



Summer 2010

*Pictured:
Class of 2010
Blessed Trinity Catholic School
Graduation Date: June 2, 2010
Church of the Assumption*

Principled Thoughts

By Principal Sue Kerr

This story begins at the end of our second trimester. One of our eighth grade girls came to me to say she really wanted to make the honor roll, but her science grade was just a little too low, and she wanted some advice on how to bring up that grade. Together she and I went to see Mr. Stock, the middle school science teacher. He diagnosed it as a problem with the tests, as she was doing well on lab work and homework. They made a plan for her to check in with him for help with study skills on a regular basis after school.

What makes this story remarkable is that this student had only been at Blessed Trinity for a couple years and had been learning the English language along with her core subject material. Her academic English hadn't quite caught up enough to show her true ability in school, but she was working hard on it. It is not easy to get A's in eighth grade at Blessed Trinity—it's hard work for everyone, and especially hard when you are learning everything in your second language.

Our eighth grader kept at it and studied extra hard for science tests, checking in with Mr. Stock on a regular basis. She kept the rest of her grades up as well. In middle school all the teachers enter their grades into the system separately and don't see the overall grades until the averages are run. The grade point averages were posted just before graduation Mass on June 2nd and I took a quick look with a quick prayer. Her science grade was a B plus and her grade point average was high enough for the honor roll!

Later that day, I found her at Assumption all dressed up and getting ready with her classmates and told her she made it. She gave me a hug to remember, crying and shaking, so that I feared for her hair do and make-up. It's moments like these that make my job so wonderful. This young lady needed a lot of financial aid to attend Blessed Trinity. She was more than worth the investment, and I look forward to hearing about her future accomplishments. I know Mr. Stock does, too.

"Blessed Trinity produces some of the most well behaved, morally sound and academically motivated students

Success!Success!Success!



Accreditation Success!

By Principal Sue Kerr

The loud cheer you heard coming from the direction of Blessed Trinity at the end of April was the sound of sweet success as Blessed Trinity was re-accredited by the accrediting body, Minnesota Non-public Schools Accrediting Association (MNSAA). This two year process began last year with a self-study which involved evaluating everything from curriculum and instruction and learner performance to our compliance with the legalities of record keeping and school safety. This year we built a long range school strategic plan based on the strengths and challenges surfaced in the self-study.

In April, a team of educators from around the state visited Blessed Trinity for three days, observing in classrooms, phoning parents, and interviewing each employee. They also sifted through everything from employee files to teacher lesson plans. Throughout the visit we received many compliments on the welcoming feel of our school, our level of preparedness,

the well-organized information the team was given, and especially on the dedication of our teachers in preparing students well for life beyond Blessed Trinity.

The chair of the visitation team was Peter Noll of the Minnesota Catholic Conference. He told me the team had come into Blessed Trinity with some healthy skepticism about our ability to be clearly Catholic, intentionally inclusive, and academically excellent, but that they were leaving fully convinced and impressed with our accomplishments in all three areas.

As the parish school of three distinct Richfield parishes, our mission to be clearly Catholic, intentionally inclusive and academically excellent is especially important as Blessed Trinity carries on the great traditions of the Catholic schools of Assumption, St. Peter and St. Richard. It is not easy to be all three, but with a hard working and dedicated faculty, involved parents, and the greatest students anyone could hope for—we are doing it quite well.

We are clearly Catholic when we learn the rich traditions of our faith together in prayer, in song, in sacramental celebrations, in special liturgical celebrations and service projects during Advent and Lent, and at Stations of the Cross. We are clearly Catholic when we hold our students to high behavioral standards and see them as images of God with God-given potential.

(continued on back page)

Raffle & Rummage Sale

Thanks to all who entered our tuition raffle this past spring. The winners were the **James & Danielle Keller** family, who have a preschooler at BTCS. Our \$100 winners were **Jene Mitchell** and **Margaret Kramer**. Congratulations to them all! Over \$11,000 was collected. That amount, along with the proceeds from our rummage sale (\$5,713), allowed us to reach our \$115,000 fundraising goal for the 2009-2010 school year—thank you for your support!

Let's Get a Smart Board!

Our Knights' Nights at the Knights of Columbus dining hall in Bloomington on the first Thursday of each month (5-9:00pm), along with Dairy Days at the Dairy Queen in Richfield (Upton and 66th Street) on the third Tuesday of each month (4-8:00pm), will continue throughout the summer and next school year. Please continue patronizing those businesses. Over \$800 has been raised so far, getting us ever closer to another smart board at BTCS!

Thank You



Mr. Rydstrand Retires:

Mr. Fred Rydstrand retired at the end of the 2009-2010 school year—after forty years of teaching! Thirty of those years were spent at St. Peter’s School and Blessed Trinity Catholic School, combined. His wit and wisdom will be greatly missed in the classrooms, hallways, and lunch-room of Blessed Trinity Catholic School’s Nicollet Campus.

