

The Trinity Times Newsletter

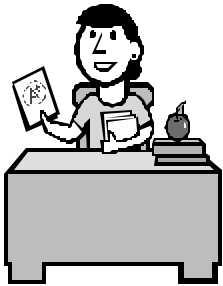
Developing Imaginations and Foundations



February
2010

A Word from our Director

Sue Gaertner



Dear Parents,

February is for friendship and love and Trinity is filled with both. Your precious children are a joy to be with and work with. Children model what they live, and it is clear that your children live with kindness and generosity. They are the reflections of the goodness in their lives. They are the reason we will gather together on February 20 to celebrate 40 years of TCNS.

I have devoted my entire adult life to children in an effort to make certain they feel strong and loved and valued and respected. However, this job can only be achieved in partnership with you. Please join us in our efforts as we strive to continue the outstanding programs at TCNS. Fundraising dollars pay for classroom assistants and enrichment programming in all the classrooms. Fundraising dollars keep hard-working and dedicated women employed.

As we go to print the Benefit is just around the corner and it promises to be an extra exciting this year! A huge thank you to the amazing women of the fundraising committee for all your hard work and dedication. Your support for our school is inspiring and we will all benefit from your generous donation of time and talent. Special thanks go to Fundraising Co-Chairs Betsey Frank and Tena Bonaguidi! By now the beautiful invitation (handmade by Tena and Betsey in a effort to hold down costs) has arrived in your mailbox. I hope you say yes to the Benefit!

I am always open to new ideas and ways to improve our school. If you have any questions, concerns, or a new idea, no matter how big or small, please call me.

Be well and stay warm,

Sue

TCNS Helping Hands

Director:

Sue Gaertner
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Professional Staff:

Happy Baird
Caroline Cerrone
Bonnie Cobia
Valerie Dashiell
Luanne Hampton
Ginny Lezama
Byrd Matejka
Kim Ross
Kathy Sasso
Betsy Segal
Kathy Stein

Parent Board Chair:

Heather Hester
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Mark Your Calendars

February 10

Board Meeting

February 11 & 12

Valentine Exchange

February 15

No School — Presidents' Day

February 16

No School — Prof. Dev.

February 20

Annual Benefit

February 22

Session III Lunch Bunch

Applications Due

March 5

Session II LB Ends

Ready-TWO-Grow

Bonnie Cobia & Betsy Segal



There's a "whole lotta movin' and a shakin'" going on! It's music time! We are busy making our musical instruments. So far, we have made drums, kazoes, bells and are in the process of making rain-sticks. Each time we complete an instrument we take it on the road – or down the hall as the case may be. We have paraded for Mrs. Gaertner and Miss Libby and we've even played for Mrs. Lezama's and Mrs. Baird's class. The children love parades. It's our chance to show our talent and make a little noise! You never know what you'll hear next through the halls of Trinity. We also worked on decorating bags so we have some cool gear to store our stuff.

Most of our instruments come from recycled materials. With a little imagination and Ready-to-Grow decorations they turn into fun, usable instruments. We're saving EVERYTHING so you won't see an instrument until they are all finished. We are keeping them for our GRAND PARADE! You'll hear about that in the next newsletter...so stay tuned. Then they will all go home and you can have a family band! Lauren has a stage (with disco ball) in her basement for her band. You can also have a marching band!

We had so much fun with all of you at Special

Guest Morning! It was great so many families were able to participate. Thank you for coming. We hope you enjoyed making the playdough. Playdough is one of the top activities in Ready-Two-Grow.

We're trying to get outside! Be ready with the winter wear – we'll go if the weather warms up and we're not hit with those icy conditions. We made the best of the day we tried to go outside and found the playground too slippery – we ended up making lots of snow angels in the side yard. Thanks so much to those of you who can help us get dressed! There is so much stuff to put on and it's not easy when you are 2 or 3 to get it all on. So thanks again!

Here's our music song:

I am a fine musician
I come from far away
I brought along my (drum)
And this is how I play
Da-da-dum-dum-dum
Da-da-dum-dum-dum-Da-da-dum-dum-dum-dum-dum

News from the TERRIFIC THREE's

Bonnie Cobia, Sue Gaertner, Luanne Hampton, Byrd Matejka & Betsy Segal



2010 started with a great big white bang in the 3 & 4's classroom!! We did snow! We sang about it, wrote about it, looked at it under a magnifying glass, did art projects and poems about it! And boy did Mother Nature help us out! We played in the snow, ran in it, shoveled it and practiced our snow ball throwing! What fun!

