



Trinity Times Newsletter

Developing Imaginations and Foundations

A Message from the Director:

Dear Parents,

Regardless of your religious and cultural background, December is most likely a time to reflect and celebrate the love of family and friends. That is exactly what we will be doing at TCNS. All this month, we will be learning about the joyous holidays of Christmas and Hanukkah. We will celebrate the season through books, music, art, and food as we learn about different customs and share our family traditions with each other. We hope the children will learn to understand and appreciate the diversity in our society as we celebrate our similarities as citizens of the world, and as always, we welcome YOUR participation! If you have something you would like to send or share with us, PLEASE tell your child's teacher.

The staff of TCNS sends warm Holiday wishes your way! We hope you enjoy PEACE, JOY, and LOVE with your beautiful children! May your days be HAPPY and BRIGHT!

With love and gratitude,
Sue

Dates to Remember:

12/10-TCNSGB Alumni Gingerbread House Decorating
12/11-TCNSGB Gingerbread House Decorating
12/13-TCNSGB Caroling: Sacred Heart Convent
12/17-TCNSGB Caroling: Mather Place
12/18-R2G Cookie Party
12/18-PM KE Holiday Party
12/19-3AM/3PM Cookie Parties
12/20-4AM/4PM Cookie Parties
12/20-PM KE Holiday Party
12/21-LAST DAY BEFORE BREAK!
1/7-SCHOOL RESUMES





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You know us. You love us.
Help us spread the word about TCNS!

Did you know that Trinity Church Nursery School is online, too?

You can "Like" us on Facebook, *and* review us on *Yelp!*, *Google Reviews*, *Great Schools*, *Nextdoor*, or any other favorite community feedback portal.

You and your children fill our community with love and light.

Let's shine for all to see!



Acknowledgements

TCNS Staff

Sue Gaertner – Program Director
Meghan MacKinnon – TCNS Administrator

Teachers:

Deb Bernstein, Dori Boneck, Kristen Bowie, Agata Budzik, Maria Costas, Valerie Dashiell, Sue Gaertner, Luanne Hampton, Sarah Hepner, Ellie Johnson, Yvonne Kelly, Joyce Ladin, Ginny Lazama, Courtney Mackenzie, Meghan MacKinnon, Alessia Odell, Jeni Roderick, Colleen Shean, Lindsey Smithwick, Kathy Stein, Lauren Wasielewski, Kathy Zawacki

TCNS Parent Advisory Board

Chair: Sarah Holcomb
Vice Chair: Carla Benigni
Treasurer: Erika Burkemper
Secretary: Stacy Shedivy
Registrar: Lesley Shifrin
Church Liaison: Tiffany Anderson
Communications Director: Lauren Williams
Newsletter Editor: Jeff Toth
Lunch Bunch Coordinator: Kelsey Davies
Goodwill Liaison: Kim Gilmore
Birthday Books: Erin Ivry

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Benefit Managers:
Christina Farrell & Annie Laughton

Live Auction:
Ali Maute, Maegan O'Neal

Sign-up Parties:
Christina Glisson, Lindsey Maude, Maggie Keller, Jerilyn Smith

Silent Auction:
Stacy Shedivy, Melissa Dahm, Bridget Onarati

Donate-It-Now:

Christina Glisson, Lindsey Maude, Maggie Keller, Jerilyn Smith

Decorations & Invitations:

Beata Brewster, Sophia Robinson, Alisa Zufall

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Parent-Tot: Courtney Beagen
Ready Two Grow: Anne Schumacher
3AM: Janet Acosta
3PM: Kate Morrone
4AM: Kelsey Davies
4PM: Erin Heywood
AM KE: Kate Morrone
PM KE: Ann Wegner

TCNS Gives Back:

Rachel Laude, Anne-Marie Kogan, Jen Curchin



Thinking of ordering your holiday cards?

