

# HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

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



October 2023-2024

## Congratulations Distinguished Alumni 2023!



Mr. Robert Bazant - Class of '78



Mr. Ray Dunlevy - Class of '61

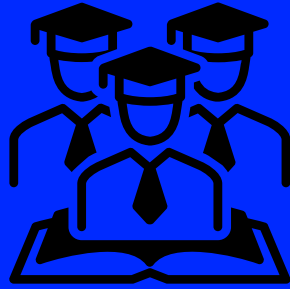
Mr. Robert Bazant,  
Mr. Ray Dunlevy,  
Dr. Ann Jeffers, and  
Dr. Ronald Snee were  
honored and  
celebrated as the  
Distinguished  
Alumni Class of 2023!



Dr. Ann Jeffers, Class of '00



Dr. Ronald Snee, Class of '59



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The Trinity Area School District is accepting nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Presentation: High School Awards Assembly

Nomination Deadline Date: January 15 of Each Year

## CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION

A nominee must be an alumnus/alumna of the Trinity Area High School who graduated a minimum of fifteen (15) years prior to the date of the presentation.

Distinguished Alumni will be honored for outstanding contributions made in their chosen profession and include areas such as business, education, journalism, law, medicine, science, performing or visual arts, and public service. Characteristics given primary consideration are a record of academic achievement, as well as professional and/or business achievements and accomplishments, and community or civic consciousness.

## NOMINEE INFORMATION

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Maiden)

Nominee's Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Nominee's Former Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Nominee's Current Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Profession/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOMINEE ACHIEVEMENTS

(Attach current photo, résumé, letters of recommendation, newspaper articles, to support the nomination.)

**Attachment #1:** Exceptional Academic Achievements: High School/College/Postgraduate

**Attachment #2:** Outstanding Contributions to Profession

**Attachment #3:** Community/Civic Contributions of Note

Nominee's Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Telephone Number of Nominator: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:** Dr. Michael P. Lucas, Superintendent  
Trinity Area School District  
231 Park Avenue, Washington, PA 15301  
[lucasm@trinitypride.org](mailto:lucasm@trinitypride.org)

# Homecoming 2023!

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Julia Umshares and Tyler Johnson

Julia Umshares is representing the senior class for this year's homecoming. Julia is the daughter of Todd and Brenda Umshares. Julia is a member of FBLA, Future Teachers of America, FCCLA, the Chick-Fil-A-Leader Academy, and the prom committee. She participates in the Students Against Destructive Decisions Club, TLC, Friends for Rachel and Trailblazers Club. Julia was a member of the homecoming court as a junior, and she plays varsity tennis. She has received the FBLA Leadership Conference Award and is a member of the National Business Honor Society. After graduation, Julia plans to attend college and pursue a degree in psychology.

Mr. Trinity 2023 is Tyler Johnson. Tyler is the son of Dave and Tammy Johnson. He is Senior Class President and FBLA Treasurer. He is a 4 sport varsity athlete in soccer, golf, basketball, and baseball. He participates in Student Council, Peer Jury, SADD, HOSA, Trinity Cares, and Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy. Tyler is a member of the National Honor Society. His future plans include majoring in pre-medicine and attending West Virginia University.



# Congratulations October Students of the Month



**Carolyn Proudfit  
High School**



**Daesha Plesko  
Middle School**



**Evan Klick**

Celebrating  
**125**  
YEARS

**National  
PTA**  
everychild.one voice.®



Dr. Lucas enjoyed the PTA Presidents' meeting at TMS. Trinity is so appreciative of their leadership, partnership, and feedback. Our teachers and students gain so much from the PTA. They toured the newly renovated areas and discussed curriculum advancements. Thank you, Presidents!

Dr. Michael Lucas, Tifani Starr, Kristen Shrader, Tracy DiSalvo, Elena Conkle, Amy Harshman, & Erin Slagle



*Thank you*



NATIONAL  
PRINCIPALS  
MONTH

Thank you to our Principals!



