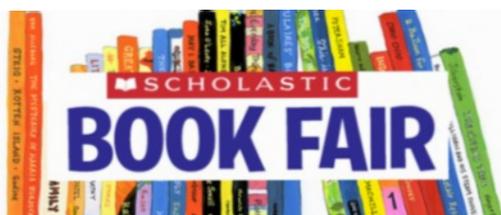


## Mark Your Calendars!

What: TCNS First Annual Scholastic Book Fair

When: November 6-7, 4:15-5:15 P.M.

This event includes a storybook reading with Miss Sue and an appearance by Clifford the Big Red Dog! Be sure to join us for all the fun!



## MORE:

### Trinity Kids Say the Darndest Things!

Madeline N. (PM KE) was explaining that she is now in the "third level" at Trinity. Then, with a sweet smile and a hint of nostalgia she said, "Sometimes I wish I could go back to the first level."

Wow! These kiddos are connecting the dots! At snack time, some kids were talking about knights and Jack N. (3PM) asked, "Are knights extinct?"

Nolan H. is perhaps the most polite child one will ever meet. He never misses an opportunity to say please or thank you. Therefore, I really wasn't surprised when he said, "Excuse me," after a burp. I thanked him for always having such great manners. He then enthusiastically proclaimed, "I love burps!" The next thing I knew, all my kiddos were talking about burping as they munched on their snacks!

It was a Friday in the 3AM class and the kids were literally belting out the goodbye song, to the point that all the teachers were both thrilled and impressed! We never heard the class sing with such gusto! Andrew D. was enthusiastically just a word ahead of everyone, so the kids followed his lead. Under Andrew's leadership, they all finished the song with "We'll see you again on Tuesday!" They were instantly pleased with themselves, knowing they sang with such spirit. The only problem.... The 3AM class doesn't attend on Tuesday! We would see each other again on Monday!

## Back-to-School

### Sing-Along!

#### Sticky Bubblegum

Sticky Bubblegum  
Sticky, Sticky, Sticky, Sticky, Bubblegum  
Bubblegum, Bubblegum  
Sticky, Sticky, Sticky, Sticky, Bubblegum

It makes my hands stick to my \_\_\_\_\_  
And you pull them, and pull them, and PULL THEM  
AWAY!

#### Make New Friends

Make new friends, but keep the old.  
One is silver and the other gold.  
A circle's round, it has no end.  
That's how long I want to be your friend.

#### Walk Old Joe

Walk Old Joe  
Walk Old Joe  
Walk Old Joe  
You're the best horse in the country - Oh!  
Walk Old Joe  
Walk Old Joe  
You're the best horse in the country - Oh!  
Whoa Joe!!

(Repeat a little faster... Trot Old Joe, then Gallop Old Joe)

#### Hey Hey!

Hey Hey!

What's your name?

You've got a name

So you can play this game!

(Name of child; Name of child) stand up, please.