



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
TINLEY PARK, ILLINOIS 60477
MAY 27, 2010



TRINITY'S BOARD OF CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL REPORT
"GROWING IN FAITH"

What would you think about a school where:

- ❖ Students begin and end each day with prayer in the name of Jesus
- ❖ Students grow in their faith as a disciple of Jesus
- ❖ Students realize learning about God's world can be enjoyable and exciting
- ❖ Students understand service to others is part of their life
- ❖ Students realize the adults in their lives want them to use their gifts for the glory of God
- ❖ Students are expected to achieve to the best of their ability and receive the support to do so

Many would think it would be a wonderful school for children to learn, and it is! Trinity Lutheran School, by God's grace, has been teaching children on the elementary level about God's Word and His world for 150 years. The faculty, staff, parents, and Board of Christian day School members strive daily to insure each and every student experiences a day as mentioned above. This has been possible and continues today thanks to the tremendous support and generosity of the members of Trinity Lutheran Church.



The theme for the 2009 - 2010 school year is "Growing in Faith." Students are reminded daily how they grow in their faith through the power of God's Holy Spirit. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5) Jesus' words remind all of us where we need to be planted in order to grow - in

Him as Lord and Savior.

We need to daily thank and praise our God for His gift of students, parents, faculty and staff. It is the responsibility of this board to provide for the best environment possible in which to teach the children about Jesus and His message of salvation. God expects the best for His children. We must, at all times, give to our Heavenly Father the very best we have to offer. It can be no other way.

In October of 2009 and again in February of 2010, the Board of Christian Day School reported to the congregation on the "State of the School." At that time curriculum changes, personnel additions, and school activities were mentioned. It is the purpose of this report to "update" any previous implementations, activities, etc.


Trinity Lutheran School exists to challenge and enable young people to grow in both Christian Spirit and academic wisdom, and to prepare them to be witnesses in God's Kingdom.

(Trinity Lutheran School Mission Statement)

CURRICULUM

- **TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WILL BE RECOMMENDED FOR FULL ACCREDITATION.** The faculty will begin discussing the strengths, concerns and recommendations as noted in the Visitation Report during their June workshops.



- Trinity is adopting a portion of a new reading series for the 2010 – 2011 school year. Illinois textbook loan funds are not available to assist in the purchase. Trinity's curriculum is on a six-year cycle. Each year a major area of the curriculum is evaluated and updated as needed.
 - The implementation of the new English series has gone well. A further evaluation will be completed in June during post-school teacher workshops.
 - Forty-one (41) fifth graders and six (6) chaperones attended a week of out-door education at Walcamp in February. Ms. Leverenz, Miss Kloess, Mr. Berg, Mrs. Rohder, Dr. Seielstad and Mr. Lewis served as chaperones. Miss Leverenz is the Walcamp coordinator.
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- Trinity continues to use the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills for grades 2 - 8 and the Cognitive Abilities Test (grades 2, 4 and 7) as the tools for achievement testing. The Metropolitan Readiness test is the instrument used in Kindergarten. Trinity's student body continues to score exceedingly well on the achievement tests.
 - Participated in the Lutherans for Life Essay Contest including students in grades 4 – 8.
 - The State of Illinois visited Trinity in May of 2003 and gave Full Recognition to Trinity as a high quality non-public school. State Recognition is the term used for accreditation to nonpublic schools in Illinois. This procedure also needs application for renewal each year. Trinity again received Full Recognition for the 2009 – 2010 school year.
 - Involved teachers in Professional Development by attending conferences and workshops, partially subsidized by SD 146.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Current enrollment is 269 students in grades PK - 8. Trinity is the 7th largest school in the Northern Illinois District for a Kindergarten through grade 8 enrollment.

233 Member Children Enrolled 36 Community Children Enrolled

- Eighty five percent (85%) of Trinity Lutheran School enrollment is member children.
- Instituted background checks for volunteers.
- Enrollment for the 2010 – 2011 school year is projected to be 269 students. Praise to our awesome God for His generosity and His grace. Please continue to pray for the enrollment process for Trinity and the sister Lutheran schools.

ACTIVITIES

- Trinity's Kindergarten and Cherub Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Donna Richards, presented the operetta "OH, Jonah" on Friday, May 7. This was another opportunity for Trinity's young Christians to use their God-given talents for His glory. An ENORMOUS thank you to the teaching ministers in grades K – 3 and the many parents who assisted with the set construction, design, and "set-strike."



