



Trinity Times Newsletter

Developing Imaginations and Foundations

A Message from the Director:

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

A New Year is time for pause and reflection, a time for resolutions, a time for new beginnings. In reality, every day at TCNS is a time for new beginnings. Every day is another opportunity to learn something new, to improve a skill, to make a new friend, to do the right thing. That is part of the beauty of childhood. Conflicts are looked upon as learning opportunities. Forgiveness is a big piece of the process. ALL is forgiven, and everyone gets a clean slate, a new beginning. This New Year I hope we can follow the example of the children and realize that every day is a new opportunity to learn something new, to forgive a friend, to share joy and kindness. Every day is a new opportunity to discover our skills and passions.

I recently attended a fascinating lecture titled the *Power of Positivity*. I think most of us intuitively understand that specific feelings and beliefs convey specific energies. However, what I did not understand before this lecture is that positive emotions can actually expand our minds. This was demonstrated by the following experiment:

A group of people were randomly divided into two groups. The first group was given a bag of candy that was tied securely to prevent them from eating the candy immediately. The second group was not given the candy. Then the people were asked to look at various illustrations on a projector and to later write down what they recall. Here is the fascinating part. The group with the candy could actually recall more of what they saw, and in particular, recall details on the edges of the illustrations. The group without the candy had trouble recalling anything outside of the center of the illustration. Anticipating eating the candy put the first group in a positive mood and actually expanded their minds. Now, I am not advocating chowing down on chocolate bars. (*Although the thought does bring a smile to my face!*) But please ponder the implications of this study:

Dates to Remember:

1/8-Deadline for Nursery School Apps.
1/10-TCNS Parent Advisory Board Meeting
1/15-MLK Day: NO SCHOOL
1/16-Professional Dev. Day: NO SCHOOL
1/18-TCNS Gives Back
1/18-District 39 Kindergarten Registration
1/19-District 39 Kindergarten Registration
1/20-Special Guest Morning (RTG)
1/23-Sip & Sort at Share
1/27-Special Guest Morning (3s & 4s)

- We need to each discover what puts us in a positive frame of mind and make these activities part of our daily routine. As parents, we tend to put ourselves last, but in order to provide the best possible care for our children we need to care for ourselves.
- We need to help our children discover their own passions. This is especially important as our kids get older and the demands on their time increase.

This new year I pledge that the Trinity staff will encourage your child to discover their skills, talents and passions and the joys of friendship. Thank you for sharing your beautiful children with us!

With love and gratitude,
Sue



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A Word About our Upcoming Benefit

I hope you marked your calendar and secured your babysitter for our benefit on February 10. That's when *Under the Big Top! TCNS: the Greatest School on Earth* comes to life! I have no doubt that the event will be wonderful, complete with delicious food, drinks, an array of auction items, parent parties and kids parties to sign up for, plus many happy surprises! Also, please keep in mind that the funds we raise go directly into the operating budget for the year. Tuition alone does not cover all operating costs, and our benefit supplies the monies to fill that gap.

So, please say YES to the benefit and help us secure the funding we need for our low student-teacher ratios and enrichment programs such as music, movement, science, and yoga, plus other budget items. Thank you for your support of our school!



Acknowledgements

TCNS Staff

Sue Gaertner – Program Director
Meghan MacKinnon – TCNS Administrator

Teachers:

Deb Bernstein, Kristen Bowie, Agata Budzik, Maria Costas, Anne Crowley, Valerie Dashiell, Sue Gaertner, Luann Hampton, Laurie James, Ellie Johnson, Joyce Ladin, Ginny Lazama, Courtney Mackenzie, Meghan MacKinnon, Colleen Shean, Lindsey Smithwick, Kathy Stein, Lauren Wasielewski, Kathy Zawacki