Mrs. Lindsay Benzenhoefer



Dr. Sandra Deems



Dr. Sam Demian



Mr. Pete Keruskin



Mr. Dan Knause



Mr. Paul Kostelnik



Mrs. Michelle Ostrosky



Mr. Craig Uram



Mr. Zack Zebrasky

# ESPORTS



Last year, Range Resources donated over \$5,000 to help fund the creation of the new E-Sports room at TMS. Range employees were able to return in October to see the completed E-Sports room and meet some of our students. Several of Mrs. Gojmerac's and Mr. Walsh's students taught the Range employees to play Rocket League on the E-Sports computers. Afterward, everyone enjoyed a catered lunch from Texas Roadhouse! Thank you to our student leaders who helped with this event!

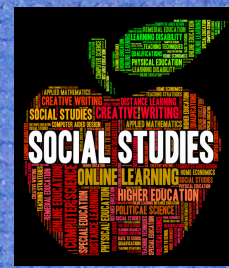


TMS was proud to present the school's first podcast in October. Seventh grader, Ulysses Davis, and Mr. Murphy worked alongside each other to release the first episode.



Mrs. Gojmerac's 4th and 5th grade students explored Phipps Conservatory during this year's Elementary Eco Challenge. Students rotated between three learning stations: "Pollinator Paradise," "Phipps Scavenger Hunt," and "Water Wonders." Students were able to learn about dissolved oxygen content, how to test for PH, and explore pollinators in the outdoor garden.





All of Mr. Polansky's Freshman Honors World History classes participate in a "Caste System Simulation" of ancient India. They pick their caste a day before to see their "fate" for how to participate during the next class.

The higher castes dictate the duties for the lower castes, and all have roles to play. It is a VALUABLE learning experience as students will learn about social inequities. The activity lasts from the beginning of the day until 2:25 pm.



## “High Schoolers Learn about the World”

BaFaBaFa is the activity being shown. Half the students are in one classroom and the other half are across the hall in another. Each group is given a "culture" with norms, values and unique nomenclature. Students then trade classrooms as if they were an anthropologist trying to discover the intricacies of another society. After a student makes three "mistakes," they are sent back to their original culture where they can debrief and get closer to mastering the other culture. Each time a new student goes over, they discover something and inch closer to assimilating into a new society.

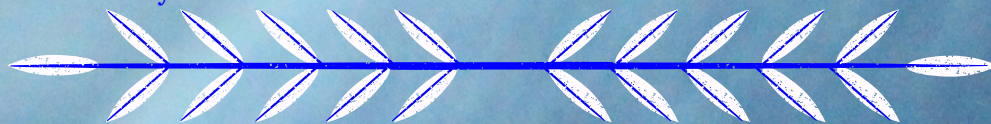




# Did You Know...

**October is Dyslexia Awareness Month.** Here are some facts about dyslexia:

- Dyslexia is a learning difference. It's a general term in regard to the difficulty of learning to read and interpret words, letters, and other symbols. However, dyslexia does not affect intelligence. It is simply a difference in how the brain processes information.
- The exact cause of dyslexia is still unknown, however, studies have shown differences in the way the brain develops and functions in people with dyslexia.
- Dyslexia is known to run in families.
- 1 in 5 people shows signs of dyslexia.
- It is one of the most common language-based learning disabilities.
- Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Stephen Spielberg, Steve Jobs, Walt Disney, and Jennifer Anniston have been diagnosed with Dyslexia.



**2023 Washington County Champions: Erica Evans , Ava Terkay, Kirra Schneider, and Addy Burt. So proud of this great group of girls. Congratulations, TMS Cross Country!**



Elementary special education teachers are utilizing a new reading program this year. Piloted last year and in full force at all 4 elementary buildings for the 2023-2024 school year, students are being taught using Foundations. "Foundations uses a structured literacy approach based in the science of reading to make learning to read fun while also laying the groundwork for lifelong literacy. The program's research-based approach and rich materials allow K-3 teachers to confidently teach a structured reading, spelling, and handwriting curriculum using engaging, multisensory techniques.



