



Hoop-A-Thon

Joseph Gustav V Boch

December 2015

Kyle Eliassen steps up to the foul line and gets ready to shoot. The highscore of the day was 69 baskets in 5 minutes of rigorous shooting. Mr. Holcomb walked to the microphone and started counting down. "5." Kyle looked around to see all his fans cheering him on. "4." The crowd started to die down in anticipation of what was about to happen. "3." Kyle started to sweat, but he knew what he had to do. "2." Hours of preparation counting down to the last 2 seconds. "1." There was no going back now. "GO!" Kyle starts sinking baskets left and right, and the amount of baskets he made started to climb. Everyone in the room could feel the tension, but they could also feel that something great was about to happen. With less than a minute left, the baskets

kept climbing. "66... 67... 68." The crowd started roaring and the tension grew AND THEN...!

What you have just read is the accounts of the final minutes of the Hoop-A-Thon. Kyle was the last one to shoot that day and emerged victorious, but let's talk first about how we got there in the first place. TCS' first big school wide fundraiser was the Jogathon. Students worked for weeks getting sponsors and would then run as many laps as they could in one hour. Depending on the sponsors, the more laps each student ran, the more money each student earned. All of the money went to funding our new gym. Now, we have a gym, but the building isn't completely finished. Using the jogathon funds, in addition to

other smaller donations, we have scoreboards, a volleyball net, and wall pads being installed this month. What we plan to buy with the funds from the Hoop-a-thon are permanent bleachers, gym divider curtains, and lockers. Thanks to all of the support and generous donations, we are on our way to having a fully functioning gym. Now back to the final moments of the Hoop-a-thon 2015.

AND THEN Kyle hits the tying shot with about 45 seconds to go. The crowd is on the edge of exploding. Kyle puts one up. It's going..going... IT'S GOOD! Kyle does it. He sets the Hoop-a-thon record. Kyle went above and beyond when he ended the day with 74 baskets made. Kyle hopes to defend his title next year, in the Hoop-a-thon 2016.



A Brief Note on our Changing World

Ethan Hastings

Regardless of your position on the age of the earth, it is not a stretch to say that human civilization began around five to six thousand years ago. Around 3,000 BC, the first Sumerian civilization began in southwest Asia and northern Africa. Since then, human progress has been extremely rapid. We have gone from a largely illiterate population to an 86% world literacy rate. We have travelled to other worlds. We have sequenced the human genome. These advances have come very recently in human history. The mass produced printed word has only been around for 9% of recorded history, assuming man as we know him was created 6,000 years ago. The automobile has only existed for 3%. The internet has been around for .06%. Human progress

has been exponential.

However, this age of unfettered progress is not an age of unbridled optimism. We may have conquered the Black Plague and the Spanish Flu, but now we have the capacity to wipe out human life on earth with nuclear weapons. An EMP attack or a solar flare could destroy all technology in America, causing two-thirds of our population to starve to death. Pollution, war, tyranny, oppression, racism, and misogyny plague our modern world. Islamic theocracies and dictators threaten to start another global conflict, one that we may not survive as a species, because of this technology. ISIS is conquering large parts of Iraq and Syria. Russia is butting heads with NATO members like Turkey.

We face a rapidly transforming world at home too. One such change that is upcoming is the increasing automation of jobs, low-skill and high, by robots. These robots will not just revolutionize low-skill jobs like manual labor. Robots and computer programs currently have the capacity to compose original music, read and process e-books at 800 million pages per second, run miles faster than Usain Bolt; there are even androids that are able to mimic human movement and speech.

Genetic engineering, cloning, nanotechnology, quantum computing, cyborgs, 3D printing. The world is full of emerging opportunity, but it is also full of emerging danger and risk. We all must trust that God is sovereign, and all of these new variables are under his control.

Science Fair 2015

Charlie Mills and Grace Markowicz

Science! The friend we know primarily from textbooks, but it occasionally shows its face at yearly gatherings. This year's Science Fair was held on November 19. All students were invited to the event. Grades two through six participated. This year's theme was "The Year of Pluto" as noted by the eye-catching posters around the school.