EARN 13% FOR OUR SCHOOL WHEN YOU
SHOP THE LINK BELOW WHEN YOU ORDER FROM
SHUTTERFLY AND TINYPRINTS!

tcns.shutterflystorefront.com

We are excited to announce a fundraising program for our school! When you shop through our Shutterfly Storefront with the link above, Shutterfly will donate 13% of your purchase back to our school. Order holiday cards, calendars, and photo gifts, and earn money for TCNS! Just follow the simple steps below *before* you start creating your cards or ordering gifts.

Step 1: Go to tcns.shutterflystorefront.com.

Step 2: Click through to create cards and shop.

Step 3: At checkout use ANY valid coupon. (Simply Google "Shutterfly discounts" and choose a code.)

Step 4: forward the storefront link on to family and friends to earn more money for our school.

Thank you for being a loyal
Trinity Church Nursery School patron.
We value your support!

What's on Tap!



"C" IS FOR COOKIE!

You are invited to join us for our magical cookie parties! Please plan to join us for cookies, music, laughter, and love on this special occasion! In anticipation of this special day the children will be learning songs and decorating the room. There might even be a few surprises!

If you cannot attend, please arrange for someone else to be at school so that every child will have someone in attendance. We do hope that you will be able to join us! It truly is a wonderful day! Check the Dates to Remember section for your Holiday Cookie Party.

Special Guest Morning is Coming in January!

Mark the date on your 2018 calendar now! It's 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 play dough, 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 there!



Ready-Two-Grow	Saturday, Jan. 12	9:15 - 10:15
3 Year Old AM	Saturday, Jan 26	9:00 - 10:15
3 Year Old PM	Saturday, Jan 26	10:30 - 11:45
4 Year Old AM	Saturday, Jan 26	9:00 - 10:15
4 Year Old AM	Saturday, Jan 26	10:30 - 11:45

It's never too early to think about summer!

Every day is a special day at Camp Amigos! We will laugh, play, create, sing, climb, dig, paint, cook, and discover great wonders, ALL while learning Spanish! Special days include: Super Silly Day! Olympic Day! Water Days! Treasure Hunt Day! All Star Sports Day! Cooking Days! Surprise Day! Carnival Day! Dance Party Day! Fiesta Day! Mystery Hunt Day! Talent Show Day! And **MORE!!**

Half day & extended day options. Open to children completing RTG-KE.

Applications to arrive via email in January! Stay tuned!



Chair's Corner

Sarah Holcomb, TCNS Parent Advisory Board Chair

In my family, the notion of “time” during the month of December tends to pit the adults against the kids. For the adults, time flies in December. In fact, there’s never enough time. For the kids, it’s the “longest month in the universe” (to borrow a frequently heard expression). It may seem cliché or dramatic, but I’m already finding myself counting down the number of Christmases left with my oldest. Not enough time...not enough time. Meanwhile, my almost-3 year old daughter went with her brothers to drop off their letters to Santa in Santa’s mailbox, and she was perplexed why the “bubble maker” she wants from Santa didn’t automatically appear after the letter dropped. “Why no Leah bubble maker?” Could Christmas be coming any slower?!

While I’m frequently guilty of living in the future (worrying about this and that) or the past (why did I forget x or y?) during the holiday sea-

son, the best advice I’ve received for balancing the season’s frantic clock was from Nancy Brewski, Trinity’s guest speaker for the November parent seminar. If you want to enjoy quality time with your family over the holidays, where you are making happy lifelong memories, then put aside your “distractions,” live in the moment, make a holiday plan with your family, and be **truly present**.

Trinity is offering many upcoming opportunities to be present with your children this holiday season. I hope that your family can join us on Tuesday, December 11th at 4:15 P.M. for the TCNS Gives Back event, during which we will decorate gingerbread houses for local nursing homes. If gingerbread isn’t your thing, then get your voices ready for some good ol’ fashioned caroling at Sacred Heart Convent at 4 P.M. on December 13th or Mather Place at 4 P.M. on December 17th. The kids’ energy

boils over and is truly a highlight for the residents of both communities. I was so touched by the whole atmosphere of the caroling last year, I could barely sing my way through the songs! And last but not least, the class Cookie Parties are a true highlight for the kids!

