



Trinity Church
Nursery School

April, 2019

Trinity Times Newsletter

Developing Imaginations and Foundations

A Message from the Director:

Dear Parents,

Mark your calendars now for a special event that will kick off our philanthropy project REACH OUT AND READ. On April 23 at 4:15, we welcome American Eagle Productions for a live performance of THE FABULOUS FABLE FACTORY. It's forty-five minutes of fun complete with lots of music. Admission is a new or gently used book that Trinity will donate to Bernie's Book Bank. Bernie's Books is a local non-profit dedicated to increasing book ownership among under-privileged youth in the Chicago-land area. They redistribute the books to toddlers through teens. In fact, once they collect the books from us, it will take them only 3 days to get each book in the hands of its new owner. THANK YOU in advance for supporting our book drive. TCNS will continue to collect books through May 24. There will be collection bins in the parish house lobby on the first floor and the lower level.

Please don't put away those calendars yet! You are invited to the home of Carla Benigni (1030 Timber Lane, Wilmette) on Tuesday, April 30 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for our spring parent workshop, presented by Dr. Michael Maniaci titled: Top 10 Mistakes Good Parents Make. Please RSVP to Carla at carlabenigni@gmail.com.

In closing, I want to share some personal thoughts. This week marked the 15th anniversary of my husband's passing from brain cancer. As I look back on the past 15 years, being part of the Trinity family stands out as a clear blessing in my life and the lives of my children. When I use the word *family*, I mean it in the most sincere way. Families love and support one another. Families nourish you in body, mind, and spirit. Families encourage you, laugh with

Dates to Remember:

4/10-Hearing & Vision Rescreening
4/12-Board Volunteer Forms Due
4/16-Final TCNS Gives Back
4/17-Parent Advisory Board Meeting
4/23-Live Theatre Book Drive Kick-Off
4/30-Parent Workshop

you, and catch you when you fall. That has been my experience as part of the Trinity family, and I am committed to make certain that is the experience for all members of the Trinity family, regardless of your needs.

Saturday, April 13 is the American Brain Tumor Association's BT5K in downtown Chicago. I ask that you please consider making a donation to fund research and patient services. Brain cancer is a horrific diagnosis and one that affects all ages. For more information or to make a donation to the American Brain Tumor Association, please use this url:

https://secure2.convio.net/abta/site/Donation2?df_id=5600&5600.donation=form1

With love and respect,
Sue

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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

Fundraising Committee:

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

Website, Invite Tracking, and Final Invoicing:

Mikie Hall, Ali Straitiff

Sponsorships:

Rebecca Johnson, Meghan MacKinnon

Communications:

Lauren Williams

Slide Show Creator:

Jeff Toth

Room Parents:

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

DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!



Have you turned in next year's forms?
All paperwork for students returning for the
2019-2020 school year is due by

May 31, 2019

We know the end of the year is a battle.
Don't be left outside The Wall!

Fill out your child's forms today!



Let gifts for the grandparents do the work for you!

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

tcns.shutterflystorefront.com

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 member of the
Trinity Church Nursery School family!

We value your support!

What's on Tap!

Join the TCNS Parent Advisory Board

By joining, you will have the opportunity to meet other wonderful parents as you contribute to the success of the school. The Board performs important administrative functions, which allows the staff to focus more of their time and attention on the children.

To throw your hat in the ring, simply go to:

<https://trinitywilmette.wufoo.com/forms/k17hv7hh18jkl5j/>



CALLING ALL PARENTS!

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?

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! Your child will be thrilled when you share your time with their class! We hope to hear from YOU!

Parent Workshop

10 Mistakes Good Parents Make

With Dr. Michael Maniacci

Tuesday, April 30th
7:00-9:00 P.M.

