



Trinity Church
Nursery School

May, 2018

Trinity Times Newsletter

Developing Imaginations and Foundations

A Message from the Director:

Dear Parents,

As I write this newsletter, I am trying to resist the urge to say something trite about the passage of time, but the urge is overwhelming me! It certainly doesn't help that I am torturing myself by Googling "poems about kids growing up fast" and "poems about the end of the school year." All of these poems state the obvious with more eloquence than I can muster, so if you ever feel the need for a good cry, curl up in your bed and read some of them.

Yes, the truth is obvious; kids grow and change so very quickly. Our families are in a constant state of motion, and sometimes we can feel like we are simply hanging on rather than steering the ship. Now that my granddaughter is a TCNS student, I can no longer delude myself into thinking that I am just like you. I'm way older and have more life experience, so here is something I learned along the way:

You may not realize the full importance and depth of a moment while you are in that moment. You need to train yourself to "bottle time," to have awareness that a moment is precious, unique and fleeting. Take the moment in with all your senses. Now, clearly, that cannot be done with every moment (nor, would you want to!). Some moments are best to let pass and get to the next one. But, make a conscious effort to exist in the moment more often. Life will feel richer if you do. These are your good old days.

As the year draws to a close, there are so many people to thank. TCNS runs so smoothly because of the teamwork involved. My heart is filled with gratitude for the many relationships and connections that have enriched my life and the school community this year. I am grateful for the support and guidance of the Parent Advisory Board. All of us are blessed by the hard work and leadership of the Board guided by Board Chair, Rebecca Johnson. Thank you, Rebecca,

Dates to Remember:

5/8-Parent Workshop
5/14-3 A.M. Specials Day
5/15-RTG Specials Day
5/15-4 P.M. Specials Day
5/17-A.M. KE Wagner Farm
5/18-4 A.M. Specials Day
5/23-Old/New Board Meeting
5/29-RTG Class Picnic
5/30-3s Class Picnics
5/31-4 P.M. End-of-Year Celebration
5/31-A.M. KE Graduation
6/1-4 A.M. End-of-Year Celebration
6/1-P.M. KE Graduation
6/4-Prelude Begins
6/6-Board Luncheon
6/18-Camp Amigos Begins

for your enthusiasm, wisdom, and great sense of humor. Special thanks also to every member of the Parent Advisory Board for your important contributions and devotion to our school. It is because of your generous donations of time and talent that our staff can focus their energies on the children.

Thank you also to each and every parent for your generous support of our school! Your children reflect your goodness, generosity, compassion, and energy!

Thank you also to the entire TCNS staff for your devotion and hard work. It is apparent that the children in your care flourish from all the love you pour into them. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with each of you! Thank you for all that you do!

Last but not never least; I need to thank the children for their laughter, love, contagious opti-

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mism, and curiosity! Each precious child has become a treasured member of our TCNS Family. Together we celebrated birthdays, cheered on our friend's successes, comforted each other with kind words and hugs, and shared all the exciting and even not so exciting things happening in our lives.

I wish all our families a safe and happy summer! If you are leaving Trinity, please know that you and your child have left your mark on our hearts, and we hope you will come back to visit. If you are returning in the fall, all I can say is that it will be great to see you! Until then, stay well and be happy. Enjoy this magical time in your child's life! Laugh, sing, dance, explore and discover!

Life is a journey. Please remember to enjoy the ride!

With love,
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.



Trinity Kids Say the Darnedest Things!

