

Spirited Perspectives



← Blessed Trinity Students Ready to Serve!

Marathon Day—October 1, 2010

Marathon Day at Blessed Trinity was held on Friday, October 1st, at the Penn Campus location in Richfield. Students served their sponsoring parishes and the larger community in a variety of ways.

Kindergarten–fifth graders worked at Penn Campus to assemble lunches for children through the local Loaves and Fishes program. They made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, bags of carrots, and bags of trail mix. In addition they cleaned pews for St. Richard’s Church as well as their own desks on Penn Campus. The teachers were overwhelmed with the generosity of school families who donated food items and bags for these meals. Our middle schoolers each pitched in a dollar to purchase extra items where needed. When all was said and done over 150 meals were made and 50 pounds of food were donated to VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People)!

On the Nicollet Campus, sixth and seventh graders helped get things in place for St. Pe-

ter’s fall festival by setting up tables, moving items to various locations in the building and setting out signs. They also cleaned up the surrounding neighborhood.

Eighth graders went to the Church of the Assumption to clean pews and pick up litter around the church.

Following the service projects, all students gathered at the Penn Campus with their buddies—older students paired with younger students to form mentoring relationships during certain school events. Students, faculty, staff, parents and parishioners, along with the three Richfield Catholic parish priests, walked the Tiger Trail. Following a bag lunch and teacher volleyball game, there was a prayer service to end a perfectly wonderful day.

Blessed Trinity students are continuing to gather Marathon pledge money throughout October from family, friends and supporters—with an overall goal of raising \$55,000!

“One thing that really struck me right away was how kind the kids interact with one another. They work coop-



Principled Thoughts

by Sue Kerr, Principal

There is an exciting (and expensive) piece of technology changing the way teachers engage their students and help them meet individual needs. The generic term is interactive white boards (IWB's) and because of the generosity of our friends, Blessed Trinity looks forward to the delivery of four of them very soon.

It is great story that begins with one of our fifth grade teachers, Ray Dillon, who felt very strongly that the IWB technology would improve student learning. He generously offered to buy an IWB for his classroom. I was touched by his offer and asked him if I could make it public. Although he wanted to keep it quiet, he agreed

to let me share it if it would help Blessed Trinity.

I shared it with another Friend of Blessed Trinity, Father Mike Tix, when he asked if he could be of help to Blessed Trinity over the summer. Father Tix is always looking for ways to help us advance our mission and he came up with a plan to get some more interactive whiteboards into our classrooms. We invited other Friends of Blessed Trinity for a meal and information session about our needs. As a result of that meeting four Promethean ActivBoards have been ordered! The first donation from our own Ray Dillon inspired several more. We look forward to the delivery and installation of the IWB's, and the teachers can't wait to start learning how to use them. We feel so blessed by the generosity of our supporters!

Another purchase in the area of technology over the summer was a new student information system, Cornerstone. We are still learning to use it and are excited by its potential. We will soon be able to do all billing, attendance, registration, grade reports, parent alerts (such as school closings), alumni data collection, recruitment, and much more with Cornerstone.

We are proud of our advances in the area of technology for student learning as well as data collection and use. We have set lofty goals for Blessed Trinity with our three part mission to be clearly Catholic, intentionally inclusive, and academically excellent. Having cutting edge technology helps us stay academically excellent and relevant. Being intentionally inclusive means the funding of academic excellence must come from generous

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Technology at Blessed Trinity Catholic School

Ever wonder who trains Blessed Trinity teachers and other users as technology at Blessed Trinity advances? Or who maintains all Blessed Trinity computers and network devices, security, software/hardware purchases and installation and all things e-rate (technology planning, filing, bidding)? Who makes recommendations for future technology planning? What about who is currently running the implementation of Blessed Trinity's new student information system, Cornerstone?

Well, in her tenth year at BT, it's our Technology Coordinator, Jill Elfering. With a master's degree in computer science education and a focus on educational technology, Jill is multi-dimensional with an undergraduate degree in music education—and, boy, can she sing! She is also a wife and mother of two—with her youngest born in early June, 2010.

With every ball she has to juggle, though, Jill—with her quiet, resolute fortitude—works to improve the overall education Blessed Trinity students experience, as well as the arsenal of tech tools teachers have at their fingertips.

