

# HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HOME OF THE HILLERS!



September 2022-2023



Rachel's inspiring story provides a simple, yet powerful, example of how small acts of kindness and acceptance motivate us to consider our relationships with people every day. Rachel's story gives us permission to start our own chain reaction of kindness and compassion, which positively affects the climate in our schools and communities. Rachel's Challenge has been implemented at Trinity High School and Trinity Middle School.





The THS Friends of Rachel Club's goal is to spread kindness, empathy, and compassion to students, faculty, and staff to create a more positive school environment. Seventeen year old Rachel Joy Scott was one of the first students killed in the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School. Shortly before her death, she wrote in her diary, "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go." Our goal is to start a chain reaction of kindness at Trinity. The club meets on activity "B" days. Club advisors are Mrs. Sagerer and Mr. Polansky. The kick-off activity this year was to send at least 2 emails of gratitude to another student, teacher, staff member, friend, or colleague.



"Rachel's Challenge means to me a change in our school because I notice already random acts of kindness happening. I feel that we do need yearly reminders of this because it does genuinely improve the relationships throughout our school. I see a big change in our school culture because as long as we keep doing beneficial activities for our club to get students more involved, it's going to be a great school year." - Isabella Priest, 11th Grade Student & Member of Friends of Rachel Club



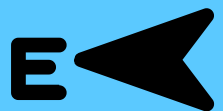
"Kindness is contagious. Rachel's Challenge creates a positive, interconnected school community that values each individual person. It sends the message that everybody matters and encourages empathy and compassion among students, faculty, and staff." - Kristen Sagerer, High School English Teacher & Friends of Rachel Club Advisor



"The Friends of Rachel Club means a lot to me. I love making a difference not only in the community but in school. There is nothing like seeing someone smile or affecting their lives in simple ways for the better. I think this will affect the school tremendously, not on the outside but on the inside. Everyone has their own mental battles. If people aren't showing it on the outside, I hope that we can make a difference in their lives on the inside." - Ashleigh Tuite, THS Senior & Friends of Rachel Club Member



Rachel's Challenge extends to the elementary schools once again. All 5th grade students will serve as student leaders, role models, and ambassadors to their school. Each 5th grader was given a special "Kindness Matters" shirt to help all students remember to be kind. Rachel's Challenge has also found its way into elementary Teamology initiatives. Students will discuss ways to start chain reactions of kindness at school.



Rachel's super strength is REWARDING, and her symbol is the KIND BUCKET. Rewarding can be described as the satisfaction that you have done something important or did something well. Rachel likes to think of it as a good feeling of warmth that we may get in our hearts because we have done something kind or someone has been kind to us. Acts of kindness have the potential to make the world a happier place. In order to get that rewarding feeling, we need to be able to show kindness to others and accept kindness from others. Rachel uses her special rewarding powers to help others feel accepted, confident, happier and optimistic. The KIND BUCKET symbolizes how a person can fill others' buckets with kind acts, compliments, being respectful, showing someone you care, etc. Rachel likes to show others the value of that rewarding feeling by extending kindness.





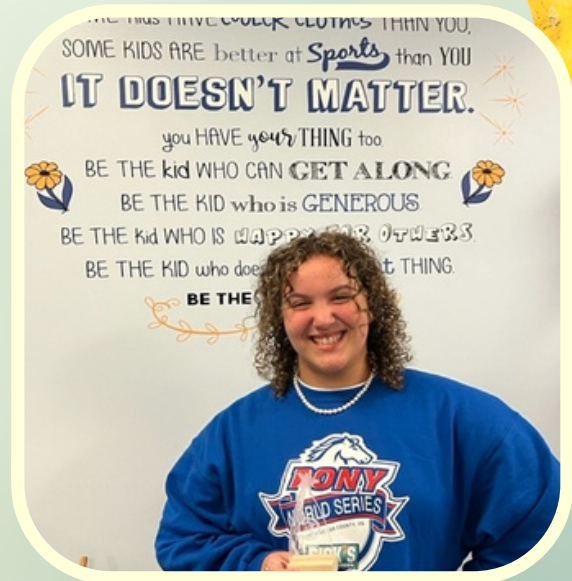
# Congratulations September Students of the Month



