

# HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

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



DECEMBER 2024-2025

## *A Holiday Greeting from The Superintendent*

**Dear Trinity Families, Teachers, and Staff Members,**

Now is the time of year when we reflect upon our past and everything for which we feel grateful. When I think about our year together, I recall how many times your hard work and support have made me feel grateful to serve as a school leader. Every superintendent's mission is to create a culture of progress and a sense of community. However, no superintendent can do this in isolation. Because of your passion for education, dedication to children, and willingness to take risks, we have been able to carve for our students a path to a bright future.

During the District's 100th year, members of Hiller Nation have joined forces to support one another in meaningful ways that speak to the spirit of this holiday season. Our staff and community members have donated numerous meals to families, purchased and wrapped tons of presents for children to open Christmas morning, and volunteered their time to the District and various nonprofit organizations in the region. Our teachers and students cheer each other on as they partner in the classrooms to solve real problems and implement solutions, or simply work to make Trinity a happier, inclusive place. Our goal is always to ensure that every student feels a sense of belonging at Trinity - that they want to come to school because they feel safe, inspired, and connected. Our students and families continue to provide feedback as evidence that our efforts to build solid relationships are fruitful. Together, we can do anything, and our students are learning this valuable lesson as they watch all of you model for them what happens when generosity and support combine. From unforgettable celebrations to milestones achieved both in and out of the classrooms, we are proud of everything we have accomplished together.

This year, please take time to reflect upon the events of 2024 and all the reasons to feel grateful. Share in the joy with family and friends, and know how much you are appreciated for continuing to make Trinity a special place, where students come first. I wish you a very merry, happy holiday and a safe, restful break.

*Dr. Michael P. Lucas*  
*Superintendent*



# Congratulations!

## December Students of the Month



**Jocelyn D'Amico**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**



**Maya Day      Dominic Noble**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**Margaret Kross**  
**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**



**Jett Sckena**  
**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**



# Hiller Helpers



**Hiller Helpers is a community-driven organization dedicated to gifting a full Christmas to students in the Trinity Area School District. Now in our 10th year, we've brought joy and support to over 1,000 students by providing gifts, necessities, toiletries, and a complete holiday meal, including a ham. The event is funded by TMS fundraising, the teacher dress down Fridays and other community events. The Trinity Middle School Student Council and teachers join in the fun with a special shopping trip to Target and a festive gift-wrapping party. Founded and led by Mrs. Muschick, Ms. Kovacicek, and Mrs. Benz since day one, the Hiller Helpers are proud to continue spreading holiday cheer and hope to serve families for many years to come!**



# Trinity is Taking Pride in.... ACADEMICS, Arts, and Athletics



## Rachel Carson Healthy Planet Award!

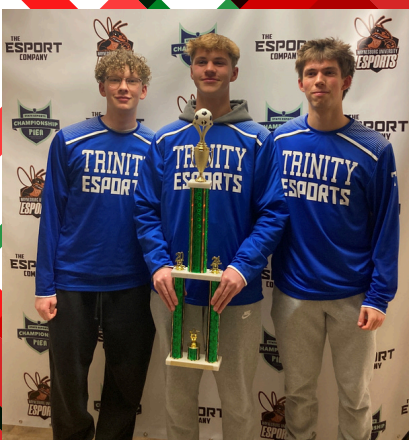
**Congratulations to Senior Caroline Miller, who is the recipient of the 2024 Rachel Carson Healthy Planet Award!**

**Environmental icon and author Rachel Carson graduated from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1929 with a major in Biology and a minor in English. Among the many books she wrote on the environment, she is best**

**remembered for Silent Spring, published in 1962, which gave an accurate account of what might happen if the pesticide DDT was used unchecked. This book was directly responsible for the banning of that pesticide and gave impetus to the founding of the environmental movement. For her work, Carson was selected by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people of the last century, and Silent Spring was chosen as one of the ten non-fiction books "that changed minds and lives."**

**Chatham University created the Rachel Carson Healthy Planet Award to honor their famous alumni and her legacy. The award is given each year to one deserving student from every high school around the country who shares Carson's commitment and passion to improving the environment and their community through sustainability.**

**Caroline received a special edition of Silent Spring, in addition to a \$2500 merit scholarship and preferred consideration for the full-tuition Rachel Carson Scholarship if accepted and chosen to attend Chatham University.**



**Jake Phillips, Sheldan  
Arroyo, and Ryan  
Torboli**



**The Trinity High School Esports Team participated in Waynesburg University's Christmas Classic Esports Tournament, which included teams from 11 local schools.**

**The competition was intense, with Super Smash Bros. Team 1 putting in a strong effort but falling short of advancing to the final rounds. Rocket League Team Lightning performed exceptionally well, earning 1st place in the Rocket League competition.**

**Congratulations to both teams on their efforts!**



## *Trinity...Serving With Their Hearts!*

For over 40 years, Family House has been providing a safe, affordable, and comfortable place to stay for patients and their families who travel to Pittsburgh for medical care. In a heartwarming display of community spirit, multiple clubs from Trinity High School joined forces to collect and donate nonperishable food items and cleaning supplies to Family House in Shadyside. This collaborative effort highlighted the power of teamwork and generosity as students came together for a shared mission: supporting families in need.