- Presented the fourth alternating year Dinner Theater on Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1. "Fools" by Neil Simon was the presentation, which involved over 20 seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) graders as cast and crew members. A HUGE thank you to director Mr. Scott Huster, his assistants, Mrs. Huster and Miss Pederson, to crew director, Miss Heins, and to lighting coordinator Mr. Lisius.
- Celebrated Lutheran Schools Week (LSW) from March 7 - 14. *Securing Each Child's Future—For a Life of Service* was the theme this school year. An Open House was held on Wednesday, March 10, as part of the activities during the week. In addition, the Annual Talent Festival, involving over sixty-five (65) students of Trinity, was presented on Friday, March 12, 2010, as part of the weeklong celebration.
- Celebrated 40 years of service in the ministry to children and families on May 23 2010, for Mr. Carl Lisius.
- Celebrating the retirement of Mrs. Donna Richards after 24 years of service to her Lord in Lutheran schools on Sunday, June 6.
- Completed the production of Trinity's yearbook. A group of eighth graders, assisted by Mrs. Bliss and parent volunteer Mrs. Jeanne Morgan, were responsible for the production of this document. Expected delivery date is the end of May.
- Held three Coffee And... for all school families throughout the school year for the purpose of information and discussion. Trinity's PTL assisted with these meetings by supplying the "Coffee And..."
- The seventh and eighth graders participated in their annual class trips in April.



- Participated in the Jump for Heart Program sponsored by the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. This activity is a part of the P.E. curriculum. The students raise dollars, through pledges, for the AHA.
- Students in grades two (2) and three (3) had the opportunity to participate in Art Club.
- Posting activities, events, and programs on the church and school's new sign.
- Continued the celebration of Baptismal Birthdays during weekly chapel services.

- Under the direction of Mrs. Cook, sixteen (16) students participated in the South Suburban Lutheran Spelling Bee held on February 20. Students from grades one (1) through eight (8) were part of the Spelling Team. Trinity captured a **SECOND PLACE** again this year in the Bee with two students receiving first place honors, one receiving second place, and five others placing as well!



➤ Thanks to our volunteer teacher and parent coaches Trinity was able to offer a fifth grade boys' basketball team, a sixth grade squad and a varsity team, along with a 5th grade, 6th grade, and varsity squad of cheerleaders Again, thanks to our teachers and parents, Trinity was also able to offer a 5th grade volleyball squad, a 6th grade volleyball team and compete on the varsity level. Many of Trinity's students were also able to participate in track including individuals and teams at the State Track Meet at Concordia University in River Forest.

- Trinity's Band and a number of choirs performed for the Spring Fine Arts Festival held on Thursday evening, May 20. The Trinity Singers (Trinity's Junior High Choir) and a group of 7th and 8th graders playing chimes, recently shared God's message through music at the retirement village and nursing home in Arlington Heights, IL.

- Trinity's band combined with St. Mary in Mokena for concerts presented to the respective student bodies.

- Hosted the annual Solo Music Contest for Music Education Services, the company providing band instruction for Trinity, on March 13. Over 70% of Trinity's participants received a first place medal, and 100% of Trinity's participants received either a first or second place medal.

- Continued sending correspondences to Trinity's Shut-ins. Each homeroom class has at least one shut-in with whom they correspond on a monthly basis.



- Participated in "prayer-partner" activities during the year. Each Trinity student has a prayer partner within the school population.

- Continued with chapel families for the 2009 -2010 school year. Students from grade K – 8 were combined into groups (families) for worship on Wednesday mornings. These families have also enjoyed other activities together.

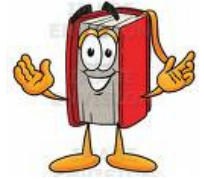


- The annual Lutheran Education Walk-A-Thon was held in April, on Trinity's campus, with the students walking for the Lutheran World Relief and contributing all donations to that organization. Mr. John Boor directed this event.

- Continued, for the third year, an after-school program on a contractual basis, of Spanish instruction for interested students.

- Continued the peer assistance program Kids Helping Kids, using National Junior Honor Society members as tutors for other Trinity students. This group met twice a week.

- Participated in the "Battle of the Books" through the Tinley Park Library. Mrs. Kathy Gilmore, school librarian, arranged for this activity.
- Inducted fifteen(15) students from grades 6 - 8 into the Scholarship and Service Club of Trinity's Chapter of The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) on March 8th.
- Through the gifts of Trinity's students and coordinated by the National Junior Honor Society and Trinity's Student Council, both under the direction of Miss Emily Heins, a number of service projects were implemented and performed within the school and community.
- Participated in the "Read to Succeed" program for grades Kindergarten through 6.
- Hosted the South Suburban Lutheran Athletic Conference Track Meet.
- Held numerous Open Houses for the Trinity members and the community.
- Initiating the Summer Reading program, "Read Like a Rock Star," for all school families this summer.
- Visited by The Secretary of State's office for a presentation to our early childhood students on bicycle safety.
- Celebrated Dental Health month by distributing tooth brushes and floss donated by local dentists.



SERVICES

- Thanks to Mrs. Janice McGeary-Seielstad, and the many moms and dads who volunteer their time, Trinity was able to maintain a phenomenal Hot-Lunch Program. This program allows Trinity's students to purchase a hot lunch meal three days a week, and serves the Thanksgiving Feast and the school picnic lunch at no charge to the students.



