

# Belonging

Connecting with Trinity



## Communities of Grace...

“I HAVE A BUDDY who doesn't speak any English,” is what I overheard from a conversation in the hallway as one of our grade eight classes came down to read books with a primary class. It was stated as a matter of fact. When I later checked, there he was sitting on the floor reading and showing pictures to an enthralled younger boy.

I have been an administrator in large schools of over seven hundred students and have also been a principal in smaller schools much like Trinity. My preference is the smaller school because students and staff can get to know each other in many of the activities without complex schedules and rearrangements of classes.

At our Thanksgiving chapel, students helped each other think about gratitude. For our Terry Fox run, we matched students to walk with each other. And I have seen community with our families: the library volunteers, the drivers for sports events, the class representatives, the Board members, the committees... and I could go on.

Over the past two months, I have talked with more than a dozen prospective families, those who are considering Christian education for September 2018. Yes, they are looking for Christian education, but more than that, they are looking for a Christian community. I am profoundly grateful that I can reassure them that they would be arriving at the right place. I will conclude with a small anecdote that was shared with me (with permission from the families involved).

*Last week M. had to memorize her new scripture verse for school. And while M. is usually easy going and fairly confident, this was not the case last Thursday. I came to chapel Thursday morning and she made her way to the back to beg to go home. Highly out of character for her. So I pulled her aside and tried to talk with her, but I did little to ease her fears. So I suggested we head back to the classroom to see if her teacher could talk to her. As we started down the hall, an older student, named B. saw that M. was upset and came right over, got down on her level and asked what was wrong. So we told her and B. said, "I have to learn thirteen verses this year. What is the verse?" To my surprise, M. said the whole thing without any difficulty. So B said "See! What are you worried about? You've got this! I have to go to class, but I will pray for you." M. completely and nearly instantly changed and went to class. I later learned that she said her verse just fine. So blessed to be at Trinity for my girls to have older student role models to look up to!*

For my entire career I have believed that schools are communities and Trinity for me is one of the best examples of a community where the love of Jesus is put into practice every day.

by Steve Paas, *Principal*



# Kindergarten CONNECTIONS



**IN AN OCTOBER CHAPEL** Mrs. M. was asking her kindergarten students, “How can we learn more about God?” She was hoping that someone would understand that creation (the outdoors) would be a place where we could learn about God. “We will go someplace at 10:40,” she said, “where we can know more about God.” The kindergarten child raised her hand and said, “Good, we’re going to heaven then!”

It is the innocence of children that makes Kindergarten a wonderful place to be. And this year we have had an exciting change for our Kindergarten program at Trinity that makes it even more special. Both of our Kindergarten classes are made up of a mix of four and five year old students. These multi-age classes are part of our two-year kindergarten program, and so students will stay with the same teacher for both of their kindergarten years.

A loving, caring community develops as the older kids step into leadership roles and the younger kids have excellent examples to follow. Having students and teachers stay together for two years provides stability during the two year Kindergarten program while also allowing both teacher and student to build a stronger relationship and provide consistency for the learner.

We continue to have flexibility as we offer a three, four, or five day program in Kindergarten. Our core curriculum days are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday with Tuesday as an optional day where we offer a wonderful balance of play-based learning and a review of skills that have been taught.

Our Friday program is known as “Tiny Titans.” This is another optional day where our students learn through play. This day is spent listening to stories, playing and discovering at play centers, and enjoying lots of social time with friends. Once the year has begun, our parents at Trinity Christian School may choose to join the optional days after the first or second terms. We invite our parents to visit the classroom in the first term, but remind them that they may hear some unusual responses to questions.

*by Diane DeGroot, Kindergarten Teacher*





# Stronger Together...

## Enduring with Excellence Campaign

I AM VERY THANKFUL for Trinity Christian School in Burlington. More than 50 years ago a group of members founded and built the school amongst the orchard farms on Walkers Line. Since then, the City of Burlington has more than doubled in population and the orchard farms and the old school facility have been replaced with homes. The school has also grown and the school body is now represented by a community of almost 50 different churches at our current school facility on Itabashi Way. Fifty years brings a lot of change and throughout that time the Lord has blessed Trinity.



My wife and I became members of Trinity when our first child was born 19 years ago. Since then we have attended numerous Christmas programs, class trips, sporting events, bazaars, assemblies, graduations, Ottawa trips, served on committees, and the board, etc. We have appreciated and been enriched by our experience with Trinity and anticipate being a part of the Trinity community well after our youngest graduates, just like so many others within our community.

When I think of Trinity, I frequently think of Matthew 17 verses 20-21 where Jesus states, *“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”* The Stronger Together, Enduring with Excellence Campaign is about the long term vision, mission, and values of Trinity. The campaign is about contributing to the legacy of Trinity within Burlington for a further 50 years and beyond. Our founding members had that faith to move mountains, to bring a Christian school to Burlington that it might flourish. In Matthew 5 verses 14-16 Jesus says, *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

Life is busy, there are more and more demands on our time and resources, but God calls us to stand together, build a community, and join Him; to be a Light for His Kingdom and glory. God placed it on the hearts of our founding members to build Trinity Christian School and we believe He wants to use each of us to further that mission. Please continue to pray for Trinity and this campaign.

by Wilfred Vos, Campaign Chair



# Playing TOGETHER...



ATHLETICS are another way we can use the gifts and talents given to us to glorify God. Trinity is blessed to belong to two athletic associations, OACS (Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools) Guelph District and

CAASO (Christian Athletic Association of Southern Ontario), providing opportunities for our students to compete and enjoy playing with many other Christian schools and groups.

Our 2017-2018 athletic season started off strongly with two back-to-back soccer tournaments in September. The boys' team played very well and brought home the Consolation Championship at the Guelph District tournament and placed second at the CAASO tournament. The girls were unstoppable and dominated both days, capturing the Championship in both tournaments. We have also already competed in two Cross Country meets this year. There were many strong individual finishes and the team placed third at the CAASO meet.

We are excited for all of our upcoming opportunities to play volleyball, basketball, hockey, badminton, floor hockey, track and field, and softball. We wish all of our athletes the best as they represent Trinity in the upcoming year, and whatever we do, we strive to work at it with all our hearts, as working for the Lord, and not for others (Col. 3:23).

*Ainsley Spence, Athletic Director*



## DESSERT SOCIAL

*with*

## COMEDIAN *Phil Callaway*

February 24, 2018

@ 7:00 pm

Trinity Christian School

Tickets only \$10

Email to reserve your seat:

[rsvp@tcsonline.ca](mailto:rsvp@tcsonline.ca)



Your support for Trinity would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to complete this form and send along by mail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES, I can donate monthly** (Please make all cheques to Trinity Christian School):

\$30/month  \$25/month  \$10/month  Other \$\_\_\_\_\_/month *Please attach a void cheque.*

I would like to make the following donation:  \$500  \$300  \$200  \$100  \$\_\_\_\_\_

I/we would appreciate a visit for the Enduring with Excellence Campaign.

*Thanks you!*

# Believe. Belong. Become.