**Alexia Caldwell**  
**High School**



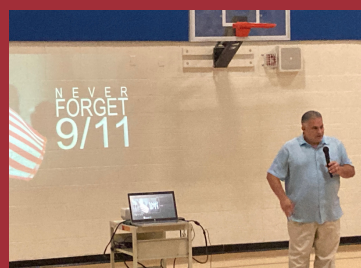
**Connor Lape**



**Rosalita Feriozzi**

**Middle School**

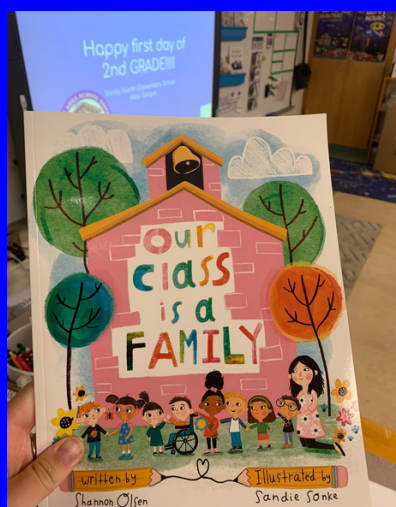




Students met firefighter Mike Lauderbaugh. He spoke and showed pictures about his time at Ground Zero in New York City. To show North's appreciation for his bravery, and to recognize North's first responders, Dr. Demian presented each of them with a plaque. The students at North were reminded about this important day in history.

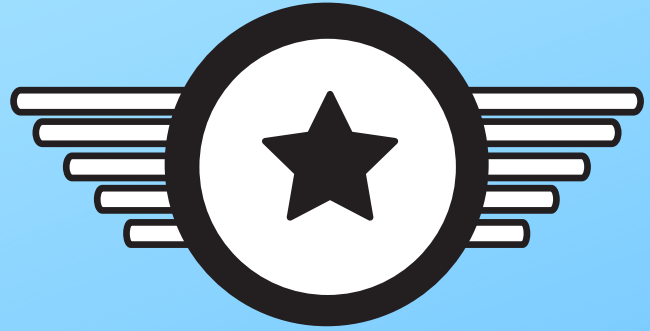


# We're Back!





# THANK YOU!



**We had a great visit from the Navy and we are looking forward to seeing the recruiters more throughout the school year.**



**Cadets test their physical fitness in competition and are inspired by CSM Chavez's kind comments. Thank you Commander Sergeant Major Chavez. Please come visit us again!**



**U.S. ARMY  
JUNIOR ROTC**







**Congratulations to Andrew Durig  
on being named  
Observer – Reporter  
Athlete of the Week!**



Congratulations  
Mr. Trinity – Mason Kraeer!

Mason Kraeer is a senior attendant for Mr. Trinity this year. Mason is the son of Paul and Deanna Kraeer. He is a varsity letterman in football, wrestling, and track and field. He is a high honor student and senior football captain. Mason is a member of the Student Advisory Committee, FFA, HOSA, Robotics, Student Council, PA Trappers Association, and WGC Antique Tractor Association. He is the recipient of the Iron Hiller Football Award, a two-year recipient of the STAR Golden Hammer FFA Award (1st sophomore to ever receive this award), and the Team Spirit Wrestling Award. Mason is the FFA Chaplain and in 2021 was the Top Fall Fruit Salesman. He received the First Place Division A-8500 lb FARMALL Tractor Pulling Award. Upon graduation, Mason plans to attend a 4-year college or university and possibly major in environmental science, mechanical engineering with a minor in robotics, or agriculture and natural resources conservation. He is hoping to play football at the collegiate level.





# Open Houses in Person!!





# WHO WE ARE

## #TRINITYFAMILY



**Mr. Brett Eckstrom**  
**Trinity High School**

Mr. Eckstrom is one of our Trinity High School special education teachers. He graduated from Moon High School in 2015. He continued his education at Penn State Behrend where he received his B.A. in history. In 2020, Mr. Eckstrom earned his M.Ed in Special Education from The University of Pittsburgh, as well as an Academic Instructional Certificate in Social Studies and Special Education, 7-12. Mr. Eckstrom is certified in Special Education 7-12, Social Studies 7-12, and English 7-12. He worked at Alderdice High School in Pittsburgh from 2020-2022 as a learning support social studies teacher. He completed an Internship at the Erie Maritime Museum. He was also the work-based learning coordinator for OVR. This academic year he will be sponsoring the GSA Club at Trinity High School.