Foundations is aligned with the science of reading and guides teachers to provide effective instructional practices". According to the Foundations material: "students receive a systematic program in critical foundational skills emphasizing: print concepts, letter formation, phonological and phonemic awareness, sound mastery, phonics/word study/advanced word study, tricky words (high frequency word) instruction, vocabulary, accuracy, automaticity/fluency, comprehension strategies, handwriting, and spelling." (Foundations - Wilson Language Training Corporation. Wilson Language Training Corporation -. (2023, September).





Andrew Durig has become the all-time career receiving yards leader in Trinity history. Congrats to Andrew and all the teammates/coaches over the past few years! Keep climbing, Andrew and TEAM!



Congratulations to Ruby Morgan for being selected to the All Section and the All WPIAL Teams! We are proud of you!

*Congratulations!*



Congratulations to Jonah Williamson, who became the single-season passing yardage record holder in Trinity history.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRINITY HILLERS NAMED **ALL SECTION** 2023 CLASS AAA-SECTION 3

ALL SECTION	ALL SECTION	ALL SECTION	ALL SECTION	HONORABLE MENTION
<b>FAIDEN HODGSON</b> SENIOR	<b>TYLER JOHNSON</b> SENIOR	<b>ANDY PALM</b> JUNIOR	<b>RYAN TORBOLI</b> JUNIOR	<b>JACOB JAHN</b> SENIOR

TRINITY VOLLEYBALL

**HILLERS** Senior **MADDY ROBERTS**

**HILLERS** Junior **SYDNEY ALLEN**

**T 1ST TEAM ALL-SECTION**

CONGRATULATIONS!

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA WPIAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC LEAGUE

TRINITY VOLLEYBALL

**HILLERS** 2nd Team **ALISTAR RUCCOLO**

**HILLERS** 2nd Team **SARAH TORNE**

**HILLERS** 3rd Team **RILEY CORNIN**

**T ALL-SECTION HONORS**

CONGRATULATIONS!

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA WPIAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC LEAGUE



The TMS 7th & 8th grade girls' volleyball teams showed their support for cancer awareness at their home game on October 10th. With the help of all who attended and participated, the team raised over \$400, which was donated to Elana's Blessings, a local non-profit organization with a mission to help improve the self-esteem and quality of life of women battling cancer.



## TMS Art Club

The TMS Art Club, led by Ms. Guthrie, is collaborating again this year with the TMS Musical directors, Mrs. and Mr. Helinsky. Students are designing and decorating large-scale set pieces and props for this year's production of "The Music Man Jr."

The TMS Art Club is also working on a collaborative project to explore notions of HOME in our community, which will result in a large piece to be displayed at the annual district-wide art show.



# Experiences



Accounting 5 students were given the opportunity to attend Accounting Career Days at Duquesne University, sponsored by the Pennsylvania CPA Foundation. It was a very rewarding experience for our students.



STEM FEST -- Accounting CIP/FBLA and FTA students joined together to inspire young minds by stacking pennies.



A 5th grade class at West celebrated Dot Day. Students designed dots and then scanned them with the Quiver app on the iPad to interact with the dots through augmented reality.



Trinity's CHROME FCU workers

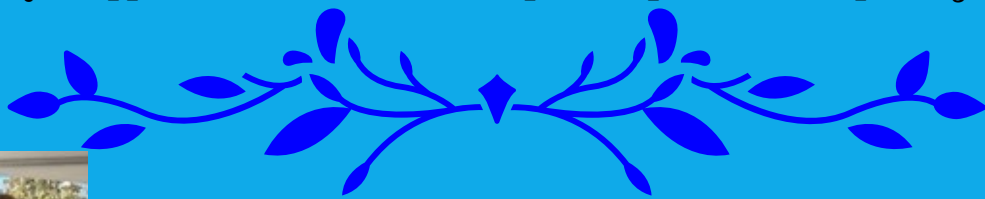
**A Mental Health, Resilience, and School Culture Assembly by Ben Cecchini-Ramos**



