

↑ A Blessed Trinity third grader uses the interactive white board in Mrs. Robinson's classroom.

oo Spirited Perspectives

Making a Significant Difference in the Life of a Student

by Terry Braun, Development Director

As you may remember, last year at this time we announced a matching gift challenge. An anonymous donor put up \$20,000 for tuition assistance to be matched. In large part because of your support, in just three short months the match was made and we collected a total of \$40,000 for tuition assistance, providing financial assistance to over 100 students!

This anonymous donor was impressed by our ability to match the funds so quickly and has again renewed the challenge. This year we will attempt to match another gift of \$20,000, again designated for tuition assistance. This grand announcement was made at our fifth annual Grand Gala on December 4th, 2010.

As you know, a gift for tuition assistance literally makes the difference between what a family can pay and the true cost of education. Some families may need thousands of dollars while others may only need one hundred dollars. This year 65 percent of the families at Blessed Trinity are receiving some kind of financial assistance. All families pay some-

thing for the excellent education they receive, and all families make sacrifices to give the very best to their children—a Catholic education at Blessed Trinity.

Miriam Webster defines difference as a "significant change in a situation." We would like to invite you to be part of a significant change in the life of a student, their deserving parents, and Blessed Trinity. Therefore, "Difference Makers" is the title we are applying to supporters of this \$20,000 challenge. Donors become Difference Makers for the difference their generosity creates and the difference it makes at our school—both in the lives of the parents receiving the support and in the life of a student who will receive this great education.

God continues to bless our school with hard-working faculty and staff, eager students, active families and faithful parishioners. The only way Blessed Trinity can continue offering this quality education, however, is with the support of friends like you.

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"I would like to ask all of you to be Blessed Trinity 'word of mouth marketers.'" ~ Principal Sue Kerr ✦

WOULD YOU BE OUR WORD OF MOUTH MARKETERS!

Principled Thoughts

by Sue Kerr, Principal

Happy New Year to all friends of Blessed Trinity!

January is the month for marketing and recruiting at Catholic schools and I would like to ask all of you to be Blessed Trinity "word of mouth marketers". If you are receiving a *Spirited Perspectives*, you already believe in the rich tradition of Catholic education in Richfield which began in our three parish schools and continues in Blessed Trinity. I would like to bring you up-to-date on some exciting things that are happening at Blessed Trinity right now so you can help us spread the news about our excellent school. We feel there are three salient characteristics that make Blessed Trinity such a special school. We are clearly Catholic, intentionally inclusive, and academically excellent!

How can you tell we are clearly Catholic?

- * Our teachers see our children as individual images of God, with God-given potential.
- * We attend Mass together as a school once each week at our three parishes and the students take active roles in the planning and celebrating of school liturgies.
- * Our three priests, along with Sr. Sue Ernster from St. Richard's Church, make classroom visits to work with our children on a regular basis.
- * We celebrate our rich Catholic faith traditions, learning Catholic prayers and hymns, celebrating Advent and Lent with special liturgies and projects, serving others through intentional service projects, teaching religion as part of the core curriculum, and celebrating special feasts and holy days.

How can you tell we are intentionally inclusive?

- * We look like the world around us with a beautifully diverse learning community. We have students from many socio-economic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
- * We do not turn anyone away for financial reasons, and 65% of our families receive financial aid.
- * Our teachers individualize instruction and differentiate to meet the diverse needs of our student body.
- * 25% of our students have a language other than

English as their first language. They are successfully learning English along with their core subjects.

How can you tell we are academically excellent?

- * Our 6th and 8th graders take the SAT 10, a nationally normed and standardized achievement test each fall. This year 94% of them scored higher than the national average in math; 87% in reading; and 89% in language. This is especially impressive considering our diversity.
- * All students in kindergarten through 8th grade take the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment each fall and again in the spring. Last year 87% of our students reached their target growth for the year.
- * Blessed Trinity alumni have a reputation at area high schools for being genuinely kind and compassionate in addition to being extremely well prepared academically.
- * Every year we send several students to the regional science fair. Last year three of them went on to state. Our students also compete in Quiz Bowl, robotics, and Destination Imagination.
- * We continually develop new ways to integrate and update technology.