We also enjoyed our Special Guest Saturday! Thanks to all of our special guests for coming to see our classroom and participating!

Now we are in the middle of our North and South pole exploration! We've learned about penguins,

the Inuit people and their craft of soapstone carving, and polar bears! Soon we'll put on our binoculars and "visit" the North and South pole!

We want to send out a very warm welcome to Katie Maydew! She will be joining our afternoon class! Welcome and we're so glad you're here! We also want to sing a warm welcome to Mrs. Clemment, our new music teacher! She will alternate weeks with Mrs. Dashiell. As always, thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us. They make us smile, laugh and melt our hearts every day!

The Annual Trinity Benefit

That's Amore!

Celebrating 40 years of the nursery school we all love

Saturday, February 20th, 2010



By now everyone should have received their invitation in the mail. So here are some things you should know...

* When sending back the Response Card, you can pay with cash or send a check made payable to Trinity Church Nursery School.

* During Check-In this year, if you think you will be buying anything at the Silent or Live Auctions (and we hope you do), we will be swiping credit cards at Check-In. So bring your credit card to the event for quick and easy Check-Out at the end of the night. *(And when you receive your credit card bill in March it probably say something like "Charity Masters" not "TCNS Donation" on your statement.)*

Still wondering what you can do to help with the Benefit? If so, here are a couple of things:

* We will need volunteers to set-up the morning of the benefit from 9:30am-12:30pm at Michigan Shores Club. We will also need help with Check-In and Check-Out during the event. If you are willing to help out, let Betsey Frank or Tena Bonaguidi know.

* Help stock our Wine Cellar. Call the Bottle Shop at (847) 256-7777 and buy a bottle over the phone to donate to the TCNS Wine Cellar or contact Betsey Frank at (847) 251-0141 and she will pick a bottle up at your house.

* Place a Personal Ad in the Bid Book. Highlight your child doing something they love to do, or a group of kids from their class, etc. This is also a great way to get Grandma and Grandpa involved! Need a form or help with design? Contact Robin Shapo at robinfs@yahoo.com.

At this year's Winter BenefitWe Have Star Power!

Among a number of great items, we have celebrities that have donated to our event.

* Two Chicago Talk Show Tickets (only one more year to see this show in-person before it is off the air and no more tickets will be donated past February)

* Wines selected and autographed by Alpana Singh (Host of WTTW's, Check Please and the youngest person to achieve the rank of Master Sommelier)

* Four tickets to the Colbert Report show in New York

* Cottage in Maine written about in John Steinbeck's novel, "My Travels with Charlie."

* And our very own Ms. Byrd starring with the T-Byrdz to end the evening dancing!

(Other items include: Sailing and Dinner on Lake Michigan for two couples, Mrs. Cobia trip to Dave's Rock Shop, Door-to-Door Child Pick-up Service for a Month, One night stay at Park Hyatt Hotel Suite and dinner at NoMi, Ride on a Fire Truck to School, Laney - 2010 American Girl Doll of the Year, tons of fun new kids parties, and there is much more!

News from the FABULOUS FOUR's

Happy Baird, Ginny Lezama & Luanne Hampton



A big "thank you" to dads and other special guests for joining us at school on a Saturday morning. We were pleased that so many were able to attend and we loved having you share a little bit of our day.

During Valentine's week, we'll be making a special valentine for moms and dads and sing "I'm Gonna Wrap Myself in Paper." The "Tickle" song is a favorite, too. After the children distribute valentines and have a snack, we'll play a game in the parlor and read a story by the fireplace.

We will be turning our Trinity classroom into the magical Kingdom of Camelot soon. We'll discuss and read about medieval times and learn about castles, knights, armor, jousting, princesses and kings and queens as we ready ourselves for our Camelot Ball.

On the day of the Ball (TBA), the children will be able to dress in medieval attire; sit in thrones; be dubbed 'Sirs' and 'Ladies', and sing "Camelot" as well as dance with their chosen partner. Parents, you will be invited to witness the grandeur at the end of class time, so please join us on that day. (This is a "must see"!)!

Thank you to Beth Beeler and Pastor Tammy for talking to the children about the Haiti project and how we can help by providing a few hygiene products that we take for granted but are much needed in their country right now.

