



December, 2018

Dear Faithful Friends,

As the advent season is upon us, please join us in our Trinity Annual Fund Drive (Annual Appeal) by returning the enclosed pledge envelope today. This year we are facing even greater challenges and hope you will consider an increase in your donation. Know that your gifts will be multiplied as the future lives of children are touched.

A day in the life of the new Trinity Catholic School...

It is 5 AM and most children are still asleep but that is when Kathy, our cook enters her sparkling kitchen to begin preparing her 140+ meals for hungry children at Trinity. Educare opens at 6:30 and there is already an infant cooing. The doors open and the principal also arrives. Plastic safety "people" are put in front on the street to keep the area open for dropping off students. Sitting in the office the principal spies a biker ride up and he walks through the first door. He looks like he doesn't belong and asks for food. Staff is grateful for the security door. 7:00-the Sports Ministry team from Gonzaga University arrive. They have a pilot program for students in grades 6-8 before school. 8:05-the teachers gather to pray and at 8:15 the principal begins crossing guard. 8:30 the doors open to the K-8 students waiting outside. Already there are bustling classrooms with infants thru age 4, and now the regular school day begins. The remainder of the day is just as busy. The office visits include students, parents, staff, and volunteers. Band, strings, art, library, music, and physical education are ALL staffed with volunteers. There is another team of volunteers who assist with students needing some extra attention.

While this might appear to be a fairly routine day, behind the scenes in classrooms, in hallways, in the lunchroom, and in the cafeteria, there is another world. Children. These are some very typical phrases we hear...

- I love my school because I always feel safe.
- Kathy makes the best turkey gravy.
- I love my weekend bag of food. I love the cereal.
- My teachers really understand me.
- I love the lockers for my stuff.
- My new school is so beautiful.
- The windows help me concentrate.
- Father Jose is the best.
- Sister Consuela is very holy.

Trinity days are extra-ordinary for our children.

- Teachers and staff sacrifice to enable our children to have a future that is bright and full of possibilities.
- Opportunities with the arts and sports are especially necessary and are thankfully fulfilled by volunteers.
- Faith and good stewardship permeate the school environment.
- Children are taught to serve their fellow classmates and clean up their messes.
- Teachers expect a lot and students rise to the expectations within a very compassionate and encouraging environment.

These months of transition with a new school and a gym in process have been financially challenging. I wish I could say that our finances are wonderful, but it will take time to adjust to new bills and new buildings. We are watching every penny these days to ensure that we aren't being overcharged and figuring out how our increasing enrollment is helping. In addition to 40+ new students, we have our infant and waddler rooms now in session. Staffing and assessing these new additions (babies are great!) is also taking time. We continue to explore creative ways to save money, find new money, and keep programs excellent. Teachers and staff continue to work through every new challenge. Playground space is limited, and will be until the gym construction is completed, but we rise to the challenge and children go outside and play every day. We now have three lunches to accommodate our growing enrollment. With our limitations, all personnel adapt, collaborate, and assimilate to every possible situation that arises on a day to day basis.

Trinity Catholic School continues to do important work in St. Anthony's and St. Joseph's parishes and in the wider community in the heart of Spokane. For over 90 years our mission has made our school a source of hope for many children and their families in a variety of circumstances. Please be generous and enable us to continue to shine our light!!

God bless you this Advent,

Sandra L. Nokes