The Science Fair took place on a Thursday night after school. That night, the Varsity Boys had their first scrimmage in the new gym. But back inside the school building was where the real action unfolded. Science lovers and students alike joined to celebrate God's majestic universe, the human body, and other various student-selected phenomena.

We at Trinity all know that every year, the second graders feature their impressive human body projects. Paper mannequins with organ systems dangled from the ceiling while the brave second

graders displayed their boards and research. The third grade showed off their projects concerning the planets, star, comets, asteroids, satellites and other celestial bodies. The fourth, fifth, and sixth graders had the freedom to choose whatever subject they pleased, and proudly displayed their projects, too. Along with the many students who attended, several secondary students arrived as well. Numerous seniors wore labcoats and greeted everyone entering. Joseph Boch and Joshua Batista created a marvelous Rube Goldberg machine for school spirit points. Iain Morrison appeared with his programmable robotic lego, fascinating children with their mesmerizing movements. Everyone's work and talent proclaimed in unison how great our God is. The room was alive with the electric buzz of children and parents.

Every year, the Science Fair is scheduled to not only give the students an

opportunity to learn and speak publicly, but also to demonstrate that God does have a divine influence over his creation. Every project features a Biblical application, including a verse that applies to the project, as every report is about God's creation and can be informed by his Scripture. Next year's Science Fair will continue to emphasize TCS's god-honoring tradition, and benefit children's minds as they research about everything there is to know about science. As the sixth graders "graduate" from science fair, new second graders will take their place in the Fair, giving this new group of students the opportunity to choose a project, create a hypothesis, and experience the rigor of the scientific method. God's command to be good stewards of the earth includes understanding the world around us.

"Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondred by all who delight in them."
-Psalm 111:2



Science Fair Quiz!

Charlie Mills

Take this quiz by circling the correct answer, put your name on top of the first page, and put in the newspaper folder by January 8. Perfect scores will get a prize!

1. What is the largest bone in the human body? (Grade 2)

- a. skull b. tibia
c. femur d. humerus

2. The brain is part of what organ system? (Grade 2)

- a. muscular b. nervous
c. skeletal d. digestive

3. Which planet is known as earth's twin? (Grade 3)

- a. Venus b. Pluto
c. Mercury d. Mars

4. Which planet's clouds are made of ammonia and sulfur? (Grade 3)

- a. Jupiter b. Neptune
c. Earth d. Uranus

5. What happens when Mentos are dropped in Coke? (Grade 5)

- a. they shrink b. nothing
c. they dissolve d. bubbles are made

6. About how much salt does a 16 oz. cup of water need to float an egg? (Grade 5)

- a. 2 cups b. 3 tablespoons
c. 1 gallon d. 1 teaspoon

7. Which has more bacteria – puppy saliva or full-grown dog? (Grade 6)

- a. puppy b. full-grown
c. they are equal

8. What, besides water, do brine shrimp mostly need to grow? (Grade 6)

- a. fish b. salt
c. iron d. pizza

Black Friday

Ethan Hastings

These days many Christians are concerned with the "War on Christmas," and justifiably so. Ok, maybe Starbucks coffee cup labels aren't really very important. However, there is real legislation attempting to ban Christmas decorations, religious or secular, to censor from the public eye, all in the name of multiculturalism and pluralism. I would argue that there is another war being waged on a holiday we celebrate; it is much subtler, self-imposed, but a war nonetheless: the War on Thanksgiving.

I have heard many people criticize Thanksgiving. "Oh, we're supposed to be content with and thankful for all that we have, but to give thanks we pig out on rich food and collapse on the couch, in a food coma, to watch football? American excess at its finest." I think this argument is largely made by cynical people who aren't very fun to be around during the holidays anyway, so I don't really care if they choose whether or not to celebrate Thanksgiving. It's just one day a year where we can indulge and enjoy the plenty that America has to offer, not an example of how we should lead our lives every other day of the year. This objection to Thanksgiving is not a war. It's just the opinion of a few holiday-hating curmudgeons, not a systematic attack on the holiday. No, the attack is not from a few individuals. The corporations are the culprits.