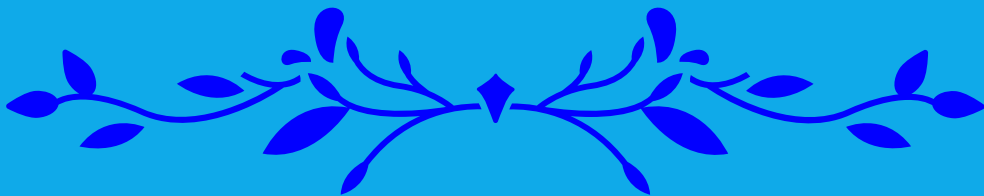
**Mental health matters**



Thanks to Ben Cecchini for his inspiring and motivational visit today. Ben visited with our student body, stopped in the Mac Lab, and spoke to parents to cap things off.



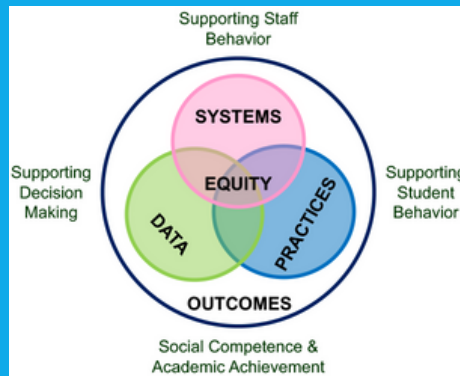
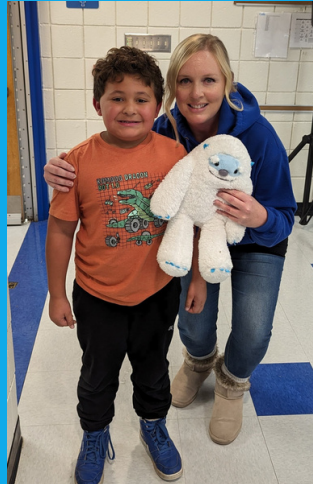
*Thank you to Range Resources and Dress for Success Pittsburgh for hosting the Power of Her. What strong representation from Trinity High School! These girls rock!*



**Officer Ranalli and Hiller came to thank us for donating backpacks for his training. Students have donated 37 backpacks so far.**

# PBIS

PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) is a school-wide program which aims to create a social culture in schools that will encourage positive behavior and interactions, while discouraging problem behaviors. This social culture will lead to a safer environment where students achieve academically and build positive relationships with their peers and adults.



CENTER ON  
**PBIS** Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports



# W

## Western Area CTC



**Dr. Lucas checked in on our Hillers at WACTC. He was so impressed with the career experience they are gaining, and enjoyed talking with Trinity students about their plans for after graduation. Trinity students are career-focused and ready!**



**Congratulations to Brandon Gray as he begins his co-op experience at Beards Auto Center in Washington. Brandon is a senior in the WACTC Auto Mechanics program.**

**Congratulations to Romen Simonelli, a senior in WACTC's Collision Repair program. Romen is employed by Mike Higgins Auto Body in Washington through the co-op program.**



Representative Tim O'Neal hosted Bekah Jones, a Trinity High School senior, as a guest page in the chamber of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. She is the daughter of Ruth-Ann and Samuel Jones of North Franklin Township.

Next fall, she is planning to enroll in college and major in political science, minor in history, and pursue a pre-law track.

After college, she plans to attend law school, to study constitutional law.



# V!NG



## Trinity...Serving With Their Heart

*Trinity is so proud of Autumn Sitler, who submitted and received a V!ng grant for a member of the community. This recipient makes a positive difference in Washington and will be able to benefit from the \$1,000 check he received. Congratulations, Autumn!*



## FBLA/PTSA



FBLA and PTSA hosted a Steeler / Pitt ticket giveaway fundraiser to help the FBLA students raise money for their regional competition. During the football game on October 27th, Mr. Uram and FBLA officers drew the lucky winner of 4 Steelers vs Titan tickets and 2 Pitt vs Boston College tickets.



