



Trinity Nursery and Kindergarten
966 Trinity Lane
King of Prussia
PA 19406

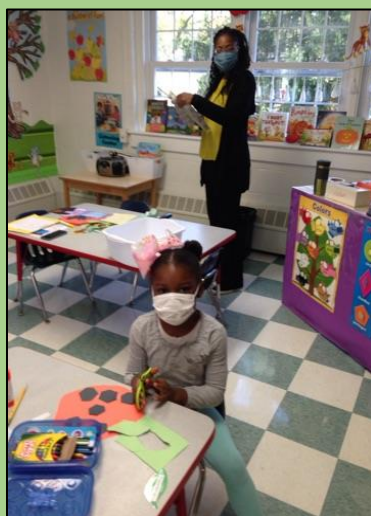
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Trinity Nursery and Kindergarten -

2020 Annual Review



Welcome! Thank you for finding a moment in your busy day to discover more about Trinity Nursery and Kindergarten – a school that thrives on fun and learning. For almost 70 years generations of children – our first intake are now great-grandparents! – have secured a head-start in life from the benefits of playing and learning together at Trinity, and now this is your child's opportunity.

The school is owned by Trinity Episcopal Church (which forms part of the Gulph Mills campus) and it was started as an outreach program to *all* children in the neighborhood. From the outset, the church, and the independent board which governs the school, was clear that its purpose was to allow each child to grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially under the continuous guidance of experienced and loving teachers. We continue that mission today by providing a place for children to grow and learn together.

My first responsibility as board chairman is to oversee the wellbeing of the school, to ensure it meets the highest community standards through professional leadership. At the forefront is our director, Mary Jo Garofalo, whose commitment to your child's wellbeing and educational growth is tireless.

This review does more than give an account of 2020: it also gives us the chance to introduce

our teachers, the curriculum, the board members, and staff – not to mention the excuse to show off some classroom masterpieces!

As well, this review allows us to introduce the five-year plan we are developing. This has just one objective: **To establish Trinity as the leading early childhood development school in King of Prussia by 2025.** The plan is still in its early stages, but we want you to know the direction of our thinking – and hopefully, contribute to it – and so gain a deeper sense of our conviction to be the best. (See page 10).

We can be far-sighted because the school is financially secure. Over the years careful stewardship by the board has ensured the reserves are sufficiently robust to allow us to be expansive: we're here for the next 70 years, and beyond. The financial strength of the school gives you, as parents, the confidence we can weather the Covid crisis, employ the best teachers, maintain the infrastructure, and be ambitious for every child we are privileged to teach.

Your support for what we are committed to achieving is paramount, and for that, all at Trinity are deeply grateful.

With warm regards on behalf of the board,
Fr. Stephen,
Chairman.

OUR SCHOOL BOARD

Anne Trumpler

I have been a Trinity church member since 1986 and have had two children who attended Trinity for Kindergarten, in 1992 and 1997. More recently, I became a church representative on the school board. Though some things have changed much has stayed the same, and the current students are fortunate to benefit from the quality education that the school offers, just as my children did years ago. I have been an early childhood educator in two different schools for a total of 29 years. My husband and I are residents of King of Prussia and have raised our three children in the warmth of Trinity Church. I'm happy to see the school thriving and to be a small part of it.



From the left: Anne Trumpler, Fr. Stephen, Mary Jo Garofalo, Rick Braendle, and Debbi Jordan

Rick Braendle

I have been a resident of King of Prussia since 1981 when I moved to Valley Forge Towers. In 1983, I moved to Prussian Woods and then in 2003 to a single-family home in a small development near the corner of South Gulph Road and Crooked Lane.

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1971 with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering. During the first part of my career, I was a Sales Engineer. Twenty- six years ago, I started my own business in the commercial HVAC field. My hobbies include flying, I have a private pilot's license and an airplane, model trains, and traveling. I have worshipped at Trinity since 2000, where I now serve on the Vestry. I am accounting warden for the church

as well as the school. Since my granddaughter attended Trinity School back in 2012 and 2013, I have a strong affinity for the school. As accounting warden, my responsibilities are to oversee the school's financial condition and assets.

I am pleased to state that even though our enrollment has dropped substantially due to the Covid pandemic, we only expect a very small operating loss this school year. This is partly due to funds we have received from the CARES act as well as the Payroll Protection Plan. Due to the excellent stewardship of my predecessors, the school's balance sheet is very strong and the school will easily be able to absorb the projected loss this year (2020-21).

Debbie Jordan

I have been attending Trinity Church since I was three years old. To say that Trinity has been a big part of my life is an understatement. I was confirmed and married at Trinity. My two children were baptized and confirmed there as well. I am a graduate of the school program.