We are so impressed with the creativity in our room, specifically in the area of art. Many times when we do a special project, it is used to decorate our bulletin board or possibly kept to take home at a later date, so very often the children do 'free art' and use any items available on the art cart. Boy, are they talented! It might be a detailed map with "X" marking the spot, drawn by Will, Lucas, or Braden. Sometimes it's letters and people drawn then cut out by Samantha, Katie and Ashley. Ella used different colors of tape to create a flower with leaves and a stem. Isabella is known for her rainbows and families, and Frankie made the game 'Candyland' by coloring different squares along with other shapes. Kennedy has introduced beautiful flower shapes to her art table partners. It really is fun to see them creating and helping each other.

It's interesting to note how we adults can be so affected by the gray, gloomy, winter days, and how the children don't let them interfere with their ability to have fun. Too icy or cold to play outside? No problem! We've got the bike room! Not able to play in the sand box? Who cares? We can pretend to be on a camping trip, or have a restaurant, or build a fort, or wear hard hats while constructing ships and buildings in the block area! Our bright classroom and the smiling, enthusiastic faces of the children provide the sunshine indoors. (That being said, we're still hoping for an early Spring!)

Life is good!

Kids Say the Darndest Things...



Noah Shapo does everything enthusiastically. So, it was not unusual to see him playing with the playdough and waving a rolling pin in the air. The only thing is that he was waving it too close for comfort to Harper Klibanoff. She was showing her displeasure by the expression on her face. Ahh.....a teachable moment!! Kids need to learn to read facial cues. So I walked up to Noah and said, "Noah, look at Harper's face. How do you think she feels when you wave that rolling pin so close to her?" His answer was "Not good."

"Yes, that's right, Noah!" Now... another teachable moment... have Noah think of his own thing to do or say rather than merely giving him the words to repeat. Therefore, I said, "Noah, can you think of something you can do or say to Harper that can make her feel better now?" As I looked at Noah I could see his wheels turning under those beautiful red curls. Suddenly, his face lit up because he knew he thought of the perfect thing to say to make Harper feel better. With a huge smile on his sweet face Noah looked Harper in the eye and exclaimed, "BIRTHDAY!!"

KINDERGARTEN Enrichment

Bonnie Cobia, Caroline Cerrone & Kathy Sasso



Did you all receive something special in the mail? It wasn't a bill! For the letter "L" each child wrote a letter to a member of his or her family. They may have been short, but they were all well thought out and everyone took a lot of time. They used real Trinity stationery and pens. They also took them to the church office where each child got to send the letter through the stamp machine. The letters were funny, sweet and all of them very precious.

How do kindergartners like their lemons? A letter "L" graph shows that the all-time favorite way to have lemons...is lemonade! Okay, the teachers like lemon bars.

We had fun making kazoos for the letter "K." We paraded around with our kazoos. The Ready-Two-Grow class makes kazoos, too. There is a difference in the decibel level between the two classes! The kindergartners can really get some sound out of those toilet paper rolls and wax paper!

We studied some maps for letter "M" and looked at the globe, a flat world map, the United States map, a state map, a city map and even a University map. We also talked about Greenland and what happens to it on flat world maps. Think about Greenland and how big you think it is and then go to a globe — it's kind of interesting.

We had lunch with the morning kindergarten class the last two Tuesdays. I'm glad we did it twice be-

cause the second time you couldn't tell who was in which class. They were all interspersed and talking together.

Now we are starting up with science with Mrs. Dashiell. The children enjoy it and learn a lot. It is also a great winter activity when we can't play outside. If we have warmer weather and the playground isn't icy we will meet outside. That day is coming, I just know it!

Thanks so much to Annabel for a great pizza party! We all enjoyed a pizza lunch to honor her birthday. Mrs. Gaertner and Deacon Tammy were happy to join us for some pizza, too. It was Luca's absolutely favorite pizza. The children were all so kind, wanting Annabel to go first in our activities and even thought she should take over my job! She politely declined. There's a lot of kindness in KE! Later in the year the teachers and children are going to reverse roles — they can hardly wait!

Deacon Tammy came in and talked about Haiti. She had just met with someone from there. The children were very interested and we saw examples of what items are needed. We got to play a memory game with the items to see if we could tell which was missing.

We finish January on the letter "N" with the great detective, Nate the Great. We'll have some mystery to solve!

