

PTA Newsletter

T E S C A T

Trinity Elementary School of



To our children, families, teachers and staff, have a safe and happy holiday! From the Trinity PTA

Read the Cat!

Communications Arts and Technology

Green News

The city of New Rochelle is drafting a Sustainability Plan called GreeNR. This plan lays out a vision for New Rochelle that includes recommendations aimed at improving our environment, our health, economy and quality of life. In accordance to this plan the Trinity Green Team (TGT) was assembled. The mission of TGT is to introduce to Trinity Elementary new behaviors and knowledge that are environmentally friendly.

Trinity school is already on its way to reducing its impact on the environment. You may have noticed the can/plastic recycling containers. Additionally, most notices going out to families are being copied on recycled paper. Also, the school is working on the introduction of a paper-less system of communication. This system is currently being tested with the kindergarten class. Lastly, Trinity is now a "battery collecting site" (for household batteries only). We encourage all to bring in used batteries to the "battery box" in the Main Office, for proper disposal.

Other immediate goals include having an "energy keeper" in each classroom in charge of turning off the light when the room is empty. Making sure that every ink cartridge used in the school gets recycled. A weeklong of Green Lessons and Eco-Challenges to be held during the week of February 1-5, 2010. And, the inauguration of a school garden in Spring 2010.

Future goals that TGT is working on include finding an affordable biodegradable alternative to the Styro-foam trays in our cafeteria. Making all our community and PTA events waste-conscious by using only biodegradable dinnerware, eliminating individual-use food and beverage containers, and replacing plastic bags with 100% biodegradable bags. Teaching our students the concept of waste-free snack and lunches. Reducing energy consumption in the building. Replacing burned-out light bulbs with energy-efficient ones. And, setting up a central OFF SWITCH to turn off all computers during the night.

Lastly, we would like to inform you of the following collection sites: Stop & Shop is collecting plastic bags for recycling. And, the Main Library is collecting used cell phones for recycling.

Trinity Green Team welcomes everyone's involvement. If you would like to join in the effort or would like to share any ideas or suggestions, please leave your contact information in the PTA mailbox (Main Office) addressed to Trinity Green Team.

TRINITY TOY DRIVE — Every year Trinity asks that the school demonstrate community awareness by donating a holiday gift to our annual Giving Tree. In the past Trinity has donated over one hundred gifts a year to children in hospitals and shelters for the holidays. If a student and their family is interested in participating we ask they do the following:

1. Send in an inexpensive, new unwrapped gift.
2. Tape a note card on the gift with the student's and teacher's name.
3. All gifts can be dropped off at the main office, Ms. Archer or Mrs. Morris' office.
4. For questions, please call Mrs. Morris at 576-4434 or Ms. Archer at 576-4226.

The student's name will be displayed on our Giving Tree on one of our STARS as a special thank you. The Giving Tree will be in the main school lobby for the Trinity community to see.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**Trinity Winter Concert
Thursday, December 17th
10:00am & 1:45pm**

Thanks to all who helped make the Children's Gift Boutique a huge success this year! Special thanks to Allison and Carl Cacciola and Rosemary Delgado!

Holiday Issue

December 2009

Upcoming Calendar:

December-

12/11 Assembly—10am-2:45pm,
Felix Pitre: Stories & Songs of Latin America

12/11—Photo Makeup Day

12/17—Winter Concert—
Thursday 10am & 1:45pm

12/18 Class Trip, Friday 9am-2:45
Norwalk Aquarium—3rd Grade.

12/18 Movie Night—7pm

January -

1/12 PTA Meeting—7pm

February -

2/12/2010—Jump Rope for Heart,
Friday 9:30am-2:45pm.

Free Homework Help

Who: All Students
What: Homework Help
When: Afterschool hours -
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 3pm-
8pm. Wednesday—3pm-6pm.
Where: New Rochelle Public
Library
Why: College students from
Monroe College & College of
New Rochelle are there to help!

*Drop in and get help with your
homework! No appointments
are necessary.*

New Rochelle Public Library

Trinity Elementary PTA

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Holiday Boutique

With only weeks until the holidays, moms and dads are wondering "Where will I get those last minute gifts for the special people on my list?" Trinity provided the answer on Saturday December 5th with their annual Holiday Boutique.

The school's gym had dozens of vendors providing great gifts at even better prices. Available were homemade crafts and gift baskets, sweets and treats, books for children, knitwear, and quality brands such as Mary Kay, Arbonne, Avon and PartyLite. There was face painting, and a delectable assortment of baked goods. Mrs. Pacheco and her family spent the day with us!