When it came time to look for a preschool for my children my husband and I didn't have to look far since we were already

familiar with Trinity's excellent reputation and great academic curriculum. Both of our boys went through the whole program, including Kindergarten. Now that my children are grown, I feel I can still connect with and help carry on the rich traditions at the school by being a member of the board. I enjoy helping to make decisions that will benefit and enhance your children's preschool experience. It's a great place to start an education!

[Two parents serve on the Trinity School Board. Usually, a parent of a younger child and an older child is asked to serve. Currently, Ana Morales, mother of Ethan Roemhild, one of our TK students, serves on the board but due to the virus, our low enrollment did not warrant two parents at this time].

Fr. Stephen



I have served at Trinity since July 2017. I took my theology degree at Saint John's Anglican Seminary and have a Masters's degree from the University of New South Wales, where I majored in English literature. I was ordained to the Anglican (Episcopal) Diocese of Newcastle in Australia in 2005, and before this built a career in banking and financial management. During my ministry in Australia, I taught religious education to Third Grade students in schools in my parish.

My ministry includes 15 years' parish service in varying capacities of local and diocesan leadership and five years as both part-time and full-time chaplain in the Australian Defense Force. I was initially commissioned with the rank of captain from the Australian Defense Force Academy and posted to an infantry training battalion. I later transferred to a unit supporting fighter and tactical operational squadrons with the Royal Australian Air Force.

As rector of Trinity and chair of the school board, I'm responsible for all aspects of ministry and the oversight of the administration and management of the parish as determined by their governing boards. Our family-focused congregation is very active in outreach to the immediate community, particularly in supporting Upper Merion Emergency Aid and most recently, in enabling the House of Prayer for Peace, located at Trinity House.

Mary Jo Garofalo

My name is Mary Jo Garofalo, and this is my 15th year working at Trinity Nursery School. I started my educational journey by attending Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa. I graduated from Mercyhurst with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, with an academic minor in English.

My first teaching position was for the Lewistown School District which is near State College, Pa. I lived in a very small town called Milroy and I had 20 children in my first grade. Since Lewistown was so close to State College, I went to Penn State at night and got the additional credits needed to make my teaching certificate permanent. I could apply the credits toward a master's degree which I did and now

have a master's degree in English with a minor concentration in Child Psychology. I moved to Reading and taught in a parochial school there. After getting married, I moved to Norristown and did substitute teaching for my local parish school. I stayed at home with my children until my third child was 2 and then I went back to work. I answered an ad for a kindergarten position in a private preschool and I got the job. My Pennsylvania teaching certificate qualifies me to teach grades K-8. I went on to get my private academic certificate which allows me to teach on the preschool level. I came to Trinity as a 3-year-old teacher and later taught transitional kindergarten. When the previous director retired, I applied for the job and the rest is history.

OUR CURRICULUM

Trinity School is licensed by two agencies, the Department of Education, and the Department of Human Services. The Department of Education governs our morning instructional program.

Our curriculum is governed by the state standards for preschool education, and our teaching staff holds degrees in Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education.

Each age group has goals that drive the curriculum taught in the classroom. The 3-year-old curriculum is primarily socialization and includes instruction in colors, numbers, and shapes and having a child recognize his name in print. There is a lot of concentration on the development of fine and large motor skills. Cutting, pasting, play-doh, model magic, lacing and beading, all work on developing those little muscles needed for handwriting down the road.

The 4-year-old curriculum goes to the next level where the child learns all the alphabet letters and the sounds for those letters. Number skills, handwriting, and STEM activities are also introduced.

Trinity is known for its kindergarten readiness program which is called TK. Children enroll in TK if they miss the cutoff date for the local school district. TK prepares them to move on to the elementary school for kindergarten. They work in centers as well as independently, there are journal writing and science projects, and most are reading by Christmas.

**Our Office Administrative Assistant -
Marie Marino**

After deciding to retire from a full-time job in August 2016, I found the perfect part-time job at Trinity as an Administrative Assistant. I not only get to enjoy the little children, but the job is close to home and the staff and the Director, Mary Jo, are just wonderful. When I was interviewed for the position the school was implementing a new software program called Procure. So, having a background in finance and human resources it just seemed like a perfect fit.

Procure Software having just been installed as Trinity School's Management System has now been running for almost five years. Through a program called *Tuition Express*, the school offers a safe and convenient payment processing system that allows secure, on-time tuition and fee payments to be made from a bank account. A parent can even schedule a date they would like to make their payment.