TCNS Parent Advisory Board

Chair: Rebecca Johnson
Vice Chair: Sarah Holcomb
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Secretary: Johanna Toppenberg
Registrar: Lesley Shifrin
Church Liaison: Ali Maute
Communications Director: Lauren Williams
Newsletter Editor: Jeff Toth
Lunch Bunch Coordinator: Kelsey Davies
Goodwill Liaison: Mary Wilkinson
Bulletin Board: Sophia Robinson
Birthday Books: Stacy Cavin

Fundraising Committee:
Benefit Manager: Stacy Shedivy
Live Auction: Audrey Shedivy, Ali Maute, Maegan O'Neal
Sign-up Parties: Annie Laughton, Christina Farrell, Christina Glissen, Lindsey Maude
Silent Auction: Ali Straitiff, Meghan MacKinnon, Erika Burkemper

Donate-It-Now: Annie Laughton, Christina Farrell
Decorations & Invitations: Mikie Hall, Deena Overstreet, Megan Hermeling
Communications: Linnea Conniff
Slide Show Creator: Anne Wegner

Room Parents:

Parent-Tot: Sarah Holcomb
Ready Two Grow: Kim Gilmore
3AM: Christina Farrell, Tara VanderKamp
3PM: Erika Burkemper
4AM: Erin Heywood
4PM: Kate Morrone
AM KE: Lindsey Bruso
PM KE: Kimberly Newman

TCNS Gives Back:

Rachel Laude, Amy Weir, Jen Curchin

TCNS is on Facebook!



Trinity Church Nursery School is growing its web presence! Please "like" us and follow our school on Facebook.

You can also help us spread the word by reviewing us on Google, Yelp!, Great Schools, or any other helpful community resource website.



SPREAD THE WORD! Kindergarten Enrichment Registration

Applications for Trinity's exciting Kindergarten Enrichment programs become available AFTER the school district completes their morning/afternoon kindergarten lottery. The District will be accepting applications for kindergarten on January 18 and 19, and they will most likely conduct the morning/afternoon lottery in late January. Trinity has two options for KE: a morning and an afternoon. Both programs have a 2-day or a 3-day option. For more info regarding our Kindergarten Enrichment programs, please contact sue@trinitywilmotte.org.



Summer is Just Around the Corner!

OK, not really. But that doesn't mean you can't start planning.

Make Trinity's Camp Amigos a part of your summer plans! Applications will arrive in an email blast later this month! Children currently enrolled in Ready Two Grow through Kindergarten Enrichment are eligible.

Special Guest Morning!

Get ready for a fun morning at Nursery School with your son or daughter that you won't want to miss. You will have an opportunity to make a special project with your child to take home, experience our famous playdough, build with blocks, play games, read books, have a pretend cup of tea in the housekeeping area, and learn all about our school day. Clean up will astound you, and snack will fortify you as we end our time with songs! Hope to see YOU!

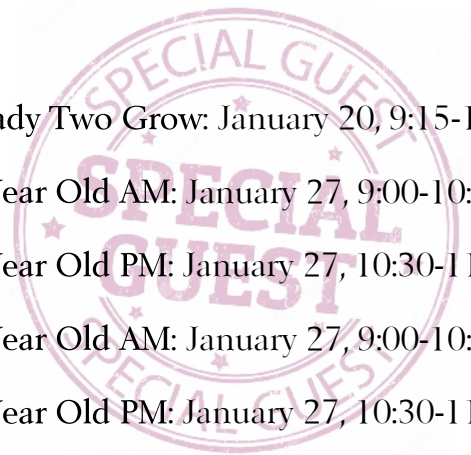
Ready Two Grow: January 20, 9:15-10:15

3 Year Old AM: January 27, 9:00-10:15

3 Year Old PM: January 27, 10:30-11:45

4 Year Old AM: January 27, 9:00-10:15

4 Year Old PM: January 27, 10:30-11:45



Trinity Kids Say the Darnedest Things!

Nolan Hunt (3am) is incredibly polite. That is why when he called out "Excuse me!" from the playdough table, I thought he was trying to get my attention. When I asked him what he wanted he said, "Oh. I didn't want anything. It was just my hiney making noise!"