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**Technology
& Learning**

eratively in class, help each other out at every turn and play together at recess, making sure everyone is included."

Technology at Blessed Trinity

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Implementing a new student information system isn't simple. Although it will mean huge improvements to our entire school community, the journey toward getting it to work both properly as well as maxing its potential rests in large part on Jill's capable shoulders. Spirited Perspectives interviewed Mrs. Elfering on both the implementation of Cornerstone as well as the status of technology at Blessed Trinity. The following is what we learned from a seasoned professional who cares very deeply about Blessed Trinity Catholic School—its students, parents, faculty and staff.

Q: Tell us about Cornerstone.

"Cornerstone is a student information system. It is an integrated system that includes all data for students, parents, teachers and courses in one place. We'll have just one location for all of our school data: report cards, calendar, attendance, hot lunch, tuition & billing, gradebook, emergency alerts, correspondence, and more. Parents will be able to log in to see how their student is doing in classes, the status of their tuition billing, the school calendar and much more once it is all "live" and working. It will also allow us to track students as they move on to alumni status and connect with prospective students who may be interested in attending Blessed Trinity.

Many schools are moving to this type of system. The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis just went through a process of selecting a system to support/recommend throughout all archdiocesan schools and selected Cornerstone—making us ahead of the curve as we had already chosen Cornerstone for BT."

Q: What will Cornerstone do for Blessed Trinity?

"It should make our administrative work more efficient, help teachers focus more on students, improve teacher/parent connections, as well as keep parents more connected to the school overall. It will allow us to see and report on, with the click of a mouse, the demographics of our school—like academic trends, economic and geographical trends—because all the data will be available from a single source."

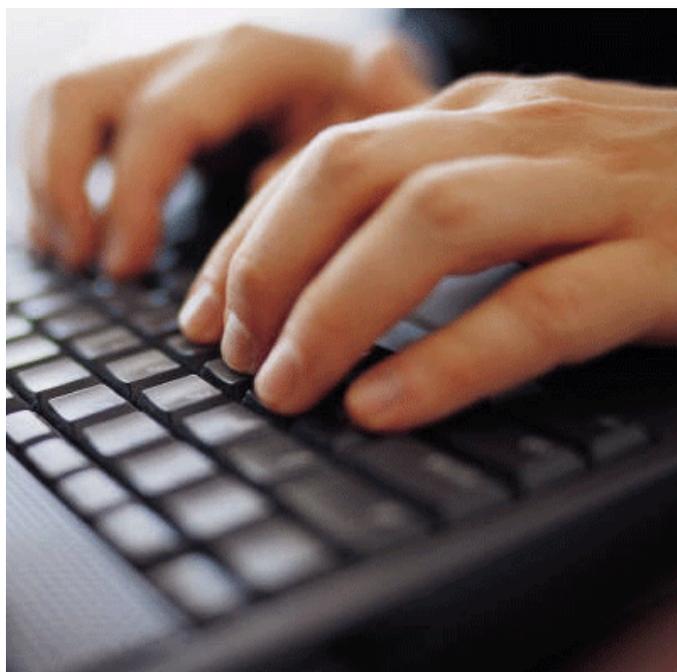
Q: What else is happening technologically at Blessed Trinity?

"Well, we do quite a bit with only a little. The Best Buy initiative got us through purchasing our two stationary labs and middle school mobile lab (all refurbished so we could buy more) from 2004-2006. Since then, one lab

and the mobile lab, along with classroom PCs, have all been replaced with refurbished machines. We try to use as much freeware and open source software as we can to cut costs. Upgrades are done based on need rather than comfort or trends. We switched our email service to Google Apps last year as a cost-saving measure both in licensing and maintenance. Our web hosting is donated. We get some technical support from the FOCUS Legacy grant. We try to address needs and requests from teachers, rather than just put technology into their hands that they might never use. However, we currently do not have a budget for replacement—for which there is a huge need. Truthfully, what we have won't last much longer."

Q: What is your take on the IWB's?

"I'm really excited about the IWBs. Even though we have older technology in most areas, it says a lot that our teachers are anxious to try new things. And I feel like this could be the start of more funding for our technology program as we look to the future. We may not have state-of-the-art computers and IWBs in every classroom, but our teachers provide students with what they need to move forward. We are using free tools like Google Sites for teacher websites as well as e-blasts and Facebook for connecting with our families. Technology is integrated across the curriculum rather than taught as a separate subject, which is another testament to our teachers and their dedication to life-long learning. It's really more about the teaching than the technology, which is why we thrive on so little so well, I think."



