



Trinity Church  
Nursery School

March, 2018

# Trinity Times Newsletter

Developing Imaginations and Foundations

## A Message from the Director:

Dear Parents,

As the teachers and I prepare for parent-teacher conferences, there is something that is clearly evident: I have never met an ordinary child. Once I really get to know each of our precious kiddos, I realize that every single one of them is extraordinary in some way. The true goal of my job and the job of the other teachers at TCNS is to get to know and understand the extraordinary nature of each of our children and help each of them grow and flourish along their unique developmental path. I really don't mean to sound corny, but it begins with love. If children feel loved they feel valued, respected and safe, and they will flourish. And one thing I can assure you is that your children are loved at Trinity. I interact regularly with each teacher and that fact is always apparent to me. So, when you attend your child's conference, I assure you that the teacher you are meeting with will relay her observations with love. And, truth be told, we LOVE talking about your kids! They already own a permanent place in our hearts.

Parent Teacher Conferences are March 8 and March 9. There is no school or lunch bunch those days. Conferences are in person at school, unless you request a phone conference. You should have already received a sign-up genius to schedule your time. Conferences for kindergarten enrichment and parent-tot are available upon request.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of all our kids! We look forward to sharing our observations with you in the following domains of development:

**Social Development:** This area of development assesses how your child interacts with their peers. We will talk about their play skills and ability to share and take turns. Very young children begin with parallel play, sharing the space without many interactions. As

## Dates to Remember:

3/5-Session 3 Lunch Bunch Begins  
3/8-NO SCHOOL (P/T Conferences)  
3/9-NO SCHOOL (P/T Conferences)  
3/14-TCNS Parent Advisory Board Mtg.  
3/15-TCNS Gives Back  
3/19-World of Winnie the Pooh Live!  
3/26-4/1-NO SCHOOL: SPRING BREAK  
4/2-Classes Resume

Special  
2018 Benefit Recap  
Inside!

children become more interested in their classmates, they move toward cooperative play. They must learn to respect their friends' rights and feelings. They learn that play is reciprocal and come to understand the "my turn/your turn" concept. It's a gradual process and one that we focus lots of our attention on as teachers.

**Emotional Development:** This is your child's ability to handle their feelings in a socially acceptable way. We look at how your child manages disappointment, frustration, and anger. As preschool teachers, we expect that a lot of our time must be devoted to helping children develop their emotional intelligence. We need to help children learn to wait patiently, focus their attention appropriately, and learn appropriate coping skills for their intense feelings. We help children develop a "feelings vocabulary" so they are equipped to express themselves with words.

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A well developed emotional intelligence is closely linked to success in school and social relationships.

**Speech & Language Development:** We assess your child's ability to express themselves using language, as well as their ability to process receptive language. We also listen for articulation errors that are not age appropriate. At TCNS, we will make certain that all children have opportunities to use language individually, in a small group, and in the whole group. We encourage the speaker to look their friend in the eye, and the listener to be an active listener, and look the speaker in the eye. These important skills are not always intuitive, and must be pointed out.

**Cognitive Development:** In this area, we look at how your child is integrating and using the information we are presenting and understanding the concepts. Depending on which class your child is in, we may talk about letter recognition, letter sound association and number value. We will also talk about imagination and creativity as important parts of cognitive development. Those pieces can be demonstrated in numerous ways, including art, block play, puzzles, and dramatic play.

**Motor Development:** We will discuss both fine and gross motor skills. Fine motor skills refer to your child's ability to manipulate objects with their hands and fingers. These are the skills used in writing, cutting, playing with play dough, and small toys such as Lego. Gross motor skills are your child's ability to use large muscles. Those skills involve running, bike riding, climbing, and throwing balls. We will also talk about your child's self-help/self advocacy skills and favorite activities. We want to give you a window into your child's world!

Thank you for sharing your precious children with us!

Sue

# 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  
Treasurer: Carla Benigni  
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.







FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOOL!

Thanks to you, we raised nearly \$40,000 for our  
school!