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Sno*Ball Dance & Silent Auction

Saturday, January 29

Blessed Trinity's annual Sno*Ball dance and silent auction will be held in the gym at Penn Campus on Saturday, January 29th. This great family tradition is for all ages. Doors will open at 6:00pm, following the 5:00pm Mass at St. Richard's Church. All supporters are welcome!

If you are or know a contact at a business or organization, please notify Melissa at melissa@btcsmn.org or 612-767-1791. We'll make a formal request for a donation—either for merchandise at the auction or for a monetary contribution to offset the cost of the live band.



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✦ Tell your friends and neighbors about Blessed Trinity. ✦ Invite families to our round-ups and open



First all-school Mass (September 15, 2010) at St. Richard's Church with Bishop Piche' presiding. What a treat for the students!

Making a Significant Difference

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The students at Blessed Trinity are so appreciative of the support of our three parishes, our alumni and stakeholders. We wish to thank you for the difference you make in their world. It is our hope that these students will be the difference makers of tomorrow. Please join all of us at Blessed Trinity in praying for this recent anonymous donor and all those who give so generously to our school.

This just in!

A different and separate anonymous donor has pledged \$8,000 toward technology and our Interactive White Board (IWB) initiative. Blessed Trinity would like to challenge the community to match the efforts of this kind and selfless donor. These white boards have stirred quite a lot of excitement in our classrooms. They've ignited the life long learners within our faculty and staff who have trained and researched the best ways to use these amazing tools. The students are thrilled with the ability to see, practice and demonstrate their learning in a new and exciting way.

Blessed Trinity currently has five classrooms with interactive white boards: Mrs. Wyrick (1st grade), Mrs. Derosier (2nd Grade), Mrs. Robinson (3rd Grade), Mr. Dillon (5th Grade) and Mr. Stock (Middle School Science). As soon as we can raise the funds, the following teachers have shown interest in having an IWB in their classroom: Mrs. Armbrust and Mrs. Kalbfell (4th Grade), Mr. Boyle (Middle School), Senor Saldana (Spanish) and Mrs. Mulrooney (5th Grade).

Within this newsletter mailing is a giving slip. If you wish to join our anonymous donors and give toward Tuition Assistance or Technology please complete the form and mail in to Blessed Trinity. Your generosity can make the blessing of these two gifts **double!**

Thank You

BT DONORS

Thank you Blessed Trinity donors!

Bernard & Marjorie Hurley

Bernie Auchstetter

Bonnie Daly

Cheryl Bradford

Dan & Robyn Liebl

Don Elsen

Dorothy Dougherty

Dottie Renner

Dr. Jeffrey O'Neil

(O'Neil Dental Center)

Edward & Francie Fletcher

Elaine Harder

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Father Mike Tix

Gary Ingram

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James & Verdella Borrell

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John & Joan Olinger

(in memory of Maureen Wellens)

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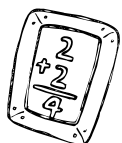
Terrence Bil & Joan Scherrer

Terry & Maggie Mattson

Tom & Colleen Boerboom

Tom Keegan

Wayne & Liz Zetzman



houses. ✦ Give families you know the enclosed flyer showing parent testimonials. ✦ "Our teachers



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Spirited Perspectives

Principled Thoughts *(continued from page 2)*

Blessed Trinity is the perfect size for a vibrant Catholic school community. We are small enough to have a warm, family feel, and we get to know our students well. We are large enough to have extras such as band, choir, a football team and an 8th grade musical. We are small enough that teachers can work with students individually to meet their needs as learners. We are large enough to have specialists not only in physical education and music, but also in art, Spanish, and middle school science, math and social studies.

We have experienced, dedicated teachers and support staff, as well as involved parents who actively volunteer to enhance the life of our school. Please tell your friends and neighbors about Blessed Trinity. Give them our enclosed open house flyer. Invite them to schedule a private tour or browse our website at www.btcsmn.org.



Fourth graders singing to St. Peter's Seniors' Club.



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see our children as individual images of God, with God-given potential." Sue Kerr, Principal