It was a holiday dream come true: an alternative to the crowds at the mall, something for everyone on your list, and a day with family and the school community! Thanks to Chairman Carl Cacciola, Allison Cacciola, Rosemary Delgado, Carlos Sanchez, Billy, vendors, and volunteers. Great job! *by Jessica M. LaBella*

Child ID Program

Leave it to Trinity Elementary School to have families covered! On Saturday, December 5th, the school hosted NY Mason's Child ID Program. As families walked into the Holiday Gift Boutique, they were greeted by Mr. Briceno and informed that they were welcome to register their children, free of cost. Each child received an identification card, got their fingerprints taken, and each one's information was uploaded to a mini CD-ROM.

The NY Mason's Child ID Program (NY CHIP) was started in the early 90s by volunteers in the Queens District. The first program consisted on video footage of each child in the hopes that showing a child in their natural environment would aid in the recognition of children who were missing.

The program now provides the EZ Child ID System: each free mini CD-ROM contains the child's digital photographs, a complete set of digital fingerprints, and vital information about the child in the universal format. To find out more information about this amazing program, visit their website at www.nychip.org. While the idea of your child missing is a nightmare, parents can be proactive about the worst scenario by participating in this program. *by Jessica M. LaBella*

Good Habits

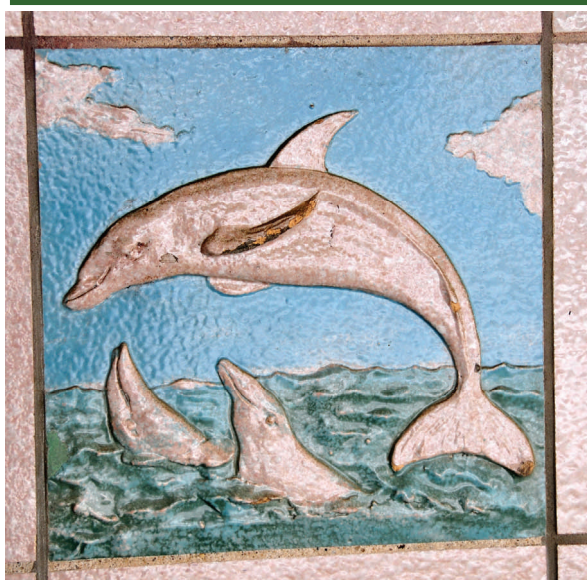
Recently I was bringing five bags of groceries home and my son ran to hold the door for me. How polite, I thought, and how new. Then I learned that Trinity is promoting good manners and habits. Mrs. Delgado, 5th grade Kaleidoscope teacher, described Trinity's new "Productive Habits of Mind" initiative, currently a 5th grade program. The school is encouraging students to practice a new habit each month. In October the students practiced "responsibility" and November "civility". These habits help foster a productive learning environment for all. Currently the students have to "control impulsive behavior". This means not interrupting when others are speaking and to wait their turn.

Mrs. Sansevere, 5th grade teacher, said it allows the teachers to focus on the students with good behavior. The opposite is where the teacher has to reprimand to maintain order in the classroom and focus on those who misbehave.

Students are noticed as they go through their school day doing positive things. At the end of the month students who have demonstrated the habits consistently are awarded with a certificate in the auditorium. Points accumulate from one month to the next. Students need not be perfect to get certificates, rather show "sincere effort". This initiative may eventually go school wide.

The students are certainly enthusiastic about the program and Mrs. Sansevere notices that the children beam when they hear the "thank yous" and compliments. Periodic special events are planned for rewards. Go Trinity!

Trinity PTA Monthly Essay Contest



\$20 Gift Certificate to Merry Go Round Toy Store

The PTA is sponsoring a monthly essay contest open to all students. Write an essay about the tile depicted above. This tile is installed along the front of the school. Essay may be fictional or factual. Be creative! Put your essay in an envelope with your name, teacher and grade level and put it in the PTA box in the main office. One winner per grade level will be selected. The monthly winner will be chosen at random from the top essays per grade level.

Honorable mentions will be awarded. Good luck!

Essays are due by January 5th.

Winning essays will be considered for candidates in the "Kids are Authors" Scholastic competition. Under the guidance of a project coordinator, children work in teams of 3 or more students to write and illustrate their own book. Two Grand Prize winning books (one fiction and one non-fiction) will be published by Scholastic and sold at Book Fairs throughout the country. The PTA is seeking teachers to participate as project coordinators. If you are an interested teacher, please email Elizabeth Foote at eakfoote@yahoo.com for more information. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2010 for the 2010 Contest.

Third PTA meeting of 2009/2010 is Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00pm in the Trinity Library