Winnetka Alliance for Early Childhood News

TV Tune Out Week



Click the power OFF the TV and turn ON the power of your imagination this winter and get ready for TV Tune Out, March 7-13, 2010. Run wild with your creative energy into participating merchants and organizations for TV Tune Out sponsored activities and adventures. The Chinese Acrobats will kick off this unforgettable week on Sunday March 7 beginning at 3:30 PM at the Washburne gym and Fabulous Friday will start the weekend festivities, Friday March 12, with a musical performance entitled "Where the Sidewalk Ends" from 4-5PM, in the Washburne Little Theater. Please mark your calendar for these fun-filled events and stay tuned for more details! Power ON...



The CHAIR's Corner

Heather Hester

A meeting with Tena Bonaguidi and Betsey Frank (our dedicated fundraising co-chairs) after January's Parent Advisory Board meeting inspired me to recall all the ways my children have benefitted from TCNS. Connor (9) and Isabelle (6) are alums, and Grace (4) is in the 4PM class. Rowan (2) will begin his TCNS adventure next year. I remember the first time each of my older kids came home so excited to tell me they did their first science experiment. I remember each of their first days' of preschool when they played on the amazing playground for the first time. Whose child doesn't love the double tricycle in the bike room?! I love the songs they sing to me at home that they have learned at school. Not to mention the peace-of-mind I enjoy knowing they have an amazing selection of up-to-date supplies, safe classrooms and the most caring and capable teaching staff.

So many of the programs and people that make TCNS the special place it is are available because of both the hard-working fundraising committees that plan the benefit each year AND the generosity of our Trinity community. I know this may all seem a little redundant given the amount of information you receive regarding the benefit. But I challenge you take a little walk down memory lane, as I did, and I think you will find delight and comfort in remembering all of the ways your child has benefitted from Trinity.

Tena, Betsey and their fabulous committee have worked hundreds of hours to plan a party that is guaranteed to be an awesome time. They deserve the support of our presence! Please come, have FUN and support TCNS, the school we all love!

Fundraising News

Partnership with "Make It Better"

This year TCNS will be entering into an exciting partnership with Make It Better (MIB). Make It Better utilizes a website and a monthly magazine to connect North Shore women, in order to make our lives and the lives of others better. They do this by finding and sharing information and connecting with remarkable people, businesses and non-profits in the community.

MIB has asked TCNS to be the first preschool in the area that they highlight. They will post information about the 2010 Winter Benefit and our 40th Anniversary celebration on their website. They will also give us \$5 for every free subscription card we complete! (You may already be receiving a trial subscription at your home, but you will need to subscribe to keep your magazines coming!)

The free subscription cards will be displayed at Check-In during the Winter Benefit – another great reason to attend!

Please support us in this fantastic win-win opportunity – you get a free magazine subscription *and* raise money for TCNS!

Other News...

Our Trinity Family is Growing!



We're so happy to welcome two new Trinity classmates this month! Julia McKeon will be joining our 4PM class and Katie Maydew will be starting in the 3PM class. Please join us in giving them a BIG Trinity welcome!



Congratulations to Kate and Kyle Barnett and Big Sister Mae (RTG) on the birth of TWINS - James and Rose!! We are doubly excited!!



Please also welcome Elizabeth Clemment to TCNS!! Elizabeth will be working in our 3 Year Old Program as a Music Specialist every other Wednesday. The children love her guitar, her llama Lucy, and jumping like popcorn!

Valentine Exchange



Roses are red
Violets are blue
We will be exchanging
Valentines at school

Valentine's Day is about caring and friendship and we will share this special day with our friends at school by exchanging valentines. Watch the cubbies for details. We are looking forward to a LOVEly Valentine's Day.

Preschool Playdough Recipe

4 cups flour
1 ½ cups salt
1 container alum (1.9 oz)
4 cups water (add food coloring to water)
½ cup vegetable oil



First mix all together until blended in a pot. Then stir over medium heat until the consistency of mashed potatoes. Do not overcook. Remove from heat, cool, and knead. Place in plastic bag.

A Valentine's Day Song

Skinamarink a dink a dink
Skinamarink and do
I love you

Skinamarink a dink a dink
Skinamarink and do
I love you

I love you in the morning
And in the afternoon
I love you in the evening
And underneath the moon

Oh... Skinamarink a dink a dink
Skinamarink a do
I love you!