I want to thank all of you for helping our school to be such a vibrant and happy community. From our wonderful teachers to our hard-working parent board volunteers, I am continuously inspired by your energy and enthusiasm for this special little school. All my best to you and your family this December. Have a wonderful break and a Happy New Year!

Cheers,

Sarah Holcomb
Chair, TCNS Parent Advisory Board



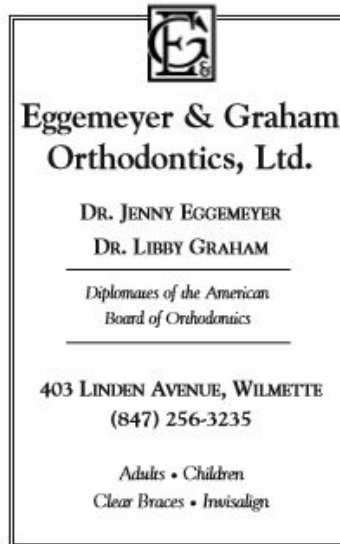


No DeLorean. No Phone Booth. No Hot Tub.

On February 23rd, 2019,
we're going back!

The TCNS Annual Benefit
Michigan Shores Club
6:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.

Dinner! Drinks! Live Auction! Silent Auction! Sign-Up Parties! Fun! And more to come! Stay tuned!



To Our Totally *EXCELLENT*
2019 TCNS Benefit Sponsors,
We Would Like to Extend a Heartfelt and
Most Righteous

THANK YOU!
Party on, dudes!



Classroom Updates



Parent Tot



The children in Parent Tot continue to amaze us with their growth and development each week! Watching them gain confidence and independence is so exciting. The children are getting to know each other and their friendships are blossoming.

Our color for the month of December is BLUE! We will be exploring this color through the many mediums we have available to us in the classroom, including glitter, paint, glue, water, and play dough.

In addition to our color of the month, we will also learn about some of the winter holidays. We will learn some

new songs, as well as continue to sing old favorites.

We are also preparing for the parents to say their good-byes next month, as we begin our happy separations in January. This is an exciting step in the Parent Tot class.

We wish everyone a peaceful holiday season filled with family fun and wonder.

Ms. Kristen and Ms. Kathy



Ready-Two-Grow



We had a wonderful month in Ready-Two-Grow. We focused on our theme of Gratitude as we prepared for Thanksgiving. The children experience the theme as it is woven throughout our morning through song, play, art, and stories. The children enjoyed many new art experiences this month. They created autumn wreaths, glued feathers on paper turkeys, learned how to use a pipette to make autumn leaves, cut and pasted to create fall collages and so much more. A recent favorite for the children is the use of the felt board in class. In particular, they like searching for the little mouse in *Little Mouse Little Mouse, Are You In the Green House?* They also like *Five Fat Turkeys* and *Five Little Snowflakes* which have helped them master counting to five.

With the changing weather, the children were introduced to the bike room. We try to get outside, but if it feels colder than 32 degrees or is too icy or wet, we venture by way of elevator to the bike room where the children ride bikes, rock the wooden boat, shoot hoops, and go down the slide.

Alumni/Older Sibling Day was a big hit in Ready-Two-Grow. The children enjoyed introducing their family members and meeting some of the teachers' children, too. Everyone had an older buddy for the day, and the children played and learned from each other.

We celebrated many birthdays and had lots of visitors join us in the classroom to read and help celebrate. We love having guests, and we welcome visitors anytime.

With gratitude in our hearts, we move on to a new theme of the Holidays and Snow.

Happy Holidays and Let It Snow!