Clearly Catholic ✱ Intentionally Inclusive ✱ Academically Excellent

From Mrs. Natalie Mulrooney, fifth grade teacher

This year Blessed Trinity welcomed a few new faces to our already stellar faculty—middle school teacher Jeff Boyle, art teacher Corbin Doty, and fifth grade teacher Natalie Mulrooney. Mrs. Mulrooney kindly wrote about her impressions and experiences at Blessed Trinity Catholic School—and we just had to share them with you!

What is the most impressive part of BT? So much of BT has impressed me, but mostly I love the fact that the entire community works to live the mission of the school.

The teachers expect academic excellence and the time and care they put into working with the kids is evident in the way the students work, interact and learn. Students at BT are well above average and they love learning! That is something that comes from having strong teachers who care about their individual progress.

The entire community at Blessed Trinity is clearly Catholic. They celebrate our faith and live as examples of Christ. Mass has really been a highlight for me in that I have been able to experience each of the three parishes and enjoy the homilies of the three priests. I keep thinking how lucky the kids are to be able to interact in such a special way with three such different priests. What a gift!

Lastly, BT is intentionally inclusive in every way. The teachers and staff welcomed me with more kindness than I could have imagined. They show that same

They [students] work so hard to befriend new students and bridge language gaps with such open-minded patience.

kindness to our students whether they are working with them in class, offering to play basketball with them during recess, or cheering them on as they progress in the classroom. They also

work to celebrate the individuality of each student. I think diversity is something that is talked about at many Catholic schools, but at BT we celebrate it and it is really something special!

How would you describe the students at BT? One thing that really struck me right away was how kind the kids interact with one another. They work cooperatively in

The Marathon at BT was so special because it clearly showed how all three parishes come together to laugh, share and pray as one community.

class, help each other out at every turn and play together at recess, making sure everyone is included. They work so hard to befriend new students and bridge language gaps

with such open-minded patience. I wrote earlier how the teachers work to celebrate diversity and I think that is mirrored back in the interactions of the students.

What did you think of the Marathon? The Marathon was so much FUN! I was so impressed with the priests! They were all there walking right alongside the kids, cheering them on and playing volleyball! The kids were thrilled to meet their younger buddies for the first time—they take the job of role-model so seriously and it was such a joy to see my kiddos helping their first grade buddies walk the "tiger trail." The Marathon at BT was so special because it clearly showed how all three parishes come together to laugh, share and pray as one community.

What has been your favorite moment in the classroom so far this year? I have had such a great time getting to know my fifth graders, I don't think I can choose just one moment. Every day they make me laugh and I learn something new from them. They are creative, intelligent and so much fun. They truly make me feel blessed to be a part of the BT community!

Principled Thoughts

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benefactors as our parents and parishes cannot shoulder the financial burdens themselves.

This year's kindergarten class is a beautifully diverse group that truly looks like the world around us. A full 50% of the children in that class do not have English as their first language. The kids come from homes where Spanish or various Asian or African languages are spoken. The world is getting smaller and our teachers are doing the hard work it takes to be inclusive while maintaining high academic standards. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful, excellent school!



**You are invited to Blessed Trinity's
3rd Annual Legacy Lunch
November 17th**

9:30-10:15 Penn Campus Visit
10:30-11:15 Nicollet Campus Visit
11:30 Lunch Served
12:15 Join us for Mass at Assumption

Please R.S.V.P. to Sue Kerr at 612-869-5200 or
KerrS@btcsmn.org by Monday, Nov. 15th.



Cash Back Checking with M&I Bank

Open an M&I Cash Back Checking account in Richfield, and not only will you receive \$50.00 in cash, but Blessed Trinity Catholic School will receive a \$25 donation! With M&I Cash Back Checking you can earn cash back when you use your M&I Bank Check Card for qualifying purchases at stores, gas stations and hundreds of other places. You can also earn cash back when you pay bills with M&I Online Banking, make deposits and get your bank statements online. Learn more by contacting Kavanaugh Hill at 612-798-3161. Use reference promo code 10600069.