And the fun isn't over yet!  
To see a list of sign-up parties still avail-  
able to join, go to:

<https://tcns.ejoinme.org/parties>

Many spots still remain! You still have  
plenty of chances to have fun, connect  
with your TCNS community, and help  
fund our special programs at the same  
time!













# SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



## Calling All Parents!!!

We know there are a lot of talented parents out there. If you have a talent, skill, or hobby that you would like to share with your child's class, now is the time to let your teachers know! Do you play an instrument? Do you know magic tricks? Do you have an interesting collection? Or, would you like to just spend some time with us and read a book to the class? Your child will be thrilled when you share your time with their class! We hope to hear from YOU!



## Here are the top three reasons to join the TCNS Parent Advisory Board:

3. You get to do important work for our school!
2. You meet great people in YOUR TCNS community!
1. YOU WILL HAVE FUN!



**BE ON THE LOOKOUT.** . You will soon receive an invitation to join the board along with a description of the positions available. The meetings occur once a month on a Wednesday morning and last approximately 1 hour. Babysitting is available for \$5/child. Attendance at the meetings is encouraged but not required. Plus, board members receive priority in the lottery process. We hope you consider joining the Parent Advisory Board!

## Trinity Kids Say the Darnedest Things!

- Miss Laurie told the class that she was about to make up a story. Omar M. (3 PM) then pointed to the bookshelf and exclaimed, "Why do you need to make up a story? There's stories right there!"
- It was the end of the day, and there is typically a little commotion as the kids pack up and put on their coats. Sam S. (4 PM) noticed a flyer in his cubbie and asked Miss Ellie what it was. She replied that people were coming to school to test the children's vision and hearing. Sam replied, "Why are they coming to test our yelling and screaming?!"
- Alex S. (RTG) was discussing the movie *Frozen* with Miss Courtney. "I'm afraid of the snow monster. Are you afraid of the snow monster?" Alex asked. "No," answered Miss Courtney. Then Stella B. added, "I'm not afraid of the snow monster, but do you know who I am afraid of? Michael Jackson!"





# Chair's Corner

Rebecca Johnson, TCNS Parent Advisory Board Chair

As my predecessor, Kimberly Newman, once said, "I'm not Irish, but I do feel lucky!" Most recently, I feel lucky because we just attended a beautiful, thoughtful night benefiting our terrific preschool with this uplifting community, a community that I'm very proud to be a part of. On the night after Snowmageddon 2018, we turned up and turned it out to lift up all our little boats. It was a great success.

During the benefit, I read one of my favorite quotes (made famous in a speech by John F. Kennedy). It is, "A rising tide lifts all boats." A rising tide may be gratitude, prosperity, positivity, compassion, empathy, praise, recognition, philanthropy, education. In all things, a rising tide will lift us.

In the scope of our preschool, Miss Sue (and her terrific team of teachers and staff) has been a rising tide. She has maintained her overall vision and commitment to keeping tuition accessible while not sacrificing the quality of the school experience. At the benefit I walked through a list of important thank-yous.

I thanked Miss Sue, our amazing Director and the heartbeat of Trinity, for her dedication, her warmth, and the love that she puts into every interaction with each child. I thanked our incredible, dedicated teachers and staff who are genuinely invested in our children and their social & emotional development. They are building that foundation for a love of learning.

I thanked the benefit committee who volunteered their time all year to produce and direct the benefit event, the sponsorships, the donations, and the auction items. They went above and beyond!

And I thanked all of you, the TCNS parent community. Throughout this year and at the benefit, this community has contributed in such meaningful ways. You have contributed through financial donations, through volunteering time and talent, and through choosing TCNS as your preschool. We are grateful for your help to enrich Trinity and the experiences your children have at school. Thank you for your support!

If you were unable to attend the Benefit, you are still able to sign your children up for a few of the teacher-hosted kid parties and the parent-hosted parties directly on the website at: <https://tcns.ejoinme.org/parties>.

Lastly, emails and forms will be sent out this month describing positions on the Parent Advisory Board for the next school year. Sarah Holcomb will be our Chair 2018-2019 and I know she would love to have you on the board! Please consider joining and getting more involved with our school. It's a wonderful group to be a part of.