1030 Timber Lane, Wilmette
(Carla Benigni's House)

Please RSVP to:
carlabenigni@gmail.com





We are often asked during conferences what activities parents can engage in with their children to reinforce and support their education and development. The short answer is one simple word – READ. However, in an effort to elaborate on this answer, I revisit the main domains of child development and offer suggestions for stretching your child's abilities

Social Development: Play-dates work wonders. However, keep in mind that school is neutral turf and your home is not neutral. Therefore, conflicts about toys and trouble sharing are more apt to occur in *your* home. Plus, being a good host is not intuitive. It must be guided. Role playing and modeling are great ways to teach social skills.

Emotional Development: We all want our kids to manage their intense feelings appropriately. We can stretch their emotional intelligence through "emotion coaching." There are 4 basic steps to emotion coaching:

1. **Awareness of an emotion:** This means noticing that an emotion is present.
2. **Acknowledge the feeling and LABEL the emotion:** Help your child develop a feelings vocabulary. Do not use the generic "upset" to label their feeling. Try to use precise language such as disappointed, frustrated, scared, tired. Your goal is to help your child reach the point where they express their intense feelings with words.
3. **Listen empathetically, matching tone and space and stance:** Your child wants to know that you understand what they are feeling.

4. **Problem solve or discipline:** Remember, we can validate their feelings and still disapprove of their behavior. We want our kids to learn that they can feel these intense feelings without hitting, pushing, screaming and so on. Their feelings do not justify inappropriate behavior.

Speech & Language Development: The value of reading to your child cannot be over-emphasized. Reading to your child will help them develop a rich vocabulary. Be sure to use expression when you read aloud. Also, be a good model for your child. Take the time to look your child in the eye when they speak and ask them to look others in the eye. If your child is mixing up verb tenses, listen attentively and then repeat what they said back to them, but use the correct tense.

Motor Development: Play is a child's work, and that is completely true of motor development. Give your child lots of opportunity to climb, jump, run, swim, twirl, and just MOVE! To encourage your child to grip a writing tool correctly, break your crayons in half. Now watch how they grip them!

Cognitive Development: Again, my advice is to read, read, read! Support your child's interests with trips to the library and museums. Play letter/sound association games in the car. Challenge your child to find similarities and differences in objects. Create patterns for your child to continue. Make up rhymes together. The list is endless!

Chair's Corner

Sarah Holcomb, TCNS Parent Advisory Board Chair

Hello, everyone! Is it too early to say that Springtime is here? The rain and recent temperatures might indicate that Spring is here, but we all know from experience that the weather we actually get in the Spring is not always (or rarely ever) the weather we desire. I feel, however, the mindset of Spring has arrived! Hopefully everyone feels a bit refreshed after spring break, whether you had a “staycation,” a vacation, or just a little extra downtime or family time. Any of those scenarios can be a nice break from our daily winter schedules that start to bog us down.

My spring-mindset has me itching to spring clean: sort the kids clothes to either recycle with the younger siblings or box up to be passed on, address all the piles of papers on my desk, purge the unused knick-knacks and toys that no longer hold my kids' interest. We'll see if I'm actually successful in channeling my inner-Marie Kondo, but at the least I have a couple Trinity-sponsored events that will give me some extra motivation to accomplish a few of my spring-minded goals.

Our final collection will be **Friday, April 12th**. You can drop your items off in the bins outside your child's classroom or at Rachel Laude's house: 424 Prairie Ave.

Second, TCNS is hosting a **Bernie's Book Drive** this month through mid-May. Bernie's Book Bank is one of Chicago's largest literacy programs that strives to distribute quality new and gently used children's books to at-risk children throughout Chicago-land. Their goal is to increase book ownership among at-risk infants, toddlers and school-age children with the hope of moving children from poverty to gaining knowledge through reading. Bernie's Book Bank is an amazing local organization that even offers opportunities for groups to volunteer to help sort, sticker and pack quality books for children at their warehouse in Lake Bluff. So I encourage everyone to take the time this month to gather up the books your family has outgrown, or perhaps the books that your child isn't interested in, and drop them off in the donation bins at Trinity.