Corporations know their consumers. It is no fault of their own. We as a culture are now so materialistic and consumeristic that the day after Thanksgiving, the holiday where we are supposed to reflect



on all the plenty we already have been blessed with, we trample people to death in Walmart during "door buster sales." We have fist fights over flat screen TVs. In 2012, two people were shot in Tallahassee during a dispute over a parking spot. With all this morbidity, it's appropriate that we christen this holy-day "Black Friday."

"Alright," you may say, "it is ironic that we have these two polar opposite days in such quick succession, but ultimately who cares? Enjoy Thanksgiving and don't participate in Black Friday." This line of thinking may have been valid 10 years ago, when the days were separate, but the corporate marketers couldn't leave Thanksgiving be. First, there were sales during normal hours on Black Friday. Then, gradually, the mall would open earlier and earlier. Then it would open at midnight, literally the minute Thanksgiving was over. Then, they crossed the line.

We now have Black Friday sales on Thanksgiving. Target opened their doors at 5 or 6 PM on Thanksgiving this year! Some stores like Toys "R" Us were open from 5 PM to midnight, then reopened a

few hours later. This is a corruption of Thanksgiving. Black Friday sales extend all the way to "Cyber Monday" internet sales. No longer is it "Thanksgiving weekend." Now, it's "get ready for gift-giving season weekend" (less catchy, I know).

In our brave new world of acquisition by any means necessary, some companies like Staples, Gamestop, and Home Depot have opted out of the insanity. Instead of forcing their employees to work on Thanksgiving, they have the audacity to give them the day off. This year, REI went a step further. They closed every store on Black Friday, and encouraged everyone to go outside into nature instead of cramming into a shopping center and risk death by asphyxiation or trampling. This campaign not only caused many to #optoutside. Online traffic on REI's website rose by 10 percent on Thanksgiving Day and 26 percent on Black Friday, according to SimilarWeb, and their sales have been up ever since. Clearly some people admire their respect for their employees and consumers.

Seven people have died in the United States as a result of Black Friday insanity. Workers have been trampled to death. Teens who have woken up early have fallen asleep behind the wheel and died. 98 people have been seriously injured.

To borrow a phrase, we need to remember the "reason for the season." While Thanksgiving is not by nature a Christian holiday, it is still very important that we as Christians remember our blessings and do not get caught up in the materialism of our culture.

Thanksgiving Program

Grace Markowicz



Jingle Bells Crossword

Kaitlyn Anaya

P A Z L Y S B Q K W P O R C S
 R S E O T E L T S I M Q A L T
 E K D E H D I G F L E U X Z A
 S R U F L Q G C B A S P I T R
 E W X O Y A H P O E S F C J K
 N I C C K L T E O P I H O I L
 T Y S I J A S N O W A B K O P
 S B W F B L T B C R H C O A L
 H W P C A R O L S E W H B L F
 Z I T L W M B C O A T R E E A
 K N K S I A I R L T B I W B M
 L T E L J C R L E H B S O E I
 W E R L P B T H Y S C T M P L
 J R W E S B H O L L Y K S S B
 S T A B L E B J K W U I P O A



Instructions: Find and circle the words in the list below. They can be backwards, forwards, diagonal, you name it. Circle them and cross them out once you've found them.

Word List

mistletoe	lights
tree	snow
family	Christ
birth	stable
star	carols
presents	holly
wreath	coal
bells	cold
winter	Messiah

Visions of Sugarplums

William Martone



This newsletter was published using Scribus 1.4.