TCNS Holiday Memories: A Loving Farewell to 2017



(h)air's (c)orner

Rebecca Johnson, TCNS Parent Advisory Board Chair

It's 2018! Happy New Year! Each year seems to rush past us faster than the year before.

I hope you enjoyed break and are ready and happy to be back in the swing of things. I also hope you were one of the lucky ones to make it through winter break without the contagion of cold flu or stomach flu that seemed to hit all of our friends and family.

We had a busy and fun-filled December! A special thank you to Amy Weir, Jen Curchin, and Rachel Laude for their amazing TCNS Gives Back efforts in putting together not one, but two caroling opportunities with seniors. They also coordinated and assembled thoughtful gift baskets for the nuns at the Sacred Heart Convent. I hope you were able to attend the annual favorite Gingerbread House "Gives Back" event. The beautiful houses were delivered and provided such a happy reminder of the holiday season.

It's hard to believe, but we are back in the thick of the application process for next fall's registration. Thank you to everyone who has hung up flyers, car magnets, and put out yard signs. We hope you will share your wonderful children with us again and appreciate all who have already filled out their online applications. Please share with your neighbors and friends. We are on track to have another successful enrollment year at Trinity!

I would like to encourage all of you to book your sitters now for this year's UNDER THE BIG TOP Benefit event on Saturday, February 10th. You will hear more about it over the next few weeks, but our benefit committee is hard at work putting together the biggest party of the year. If there is one TCNS event not to miss, this is it! It's so nice to get dressed up for this fun night with friends at the beautiful Michigan Shores and

support our own Trinity Church Nursery School.

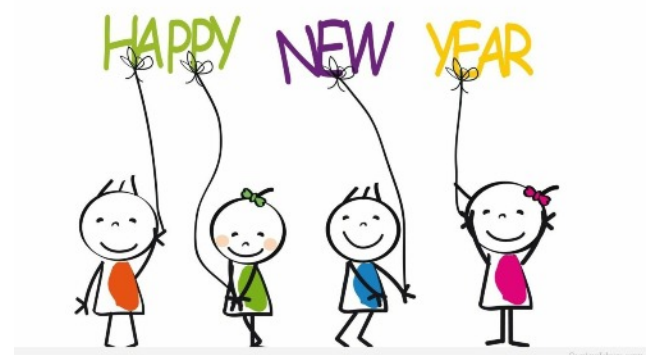
Taking a cue from the sweet and humorous "New Year's resolutions" the 4PM class put together listing what they would like to do and learn in 2018, I have assembled a short-list as well. Emphasis on short.

- Remain in the moment and put down my phone more. I don't want to be addicted to my phone.
- Clean up my e-mail inbox. Inbox zero is on my horizon. (Merlin Mann style)

Turning the page on 2017, the kids are ready and happy to be back at school and back in a routine. They already have their lives filled with friends, laughter and learning. I'm grateful for all of this and for our wonderful preschool community. Happy new year to you & yours - all the best in 2018!

Cheers,

Rebecca Johnson
Chair, TCNS Parent Advisory Board



TCNS Gives Back:



Little Hands Making a BIG Difference



Important Dates:

Monday, January 15-Thursday, January 18th: Collection Drive to Benefit Share Our Spare

Thursday, January 18th, 4:15-5:15: Join us in the bike room to create snowman dolls for the residents at Citadel Nursing Home. The children will also have a chance to help sort the items we have collected for Share Our Spare.

Tuesday, January 23, 7:00 P.M.: Sip and Sort, An Evening to Share @ Share in downtown Wilmette

This month, we are excited to partner with Share Our Spare, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to sharing new and gently-used clothing, toys and supplies with children ages five and under. Since their inception in 2011, they have collected more than 500,000 infant and toddler items to help hundreds of local families in need. Here's how you can help:

1. Sign up to donate any of the following NEW items in need for creating Personal Care Kits:
 - o Kids Shampoo & Soap
 - o Washcloths & Towels
 - o Small Brush/ Comb
 - o Kids Toothbrush & Toothpaste
 - o Small bath toys
2. Clear out those closets for the New Year and donate any of the following gently used items:
 - o Clothes
 - o Strollers
 - o High Chairs
 - o Bouncy Seats
3. Bring your kiddos to help sort these items during our Gives Back Event January 18th.

