

# Belonging

Connecting with Trinity



## Belonging.

**EVERYONE** wants to feel like they belong. Belonging to a Christian community and growing in our faith are intimately connected. Many of us would testify that serving at Trinity has provided opportunities to use our gifts, cultivate life-long friendships, share life experiences as well as endure struggles and voice concerns. One of the main reasons that Christian parents partner with Trinity is to be part of a school community where they belong – a community with a shared vision to pursue excellence for the glory of God (Col. 3:23).

Pursuing excellence includes cultivating vibrant, Christian communities characterized by love and grace. Our current parent community consists of committed Christian parents from over 45 local churches and various socio-economic backgrounds. Families have joined us from Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga, Milton, Stoney Creek, Chicago (USA), Damascus (Syria) and Seoul (Korea). Although we are from cities around the world, we all belong to the same school community and we all want our children to be taught in a safe and nurturing atmosphere.

For over 50 years, Christian parents have partnered with Trinity because they share our vision of Christian education. For us, Christian education is more than an academic exercise – it is a shared feeling of belonging.

by Rick Schenk, Principal





## Through a Volunteer's Eyes

WHEN I ENTERED the school that day, I knew that the image before me would forever be etched in my mind as a picture of what it's like to be at Trinity Christian School. A grade one student, smiling and skipping as she went down the hall towards her class. So simple yet so profound. It reminded me of 11 years ago when a friend had toured Trinity and told me that she felt so good there that she wanted to skip down the halls. I'm so glad for children who have the freedom to show their feelings through movement.

Volunteering Tuesday mornings at the library has helped me to see some of the reasons that Trinity evokes such positive emotion. First, the office staff. Oh my. Even when it is obvious that there is a lot going on and there are many moving parts for them to manage, they exude friendliness, helpfulness and peace. Then there are the teachers. Wow. I have been so impressed to consistently see teachers that appear happy in their workplace and who treat the children in their care with such pronounced respect and love.

I've known that Trinity is a wonderful school for the entire 10 years that our children have been enrolled. I've known that the school gives me a sense of peace and love every time I enter it, that the assemblies make me hold back tears every time I attend them due to the Presence of God I feel there, and that the staff have been consistently friendly and genuine. What being in the library has taught me is that every day that my kids are in school, they are surrounded by adults who radiate friendliness, happiness, care, and concern. Students are growing and being educated in a place of peace, where love seems to rule and children are so cherished that you can see it on the faces of the adults. Truly, there is a manifestation of the Kingdom of God at work at Trinity. It is a sign and wonder to behold.

by Kathy Gust, parent and volunteer

## Trinity will Pursue Excellence...in Science

This school year, one of our grade eight students, Michael W, participated in the 54th annual Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair (BASEF) at Mohawk College, in Hamilton. Michael's hard work was recognized as he was awarded six Special Awards, a Gold merit standing and an expense paid trip to the All Canadian Science Fair in Montreal.

In Montreal, Michael was awarded a Silver Medal for his project entitled, "Wi-Tricity on Wheels: Solar/Hydro Wireless Charging of Electric Vehicles". Congratulations Micheal, from the entire Trinity school community.



# THE *Enduring* with **Excellence CAMPAIGN**



THE WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY defines the word excellence as “the quality of excelling; possessing good qualities in high degree.” This term has increasingly manifested itself into Trinity, in the arts, in technology, in sport, in chapel, in theatre, in teachers and staff, in the classroom, in the curriculum and within the students. Trinity has increasingly invested more time, energy and money into the pursuit of excellence in a Christ-centred Christian education. To God be the Glory!

These investments are having a positive impact. The student to teacher ratio is lower, giving students the opportunity for more individual attention. Smaller classes make Trinity more attractive to new families to enroll. In fact, Burlington is a highly attractive community for young families who want to raise their children here. These families also expect different things from a Christian school today than they did five, ten, or fifty years ago.

In order to make sure that Trinity is relevant to our community today, Trinity made the difficult decision to raise tuition thereby raising the required money to fund the pursuit of excellence in Christian education and attract more families to the school. This investment will provide Trinity with higher overall enrollment and assist in fulfilling the vision and mission of Trinity within Burlington. The pursuit of excellence is the right thing to do.

Trinity recognizes that higher tuition raises more funds for the school, but not everyone who desires Christian education can afford to pay the higher tuition rates. In order to address that need Trinity has established the Gifts Received for Accessible Christian Education (GRACE Fund); thereby providing the financial resources required to ensure that families that desire Christian education can enroll their kids at Trinity.

In order to provide for the long-term financial viability of the GRACE Fund and other initiatives in the pursuit of excellence, the school is launching a campaign called “Enduring with Excellence”. You can help Trinity through prayer and consider financially supporting the “Enduring in Excellence” Campaign as the campaign commences later on in 2016. Helping families keep Trinity financially accessible is the right thing to do.



## Teacher Excellence at Trinity

TRINITY'S OWN Audrey McGregor, was one of seven teachers from across Ontario who were celebrated for their contributions to Christian education and their communities at a reception held at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington on June 9, 2016. "The quality of all the nominees, the strength of the candidates on the shortlist, and the superb professionalism of the winners all attest to a very bright future for top quality Christian education" said Michael Van Pelt, CEO and President of Cardus, who commented on the winners of the first ever John Rozema Awards for Teacher Excellence.

The entire Trinity school community would like to congratulate Audrey on her selection to the shortlist and her pursuit of teaching excellence. As Dr. Beth Green, program director for Cardus Education said in her remarks at the awards ceremony, "To lend Cardus's and John Rozema's name to this shortlist is to identify with a group of educators, to point to them and say: 'Imitate these teachers, they are going to keep growing, they are going to keep pursuing education that is excellent and that will support the next generation in Canada to flourish.'"

More information about the John Rozema Awards for Teacher Excellence can be found at the following link: <https://www.cardus.ca/organization/news/281/>

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
September 6, 2016  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
Celebrate the Retirement  
of Joanne Van Dijk  
September 13, 2016  
7:00 to 9:00 pm  
Trinity Christian School

"ART"  
**Cole**, grade 3  
"COMPUTERS"  
**Titus**, grade 4  
"FILLING MR. JARVIS'  
CAR WITH BALLOONS"  
**Sophie**, grade 8

**BEST TIMES**  
"PLAYING OUTSIDE"  
**Bettina**, JK

# Believe. Belong. Become.

