

BLESSED TRINITY ACADEMY BULLDOG NEWS

From the Principal

Over the past two days, to begin Catholic Schools Week, I attended mass at St. Mary's on Saturday evening and St. Matthew's (formerly St. Bonaventure) on Sunday. In many ways I was reminded of my own experiences--greeting friends at mass, in our uniforms, having the chance to speak or read during the liturgy. It was always such an honor. My memories were also sparked by Chris Pomietto and his mother, who were there with Chris's daughter, Sara, a fourth-grader participating in the mass. Chris and I were a few years apart in school and Mrs. Pomietto was my youngest brother's first Spanish teacher in Catholic elementary school. And she and I talked about one of my former teachers, Sr. Roberta, who was an incredible teacher who held us to the kind of academic excellence that Catholic schools are known for.

On Sunday, I listened to my brother, Patrick, share his experiences as a Catholic school parent, and how having his sons attend Catholic school was very important. I had a moment of disbelief, thinking of us as children, and now here we are, growing in our faith together as adults. And sitting beside me is my nephew, Max, who is now a sophomore at North Catholic (*see alum news*).

Chris, Patrick, and I are the product of Catholic schools, as well as many other parents I saw at the masses this weekend and who send their children to BTA. And that means something. We had our start at a Catholic school on the North Side, and are now a part of the community of Blessed Trinity Academy, where our campus has been the location of a Catholic school for over 174 years!

Catholic schools can be traced back to at least 1606. And 415 years later, Catholic schools continue to be a Christ-centered community, providing academic excellence with a faith and values-based education. Catholic schools are an inclusive environment and emphasize service to others. Much like I did, BTA students make cards for shut-ins, perform Christmas plays for the community, and lead projects to support those in need.

While much has changed, and we have had to adapt faster and larger than possibly any other time in history, Catholic schools have made a new mark. They are needed more than ever in this present moment and for the future. And Sara, Max, Ella, Thomas, Erika, Claire, Callie, Allie, and all other Catholic school students are part of the next generation of Catholic leaders.

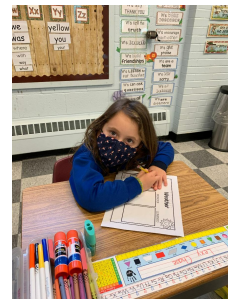
Thank you to all our families who choose to send their children to Blessed Trinity Academy--to be part of the history, part of the journey. Happy Catholic Schools Week!

Mrs. E

From The Classrooms

January brought a lot of fun and exciting things in our classrooms. Our staff and students continue to work diligently to provide innovative activities given some of their classroom constraints.

In Kindergarten students have been working hard learning to read. One of the activities they did was to read the book "Little Panda." They also virtually observed pandas in action at a zoom. They have been working on patterns in Math class as well as a unit on weather in STEM. Plus they have been making



snowflakes out of beads in Art.

First grade spent a bunch of time with their 6th grade Buddies. They helped them personalize their Google classroom accounts with fun cursors and read stories they had created about Sparta to their Buddies. They have also been working on a weather unit in STEM and learning to recognize number patterns in Math.



Several novel studies are happening throughout the primary grades, including "Tuck Everlasting" by Natalie Babbitt in 4th grade, and "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe" in 3rd grade.



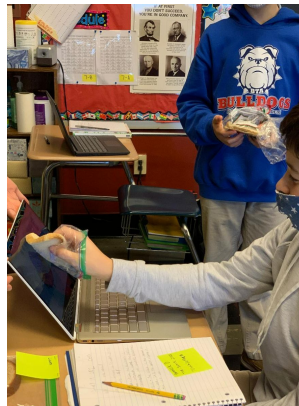
4th grade is also researching different states in Social Studies and presented projects about different South American countries in Spanish class.



5th grade started reading "Shiloh" in language arts and learning about the color wheel in Art. Plus, they are working on finishing their comic books during their enrichment period.



6th grade is getting ready to start their novels for the English Festival. They are also learning about plate tectonics in science. For STEM they are waiting for some snow to start building and testing sleds they created for their unit on motion.



7th grade is conducting experiments in Science. They are growing bacteria on bread and started their unit on cellular structure. They finished "The Giver" and watched the movie based on the book to compare the two formats. They also met with their 2nd grade Buddies to write poems.

News from The PTG

As things have been very different this year, our PTG has been concentrating our efforts on setting up restaurant nights. Our next one is scheduled for the Chipotle in McCandless Crossing on February 1st. This is take out only and orders must be placed online. Keep an eye out for our next Pasquale's night on February 22nd.

We are also brainstorming for a virtual PTG event for school parents. Ideas we have so far are a trivia night, bingo, art workshop, beer tasting or wine tasting. If anyone has any other ideas, please email ptg@btacademy.net.





Fundraising News

Thank you to everyone who bought and sold Lucky lottery calendars for January and February. With that simple fundraiser, we raised \$6,500 for the school! In other fundraising news, we raised the following:

- NFL Raffle--\$15,410.81
- Frontier Soups--\$1,549.50

Thank you to everyone who has supported these events!

Save the dates: Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, February 21st, and Pot O'Gold Bash (virtually) on March 13th.



Athletics Update

Basketball season has officially started at BTA! After a late start to the season, January brought activity back to the MAC. This season we are offering basketball opportunities for our 2nd through 8th graders as well as our **Little Bulldogs** program for our preschool through 2nd grade students.

Congratulations to our JV Boys team on beating St. Louise de Marillac in the finals of the TD Sports Tournament!

Special thanks to our Athletics Association for providing our Varsity Boys Cross Country team with snazzy new hooded sweatshirts to commemorate their Diocesan Championship this past fall.

Alumni News

Hi, my name is Max Regan. I graduated from BTA in Spring 2019. I am currently a tenth grader at North Catholic. BTA prepared me very well for high-school. The teachers fostered learning, and that enabled me to take almost all honors classes and have made the honor roll ever semester. I recently had the opportunity to take a semester long SAT prep class. I also play on two soccer teams, and in my free time I like to ski and flyfish. BTA also taught me the importance of service, which is also emphasized in high school. In my freshman year I completed over 20 hours of service, including volunteering at a food pantry. This year I am helping to coach the Little Bulldogs. Thank you, teachers of Blessed Trinity Academy.





Thank you to everyone who donated items for our collection to Animal Friends. Our Service Club spent their weekly meeting with Mrs. E packing up items for drop off. Our furry friends appreciate your generosity.



Our first grade class did a wonderful job leading their first all school mass in January. Parishioners who were in attendance were so impressed with the reading ability of our 1st grade class. Special thanks to Mrs. Mitchell for preparing them so well.

From the BTA Blog



The Meaning of a Catholic Education

Make sure you check out our latest blog post which discusses Open House and the meaning of a Catholic education. Mia Flaherty, BTA class of 2020, reflects on what a Catholic education means to her from last year's Catholic Schools Week mass. [Click here to see how Catholic school has impacted her life.](#)