Thank you!

. . .to everyone who participated in our December efforts to brighten the holidays for senior residents at our local convent, nursing homes, and retirement communities. Whether you created a beautiful gingerbread house that eventually adorned their halls, contributed tissue and teas for the Sacred Heart gift bags, or sang your best "Frosty the Snowman" during one of our caroling stops, it was truly appreciated! Most importantly, we hope we created an opportunity for your children to experience, first hand, the joy of giving - giving time, giving a smile, and spreading love to those who often need it most during the holidays.

Coming Soon...

TCNS
PROUDLY PRESENTS



UNDER THE BIG TOP

Step right up to the 2018 TCNS Benefit!

Saturday, February 10, 6:30 P.M.

Michigan Shores Club

The Best Live and Silent Auctions on Earth!
Featuring chances to win incredible experiences and getaways
to MARVEL and ASTOUND!

Bid on:

A Tesla VIP Weekend

A family getaway at ~~SOLD OUT!~~ Kinnikinnick Farm

...and more to come!

Silent auction fun includes tickets to:
Cubs, Hawks, great golf packages, and more!



Thank you to our benefit sponsors!

We would like to take a moment to recognize our latest sponsors for Trinity's 2018 benefit. Thanks to their generosity, Trinity is able to underwrite some of the costs of the event. Please be sure to thank them for their contributions if see them or stop by their store.

If you are interested in being a benefit sponsor, please email Ali Straitiff at alistratiff@gmail.com or Meghan MacKinnon at Meghan@trinitywilmette.org or visit the benefit website at <https://tcns.ejoinme.org/sponsorship> for more information.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

2DesignGroup

Trinity Mom Christine Moritz and her partner Trisha Cohen started 2Design Group in early 2009 with the belief that each client should feel important. 2Design Group is an interior design company specializing in interior architecture, kitchen, and bath design. We represent multiple cabinetry and furniture lines, Wolf/Sub-Zero appliances and our signature custom metal hood line. This integrated approach enables us to manage all aspects of our clients' projects from concept through completion.

Christine@2designgroup.com

Grins on Green Bay

As a board-certified pediatric dentist, Dr. Suzy Pope offers children a unique experience as they are introduced to a key component of their comprehensive healthcare. She believes that all children should enjoy seeing the dentist and hopes she can help your child develop into a great patient.

www.grinsongreenbay.com

North Suburban Pediatrics

North Suburban Pediatrics is an independent group of pediatricians who are solely dedicated to the health of your children. All of our doctors support open communication. We encourage questions about your children's health and development, medical concerns, and treatment options. We want to form a long-lasting partnership focused on ensuring your child reaches their full potential. www.northsuburbanpediatrics.com

Sara Brahm of Winnetka Baird and Warner

sara.brahm@bairdwarner.com

Eyes on the Lake

420 Green Bay Road, Kenilworth

Phone: 847-853-1111

Kashian Bros.

www.kashianbros.com

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Classroom Updates



What's new?

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



Happy New Year from Parent Tot! We hope everyone had a wonderful, restful winter break, filled with lots of family fun. Our class had a wonderful time in December discussing and singing about different December holidays and participating in art projects that involved paint, pom-poms, glue, tinsel, stickers, paper, and more!

2018 is kicking off with HAPPY SEPARATION in our class! After spending the first half of the year with all our wonderful parents and care takers participating in class, they are now dropping their sweet 2-year-olds off, and the children get to experience the class on their own, gaining independence and confidence! It's a very exciting time. Ms. Kathy and I are so happy to welcome Ms. Agata and Ms. Laden to our team to help the children as they practice saying a happy goodbye to their parents and care givers, and get down to some fun playing in our classroom.