**Cool Facts:** Brett lives in Lawrenceville and enjoys the cultural part of Pittsburgh. He has been dating his high school sweetheart for over 7 years. In his free time, he enjoys playing the guitar, bass, drums, and synthesizer. For exercise, Brett has taken up rock climbing and practices several times a week. He also finds fishing enjoyable. He has made a smooth transition to the high school and finds it to be a very supportive and friendly environment.

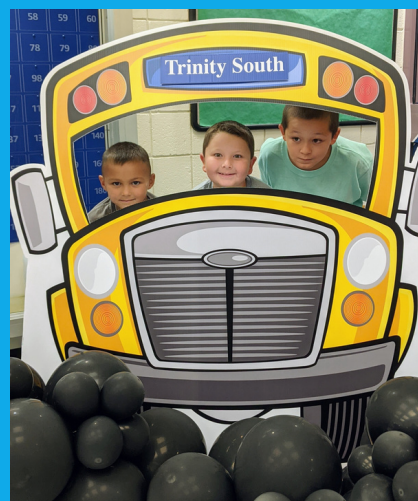




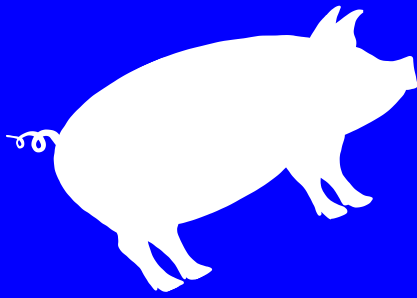
Magisterial District John Bruner spent the day with Trinity South 5th graders presenting "Classrooms Versus Courtrooms". Bruner spoke on U.S. law, the court systems, and resisting peer pressure.



**Big shout out to the Cyprowski Candy Company for the awesome balloons!**







**CONGRATULATIONS to Parker Gardner, a 5th grade student at Trinity South!**  
**His pig was the Reserved Grand Champion at the West Alexander Fair!**



Trinity South's Student Produce Contest took place in September and was a huge success. Students were given seedlings at the end of last year and grew a variety of plants over the course of the summer months. The produce was brought to Trinity South and sorted by plant species, and FFA members from the high school judged the produce. Thank you Trinity South's Parent Faculty Club (PFC) and the Trinity High School FFA for bringing our produce contest back to Trinity South!





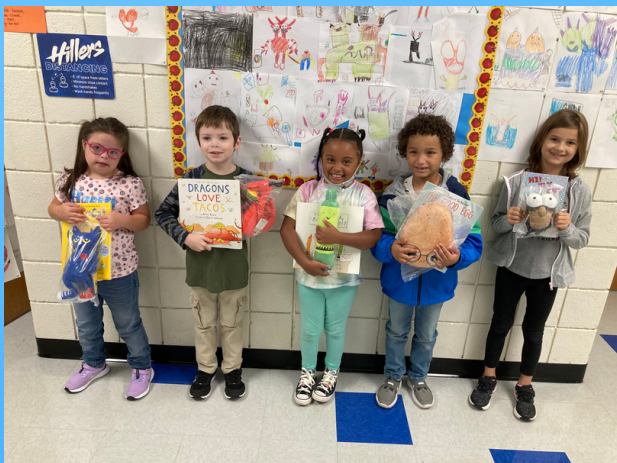
# Keeping the Trinity Community Safe!



Officer Ranalli, Officer Hiller, Officer Urbanic, Officer Stanek, Sergeant Thomas, Officer Amitrone, Officer Allen, Officer Graham, Officer Scott, and Chief Scott

## **Did you know there is at least one well-trained and experienced Trinity Area Police Officer assigned to each school building?**

Thank you, Trinity Area School Board Directors, for continuing to prioritize the safety of our staff and students. A friendly Trinity Area police officer is assigned to each school while additional officers provide support, view footage from security cameras, and maintain safety throughout the entire District. Our police force prepares and guides our staff to practice safe procedures in an emergency. The officers also attend many police training exercises throughout the school year and summer months. Trinity police typically interact with our students, staff, and parents daily to maintain a positive rapport and increase opportunities for communication to remain proactive. These positive relationships and ongoing communications help students feel safe at school and promote more opportunities for students to share safety concerns with us.