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- C. Spivak - Reporter

TCS to Field a Baseball Team

Kyle Eliassen

Coming soon to a diamond near you, one of the biggest moments in Trinity history is about to premiere. After 30 long years, Trinity will finally fill the void in so many's hearts. "And he smacks a long flyball deep into center field." "It's a rocket into the left field corner." "Strike three! He's fanned eight so far in the game." "He's rounding third on his way to the plate. And the throw is... not in time! Trinity regains the lead late in this one!" "Trinity wins their semifinal matchup and are headed to the finals, winnig off of a late home run." "Trinity wins! Trinity wins! Trinity wins! They have won it all! They have entered the leauge with a bang and have won the championship in their inaugural season!"

When: March 2016

Who: Any boy in grades 9-12

Where: A field near you

Winter practices begin the first two weeks in January. Sign up now before its too late! Contact Mr. Sifonios, the head coach, if you want to sign up.

Unto Us a Child Is Born

Mr. Josh Nelson

Isaiah 9:6, the beginning of which is quoted above, is one of the most oft-quoted verses at Christmastime. But these words weren't spoken on the first Christmas, though we hear echoes of them in the angels' proclamation to the shepherds in Luke 2. They weren't written in the Gospels at all. They were written by the prophet Isaiah seven hundred years earlier at a time when Israel and Judah were under great threat from Assyria. Earlier in Isaiah 9, the prophet reminds his listeners that the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali have already been humbled by their enemies. These words were given in a time of crisis and war, and the people of Israel and Judah were desperate for salvation.

It probably came as a shock and even a disappointment when God promised to deliver them through the birth of a child, even a child called Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. They were probably hoping for a strong warrior who could save them then and there. But God's plan was far bigger than a war in Syria; He planned to deliver all of His people through His son Jesus, a baby born in Bethlehem. But they would have to wait many years, through wars and invasions, to greet their savior.

We live in troubling times. The news is filled with stories of war, shootings, death, and persecution. Some of us have friends and family in the military being called to active duty. The airwaves are crowded with speeches from presidential hopefuls who seem just as wary as we are.

Rest assured that nothing happens apart from the will of God, and His plan for His people and this world is far bigger and more perfect than any we can imagine. Just as the people of Judah had to wait patiently for the birth of their Messiah we too must wait patiently for His return.

I'm sure you are all very busy with tests, projects, and holiday preparations, but please take time to remember that Jesus was born to save us. God's people waited centuries for him, but too few recognized him when he appeared in Jerusalem. Reflect on the gift of Jesus, and take hope in the fact that God sent His son at the perfect moment in history to live, teach, die, and live again so that we might know Him, love Him, and find all our hope in Him.

I miss all of you very much. Merry Christmas, TCS!

Bringin' It to Blaze

Chanelle Spivak and Alison Champagne

As usual, our survey this month was a big hit. Thank you to everyone who took the time to give us some feedback! As the break is quickly approaching, we asked a lot of Christmas-themed questions. Here are some of our favorite responses:

Does your family have any strange Christmas traditions?

- "Making homemade pizza at two a.m. with my grandma"
- "We go out to eat at IHOP on Christmas Eve."

If you could create a holiday-themed Starbucks drink, what would you make?

- "Peppermint Mocha Xtreme"
- "The Pine Cone and Holly-Leaf Smoothie"
- "Gingerbread Cookie Crumble Frappucino"

What are you looking most forward to about the New Year?

- "Graduating"
- "I'm going to try to become closer with different people"
- "Snow days"
- "Starting with a clean slate"

Questions for Blaze:

What is being set on fire?

We're glad you asked! The Trinity Times is a blazing fire that is both warming to the heart and beautiful to the eyes. But a fire can't keep itself going, so every month we send out surveys with the hopes that you will rekindle the flame. Keep Bringin', and we'll keep Blazin'.

Prayer Requests:

- Noah Hanko and his family*
- Safety for people traveling long distances
- The Boake Family--the mother with young children passed away.
- The Lees are back!

*Remember that Nickels for Noah starts January 4. Bring in spare change to help out the family, and earn spirit points too!

**Please send all contributions to newspaper.trinity@gmail.com.
Thank you!**