Our color for January is WHITE! We will be exploring this color throughout our classroom, and we encourage our children to look for this color in their own homes and when they are out and about at parks, stores or walks around the neighborhood.

Kristen Bowie and Kathy Stein

Trinity Kids Say the Darnedest Things!

Harry B. (3PM) was playing doctor, and as he grew more skilled in his new trade, more and more kids lined up to "schedule appointments." Finally, there were so many kids waiting for the doctor that Harry threw up his hands and declared, "I'm going on vacation!"



Ready-Two-Grow



December was a busy month as we celebrated the holidays. The children made wreaths by gluing decorations onto paper plates. A mixture of shaving cream and glue looks fluffy even when dried and holds even the biggest ornament in place. With bits of tinsel, shiny bells, or silk poinsettias, each wreath was creative and unique! Another day we painted with glitter paint using different kinds of brushes. The paint brush “bristles” were made of rags, rope, fabric or sponge, each one creating different designs and effects on the paper. For a special, surprise gift, the children carefully painted the front and back of a

wooden ornament. They used small brushes and had fun choosing the paint colors and worked hard to cover the whole surface.

Kathy Stein taught us about Hanukkah. We learned some fun songs and learned how to spin a dreidel and flip some latkes. It was fun to play with the pretend menorah, too.

We are thankful for the bike room when the weather is bad (either too cold, rainy, snowy, or icy). We ride the elevator down for safety and then have fun riding the bikes and roller racers, sliding down the slides, bouncing balls, and playing in the rocking boat and tunnels. With snow pants and boots, we look forward to playing outside soon even in the snow!

Our cookie party was a big success. The best part is seeing how happy the children are to decorate and eat cookies with you. It is also such a nice social time for the whole class. Thank you for coming! We also got some great pictures of everyone which we will share later.

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful break. Happy New Year!

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



3-Year (AM & PM)



The magical Cookie Parties are now a memory, but we hope the warm thoughts linger for a while. The children enjoyed everything involved in the preparation. They loved decorating our classroom for our “company” and learning holiday songs. They loved making their special holiday gifts and wrapping them, too. Thank you for supporting our programs and attending our Cookie Party!

During the month of January, we will transform our classroom into a winter wonderland. You will soon see snowmen, mittens, and snowflakes adorning our walls. We even hope to play with snow inside (YES! In the water table!) and outside. We also have a great collection of books to support our winter unit. In fact, one of my personal fa-

vorite things about TCNS is our extensive on-site library. Stop by the school office to check it out! Each time we change our theme we bring in a bin of books (fiction and non-fiction) to support the theme.

During the second half of the school year, we will increase the use of Spanish in the classroom. The kids are ready! They don't even know their brains are switching from Spanish to English and back again!

Here's to more great weeks at TCNS!

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



4-Year (AM & PM)



Happy New Year! We are happy to be back at school and hope your children are too!! We hope the break was peaceful, relaxing, and fun filled.

Looking back on December, we had a very fun month learning and singing holiday songs, making holiday art projects, and baking cookies for our famous cookie party! The children enjoyed all the preparations in getting ready for that special day. We appreciate the effort all of you made in coming to the party.

This month—as if we haven't had enough COLD weather—we are studying Antarctica and the Arctic regions. We will be learning about penguins, polar bears, and whales. Also, many snow crafts will be made along with stories about winter.

A special thanks to all parents and grand parents who came into read to the classes. We really enjoy your visits, as do the children.

Thanks for the wonderful gifts we received for Christmas. We treasure all of you more than you know. We simply love each and every one of your children, and we thank you for sharing them with us.

ONWARD!