# WHO WE ARE

## #TRINITYFAMILY



**Jeanne Schroeder**

**Trinity East**

Mrs. Jeanne Schroeder grew up in West Virginia, attended Hampshire High School in Romney, WV, and is a member of the class of 2009. She attended Wheeling Jesuit University for two years before transferring to West Liberty University in 2011, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education, K-6. Mrs. Schroeder is certified in Pennsylvania in grades Pre-K-4. She taught in West Virginia for the last 8 years (2015 – 2023). She played basketball and ran cross country and track since middle school. Mrs. Schroeder earned All-State Honors for 4 years in track and field in high school and currently holds her high school hurdle record in the 100-meter-high hurdles. She ran track for Wheeling Jesuit University where she competed as a heptathlete. She loves sharing her passion with student-athletes who have that same drive and motivation. Mrs. Schroeder was the Track and Field and Cross Country Coach at Wheeling Park High School for 4 years and coached middle school girls' basketball for 4 years. She is currently at Trinity East teaching kindergarten for the first time. She has learned so much in her short time as a Hiller. Mrs. Schroeder is amazed every day at her students and what they can do. Her goal is to inspire them to come every day with a smile on their face, an eagerness to learn, and to love school!

**Cool Facts:** Mrs. Schroeder and her husband, Brandon, have two amazing children: Ryker (3) and Quinn (1). They currently reside in Washington, PA. They travel all over the United States visiting amusement parks and stopping along the way to soak in some historical sites. Florida is their favorite place to vacation. They love their Packers and Badgers, and they feel no guilt when they play the Steelers. Mrs. Schroeder feels truly blessed to be a part of Hiller Nation!

**#trinitypride**



**TRINITY AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# Happy Halloween!



Trinity Middle School will proudly present "The Music Man Jr." November 16-18 2023 at 6:30 PM in the THS Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and will go on sale November 1, 2023.

## Important Dates in NOVEMBER

7- End of 1st 9 weeks

2 - Board Meeting/6 p.m.

16 - Board Meeting/6 p.m.

22 - 2 Hour Early Release/Staff Development

23-27 Fall Break

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.



### **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)**

### **Winter Concert Schedule**

#### **December**

**December 4** - Elementary Chorus - 6:00 p.m./Middle School Chorus - 7:00 p.m.

**December 6** - Middle School Band & Orchestra - 6:30 p.m.

**December 11** - Elementary Orchestra - 6:00 p.m./Elementary Band - 7:00 p.m.

**December 13** - High School Band, Chorus, & Orchestra - 6:30 p.m.

**December 18** - High School Jazz Band & Percussion Ensemble - 6:30 p.m.

All concerts will be held in Trinity High School auditorium

## **FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTION DAYS**

**The Trinity Area School District has been approved to utilize Flexible Instruction Days (FIDs). Trinity will move to remote instruction when schools are closed due to weather or other concerns. It is no longer a necessity to cancel instruction for weather or facility related issues. When a FID is announced, teachers will teach from home and students will learn remotely from home. If it becomes necessary to cancel in-person school, staff, parents, guardians, and students will receive notification via the Skylert System, local television, and radio sources. On FIDs the students will log onto their Chromebooks and attend school remotely as they have done during closures for the pandemic. Staff, parents/guardians, and students need to be prepared for short-term or sporadic closures due to weather related issues. Students should have their Chromebooks available daily at school and at home. Staff and students must be prepared to work from home at all times.**

**If you have any questions, please contact your respective building principal.**

# PLAYBILL®

Trinity High School Auditorium  
a Trinity Middle School Production  
November 16-18, 2023 at 6:30 PM



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

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**schoolcafé**



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## **CAFETERIA PRICING 2023-24**

**TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL \$3.40**

**TRINITY MIDDLE SCHOOL, TRINITY EAST &  
TRINITY SOUTH \$3.15**

**TRINITY NORTH & TRINITY WEST RECEIVE FREE MEALS  
FROM THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM  
ALL STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE BREAKFAST IN  
PENNSYLVANIA**