- Maintained the Booster Club sponsored Home Run Inn Pizza and Subway Tuesdays throughout the school year. Mrs. Moses is the school representative for the Booster Club. Thanks to the many moms who helped raise funds with Booster Club activities this school year.
- Maintained involvement in the Federal Milk Program.
- Maintained involvement with Title II, Title IV and Title VI funds from local Public School District 146, while working in cooperation with SD 146 for speech and special education programs as needed.
- Anxiously preparing for the Graduation Banquet to be held on Friday, May 28, as presented by the seventh grade parents and students. Also preparing for the Graduation Service to be held at 11:30 am on Sunday, May 30, 2010.

PERSONNEL

- Current plans for the 2010 - 2011 school year call for two third grades (3rd) grade classrooms, two sixth (6th) grade classrooms, and two eighth (8th) grade



classrooms. Dealing with enrollment is always a difficult issue for the Board. Your prayers are greatly needed and appreciated.

- Continued plans to contract from Lutheran Special Education Ministries for an on-site consultant to serve Trinity 3 days per week. Mrs. Arlene Lapsansky has been serving Trinity in that capacity since the 2000 – 2001 school year.
- Trinity is searching for an educator to replace Mrs. Anne Pederson for the 2010 – 2011 school year.



A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU TO THE MANY, MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP SUSTAIN THE VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AT TRINITY. WE ARE BLESSED, MANY TIMES OVER, TO HAVE SO MANY PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND FRIENDS GIVE OF THEIR TIME, TALENTS AND ENERGY FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE MINISTRY OF TRINITY. THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

PTL

- The continued collection of Campbell's Labels for Education, General Mills box tops, and Target's Education Program assist Trinity's PTL with needed funds. Thank you to the individuals who were responsible for these areas.
- Continuation of Market Day to help with donations to the school Walcamp Fund among many other contributions. A very big THANK YOU to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Schoon, Market Day Chairpersons, along with the many parent volunteers assigned for each Market Day. Thanks also to Tamara Chesna, who served as Head Room Mom and all the moms who served as Room Moms for the 2009– 2010 school year. Special thanks to Nancy Evens, Helene McLean, and Jennifer Churma who served as the PTL Executive Board members this school year.
- Sponsored a "Daddy-Daughter Date Night" in March, coordinated by Mrs. Mikitka and Mrs. Radgowski and their team. Sponsored a Mother – Son outing at Orland Bowl.
- Sponsored three Coffee Ands... for parents to discuss issues relating to school ministry.
- Sponsored Culvers Kickback days which has brought over \$1,500 to Trinity. Thanks you for your support.
- Hosted a Spring re-sale with a partial donation form Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Thanks to Mrs. Rizzuto and Mrs. Evens for their lead in this activity.
- Contributed thirty (30) percent of the salary toward the LSEM on-site consultant, while sponsoring a fall fundraiser involving the students.
- Presented programs throughout the year at scheduled PTL meetings.



- Assisted monetarily by budgeting dollars for Walcamp for the fifth graders, Principal's Lunch for grades 6 - 8, the annual Thanksgiving Feast, the school picnic, and the graduation banquet.
- Sponsored a Santa's Secret Workshop for the students of Trinity. Thanks to Caroline Poe and Kristi Glotz for their efforts in heading up this activity.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE 2010 - 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

- Discussing the strengths, concerns and recommendations as noted in the Visitation Report and acting on them as necessary.
- Searching for ways to maintain the quality programs offered the students who attend Trinity Lutheran School.
- Studying as to how to effectively deal with enrollment and financial issues.
- Establishing dates and topics for the 2010 – 2011 Coffee And...
- Continuing the marketing campaign to the towns and villages in the community of Trinity Lutheran School, along with studying additional development strategies.
- Investigating the possibility of a golf outing and/or dinner auction to raise funds lost from the Illinois Textbook loan dollars.
- Evaluating the three-year (3) old and four (4) year old pre-kindergarten programs, adjusting as necessary for maximum enrollment possibilities.
- Developing ways to add donations to the student scholarship fund to assist the many families struggling financially.



Thank you to the many families who have contributed to the school memorial funds during the 2009 - 2010 school year. Almost 100% of technology and furniture purchased over the last ten years have come directly from third source funding (gifts and memorials). Thanks to all who participated in the Thrivent matching fund campaign and for those who contribute with matching funds from their employer. Thanks also for the most generous contributions to the Church Worker Fund. At this point we are aware of four (4) students who greatly benefit from this fund as they prepare for service to the church.

Please pray for the students, faculty, staff, parents, our congregation and this Board daily. Pray that God's spirit, peace and wisdom will enter each and everyone's heart so that all is said and done for His glory.

Thank you for your support. May His peace be with you always.

In His Name,

Trinity's Board of Christian Day School