- Walter C. (3PM) is a true dinosaur expert. He was invited to the 3AM class to share his knowledge and the kids were truly impressed! He told us that the Apatosaurus had to eat all day long to fill his tummy. He ate plants and just ate, ate, ate all the time! That's what he did! Fin L. then exclaimed, "Even on Christmas!"
- Sienna L. (3PM) gave her Dad strict instructions at the Daddy-Daughter Dance: "Don't dance crazy and embarrass me!"
- Anna T. (3AM) was out sick, and when she returned, I told her how much I missed her, and that I love being with her. She looked up, smiled, and sweetly said, "But you were with me. You were right here in my heart."
- Miss Courtney was running around with the Ready Two Grow kids on the playground when she stopped and said that she could not run anymore because her hamstrings were hurting her too much. Everett S. wisely said, "Then just take them off!"
- Dr. Jacqui came to the 3AM class and presented an outstanding lesson on our bodies. She prepared 20 body parts and a large figure of a body, and each child had the opportunity to Velcro the body part in the correct spot, while Dr. Jacqui taught us the function of that body part. When she held up the mouth and asked the kids what its purpose was, Andrew D. shouted out, "It eats chocolate!"
- Catherine F. (3am) came up to me all smiles and bursting with excitement exclaiming, "Miss Sue! I'm going to Letie's house today! My mom wants me out of the house!"



Tuesday's Child

Tuesday's Child at Trinity Pre-School Tuesday, May 8th, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Workshop: Parenting with Confidence

Are you looking for solutions that will help your children listen better at home, school, enrichment and sports programs?

Our Parenting with Confidence workshop provides parents specific strategies to create peaceful routines and encourage cooperation. Parents walk away with strategies that boost cooperation and help maintain positive behaviors outside the home.

Our approach focuses on discipline as an opportunity to teach children how to behave; and how parents can encourage children to make good choices.

Mark your calendar to save the date for this informative workshop.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

You will soon have the opportunity to rate various aspects of TCNS and provide suggestions for improvement by taking our online survey. Your thoughts and comments are very important to our continued success. Seasoned parents of TCNS know that many great ideas and enhancements came directly from the surveys! We LOVE to hear your ideas! Be sure to check your emails for instructions, and thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts!

Happy Trails, Miss Laurie!

After 7 years of loving and nurturing the kids at TCNS, Miss Laurie is moving to Denver. She has family in Denver, and her three beautiful daughters are relocating to Denver as well! So while she will be missed, we know that this is a great opportunity for Laurie, and we wish her much happiness and good luck in the next chapter of her journey! Thank you, Laurie, for sharing your gifts with us! xoxo



Our Trinity Family is Growing!

Please join us in congratulating the entire Memon Family on the birth of their new baby boy, Ammar! Big Brother Omar will be an amazing big brother! Congratulations!

Congratulations to the entire Baker Family on the birth of baby Clara! Big Brother Jack is overwhelmed with joy!



Chair's Corner

Rebecca Johnson, TCNS Parent Advisory Board Chair

"There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one." -Jill Churchill

Hail to the chief! Mother's day is just around the corner. I am forever grateful for my own mother and just as thankful to have my own children. I have two little boys, and they teach me something about myself and the world every day. Some lessons are profound. Some lessons are more like, "I will persevere in putting sunscreen on my child, even if he cries and screams, 'you're hurting me,' in front of the school. I'm trying to save your life, kid! Geez!"

Now that we're at the end of the school year, I'm a little sentimental. This time of year always brings about the happy anticipation of summer and the realization of how fast time is passing. It is the duality of feeling, "if I can just get to the weekend," while at the same time bemoaning, "where did the month go?" Just yesterday I was walking up the steps of Trinity to drop off a 3 year old with a 9 month old in my arms. That baby is now 5 and attending the KE program next year, but he already seems older and ready for Kindergarten in the fall. For this social and emotional preparation, I am forever grateful to Miss Sue and all of the TCNS teachers who have touched his life. The teachers work tirelessly to ensure each class experience is enriching. Our Teacher Appreciation Week can only hope to show them a fraction of our gratitude.

Sue! You are the best of the best of the best. You are a warm, kind, funny, loving, teacher, leader and friend. I am so grateful to know you and work with you. Cue the Pearl Jam.

TCNS Board members - you keep all of the special things we love about Trinity running smoothly. You make calls, ask for donations, schedule visits, coordinate activities, set up so many sign-up geniuses. Thank you all! I also want to thank our talented Newsletter Editor, Jeff Toth, whose patience, humor and creativity have been invaluable on a monthly basis.