Alumni
IN THE NEWS

Academy of Holy Angels'
Scholars of Distinction

Liz Johnston, Anna McMahon
Katelyn Caron, Rachel Turbeville
Rebecca DeNio, Martha Eichlersmith
Hannah Gallucci, Meagan O'Connor
John Peichel, Laura Pueringer
Amanda Vergara, Miranda Rich

Commended Student
at Academy of Holy Angels
Angela Nordstrom

Academy of Holy Angels' Way Heroes
Ben Coleman & Matt Workman

St. Patrick's Youth Minister
Johnny Davy

Minnesota MILE Leadership Seminar
(Motivating & Inspiring
Leadership & Excellence)
Katelyn Caron

Missota Conference Select Band
Elizabeth Zumpano

Missota Conference Select Choir
Abigail Oster

Rotary Leadership Camp
David Bostros

St. John's Starting Quarterback
(completing more than 69% of his passes)
Joe Boyle

Starting football player
University of St. Thomas
(leads the MIAC in tackles for loss—eight)
Willy Baregi

Share the Good News

Email good news about our alumni
to cavanaughm@btcsmn.org.



Difference Makers

Difference Makers continue to make a significant difference in the lives of our students and their families. Following our successful campaign which was kicked off at the Grand Gala last December and given a big boost with an anonymous donor with a \$20,000 matching gift, we were able to make Catholic education a reality for 20 families! Many thanks to those of you who gave at the Difference Maker's \$1,000 level! We couldn't do it without you.

Endowment

Thank you so much to those of you who have contributed to our endowment. It has now reached \$500,000 and we are so thankful to you forward-thinkers who are ensuring that Catholic education at BTCS will be a viable option for Richfield families for generations to come!

Technology

This summer individuals were invited to see the exciting equipment to be added in our classrooms (see Sue Kerr's article for more information). Many generous individuals stepped forward to help us make these enhancements to our already excellent curriculum. So far, nearly \$10,500 has been donated for the interactive white board initiative. Way to go!

Corporate Sponsors

Many of you have joined us in raising money for Blessed Trinity by shopping and eating in our own community. Thank you so much. It is always fun to see Blessed Trinity supporters enjoying dinner at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington (Knight Nights) or cooling off with a Dairy Queen treat (Dairy Days) on 66th and Upton. We'd like to update you on how your shopping is creating real funds for Blessed Trinity:



Knight Nights

\$408

(received since June, 2010)



Dairy Days

\$428

(received since July, 2010)



Target "Take Charge of Education"

\$1,689

(2009-10 school year)



M&I Bank Checking Accounts

\$300

(received thru September, 2010)

Vendor Sponsors

Last year several vendors came forward to be 2009 Grand Gala sponsors. They helped us by cov-

ering the costs of valet services, linens, wine, dessert, and the Grand Gala wine pull. These vendors included Boulay, Heutmaker, Zibell & Co. P.L.L.P; College City Remodeling; Dalsin; G&K Services; John Kramer & Sons; and Popp Telecom. These generous vendors helped us raise more money at the Grand Gala by underwriting some of the event costs. Thank you benevolent vendors!

Grants

Blessed Trinity received a check recently for \$10,000 as a grant from the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Charitable Fund of the Catholic Community Foundation! Blessed to be the nation's largest community foundation serving Catholic philanthropy, they have distributed more the \$70 million in grants since 1992 to support the spiritual, educational and social needs of our community. This grant was made possible due to the recommendation and generosity of Most Reverend Harry J. Flynn D.D.

Thank You
BT DONORS

Donors

Blessed Trinity Catholic School is blessed with so many who support us—with prayer, by positive word-of-mouth, as well as with a portion of their economic resources. Although we cannot name all of our donors because many wish to remain anonymous, we do want to acknowledge some of those who have responded to our call for financial support. Thank you **Ruth Goltz, Steve Huss, Larry & Jane Koenig, Joe & Carole Nawrocki, and John & Alice Mitchell.**



Honoring our Spirit

by Terry Braun, Development Director

Since Blessed Trinity's inception in the fall of 1994 thousands of parishioners, school parents and other volunteers have stepped forward as leaders in our school. They have tutored students, chaired the school board, headed fundraising drives, served hot lunch, made copies, toured prospective families, and shared Blessed Trinity to the outside community. Each spring the faculty and staff choose one who has gone above and beyond to be called a "Friend of Blessed Trinity." Choosing this person is very difficult. It requires discussions with the faculty and staff, deliberation and much prayer. In Blessed Trinity's sixteen years 22 individuals have been given the distinction of "Friend of Blessed Trinity." Their work, their attitude, their very presence in our school has been etched in our hearts and carved in our history. Their names are engraved on plaques that hang at both our Penn and Nicollet Campuses.

