



TRINITY TIDINGS

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12 www.fastdir.com/trinluth

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From the Principal's Desk

Student Interactions and Bullying

Over the past several weeks I have spent time in the 4th through 8th grade classrooms talking with students about their interaction with one another and also about bullying. I wanted to share some of that information with you.

Each of our classroom discussions first began with setting the expectation of what the Lord asks us to be. Ephesians 4:29-32 is a great section of Scripture that gives a pretty clear picture of how we are to treat one another. It could be also used as a great family devotion. This became our foundation for what we knew was right and what was wrong.

Next students broke into small groups and I asked them to consider which of the following factors most influences students' words and deeds: church/God, parents, teachers, friends, or media? According to several research articles, children in grades 5-12 are more greatly influenced by their friends or social group than any other factor. I didn't share this fact with them until after the discussion. It turned out that in grades 5-8, the factor that got the majority of votes was always "friends". Media always came in second. Only the 4th graders picked God first as a primary influence.

This conversation led directly into a discussion on specific examples they saw of students positively influencing

other students. I then asked that if we were to create a list of negative influences, would it be longer or shorter? In all cases students thought it would be longer, either because there were more or because they could remember the hurt more caused by a negative comment or deed.

We then started talking and role playing about our response to mean/unkind words and actions and then about bullying. I feel that as a society we have overused the word bullying. Therefore, we went through a flowchart that helped us get a good description and definition to bullying which then gave us a good process of how to respond to it. The teachers and I have also gone through this same flowchart.

As part of the assessment of any conflict we learned to see if there was Aggression. We discussed what this looks like: physical hitting, shoving, threatening, name calling, teasing, spreading rumors or shunning. We then discussed about Dominance. Was the aggressor stronger or dominant over another? Was one side outnumbered? And finally we talked about if there was Persistence. Was there more than one incident or did the aggressor fail to stop when asked?

This led to conversation on how to respond to bullying. The first thing we discussed was that if a person starts "messing" with you, tell them in a clear and strong manner, "I don't like that, it is not teasing, and I want you to stop". We talked about how this communicates both a desire to stop

the action as well as the fact that the action is not a joke. Likewise, we talked about the importance of students first communicating this for themselves. If the action doesn't stop, we then talked about using words like, "I asked to you stop and you didn't. If you continue you are telling me you want me to get help from an adult—and I will." This helps communicate that when discipline comes, it comes as a result of the bullies continued choice of action. We also discussed that retaliation for resulting discipline will result in increased discipline. However, most of all, we spent much time talking about the importance of witness or bystanders taking a stand. We talked about the fact that bullying will sometimes happen out of the sight of the teachers, but almost always some one else sees. We worked to empower our students to stand up and say, "We don't do that here." Truly, if friends influence student culture more than anything else, then friends can be a powerful force in ending some bullying.

I'm afraid this has become more of an informational report than a resource share. I promise that next week the newsletter will be devoted to sharing resources for parents regarding both tips on if your child is the target or aggressor as well as cyberbullying information and resources. I pray God's continued peace in your lives.

TLS Staff

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Jan Wohlers
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1st Grade

Andrea Winter
1st Grade

Melissa Rock
2nd Grade

Sara Pittman
2nd Grade

Linda Brockett
3rd Grade

Jill Peters
3rd Grade

Linda Heidloff
4th Grade

Deb Weaver
4th Grade

Julie Hoffmann
5th Grade

Kathy Bahn
5th grade

Dan Bell
6th Grade

Heather Nitzel
6th Grade

Elizabeth Tomera
6th Grade

Jan Wirsing
7th Grade

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Music

Judy Vasel
Band

Lora Glenn
Art

Michelle Garcia
Key Program Coordinator

Ruth Eickenberg
Reading Resource

Mary Gordon
Computer

Stephanie Davingman
LCFS Counselor

More for TLS families

Thank You
SOOOOO much
for all the support for our
Spring Auction!

REMINDERS....

- There is still ONE Open House remaining for prospective parents. That is next Friday, May 11 from 9:00AM—4:00 PM. Stop by the office and pick up a brochure to share with a friend and invite them to the open house.

**SPRING VOCAL
CONCERT**

**Tuesday, May 8—6:30 PM
Grades 1-8**

All students in grades 1-8 will be participating in this concert. Mrs. Fuemmeler sent emails to all parents with details. Students should be in their seats in the gym no later than 6:20 that evening. Students should wear nice, dressy clothes (girls-dresses/nice slacks; boys-slacks/ties are nice). Please, no jeans, t-shirts, spaghetti straps/strapless dresses or shorts. The concert will last about 1 hour and students are required to stay for the entire concert.

**YEARBOOK
ORDERS**

Yearbook orders are coming home this week. Cost is \$17 and **checks should be made payable to Trinity.** We do a “summer book” so that we can include all the end of the year activities into the book. This means that the book will be available at the beginning of next school year. If your child is graduating or will not be returning to Trinity, you can still order a book. We will send you a post card next fall when yearbooks come in. Please place your order by the last day of the school year.

MAY FIELD TRIPS

May is a busy time of year for class field trips. Remember, it is the school policy that all field trip drivers have a current copy of drivers license and

auto insurance card on file in the school office before driving on a field trip. If it has been awhile since you’ve driven on a field trip, chances are your license or auto insurance card has expired and will need to be re-copied. If you are going to drive for an upcoming field trip please make a copy of those documents and bring the copy to the school office prior to the field trip if possible. If you do not have access to a copier, plan to arrive a little early for your field trip and stop by the office—we’d be happy to copy them for you.

2011-12 TUITION

This is a reminder to all families who have been paying their tuition on the 10-month plan...

THERE IS A JUNE PAYMENT DUE. Tuition payments are divided into 10 monthly payments that are made from September—June. Please be sure to submit the June payment to the office.

If you pay your tuition via **ACH DIRECT DEBIT**, remember to cancel this transaction after your June payment has been posted on Fast Direct or no later than June 30. If you do not personally cancel the transaction in June, the payment will continue to be withdrawn in July. If you have questions please contact Mrs. Ogden on Mondays.

SCRIP

There are only 3 more scrip orders to be placed until the end of the school year.

We will need to liquidate our

cash and carry supply by the last day of school so supplies in cash and carry may be limited as the month goes on. We will not be adding much to our current inventory so be sure to place an order if you need specific gift cards. Other scrip notes.....

- Many of our local vendors have a minimum order requirement so for the following vendors, we will only order gift cards if you have a \$50 order or more. These include: Monicals, Avanti’s, Culvers, LaGondola, Fox and Hounds. The order sheet that is attached to the newsletter has been changed to reflect this end of the year policy.
- From now until the end of the year cash and carry will be sold Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays in the office. Our last schedule day to sell on Sundays will be May 27.



Relay for Life

Corner

The Warriors
Against Cancer
have participated
in 3 Relays for
Life and have
raised \$10,240 for
the fight against
cancer. This year
their goal is
\$5000.