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

Rebecca Johnson  
Chair, TCNS Parent Advisory Board



# TCNS Gives Back:



Little Hands Making a BIG Difference



Coming Soon:

Thursday, March 15th

Join us and create bright and cheerful Spring crafts to be donated to local nursing homes. We look forward to seeing you at 4:15 in the Bike Room!

TCNS Presents:

American Eagle Productions

in

## The World of Winnie the Pooh

Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

4:15 P.M.

Join us for this LIVE theatre event in the TCNS Gym that will kick off our month long book drive, benefiting Bernie's Book Bank. Admission is FREE with the donation of a new or gently used book. The mission of this wonderful organization is to increase book ownership and literacy among underprivileged children in the Chicagoland area.



# 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



Life in parent tot is going great! It's hard to believe that it is already March. The children have grown so much this year, and it's such a joy to watch their Trinity friendships grow. They are also quite confident and happy coming into the classroom independently and starting their day at school.

Our color for March is green! We will be exploring this color with play dough, paint, stickers, crayons, colored pencils, marbles, and more. Maybe we will even see some green buds on the trees before the month is over.

We hope everyone has a wonderful start to spring!

Ms. Kristen, Ms. Kathy, Ms. Agata, and Ms. Ladin

### Songs of the Season: Apples and Bananas (3-Year)

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas  
I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas

**A**  
I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and banay-nays  
I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and banay-nays

**E**  
I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees  
I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees

**I**  
I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and by-nynys  
I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and by-nynys

**O**  
I like to ote, ote, ote ohples and bo-no-nos  
I like to ote, ote, ote ohples and bo-no-nos

**U**  
I like to oot, oot, oot ooples and boo-noo-noos  
I like to oot, oot, oot ooples and boo-noo-noos

# Ready-Two-Grow



February was filled with Valentine's Day fun! We decorated our room with large hearts covered with stamps and stickers and creative drawings. In preparation for exchanging Valentines, the children used more stamps and stickers to decorate bags which became their "mailbox." Next, they each got a turn to deliver their cards to each other's mailboxes. There was lots of concentration (as well as pride) as they carefully dropped in the cards. We also made Valentines for our families and had fun singing "Skinama-rinkadink, I Love You!"

Another fun art project was making a collage using bits of paper, glue and scissors. The best part was using the scissors to make fringe on the edges. The children really like to use scissors which is such a great fine motor activity—and it's not easy either! The painting easel is a popular spot, too, and is always open as part of free choice activities.

After Valentines Day, we started a unit on shapes. We talked about different shapes and then had fun spotting circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles all around the room. We made stoplights with circles and learned a new game called "Red light, green light." We made boats with triangular sails and played with chiming triangles. We made a collage of shapes by dipping stampers in paint and making prints. We also learned a new song about a diamond called "Can You Make a Diamond with Your Lap?" It is fun to sing along with hand and body movements.

We also had a visit from two dental hygienists who helped the children understand that healthy foods are good for your teeth and unhealthy foods are not. Then they got a turn to brush the teeth of a special stuffed animal that actually spit out real water. That really got their attention!

We are looking forward to more fun at school and hopefully lots of good playground weather!

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





## 3-Year (AM & PM)



February was filled with FASCINATION, FUN, and FRIENDSHIP! We started the month with the fascinating Polar Expedition! What a joy to witness the kids searching for penguins and polar bears and other arctic animals with their home-made binoculars as we climbed mountains and searched through caves! The polar expedition is the classic “it’s all about the journey” activity!

Love and friendship were celebrated as we prepared for our Valentine’s Day party. We especially loved tricking people with the OPEN FOR SOMETHING SWEET project! What can be sweeter than the beautiful face hiding inside?

Now we are holding our thumbs up for healthy food! Our nutrition unit is filled with lots of slicing and dicing

and cooking and tasting! We have numerous wonderful books to support this unit. However, our favorite activity is usually milking a cow. We will fill vinyl gloves with water and hang them upside-down from our drying rack and put tiny pin-pricks in the fingers. Our “farmers” will squeeze the fingers and – out comes the “milk!” The challenge is to aim the stream of milk into the bucket below!