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



Kindergarten Enrichment (AM & PM)

Students in both morning and afternoon Enrichment spent December full of anticipation for the weeks to come: weeks of planning, crafting, rehearsing, making, baking, and dreaming! There is always excitement in the air as the holidays approach, and the kindergartners get a special kick out of taking some ownership over how Hanukkah or Christmas is celebrated with their friends and families. We practiced songs and movements to perform for guests of our holiday parties, and the kids were thrilled to share cookies they baked and decorated during a special baking class with Ms. Laurie!



Even more exciting was the creation of holiday gifts to pass on to loved ones. Students in the morning class carefully painted colorful designs on fragile ornaments, while afternoon students created winter wonderland snow globes complete with the cutest miniature snow people they painted themselves. All of the gifts turned out beautifully, and it was wonderful to see the pride in the kids' faces as they carefully wrapped up their gifts and made cards for their families.

To celebrate the passing of fall into winter, we began focusing on books by the author and illustrator Jan Brett. The kindergartners have really been enjoying her adaptations of folk tales in wintry forest settings, such as The Mitten, The Wild Christmas Reindeer, and Gingerbread Baby. We have been working on identifying similarities across an author's body of work, and so far the kids noticed that each book has one main child character, each takes place in winter, and all of them so far feature forest animals. In our literature discus-

sions, we continue to encourage the kids to express their thoughts about the story using evidence from the text (e.g. "You're right; he does seem frustrated! What happened in the story to let you know that?"), and to use describing words when talking about characters and settings. In both morning and afternoon classes we have certain days with fewer students, so we have also become quite adept at retelling and summarizing stories for friends who may not have been there when we read a certain story in class.

Part of our winter celebration has included transforming our classroom with the season. Symmetry was explored through folding and cutting snowflakes and painting evergreens, we have been challenging ourselves to identify 3 and 4 part patterns in each other's work. Each student filled out a pattern planning sheet with their own unique pattern before using their pattern to decorate the room. The morning class designed patterned beaded garlands to their tree paintings, and we had fun trying to figure out which tree matched which pattern sheet. The afternoon class played the

same game with the beaded snowflakes they created. If you're feeling up for the challenge, stop by the front bulletin board in the classroom and see if you can match the snowflake to the proper pattern sheet!

We'll continue with exploring winter as we kick off 2018 with a study of weather. We have already asked the kids where they think the weather comes from ("the clouds," "the sky," and "God" were a few of their ideas), and armed with a sense of their prior knowledge, we'll engage in exploration and experimentation to build their scientific understanding of the subject. Our little meteorologists will also engage with weather through art, math, and literature, both fiction and nonfiction. Let it snow!

With love,
Mrs. Dashiell and Ms. Lauren

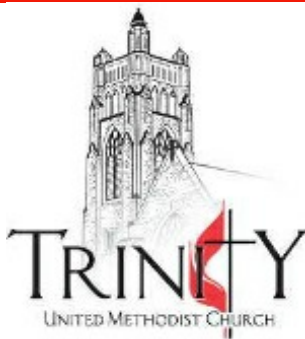


Community Corner



Lessons From a Far Away Place

Last month, Omar's mother, Hooriya, came to our 3PM class to teach the children about Pakistan. Hooriya taught us about Pakistan's location, the flag, the Urdu national language and its alphabet (the children learned how to greet each other in Urdu), and food and dress from different regions. She also taught us a popular patriotic song called Dil Dil Pakistan. We especially liked seeing the beautiful national traditional clothes they wore to school. We were so thankful that they shared their culture with us and we learned a lot!



A very happy and peaceful 2018 from Trinity UMC to Trinity Church Nursery School friends and families! Thank you to everyone who gave gifts for the 2017 Giving Tree extending compassion to the children at United Church Rogers Park, our sister church. Meet Us at the Manger was the most special one yet! The free will offering was generous ensuring the live nativity for 2018. Most importantly, let us continue to forge ahead together with compassion in our hearts to continue building community here and in the world grounded in love and justice. Peace to all from the Trinity staff.

***Christmas blessings,
Catherine Inserra***

Director of Christian Formation & Student Ministry

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