Trinity parents- thank you for sharing your children with us. It is a privilege that we do not take lightly. This is the best community - thank you all for contributing to it.

It's been my pleasure to serve as your Board Chair this year. You are in WONDERFUL hands next year with my good friend, Sarah Holcomb, as your fearless leader. Have a wonderful summer! Grow. Play. Relax. LAUGH.

All my best,

Rebecca Johnson
Chair, TCNS Parent Advisory Board



Songs of the Season

Five Little Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs,
Sitting on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious (child fills in) - Yum, yum!

One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were four little speckled
frogs!

(Continue until no frogs are left)

We are the Dinosaurs

We are the dinosaurs,
Marching, marching.
We are the dinosaurs,
What do you think of that?
We are the dinosaurs,
Marching, marching.
We are the dinosaurs,
We make the earth flat.
We make the earth flat!

We stop and eat our food
When we're in the mood
We stop and eat our food
- yes we do!

We stop and eat our food
When we're in the mood

Swimming

Swimming, swimming, in the
swimming pool
When days are hot, when days
are cold

In the swimming pool
Back-stroke, sidestroke, fancy
diving too

Now don't you wish you never
had anything else to do!

We stop and eat our food
- yes we do!

'Cause we are the dinosaurs,
Marching, marching!
We are the dinosaurs,
What do you think of
that?

We are the dinosaurs,
Marching, marching!
We are the dinosaurs!
We make the earth flat!
We make the earth flat!

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



It's hard to believe we are already coming down to our last classes in parent-tot! These sweet children have grown and changed so much this year. Ms. Kathy, Ms. Agata, Mrs. Ladin, Ms. Deb, and I have enjoyed the time we have spent together so very much. Over these last weeks, we have been busy painting, gluing, drawing, reading, gardening, playing, singing, and dancing together. The children spent a few classes working on Mother's Day cards, as well as painting pots and planting pansies in them to take home. I will miss all of them so much and hope they will come back and visit us in parent tot next year! Happy summer to everyone!



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

Ready-Two-Grow



This month was all about spring which thankfully has finally arrived! One day, we read how birds make nests, and we got to see and touch a real bird's nest. Another day, we decorated trees with tissue paper leaves. Crumpling up squares of green tissue paper is great fine motor practice! Coloring spring shapes with markers was fun but the best part was spraying them with water to watch the colors diffuse and change!

Another favorite activity is sponge painting. We used sponges in the shapes of ducks, flowers and butterflies to make colorful stamps on paper. The most exciting part of our spring unit has been the arrival of five tiny caterpillars. We will be observing them in the next week as they grow bigger and begin to

spin their chrysalises. When they emerge as butterflies we will let them go at the playground and watch them take flight. What a magical moment!

Our class loves art projects and most do not mind getting messy! We made shaving cream prints with squeegees and food coloring. The result was a beautiful marbled effect. Finger painting is always fun, too, especially mixing all of the bright colors. Check out our latest works of art hanging in the classroom!

We have enjoyed all of our visitors this year. Family members are always welcome to share a special talent (like Trevor's dad playing the ukulele for us this month!), read a book, or join in our birthday celebrations. You are always welcome!

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over! We have thoroughly enjoyed your children and wish them a fun and joyful summer. Hopefully they will have lots of opportunities to play with their classmates to continue building socialization and language skills - and mostly to have fun! This will make their transition back to school in the fall easier.

Have a great summer!

Laurie, Colleen, Kathy, Kathy and Courtney



3-Year (AM & PM)

Life is a journey. My own kids know I love that line. It carries such perspective. It's not a competition or a race. It's a journey, a quest: seeking love and truth and knowledge and compassion. Along the way we learn that the more we give to the universe, the more we receive. Your precious kiddos are just beginning their journeys. They come to us all wide-eyed and amazed at everything school has to offer. And, as teachers, we have the privilege of seeing them grow and change. The timid become more confident, and the quiet become more boisterous. Many of the kids didn't know anyone in the class last September. Now they have lots of other amigos, people they care about and those they know care about them.



