



A Credit to Our School

Ethan Hastings and John Aitken

December 2014

I had the opportunity to participate in the accreditation process. I was chosen to represent the student body, and specifically the 11th grade class, on the planning committee. The committee was composed of certain teachers, faculty, alumni, parents, and highschool student representatives. Mrs. Eliasen was the chairwoman of the committee.

In order to gain MSL accreditation, certain "action plans" had to be put into place. These plans include long-term steps to improve our school. The four plans that were chosen and drafted were 1. Institute a health curriculum. 2. Create a way to measure Christian Service for students and alumni. 3. Improve communication between faculty, teachers, and parents. 4. Improve certain English test scores on TerraNova standardized tests. I was very encouraged to know that while we were in a sense putting these into place for the accreditation agency, several of these were things that were crucial to the betterment of our school. Our committee had to deliberate several times, modifying the wording of the drafts, improving certain ambiguities, and ensuring that these plans were optimal for our school. We also worked in preparation for the visiting team of accreditors.

As you may or may not have noticed, three teachers from other accredited schools visited us for a week in order to determine "whether we really are what we say we are" as a school. It was important to make a good impression.

The first event of the week was a dinner for everyone involved in the accreditation process. Not only was it a wonderful opportunity to converse with the team, but our girls choir got the chance to showcase their talent. Led by Mrs. Boch, they sang a sample of Christmas music and wowed the team with a beautiful performance. We also watched the school's informational video, giving them a look into our school's vision.

After a week of interviewing both students and committee members, observing classes, and making sure our facilities were in tip top condition, they had prepared a final report. They delivered it to the school on Friday, and I was greatly encouraged. Their comments were extremely positive. They described our school as not merely a community, but a family.

The team also had to address anything that needed to be changed before we could be accredited. They found a total of one thing that we had to change: we needed to be audited. It was very encouraging to me that this was the only thing about our school they found lacking. This report augurs very well for the future, and we are likely going to find out whether or not we are accredited by February 2015.

A special thank you to Mrs. Eliasen for working tirelessly throughout the accreditation process.

-EH

Several students were interviewed by the accreditation team, and in an endeavor to learn more about the process, we asked those students a few questions.

What interaction did you have with the team?

Jestira: I was part of the group they met with at lunch. They were respectful of our opinions and listened carefully to what we had to say about the school.

Rachel: I was a member of the accreditation planning team. There was an after school meeting with the team.

Daletyn: I'm part of the Planning Team of the school so I went to the dinner Tuesday night and was actually one of the first people to meet them. I did not interact with them much during the week until their last day when the Planning team received their report.

What topics did they ask you about?

Jestira: They started by asking what was one word that described the school and from there it progressed to speculations about curriculum and teachers. But it was clear that their purpose was to evaluate the feelings the students had toward the school, and whether or not the problems with the school were on a larger scale or not.

Rachel: During the meeting the accreditation team discussed the four primary areas where our school needs improvement. They also asked how each of the team members was involved.

-JA

Winter School Spirit



Happiness and Cheer

Joseph Gustav Boch V and Daletyn K. Harris I Esq.

Shopping. Gifts. Oh yeah, and lots of lights. The Christmas season is here, a busy, busy time for Trinity-goers. For, amid the many tests and long hours of studying, students have been preparing for the night of the TCS Christmas concert. This year the concert was a great success, featuring the elementary chorus, the secondary chorus, assorted ensembles, and even a few soloists.

The elementary orchestra showcased some of the up and coming talent in the school. The secondary orchestra performed beautifully, accompanied by Mrs. Soca on the violin and Lorenzo on the tambourine. Mrs. Soca also accompanied the Handbells. The Woodwind Choir sounded excellent as well. The Christmas

Concert was indeed spectacular.

December 13 was the date of this year's high school Christmas party. Once again the Mladenovics were kind enough to host the social event at their house, and, even though the crowd was smaller than prior years, those who attended were not disappointed. After a delicious meal, the students engaged in a variety of activities including a number of very creative and colorful renditions of the "12 Days of Christmas" song. Of course there was the gingerbread house-making contest, the write-your-own-Christmas-carol activity, and the White Elephant gift exchange to wrap up the night.

Just a reminder, although Christmas is a time of receiving gifts and eating big

meals, Christmas time is really a time to thank God for sending down his only son to save us. If it wasn't for that, then mankind wouldn't have any hope of salvation. The world builds up Christmas to be about Santa Claus and Christmas trees, but that is so far from what Christmas really is. Jesus Christ became flesh to die and to save humanity from a certain doom.

I encourage you all to pray and think about Jesus' gift to us and not about what you might get for Christmas. When I was a kid, our family used to make a birthday cake that says "Happy Birthday Jesus!" I'm not saying that you have to make a cake. I just hope you remember the reason we celebrate.

Mr. Messer and panicking reporters the day before publication:



CHRIS!
HELP!

The Trinity Times apologizes for the lack of photographs but hopes you enjoy Chris Rumeau's creative representation of the concert.



Welcome Mrs. Kaiser

Anita Witten

Mrs. Jessica Kaiser has recently joined the staff here at Trinity Christian School in the place of Mr. Lee. I asked her to answer a few questions regarding her new job and about herself in general to give the students a little more insight into who exactly Mrs. Kaiser is.

What is your role/job at TCS?

7th grade Earth Science teacher.

What are you looking forward to most this year?

I am looking forward to getting back into the classroom after a nine year break. I enjoy the challenge of bringing a subject to life for my students.

Do you have a favorite hobby or any hidden talents?

I enjoy playing the piano, baking and running.

What is the best advice you have ever recieved?

There is a limit to how many things you can do well. Be intentional about choosing the most important priorities to focus on.

Tournament Tidings

Peter Yamasaki

The Trinity basketball season is in full swing, and both the varsity boys and girls teams have begun playing games. Over Christmas break the varsity boys and girls teams will be competing in a two day tournament at North Arlington High School. Last year the girls participated in a different tournament over Christmas break, but for the boys, this will be the first time they will compete in a tournament against public schools. The girls will be playing their first game on Monday, December 29, at 2:00 PM against Lyndhurst High School, and at 7:00 PM, the boys will play against North Arlington High School.

Win or lose, both teams will play follow-up games on Tuesday. If you would like to know what time the Tuesday games are or need directions to the facilities of the North Arlington gym, the information will be posted on the athletic schedule at tcsnj.org. Cheering on our teams is an effective way of building school spirit, and encouraging the athletes to give their full effort. Your presence could have a huge effect on team morale; after all, the fans are the real reason we play. So why not show a little school spirit this Christmas break and come out to support your Trinity Trailblazers!

Please send all contributions to newspaper.trinity@gmail.com.

Thank you!