Farewell Note:

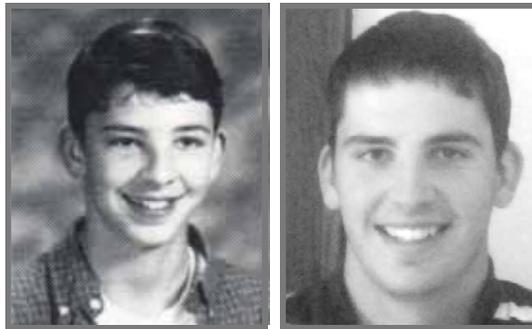
“During my 40 years of teaching, I have seen many changes in education. But I have enjoyed and learned from those changes and my students over the years. I have enjoyed conferences with parents and general conversations that we have had.



I thank each parent for the support and trust they have given me every year. Even in the few times they disagreed with me, they still gave me 100% support. We worked together for the benefit of their child at school.

I will miss Blessed Trinity’s wonderful, dedicated teachers and principal. I will miss the students and parents more than I realize—for you have been a big part of my life. Thanks, thanks, thanks, and God bless. I pray Blessed Trinity Catholic School will continue far into the future. With your help and the continued dedication of our staff and priests, it will.”

~Fred Rydstrand



Pictured:
Jeff Boyle
BTCS 2001 Graduate
(left)
New Faculty Member
(right)

Alumni
IN THE NEWS

Welcome Aboard, Jeff!

Mr. Jeff Boyle, a Blessed Trinity Catholic School alum, recently accepted a middle school position and will be teaching eighth grade language arts and literature, along with sixth grade religion and math, on the Blessed Trinity Nicollet Campus this coming school year.

Jeff began his education at St. Richard’s School, back when there were three separate parish schools in Richfield. By Jeff’s second grade, the three schools had merged into one—Blessed Trinity Catholic School. He graduated from BTCS in the spring of 2001, and Academy of Holy Angels in 2005.

Four years later, Jeff received his BA from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, where he majored in secondary education and history. He played baseball in college for four years as a pitcher, was a sports broadcaster for the college radio station and sports editor of the school newspaper. He currently coaches football and baseball at Academy of Holy Angels.

Mr. Boyle substituted at Blessed Trinity for several months last school year while Mrs. Larsen was on maternity leave. This is what he wrote about his time at Blessed Trinity:

“This truly was the job I wanted from the get-go!”
-Jeff Boyle

“The subbing experience at Blessed Trinity was phenomenal. I really enjoyed being back there and working side by side with some of the very same teachers who had taught me. Everyone was

so supportive and welcoming; it was truly a blessing to see that I was still a part of the Blessed Trinity family. I taught language arts and literature to seventh and eighth grade and it was great, especially our Edgar Allan Poe unit which seemed to really pique the interest of the seventh graders. The kids were amazing and it is still true that Blessed Trinity produces some of the most well behaved, morally sound and academically motivated students one can find.”





BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

6720 Nicollet Avenue South (Grades 4-8)
7540 Penn Avenue South (PreK-Grade 3)
Richfield, MN 55423
612-869-5200 / 612-866-6906
www.btcsmn.org

Clearly Catholic * Intentionally Inclusive * Academically Excellent

Spirited Perspectives

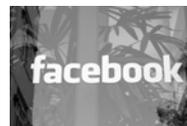
Accreditation Success! *(continued from page 2)*

We are intentionally inclusive when we invite in every family who desires a high-quality Catholic education regardless of their ability to pay the full tuition. We are intentionally inclusive when we seek the funds to make it possible to serve the poor, and when we provide our teachers with the resources they need to teach a beautifully diverse community of learners.

Blessed Trinity has always held our students to high academic standards, and academic excellence remains a top priority. Our teachers have been working with professors from Hamline University on best practices for teaching English language learners in the regular classroom; and several are currently participating in graduate programs at the University of St. Thomas. All summer the teachers are working to update curriculum, and are attending workshops and conferences to hone their skills.

What the accreditation team and MNSAA recognized in Blessed Trinity Catholic School has deep roots in Richfield's past and continues in many wonderful ways to build a brighter future for our students and their families. We hope you are as proud of Blessed Trinity's accreditation as we are, and welcome you to visit our website to read the strategic plan that will be guiding us as we live out our mission over the next several years.

Thank you for your continued support of Blessed Trinity and high-quality Catholic education in Richfield. As always we will be praying for our benefactors and stakeholders, and hope you will keep us in your prayers as well. Enjoy a blessed and relaxing summer!



Become a Blessed Trinity Catholic School fan on facebook today!

far into the future. With your help and the continued dedication of our staff and priests, it will." *-Fred Rydstrand*