It hasn't all been sunshine and rainbows. Get a group of three year olds together in a room, and there are bound to be occasional conflicts. I like to think of them as teachable moments. But, with a little guidance from the teachers (and Zippy and Moe) we worked through them. Truth be told, we also had moments of sheer bedlam! All you can do to get through those times is laugh out loud with the kiddos!

Your kids learned a great deal this year. Their heads are filled with fascinating pieces of information on a variety of subjects as well as memories of whimsical, imaginative adventures. They can share, solve problems, and advocate for themselves. They can read their friends' names and understand letter/sound association. They are trying to be patient and exercise self control. They are, in every respect, ready for their next school adventure in the 4-Year Old Class.

But – it's not over yet! During May we will learn about plants as we try to grow corn and grass. We will also follow the transformation of live caterpillars! We will talk about the end of the school year and prepare them for the next step by playing in the 4's classroom and inviting the 4's teachers to join us at the rug. We hope to spend lots of time outside enjoying the spring weather. We will laugh and play and say good-bye to your kids with hugs and smiles...even though our hearts are breaking just a little bit.

On behalf of Laurie, Ellie, Meghan, Deb, and myself, thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's very important beginnings. We have fallen in love with each and every one.

Have a great summer!

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



4-Year (AM & PM)



Say it isn't so! Is this really May? The last newsletter? End of year happenings? We always struggle to say goodbye to our fabulous children and families. It's been a wonderful year, thanks to you, parents, and your children.

Our art gallery looks beautiful and the children will create their own portfolios for transporting their pictures home. The artists are proud of their works and who knows, you may be witnessing world renowned works of art before they become famous.

During the month of May, we also will do some planting, learn about the life cycle of butterflies, and explore bugs along with our spring crafts.

Magic Day will be coming too and we are sure the children and their teachers will impress each other with our talents. We wish we could make the children stay forever!

The rest of the month of May we will reminisce about fun events, songs and friends we made at school this year. We hope it will serve as a buffer for the struggle we have saying goodbye to the fabulous children and their families. It tugs at our heartstrings when we know that the last of a family is moving through. We'll all sing, "So long, farewell..." but we'll hope it's only "Til We Meet Again."

Thanks to all of you for contributing to a successful year for your child and their teachers. This is not a goodbye - it's well, let's say, "Til We Meet Again!"

Thank you so much to the many parents, grandparents, aunts who have come to read/do activities with the class! The children love having their "Special Guest" read to their friends and the teachers love to see the bright smiles on the children's faces.

Thank you all for helping to make TCNS the best place to be! We appreciate all that you do for the teachers and children as they prepare to enter their next phase of life. We will miss you and we hope that you find time to come back to visit.

Enjoy your your summer!

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



Kindergarten Enrichment (AM/PM)

The weather is warm, the tulips are blooming, and just like that, our K.E. students are almost first graders. It happens every year, but we still can't believe how fast it went!

The AM KE kids have kept busy the last few weeks building from the ground up, and turning their eyes to the skies. After reading and comparing different versions of *The Three Little Pigs*, we took an architecture detour that began with constructing houses out of various materials around the room. Our industrious builders used popsicle sticks,



straws, cardboard, tape, pipe cleaners, Lego, and more to construct houses that could withstand the huffs and puffs of the big, bad wolf. We tested the strength of the houses with different settings on a blow drier! While building, the kids were encouraged to create a solid foundation that would help their houses stand strong. We read books like Gail Gibbons' How a House is Built, Christy Hale's Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building, and Andrea Beatty's Iggie Peck, Architect for inspiration.

AM KE is currently immersed in a study of the stars, learning how they are born in beautiful "nurseries" of dust and gas called nebulae. The kids worked on a collaborative mural of stars, and voted on their favorite nebulae to recreate in giant paintings to hang on our bulletin

board. We learned that scientists have assigned names to various nebulae based on their appearance (such as the Horsehead Nebula and the Cat's Eye Nebula), and then we created our own and wrote about what we would call them. Stop by the room to check out the "Unicorn Nebula," "Target Nebula," "Camouflage Nebula," and more!