The clubs, ranging from the F.O.R. (Friends of Rachel) Club, Trinity Leadership Committee, and National Honor Society to HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), pooled their resources to organize a donation drive in the school and community; their efforts culminated in an impressive collection of items, assisting Family House in its mission to provide a home away from home for patients and their families during challenging times. This project not only brought support to Family House but also inspired everyone involved to recognize the impact they can make when they collaborate for a cause. When young people lead with compassion and determination, they can create meaningful change, one act of kindness at a time!



## **Stockings For Soldiers!**

Trinity South Elementary students participated in a service project by collecting donations for Stocking for Soldiers. Thank you to the Trinity South community for the donations. Forty stockings were stuffed full and donated to our brave men and women in uniform serving our country this holiday season!

## Friends of Rachel Supports Salvation Army!



Students in Ms. Shaw's Honors English 10 classes and the F.O.R. Club recently came together to support our local Salvation Army's holiday program, generously donating an array of gifts to bring joy to local children in our community. From toys and crafts to winter clothing, their contributions were thoughtfully selected to make the season brighter for those in need. Their efforts embody the true meaning of giving and remind us of the profound impact young people can have when they rally for a worthy cause.



## XTool!



Trinity Intermediate students learned how to use the XTool in the STEAM room. The students made ornaments with the guidance of Mrs. Benz and the assistance of their peers!



Trinity Intermediate students visited the Challenger Center. The class learned about astronauts living in space and even built our own rocket to launch!

## Trinity is Taking Pride in..... Academics, ARTS, and Athletics

Mrs. Day is thrilled to announce that EQT has donated \$3,000 to the intermediate art department to support a digital arts project called "Creating a Legacy". With this funding, Mrs. Day will receive a classroom set of digital cameras with video capability, along with protective cases and camera accessories. Students will explore digital literacy learning while acting as a primary source, documenting this historic 100-year anniversary at Trinity Area. Photographs from this project will be on display via social media, throughout the intermediate building and at the annual art show in the spring. If you have questions, comments, or ideas for collaboration, please contact Mrs. Day directly at [aday@trinityhillers.net](mailto:aday@trinityhillers.net)



**The art room at Trinity East Elementary was abuzz with excitement as the PTA joined forces with Ms. Kirkpatrick to bring some festive creativity to life! Volunteers from the PTA generously gave their time and donated the materials to help each student craft unique ornaments. This project showcased the creativity of our young artists and highlighted the joy of collaboration. These handmade ornaments adorn the beautiful trees in East's foyer, brightening the space for all to enjoy!**



## Trinity is Taking Pride in..... Academics, ARTS, and Athletics



The Trinity Middle School Musical Program took over 70 students downtown to the Benedum Center to see a matinee performance of the “Hip Hop Nutcracker.” For many of these students, it was the first time they had ever seen a professional theater performance. Students enjoyed the production and were so excited about this opportunity!



# Trinity is Taking Pride in..... Academics, Arts, and ATHLETICS



**CONGRATULATIONS**



# Trinity is Taking Pride in..... Academics, Arts, and ATHLETICS



## Congratulations



### 2024 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



## ALL SECTION HONORS

#itsagreatdaytobeahillier



### 2024 AAAA ALL-CONFERENCE OFFENSE



## ALL-CONFERENCE OFFENSE



### 2024 AAAA ALL-CONFERENCE DEFENSE



## ALL-CONFERENCE DEFENSE





## Bridge to Home Animal Rescue

This holiday season, Mrs. Howard and the students at Trinity North wanted to give back to the community. In honor of the therapy dogs who visit monthly, the students bought and decorated paper ornaments. They raised \$200 for Bridge to Home Animal Rescue.



## The Silent Disco!



The Silent Disco, hosted by the Trinity Leadership Committee, Team Hillers, Our Besties, and the German Club, was an unforgettable celebration for students in Life

Skills and Autistic Support programs. Joining the fun were students from Canon-McMillan and Washington High, making the event a true community gathering. Dr. Lucas was spotted showing off his funky moves on the dance floor, proving that great music and good vibes can bring everyone together for an amazing time!



## Future Teachers of America (FTA)

The Future Teachers of America (FTA) club hosted a festive hot chocolate bar with cookies and treats to celebrate the holiday season and express their gratitude to the teachers at Trinity High School. The event was organized to wish teachers a Merry Christmas and thank them for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.