Our nutrition unit will culminate with a magical trip to the Trinity Restaurant! The kids will get their own money (I Xerox dollar bills front and back. The kids can’t believe that they are getting “real” money!). They come to the restaurant in small groups. They will be given their own menus and order off the menu. The teacher becomes the waitress and stays in character the entire time. It’s really fun and a whimsical way to culminate all that we learned!



Here’s to more great weeks ahead!

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





## 4-Year (AM & PM)



February has had some chilly days, but thankfully we have had lots of sunshine as well. The children have enjoyed playing outside in the snow and playing in the bike room as well. On warmer days, the children love to run outside and play in the sandbox. We also warmed up our month with the Valentine's Day party. Everyone helped create classroom decorations and each child made a bag to collect their valentines. The children were very excited about passing out their cards and the teachers were very impressed with their polite manners.

We read the classic story of the princess Rapunzel and constructed towers that featured Rapunzel sitting in the window with her long hair cascading down the wall. Each child also got to be their very own "Jack and the Beanstalk." It was quite fun seeing if the five beans were truly magic. The love of fairy tales will continue as we enter into the Middle Ages.

We began our lessons on the Middle Ages with information on castles (castillos). The thought of dressing like a princess or defending the castle as a knight are definitely some of the high points. We'll learn the many features of the castle, such as the keep, moat, portcullis, drawbridge and loophole windows. We will also discover all the rooms inside the castle and the important jobs that had to be done to keep the royalty happy. The children will be fully ready to be dubbed knights and ladies when the Camelot Ball arrives.

Thank you to everyone that came to Trinity to read to the children! It is always a fun surprise. With conferences and spring break in March, we will fit in a few special days before we head off to space in April.

Thinking warm thoughts,

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





# Kindergarten Enrichment (AM)

Our KE children are stretching their imagination and understanding of comparative literature by exploring different interpretations, authors, and illustrations of fairy tales.

We have loved the stories of “Thumbelina” (including music and song), “Sleeping Beauty,” “The Loathsome Dragon,” “Jack and the Beanstalk,” “The Princess and the Pea,” “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice” and many more!

Our “Once upon a Time” bulletin board was created by the children painting a magical forest and river for

the setting of our castle and the characters from the stories. The children drew fairytale characters, cut them out, and placed them in the castle and the surrounding countryside.

The children also made a list with their own words of what makes a fairy tale unique. They will be writing and illustrating their own fairy tale and acting out a “Trinity Royal Festival.”

We loved viewing real castles in the Loire River region of France, including Chateau Usse, which is thought to have provided the setting for the story, “Sleeping Beauty.”

As a finale, the children will learn about royal coats of arms, shields and pennants and create their own family shield, which we will display above the bulletin board.

Following our spring vacation, March 26 through April 1, we will begin an exploration



of our galaxy, The Milky Way through real photographs from space telescopes. The children will paint colorful nebulae, which are brilliant clouds of gas and dust from which stars are born!

Your children are stars to us – shining with curiosity, enthusiasm, laughter and love!

With love,  
Mrs. Dashiell and Ms. Lauren



# Kindergarten Enrichment (PM)

After exploring different weather conditions, some kids in KE wondered how rainbows appear. That led to an investigation of color and light, which the Kindergarteners are right in the thick of.

We started off with Hervé Tulle's Mix it Up!, which inspired us to create a giant collaborative painting using only primary colors that we mixed together. Then after looking at some black-and-white photos, we wondered whether black and white were colors. We experimented with paint and crayon to make white art on black paper, and our opinions were pretty mixed as to whether our work was "colorful." Depending on who you ask, scientists, artists, and color theorists will give different responses as to whether black and white are



colors, but our K.E. scientists and artists used their own experiences to conclude that black and white do indeed count.