First, our April 16th TCNS Gives Back will benefit **Share Our Spare**, which is 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. During the Gives Back, our children will have the opportunity to help sort all the items to be donated, thus giving them the chance to be “hands on” in a project that will benefit many families in need. TCNS is collecting the following new items: sleeves of Size 1 diapers, packages of wipes, bottles (2-packs), pacifiers (2-packs) and burp cloths (2-packs). Visit the TCNS sign-up genius to see what items are still needed. Email me if you need the sign-up link resent to you. Additionally, you can see what other new and gently used items you can donate by visiting: www.shareourspare.org/share-your-stuff/.

I'd also like to include a plug for joining the TCNS Parent Advisory Board next year. Each position on the board is important to helping our preschool run and maintain its thriving community. There is a position for everyone depending on your availability. If you are curious about the commitment level of different positions, we have job descriptions we can email to you, or feel free to ask me, Carla Benigni (next year's Board Chair), Sue, or any board member to share their thoughts and experiences. Applications can be filled out online by April 12th (email me or Sue if you need the link resent). We'd love to have you!

Sarah Holcomb
Chair, TCNS Parent Advisory Board
Email: stenholcomb@gmail.com



TCNS Gives Back:



Little Hands Making a BIG Difference



shareourspare™

TURN extra INTO extraordinary

Share Our Spare is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to sharing new and gently-used clothing, toys, and supplies with children ages four 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.

Please consider donating any of the following NEW items to create Newborn Kits:

Newborn Size 1 Diapers

Wipes

Bottles

Pacifiers

Burp cloths

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4caea92eabfc1-share1>

Drop off: by Friday, 4/12, in your child's classroom
Or at Rachel Laude's house, 424 Prairie Ave.

Join us!

Tuesday, 4/16 @ 4:15pm for our final Trinity Gives Back event of the year!

The children will get a chance to be "hands on" and help us sort the items that have been donated.

We will also be collecting new/gently used baby and toddler items during the drive. Share Our Spare is in need of all clothing items size 3T, 4T, 5T, and 6/6X. To see a list of all accepted items, please visit:

www.shareourspare.org/share-your-stuff/

Classroom Updates



Parent Tot



Life in Parent Tot is fantastic! The children are growing and changing so much, and separation is continuing to go really well. We truly love getting to spend our Monday mornings with such a warm, sweet, funny, smart, and kind group of two and three year olds!

Our color for the month of April is PURPLE! We will be exploring the color purple this month with paint, crayons, kinetic sand, play dough, gardening, and more.

Favorite activities in the class continue to be play dough, painting, and the water table. Pretend play is also starting to take a larger role in the room as the kids move from parallel play to more interactive play with one another, as well as the teachers in the classroom. We have a few students who really love "cooking" in our pretend kitchen, and some diligent "firefighters" in the transportation area. One of the joys with working with such young children is witnessing how much they change and develop over the course of the year. When you look at pictures from the beginning of the year it's hard to believe that was only 7 short months ago!

Happy Spring!

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



Ready-Two-Grow



March was a wonderful month in Ready-Two-Grow. The children enjoyed learning about Transportation and Friendship, and now we have started a new theme on Shapes and Spring-time. Each month we explore our theme through songs, stories, art, music and play, weaving the theme throughout our morning.

The children loved celebrating Saint Patrick's Day in the classroom. Ms. Kathy played her fiddle for us, and we all danced a jig. Thank you, Ms. Kathy, for sharing your talent with all of us. Some of our favorite songs this month were My Hat It Has Three Corners, Skinamarink and Make a Diamond. The children enjoy listening to songs and singing along. We also played the triangle and the tambourine when learning about shapes. We are great makers of music!

We read a lot of wonderful children's literature this month. The children are doing well sitting at the rug and listening to longer stories such as Corduroy, Hurry! Hurry! And Triangle. Nothing beats a good story!

At the art table, we introduced salad spinner art, made shape mosaics (working on our cutting and pasting) and created googly-eyed triangle creatures. The children like the invitation to create and the freedom to do so. All works of art are unique and each child is so proud of his or her efforts.

We spent time in the bike room and outside this month. Everyone loves gross motor time, and our hope is to enjoy more of it this upcoming month once the weather is warmer. We look forward to exploring our Springtime Theme outside in nature.