Ms. Colleen, Ms. Kathy, Ms. Katie, Ms. Yvonne and Mrs. Z



3-Year (AM & PM)

November was jam-packed with fun! As soon as the Halloween costumes came off, we began talking about the people and things in our lives that we love. Acknowledging who and what we love is the first step toward developing a sense of gratitude. Once the children grasped the concept, they dictated their "Thankful Story" which the teachers wrote word for word. We hope you enjoy them! They can be hilarious, poignant, and sometimes, surprising. Take them as a slice in time and treasure them!

Making turkeys galore was also on the schedule! We water-colored turkeys and learned how to use our hand to



make a turkey. Creating our floral centerpieces and placemats was a fun process, too. We especially loved all the creative interpretations of turkeys!

Finally, cooking was a tasty and fun part of our Thanksgiving unit. We made homemade vegetable soup! It was delicious!

We also took some time to enjoy owls. They are fascinating to children! Making the pinecone owls was a treat for our kiddos as well as for lots of the siblings. Speaking of siblings, Sibling Day just might be one of the best days of the year! We love to stay connected to our alumni and watch them nostalgically reminisce about their nursery school days. We also love meeting siblings that didn't attend TCNS. The older sibs are generally very attentive to their brothers and sisters. It's a win-win for everyone!



We look forward to sharing sweet moments with your precious children in December! Hope to see you at our Cookie Party!

Happy Holidays to All!
With love,

Miss Alessia, Miss Deb, Miss Dori, Miss Ellie, Miss Meghan, & Miss Sue



4-Year (AM & PM)



We've had a very grateful past month thinking about everything that we are thankful for in our life. The children had many ideas about what they are thankful for ranging from their health to "the baby in mom's belly." We are impressed by all of the hard work the children put into cooking, art projects, and all other preparations for the "Día de Gracias," or Thanksgiving Day Feast. The children were so excited to share with you their "Thankful stories" and songs! A special thank you to all of the parents, grandparents,

and all other special guests that came in to read and/or do art projects with the children!

Alumni Day was also a perfect fit for the Thanksgiving theme, and both the teachers and children are happy to have been able to host the siblings on such a special day! We also appreciate Mrs. Dashiell for joining us for science and music/movement, and Miss Lindsey for doing music with us, Miss Maria, our academic readiness specialist, and especially Miss Sue for all that she does!

Now that Thanksgiving is past, Christmas cheer is in the air as we have begun decorating our classroom with trees, gingerbread men, and wreaths! We are getting more in the spirit, not only by decorating our room, but also by learning holiday songs, making gifts, and wrapping them too! During this holiday sea-



son of Christmas (Navidad) and Hanukkah, we will continue to show gratitude for what we have by remembering the beauty of giving and sharing with others. The children are looking forward to sharing with you a special time during our Cookie Party. We invite all of you to join us! The Cookie Party is the perfect opportunity to talk with the children about the joy of sharing and giving rather than receiving. We treasure deeply our days with your children. We wish each family our personal best wishes for an especially joyous holiday.

Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays to all!

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

Kindergarten Enrichment (AM & PM)

November was all about kindness, sharing, service, and gratitude in Kindergarten Enrichment. Between special events like Alumni/Sibling Days and the Thanksgiving break (as well as a big dose of anticipation for the upcoming holiday season), the month flew by!

We spent November reading a selection of stories that focused on themes of kindness, inclusion, empathy, and gratitude, including Maddi's Fridge and The Kindness



Quilt. The former details a story of friendship between two girls to gently raise awareness of hunger and lack of resources in some families. We discussed what it means to be grateful for the things we have, and how we can help others who are not as fortunate. We talked about how we can use our "extras"-- be they time, money, toys, clothing, or food-- to help make life better for others.

During the TCNS Food Drive, we visited the Wilmette Food Pantry and talked about how people volunteer their time to organize donations and distribute them to community members who could benefit from them. While the Food Drive was in focus in the lead up to Thanksgiving, we also talked about how donations can be brought to the pantry at any time during the year, and we looked to see where the donation bin is on the first floor. The kids

also made cards that Ms. Jeni delivered to a shelter where she volunteers.