As Evelyn pointed out, "I think they are colors because even though they're not in the rainbow, there are other colors that aren't in the rainbow but they're still colors-- like brown and turquoise." Henry thought that black would count as a color because if you mix a lot of different colors of paint, you get a dark color like black. Nora argued that if you can see something with your eyes, then that means it is a color; she knows a white dog named Kirby (that she can see!), which meant that white was a color! During these discussions, we read black-and-white picture books like Ann Jonas's Round Trip, Lizi Boyd's Flashlight, and Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes.

Then we revisited our primary color mixing by adding white and black paint to our palettes. Each of the kids used those five paint colors to mix over twenty different colors and shades including lavender, sky blue, forest green, cobalt, and more! You can check out our color grids hanging on the bulletin board.

Once we got some solid color experiences under our belts, we added light into the mix, revisiting our original inquiry question: *what makes a rainbow appear?* The kids knew from prior knowledge that it has something to do with the interaction of sunlight and rain drops, and Davey remembered that when sunlight shines through the crystal

posts of his sister's bedframe, a rainbow appears in her room. We're getting closer to figuring it out!

Last week, we had a "Dark Day," where we turned out the lights in the classroom and used flashlights to explore shadows, projections, and transparency. The kids made some great discoveries using the flashlights, mirrors, prisms, color paddles, and more! We're exploring properties of objects that light can shine through versus objects that are opaque, and are using the light table and special vellum paper to color translucent stained glass patterns. We can't wait to see where the kids' great ideas lead us next!

Ms. Lauren & Ms. Anne

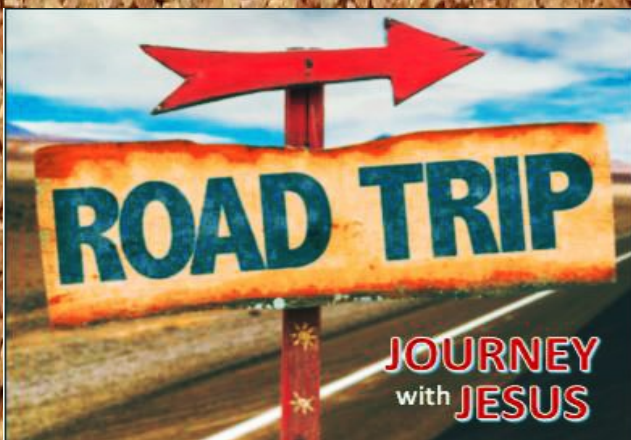




# Community Corkboard

## Songs of the Season: CAMELOT (4-Year)

A law was made a distant moon ago here:  
July and August cannot be too hot.  
And there's a legal limit to the snow here  
In Camelot.  
The winter is forbidden till December  
And exits March the second on the dot.  
By order, summer lingers through September  
In Camelot.  
Camelot! Camelot!  
I know it sounds a bit bizarre,  
But in Camelot, Camelot  
That's how conditions are.  
The rain may never fall till after sundown.  
By eight, the morning fog must disappear.  
In short, there's simply not  
A more congenial spot  
For happily-ever-aftering than here In Camelot.



## SAVE THE DATE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

June 25 – 28  
First Presbyterian Church  
600 9<sup>TH</sup> Street, Wilmette  
4:15 PM - 6:00 PM  
Optional dinner following  
Ages 3 to grade 4

## Journey to the Cross

A Good Friday Walk for Children



Come and experience a re-telling of Holy Week!

This interactive event engages children and answers questions about what happened between Palm Sunday and Easter.

Children three years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome, accompanied by a parent or caregiver.



Friday, March 30, 2018

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Hosted by St. Augustine's Episcopal Church  
1140 Wilmette Ave.

### Sponsoring Churches:

First Congregational Church, Wilmette  
First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Winnetka Covenant Church  
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

Volunteers are needed. Contact [cath@trinitywilmette.org](mailto:cath@trinitywilmette.org)



God's love is in the midst of the Journey to the Cross

Do you want to help the greatest preschool on Earth?  
Do you want to have a lot of fun at the same time?

What are you waiting for?

Join a sign-up party today!

Visit

<https://tcns.ejoinme.org/parties>