During Open House, the Title I teachers at Trinity North gave out reading information and raffled off some great books with the coordinating stuffed characters. Pictured are the winners.





To submit an article to be considered for publication in *Hiller Highlights*, email:

[hillerhighlights@trinityhillers.net](mailto:hillerhighlights@trinityhillers.net)

or

[tkrieger@trinityhillers.net](mailto:tkrieger@trinityhillers.net)

Articles may be submitted in the body of the email or attached as a *Word* document. Documents in .pdf format will not be accepted. Corresponding pictures must be attached to the same email in .jpg format.

The newsletter is released at the end of each month -  
September through June.

**All articles are subject to final approval by the Superintendent.**



## Important Dates in

# October

October 1 - Homecoming  
Dance - THS

October 14 - Distinguished  
Alumni Event - 6:35 P.M.

October 28 - 2 Hour Early  
Release/Staff Development

October 31 - No School -  
Staff Development Day

### **INFORMATIONAL FLYERS:**

***Flyers are available on the district website under About  
To access, click on the link  
[DISTRICT FLYERS](#)***

***To request that a flyer be posted on the website, email:  
[tkrieger@trinityhillers.net](mailto:tkrieger@trinityhillers.net)***



**Do you have a bachelor's  
degree and want to  
work with kids?**



**THE HR DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!**

**THOSE WITH A TEACHING DEGREE, AS WELL AS THOSE WITH  
“EMERGENCY STATUS”, MAY APPLY  
(FOUR YEAR DEGREE REQUIRED/NO TEACHING DEGREE NECESSARY)**

**DAILY RATE IS \$125**

**IF YOU ARE QUALIFIED AND INTERESTED  
IN WORKING WITH OUR STUDENTS,  
CONTACT**

**MR. JACK MINNICK  
HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR  
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**724-223-2000 EXT. 7121 OR 7114**



# TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2022-2023 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## AUGUST '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

24, 25 & 26 New Teachers  
25 & 26 Kindercamp  
29, 30 & 31 Staff  
Development

Teacher Days: 3  
Student Days: 0

13 Staff Development/No  
School  
20 Presidents' Day/No School

Teacher Days: 19  
Student Days: 18

## FEBRUARY '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

## SEPTEMBER '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

1 Staff Development  
2 Clerical Day  
5 Labor Day  
6 First Student Day  
13 & 14 Elementary Open  
House  
20 MS Open House  
21 HS Open House

Teacher Days: 21  
Student Days: 19

17 Staff Development/No  
School

Teacher Days: 23  
Student Days: 22

## MARCH '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## OCTOBER '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

28 Two Hour Student Early  
Release/Staff Development  
31 Staff Development/No  
School

Teacher Days: 21  
Student Days: 20

3 End 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks  
6-10 Spring Break

Teacher Days: 17  
Student Days: 17

## APRIL '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## NOVEMBER '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

8 End 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks  
24-28 Fall Break

Teacher Days: 19  
Student Days: 19

26 Two Hour Student Early  
Release/ Staff Development  
29 Memorial Day/No School

Teacher Days: 22  
Student Days: 22

## MAY '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## DECEMBER '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

23-30 Winter Break

Teacher Days: 16  
Student Days: 16

9 Graduation/Last Student Day  
12 Teacher Clerical

Teacher Days: 8  
Student Days: 7

## JUNE '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## JANUARY '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 Winter Break  
13 Two Hour Student Early  
Release  
16 M.L. King Day/No School  
25 End 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Teacher Days: 20  
Student Days: 20

Teacher Days: 189  
Student Days: 180

BOARD APPROVED:  
Rev. 6-16-2022

TENTATIVE FIRST STUDENT DAY  
FOR 2023-24:  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023



\*Flexible Instruction Days may be used when school is cancelled.