Things are Shaping Up this month in Ready Two Grow! :-)

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



3-Year (AM & PM)

We hope the concept of “thumbs-up for healthy food” remains with your child long after we complete our unit. We really enjoyed slicing, dicing, and tasting our way through our nutrition unit! We are especially proud of our kids for expanding their world and tasting new foods. Our nutrition studies will soon culminate with a trip to the “Trinity Restaurant.” The kids will be divided into three groups and each group will “travel” to the restaurant that we set up in the parlor. Each child will have their own picture menu plus their own money (we photocopy front and back sides of dollar bills. I wish you could see their faces when they receive their “real” money!). They will then calculate their own bill and pay their waitress. Our waitress stays in character the entire time, which both delights



and baffles the kids. We love to culminate our units with a whimsical, imaginative experience!

We will soon be ready to study a HUGE topic – dinosaurs! Your child will be a dino expert! This unit is rich in sophisticated vocabulary, including carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, extinct, fossil, volcano, paleontologist, and MORE! It will include cooking (we will create an edible dinosaur), and graphing (What is your favorite dinosaur?) There are lots of fun learning tools and toys to support this unit as well as wonderful books. Using our collection of books, we will learn the difference between fantasy and fact. Finally, it will all culminate with the dinosaur dig, where our paleontologists set out to un-earth tons of mini-dinos that we buried in the sandbox!

Our lessons with Zippy and Moe continue to be important parts of our program. The children are learning to navigate common social situations as well as interpret facial expressions. The issues that we discuss are common life occurrences such as accidentally knocking down a friend’s block tower, interrupting the teacher, wait-

ing your turn to use something, bumping into a friend, disagreeing about who should use a toy, and so on. The children are always very serious, logical, and kind in their responses.

Finally, if you have a talent or hobby, or can play a musical instrument, and you want to share your time with the kiddos, please let us know! We know there are a lot of talented parents out there! Don’t be shy! Or, if you want to stop by and read a book, share a snack, sing a song, or just hang out, we’d love to have you. Plus, that invitation extends to grandparents as well! Just send us an email and we’ll make that happen!

Here’s to a wonderful April!!

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





4-Year (AM & PM)

Spring has sprung, and we are anxiously awaiting warmer temperatures to stay consistent. We hope you all enjoyed your Spring Break as we did, though we are eager to get back into the swing of things! Our classroom certainly was buzzing this past month learning about life in the Middle Ages. The thought of dressing like a fancy "princesa" or defending the castle as a "caballero" (knight) were definitely some of the high points. We learned the many features of a "castillo" (castle), such as the keep, the moat, the portcullis, the drawbridge, and the loophole windows. All the while, we expanded our Spanish vocabu-

lary. The children enjoyed building their own castles with blocks and playing imaginatively with many castle toys. The giant play castle was a big hit! The Camelot Ball was a grand affair indeed. The royal red carpet led to the thrones where the knights and ladies were dubbed followed by singing "Camelot" and dancing with partners at the Ball. Thank you for all those who were able to attend!

Next stop - space! Prepare to be amazed by conversations about space travel, planets, and perhaps aliens as we delve into exploring our (Sistema Solar) Solar System. This unit leaves us in awe as we are reminded of the complexity of our "place in space." The children enjoy learning about the planets, and usually have more information they have gleaned from an older sibling or their parents, so help us stay current with any articles you may find about space exploration.



"April in Paris" sounds lovely. How about a side trip to Giverny to discover the Impressionist style of Claude Monet? We will be learning about that famous artist as well as Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse as well as other artists. All of our paintings will adorn the classroom as it transforms into Trinity's Art Institute. Our budding artists will advise you of the hours it will be open for viewing! They will be pleased to act as docents and inform you of the artists' style of painting and their interesting lives. The children will even bring home their art work in their personalized portfolios!

A special thank you to the parents who came in to read to the class this past month.

We continue to cherish each and every child for their uniqueness as they have grown in our care, thank you for sharing them with us!