Blessed Trinity has been very blessed by these great friends who helped create these last 16 years. Our

Our Friends * Our Spirit	
Karon Ulrich	1994-1995
Mark Brodersen	1995-1996
John Boyle	1995-1996
Tonya Moon	1996-1997
John Moon	1996-1997
Margaret Lew	1997-1998
Ann Mullerleile	1997-1998
Joanne Slawson	1998-1999
Paul, Kathy & Kelly Amerongen	1999-2000
Mary LaRock	2000-2001
Jane Egeland	2001-2002
Mary Jo Nordstrom	2002-2003
Janet Formico	2003-2004
Marjorie Edwards-Toepel	2004-2005
Anne Maxa	2005-2006
Leticia Suffle'	2006-2007
Nel Swanson	2006-2007
Jane Koenig	2007-2008
Theresa De Grace	2008-2009
Barb Tjossem	2009-2010

plaque is almost full. In the spring of 2011 we will fill the final spot on the Friend of Blessed Trinity plaque. We can't help but notice how momentous is this moment! And so we would like to honor these friends again. On December 4th, Blessed Trinity will host its fifth annual Grand Gala (another momentous occasion—5 years of Gala Grandness). Each year at the Grand Gala the "Spirit of Blessed Trinity" award has been given to an individual who embodies the energy, enthusiasm and excitement of all Blessed Trinity stakeholders; someone whose *spirited* approach is truly a gift from God to

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school" -Mrs. Terry Braun + Blessed Trinity Catholic School is clearly Catholic, intentionally inclusive,



BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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7540 Penn Avenue South (PreK-Grade 3)
Richfield, MN 55423
612-869-5200 / 612-866-6906
www.btcsmn.org

Spirited Perspectives

Honoring our Spirit *(continued from page 7)*

our Catholic school in Richfield and its mission to education.

This year we would like to honor the 22 individuals that were first named "Friends of Blessed Trinity" as our *Spirit*. The "Spirit of Blessed Trinity" award will go to those 22 this year. They were the first to step forward and last to go home. They were models of what it was to be good parents, good Catholics, good stewards, good ambassadors. They stood up and took charge and took responsibility, they rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty. They are our history. They are our spirit. They are Blessed Trinity.

Please consider joining us on December 4th at the Grand Gala as we honor these great friends and their wonderful spirit.

The Future is Bright...After Five!

Fifth Annual Grand Gala

Saturday, December 4, 2010

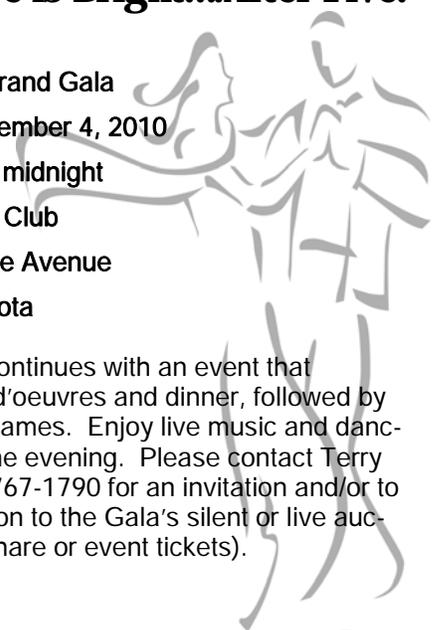
Five o'clock to midnight

Edina Country Club

5100 Wooddale Avenue

Edina, Minnesota

The tradition continues with an event that includes hors d'oeuvres and dinner, followed by auctions and games. Enjoy live music and dancing to top off the evening. Please contact Terry Braun at 612-767-1790 for an invitation and/or to make a donation to the Gala's silent or live auction (i.e. timeshare or event tickets).



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and academically excellent. -excerpt from Blessed Trinity Mission Statement ✦