## Chicco Baccello Windows are Decorated, Compliments of The Trinity Art Department!



Range Resources welcomed 50 students from 5 local school districts, including several of Trinity 4th and 5th graders, to their first-ever Student Holiday Market. The goal of Range's Holiday Market is to foster creativity and innovation while also teaching valuable life skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and financial literacy, setting the foundation for future leaders and changemakers.



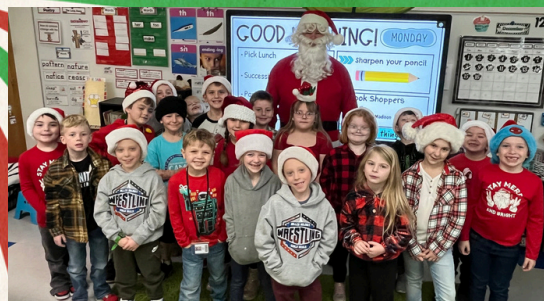
Aidan S.  
Washington Chevrolet



Kaden L.  
Budd Baer Subaru

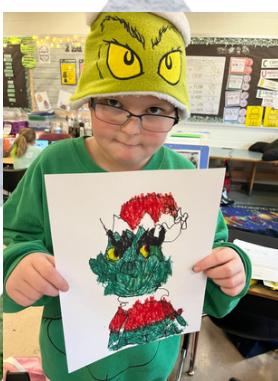


# Holiday Fun!





# Holiday Fun!



## Alyssa Goodman - Trinity East Kindergarten



An alumnus of a local rival, Ms. Alyssa Goodman has joined the Trinity Hiller family as a new Trinity East Kindergarten teacher. Ms. Goodman is a 2020 graduate of Canon-McMillan High School. She attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) and graduated in 2023 with a degree in Early Childhood Education, pre-K to grade 4. She is also currently enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh for her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with STEAM Education and Critical Technology in Digital Media for Learning certifications. For the 2023-2024 school year, Ms. Goodman was a building substitute for all schools in the district. She covered Mrs. Gojmerac's class and also worked with the Gifted Program. She noted that working alongside Mr. Walsh was the best hands-on experience she could have gotten. Her mantra is, "I want to create a positive environment for all students and ensure I am meeting the needs that each child needs every day."

**Cool Facts:** Ms. Goodman was heavily involved in activities in both high school and college. She was a member of the varsity cheerleading squad and tennis team at Canon-Mac. While at IUP, she was the Vice President of Finance for the Delta Gamma Sorority and a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. In her free time, Ms. Goodman loves to be with her family and cat, Nova. She also golfs and plays tennis to stay active. If you can't find her in the classroom, she might be on a trip because she loves to travel. This past year, she has been to Denver, Chicago, New York City, Breckenridge, Hilton Head, Ft. Lauderdale, and the Bahamas!

## Trinity Pride...

Trinity Alumnus, James Muraco , was named WTAE Teacher of the Month for November.



### INFORMATIONAL FLYERS:

All flyers are available on the district website under About

To access, click on the link:

<https://www.trinitypride.org/Content2/district-flyers>

To request that a flyer be posted on the website, email:

tkrieger@trinityhillers.net

## Dates to Remember

### December

23-31 - Winter Break

### January

1 - Winter Break

2 - School Resumes

17 - Two Hour Student Early Release/  
Teacher Clerical

20 - M.L. King Day/No School

23 - End of 1st Semester



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

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.

Articles are published pending review by the Superintendent.



**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  
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

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



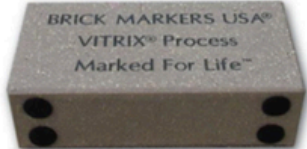
TRINITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LIMITED EDITION!

# 100TH ANNIVERSARY WALKWAY BRICKS



**MINI REPLICA BRICK**  
**SIZE: 1 1/2" x 3"**



Trinity School District is excited to announce a special event in celebration of its 100th anniversary! To mark this historic milestone, we are offering personalized bricks for purchase, which will extend the graduation walkway on campus, originally established in 2000.

Each brick, available for a limited time only, can be engraved with a personal message or name, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations. The cost of each brick is \$100. Additionally, you have the option to purchase a mini replica of their personalized brick as a keepsake. Don't miss this opportunity to be a permanent part of Trinity's history!

Personalized bricks can have up to 3 lines of text with 20 characters per line. Bricks will make a great holiday gift, this limited opportunity will end in January. We can also provide a presentation card for anyone giving this as a gift.

Visit [trinitypride.org](http://trinitypride.org) or <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/thc> to purchase.



# TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER!

**\$10**

Benefits Trinity  
Cares Club



Don't miss this opportunity to buy a limited time only 100 year ornament! These will make a great holiday gift. Get your commemorative ornament while supplies last.

More information coming on our website [www.trinitypride.org](http://www.trinitypride.org)

## **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 issues. When a FID is announced, teachers will teach from home and students will learn remotely from home. If it becomes necessary to cancel 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 in the past. 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.**