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

Kindergarten Enrichment (AM & PM)



The K.E. kids had a wonderful March and are looking forward to a fun-filled April and May. After St. Patrick's Day, we had rainbows on the brain and will soon begin a study of color and light, exploring to find answers to the questions "where does color come from?" and "what causes a rainbow?"

In March, each class collaborated on designing a city, incorporating elements both practical (police and fire stations, roads, train tracks, hospitals, grocery stores) and fun (playgrounds, and American Girl Store, Funtopia, football fields, and more)! We spent several class

sessions planning and drawing these out, putting signs on buildings, and bringing our cities to life with watercolor paint. It was a great synthesis of all of the things we've been discussing over the last few weeks: homes and neighborhoods, cities and skyscrapers, and what things we value in a community we call home.

In learning about architecture and skyscrapers, we also reviewed attributes of three dimensional shapes that we were spotting in the columns, towers, geodesic domes, and other features of buildings. We learned that most 3D shapes have faces, or flat sides, that can be used to identify them. We did an experiment to see which 3D shapes would roll down a ramp, and talked about which of their features allowed them to do so. After discussing pyramids, we took a little detour to ancient Egypt, where we learned how ramps were used to construct these giant structures. The kids were very interested in all things mummies and hieroglyphics, so we dug out



tunnels and buried mummies and treasure in pyramids we built of sand, and practiced writing our names in hieroglyphs!

March also saw the departure of Ms. Sarah from the PM class. We took the opportunity to surprise her on her last day with our favorite memories of our time together, and are looking forward to Mrs. Dashiell hopping back onto the K.E. team for the remainder of the year! Happy Spring!

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

THANK YOU,
MRS. LEZAMA!

We wish you a very happy retirement!



Every once in a while you meet someone who is understanding of children, and the learning process is so intuitive, that you are wiser just from knowing and observing them. That is how I feel about Ginny Lezama. When I came to Trinity 18 years ago, I was instantly impressed with the fact that Ginny seemed to remember the name of every child she ever taught as well as anecdotal stories about them. That can only come from a place of love. When kids speak, Ginny listens with both ears and her big heart. She asks them questions to elicit further language and encourages them to speak in front of and with their peers. And when Ginny reads a story to the class, the kids are enthralled. These and so many other skills are the gifts Ginny has shared with the children of TCNS for roughly 40 years. These are among the many reasons we will miss Ginny Lezama as she enters the next stage of her life in retirement.

Ginny, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the boundless love you shared and continue to share with the children of TCNS! That love helped each child grow in confidence and will remain with them. That love is a blessing that empowers all who have felt and continue to feel it. Thank you for generously sharing your life and your love with the Trinity family! We wish you happiness and joy in retirement! You deserve only the best!

With love and gratitude,

Sue

Community Corkboard

OUR TRINITY FAMILY IS GROWING!



Congratulations to the Gilmore Family on the birth of Baby William! Big Brother Noah and Big Sister Dylan are thrilled!



Congratulations to the O'Neal Family on the birth of baby Wesley! Big Brother James and Big Sister Emma are super excited!



Welcome, William and Wesley!
We can't wait to see you!



Trinity Kids Say the Darndest Things!



Hang in there!

Anna T. (4AM) keeps very busy at playtime! After lots of activity, Anna came to the art table and said she was ready to do the project. Mrs. Lezama said that since it was almost clean-up time she would hold all the materials and Anna could work on her creation tomorrow. After a long sigh, Anna replied, "Don't leave me hanging!"



Andrew D. (4AM), upon learning that it could take as long as 30 years to build a castle in the Middle Ages said, "Then the king should hire a crew! Then they could do it faster!"



Aidan K. (3PM) made an interesting discovery while looking at his Thumbs-Up /Thumbs-Down project. "If you hold the paper upside-down, then ice cream is a thumbs-up food!"

Charlotte H. (3PM) gave Miss Dori a funny look the day she wore her tracksuit and then asked, "Why are you wearing your pajamas?"