PM KE expressed an interest in learning about ancient Egypt, so we read nonfiction to research what life in Egypt was like 5,000 years ago. We were very interested in the Great Pyramids and how they were built without all of the modern technologies that architects and engineers have at their disposal today. We learned how ancient Egyptian workers may have used ramps to move the gigantic cube bricks used for the pyramids, and then experi-



Kindergarten Enrichment (Cont.)

mented with ramps and inclines in the room. We also reviewed the attributes of different three dimensional shapes and predicted which shapes would roll down a ramp, and which would slide. The kids created their own amulets, practiced writing their names in hieroglyphics, and used materials around the room to construct their own square and triangular pyramids.

After reading the architecture and building books mentioned above, the kids in PM KE moved on from building pyramids to building all sorts of homes, skyscrapers, and more! We read Virginia Lee Burton's classic The Little House to explore differences between rural and urban areas, and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each. After looking at some maps, we decided our last big project would be to create a huge map of a town of our own creation: K.E. City! We're in the midst of listing out and sorting our "must haves" (a fire station, a hospital, a school, houses, and condos, to name a few) and our "nice to haves" (Target, a dog groomer, an orchestra hall) before we make our final decisions and start creating!

Both classes of Kindergarteners are also busy recording observations of our caterpillar habitat and our looking forward to the butterflies to come! We have been examining photos of butterflies, looking for their lines of symmetry, and then creating symmetrical designs on paper wings using rulers, black marker, and



water colors. The imagination window in the house center has been brought to life with the kids' beautiful watercolor flowers, birds, and leaves. There's even a "Little House" or two!

We all have been learning new songs in preparation for our K.E. graduation ceremony in a few short weeks. We will be sad to see your kids go, but also know they are ready and are so proud of how far they have come emotionally and academically since the start of the year. It truly has been a pleasure spending time with each and every one of your children. Whether she was here for one year or several, know that your child has left a mark on Trinity and won't be forgotten.

With love,
Mrs. Dashiell, Ms. Lauren, and Ms. Anne

Top 10 Activities to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten & Have Summertime Fun!

1. Read to Your Child – Have fun reading! Read with expression! Read for information. Talk about the story and illustrations. Ask questions.
2. Playdates – Meeting at a park (neutral territory) can sometimes be easier.
3. Play Board Games – Encourages taking turns and helps your child accept how to lose a game.
4. Practice Writing Name – Use a spiral notebook and write 3 times a day. Over the course of the summer your child will be thrilled to see the improvement!
5. Count Objects – Have fun counting everything! If your child has trouble, have your child touch the objects as they count to reinforce 1-to-1 correspondence.
6. Have Fun with Rhyming – Rhyming is an important skill related to reading.
7. Roll the Dice - Count the dots and practice writing the numbers. Our kids LOVE doing this in Centers Day!
8. Practice Cutting – Give your child your junk mail and scissors and let them have fun!
9. Climb, Bike, Swim! – Mastering physical skills promotes confidence!
10. Talk About Your Fun Experiences! Promotes expressive and receptive language!

Community Corkboard

Dear TCNS Teachers & Staff,

Trinity UMC congratulates you on another wonderful year of learning and modeling compassion. We are blessed to be in this place together for yet another year. Enjoy summer and may God bless you in your goings and comings. Until we meet up again late summer, God bless you, Trinity!

On Children
by Kahlil Gibran

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but they are not from you,
And though they are with you; they belong not to you.
You can give them your love but not your thoughts,
They have their own thoughts. They have their own thoughts.

You can house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in a place of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You can strive to be like them,
but you cannot make them just like you.
Strive to be like them, but you cannot make them just like you.



The Diamond Song

Can you make a diamond with
your lap?

Make your knees - tap, tap,
tap.

Close your eyes and take a nap.
And then wake up with a clap, clap,
clap!

