

Trinity All-School Newsletter – September 2024

At the end of each month, you will receive a general all-school newsletter. It will alert you to school and church events in the coming months and hopefully give you the information you need to have your child ready to participate. We will also include calendar events for the following month so that you can plan ahead.

We have spent August establishing the routine and rituals for our classrooms – we know the same thing is happening at home as you get used to having your children back at school. One thing we are working on here is making sure children have all of their belongings that need to go home at the end of the school day. I know we have a few kids who also struggle with getting everything they need to bring to school ready in the morning. Even our youngest students can be working on these organizational habits. When mistakes are made, natural consequences can be the best teacher. Here is a story from this week from one of our elementary students that brings home this point.

This young lady was expected to put her lunch food in her lunch box and have it with her backpack ready to go when it was time to leave for school. She got distracted and squandered her time, so mom brought her to school without a lunch. The mom alerted the teacher to the situation. When children came to the lunch room, this child brought nothing. The teacher asked her about the situation and the child got to review her actions. The consequence would be that she didn't have her lunch from home – but we do keep an emergency stash of food and gave her something, but it was not as tasty as what she could have brought from her home. I doubt that the child will let this happen again.

At the end of the day, teachers remind students to have gathered all their belongings before heading to the front door for dismissal. Again, natural consequences can prove to be the best teacher. Your child can live without their water bottle or coat for the evening. We do not let them go back to the room or their cubby. We do make exceptions for homework – but teachers usually have a protocol that you can only do that once or twice.

Part of the blessings of being in a Lutheran school is that we can admit our errors, ask for forgiveness and receive it in the name of Jesus. Mistakes can be teaching moments that can help us be better friends and students – and even better teachers and parents!

And speaking of getting better . . . I'm not good at making the newsletter fancy, but it's a goal to learn some new tricks this school year. I'm already proud that I learned how to get photos on the TV in the entrance. If you stop in the building, stop and take a look.

Gwen (aka "Miss Marshall")

Labor Day – Trinity is closed completely on Monday, September 2, for the Labor Day holiday.

MAPS testing- Grades K-5 will do their first round of MAPS testing the week of September 9. It is important that your child be at school those testing days; scores are not as accurate when the child does make-up testing on a different day and not as part of the class group. The testing process gives teachers important information as they plan instruction.

Cook's Night Out- Each month, there is an opportunity to support our school by dining out and giving the cook at your house a night off. Typically, it will be at a local restaurant with Trinity receiving a percentage of sales. For September, the Board of Education is putting

together a homemade meal on Tuesday, September 17. There will be a variety of smoked meats, baked potatoes, green beans and rolls; there will also be a dessert table. You can enjoy a table in the church basement or get meals to go. It will be a free-will offering instead of a per-person bill with the funds going to support the Scholarship fund for 2024-25.

School Pictures – Josten will be here to take pictures on Thursday, September 26. We will start with grades 4 & 5 as soon as possible because they have a field trip scheduled that day. We will take individual pictures of all grades PS-5; elementary will also take class group photos. If your preschool child does not typically attend school on Thursday, speak with Gwen about options to still get a picture taken. Most of the information about packages and what to wear will come in emails from Josten directly to you. Be sure to check your email and let the office know if you haven't received anything by September 6.

Fall Festival Planning Meeting – Trinity traditionally has a Fall Festival on the Saturday before Halloween (October 26 this year). We have a chili cook-off, trunk or treats and sometimes other activities for children. Often we just invite the church and school families. Last year, we invited more of the community at-large by making it a Facebook event and had over 400 people attend. The event is put together by volunteers; in the past it was led by the PTL. Any interested volunteers will meet on September 12 at 3:45 p.m. in the school cafeteria to plan what we want to do in 2024. If you can't make that meeting time but would like to help, speak with Gwen.

Quilters Fall Bazaar – The Trinity Quilters have their craft sale event in the gym on Saturday, October 19. They have asked the school to provide a lunch for the event. A baked potato bar has always been a favorite, so we are planning on that again this year. This is a wonderful opportunity for families on scholarship to get in some hours, but we would welcome other help as well. Watch for a Sign-Up Genius page in late September to gather workers to help with set-up/clean-up, cooking and serving. The free-will offering at the meal supports the Scholarship Fund.

Chapel Offerings – Our project in September will be to support Weld County Food Bank. You can support this project two ways: send a cash offering on Wednesdays to put in the offering plate at chapel OR purchase items to give to the food bank. There is usually a collection bin outside the school office where you can always leave food items. But for September, we are going to concentrate on collecting cereal. As you make choices of cereal to bring, don't forget the cooked cereal options which involve simply adding water. Those are good choices for people who may not have milk in their home. You can have your child pick out a box of something children enjoy for breakfast, but don't forget that the food bank also serves a lot of senior citizens and pick out something for the adult crowd too. On October 2, we will pack up the cereal to go to the food bank.

Hot Lunch – We will not continue using the program through District 6. Gwen is gathering information from Blackjack Pizza. Brenda is collecting information from Culvers and other sources. We are hoping to get something in place to offer a hot lunch option two or three times a week (likely W, Th, F). We want to be able to offer meals in the \$5 price range that need minimal volunteer help to serve. Our goal is to do a test run with Culvers in mid-September and then send home an order form in late September and begin the hot lunch option after Fall Break.

Missing Paperwork – if your child is missing any paperwork in the school files, there would have been a half-sheet note in the child's preschool folder (outside the preschool room) or Friday folder (elementary). We will audit the incomplete files again next week; if you still haven't turned in the missing paperwork by then, you will receive another reminder.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – grades K-5 will be setting up appointments to meet with parents October 7 & 8; preschool conferences will be scheduled at the end of October or early November.

Fall Break – Trinity is closed completely October 9-11. There will be no childcare available. Many staff members will be attending the Lutheran Professional Church Workers' Conference in Breckenridge those days.

CALENDAR

September 2 – Trinity CLOSED for Labor Day
September 9 – Board of Education Meeting
September 9-13 – MAPS testing
September 12 – Fall Festival Planning Meeting 3:45
September 17 – Cook's Night Out 5:00-7:00 in church basement
September 26 – School Pictures
September 26 – Field Trip Colorado History Day at Island Grove Park for Grades 4 & 5
October 7 – Board of Education meeting
October 7 – Butter Braid sales begin
October 7 & 8 – Elementary parent-teacher conferences
October 9-11 – Trinity CLOSED for Fall Break
October 19 – Trinity Quilters Fall Bazaar
October 25 – Butter Braid sales end
October 26 – Fall Festival
October 27 – Reformation Celebration at Trinity Lutheran Church