We also began discussing "random acts of kindness," and how small actions on our part can make a big difference in someone else's day! It all started when we read Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed, and began looking for ways to spread kindness and cheer around our families, school, and community. You didn't hear it from me, but lately the K.E. classroom has been home to some secret kindness elves who have been hard at work on some top-secret missions to spread positive messages around Trinity!

Thank you to all of our guest readers and special visitors during Alumni/Sibling Days. The kids had a blast getting to show their older siblings around the room, and it was great to see the "big" kids take younger ones under their wings, whether it was reading to a group of kids on the rug, or

pitching in with crafts and projects. We look forward to celebrating the holidays with you at the end of this month (12/18 for PM; 12/20 for AM), and wish you a warm, restful holiday season full of love, family, and friendship!

Ms. Lauren, Ms. Jeni, Ms. Sarah, & Ms. Christina



TCNS Gives Back:



Little Hands Making a BIG Difference



Join Us For Our Upcoming TCNS Gives Back Events!

Gingerbread House Decorating

Monday, December 10 (Alumni Event)

This session is for TCNS Alumni! If interested, please contact Sarah Holcomb at steenholcomb@gmail.com for more information.

Tuesday, December 11 from 4:15-5:15 P.M.

Join us as we decorate gingerbread houses that will be donated to adorn the halls of local retirement communities and nursing homes. Cost is \$20/ family and includes one gingerbread house and all the fixins!

Please RSVP to sue@trinitywilmette.org if you can join us!

Holiday Caroling

Join us as we brighten the lives of the residents of Sacred Heart Convent and Mather Place Nursing Home, both of which are located in Wilmette. Our sweet kids will sing holiday songs and witness the smiles the good cheer they generate. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, December 13th

Sacred Heart Convent - 2221 Elmwood in Wilmette @ 4:00pm

Monday, December 17th

Mather Place Nursing Home - 2801 Old Glenview Rd, Wilmette @4:00pm

We will meet at the locations 10 minutes prior to singing. We hope you join us for this festive and sweet tradition!

"Warm a Heart at Sacred Heart" Donation Drive

Please turn any donation items in to classroom bins prior to 12/11. Thank you!

Trinity Kids Say the Darndest Things!

Sign of the times. . Mrs. Hampton was wearing ear muffs and a puzzled Scarlet M. (4PM) asked, "Are you wearing headphones?"

Eden G. (3PM) had just turned 4, and the event was a time of deep contemplation for her. She said, "Now that I'm 4, I feel like I have a whole new life. . I mean. . there are so many things I can do now. It's like a new life!"

Even alumni say the darndest things. Colin R. (age 13) and Keenan R. (age 11) are Miss Jeni's kids as well as beloved TCNS alumni. They accompanied their Mom to school on Alumni Day. After a half day at TCNS they told their mom they didn't know how she kept up with the little kids. "We are exhausted!"

On picture day, Nick K. (3PM) overheard the teachers say they needed to put on some lipstick before they took their photo. The next school day, Nick was sitting with Miss Meghan reading books on the rug when he suddenly asked her if she was wearing lipstick. She said, "No," and then followed with, "Why? Do you think I need some?" Nick looked her over and simply nodded yes.



Up On the Housetop

Up on the housetop, reindeer pause
Out jumps good ol' Santa Claus
Down through the chimney with lots
of toys
All for the little ones, Christmas joys
Ho, Ho, Ho! Who wouldn't go?
Ho, Ho, Ho! Who wouldn't go?
Up on the housetop, click, click, click
Down through the chimney with good
Saint Nick

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I shall play.

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Now dreidel we shall play.

Community Corkboard

Thank you to all the families who supported our Giving Tree for children in United Church Rogers Park's after school program. We wish you and all of the TCNS community a beautiful, bountiful, and blessed New Year!

Catherine Insera
Deaconess & Director of Family Ministries
Trinity United Methodist Church

Thank You



Get well soon,
Ms. Courtney!
Love,
Your TCNS Family