Gardening I find is my happy place and the best way to relax, usually with two little dogs trailing around next to me. My husband, Harold, and I adopted them as litter sister rescues when they were 6 months old. They are now sweet little 12-year-old seniors. It is a continual process to find the right work, life balance but it's something I find worthwhile.



Pat Simmons (left) has one of the most important jobs these days at the school: she keeps everything clean and safe, working every weekday evening. Thank you, Pat!

Mike Acito is in charge of all maintenance – from replacing smoke detectors to managing the boiler system, from painting to fixing faulty alarms. Sincerest thanks, Mike, for keeping everything working.







WHAT A YEAR!

Nothing prepared me for this past summer when Marie Marino and I had to put together a program

for reopening the school during a pandemic. We had enough interested parents who wanted in-person instruction, so Fr. Stephen and I agreed to reopen Trinity for the fall.

I worked with my DHS supervisor and she outlined a plan for me that took Marie and I all summer long to adopt. We initially had to write a health and safety plan and submit it to the Department of Human Services for approval. Once our plan was approved, we had to develop a plan for each line item in the general plan: social distancing, staggered arrival and dismissal, mask-wearing, etc.

We started with Early Birds and worked our way through our day making safety changes along the way. The enrollment was very small, but we were determined to open and open safely. Currently, we have 26 children, and we are expecting 5 more in January. And while a small enrollment wreaked havoc on my budget, it was such a big help keeping everything and everyone clean, safe, and healthy. All the programs that we do that make Trinity the

the preschool that it is had to be reevaluated in terms of safety and distancing. I know it has been hard on the parents not being able to come into the school, but everyone has been so cooperative and knows in the long run, this is the best for everyone's safety. Our Halloween parade got rained out, but we improvised and had the first-ever Thanksgiving parade. Our holiday program has changed to singing for Santa.

I am determined to give the children as much as I can that they are used to in the safest way possible. I am happy to say that we have survived the first semester with no reported cases of the virus.

Since I have been a director, service projects have become especially important to me. It is a perfect teaching opportunity for young children to learn to share with someone less fortunate than they are. Along with Mr. Stacy, a Trinity Church member, we have food drives for Upper Merion Food Cupboard at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

At Christmas, we adopt foster children from Montgomery County Children and Youth, and we buy gifts for those children. This year we helped a new organization, the Mitzvah Circle, that collects gently used coats for children in our area, and finally, we collect stocking stuffers for the children that UMEA services. Our parents and children are extremely generous in helping those less fortunate. And while this year the virus has changed a lot of our in-person activities, we still manage to plan things for the enjoyment of the children. — Mary Jo Garofalo

WHAT'S AHEAD?

The low registration of 2020 hurt us financially but helped us to maintain social distancing, small class sizes and therefore handle the virus in the best way we knew how. I am cautiously optimistic that the 2021-22 school year will be a good one for us. With the vaccine against the virus becoming available, parents will feel more comfortable about returning to school. I also feel that once the public schools open and those children can get back to in-person instruction then more children will enroll in the preschool.

I am looking to restore the activities that the children and parents enjoy and to reopen the classrooms we had to close in September. I am also planning on keeping the safety practices we have used that have worked so well for us into the new school year. Trinity will move forward for 2021-2022 as we always have to tackle any issues along the way. – Mary Jo Garofalo

OUR FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Our Goal:

To develop Trinity as the leading early childhood development school in King of Prussia by 2025

These are early days but by the end of 2021, the board will commit to a program to achieve our goal. In the meantime, some of the ideas we're looking at as we develop our five-year plan include:

- Enrichment activities such as sports, music, art, and yoga
- Foreign languages
- A STEM curriculum across all ages (currently TK and K only)
- Free play and structured free play that builds on the current program
- Integration of different cultures in our community within the school
- Adoption of the full program of Keystone STARS -
Early learning programs earn a STAR 1 to STAR 4 by meeting performance standards for that level. STARS performance standards measure the pieces of an early learning program that affect the quality of your child's early learning in that program, such as teacher qualifications; classroom and learning activities, working with families; and program management. Trinity has already achieved STAR 1 and to attain the maximum STAR 4 rating, we will need to ensure -
 - At least half of lead teachers have a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education; all have at least an Associate's degree
 - Teachers hold a meeting with families when a child enrolls, provide daily updates, and hold at least two teacher conferences to share the child's progress each year
 - Teachers assess children's development three times a year
 - Teachers use the PA Early Learning Standards to develop curriculum and assessment
 - Programs receive an independent evaluation of their classroom setup and learning activities using a standardized tool
 - Teachers meeting with each family to make the child's transition to kindergarten easier
 - Staff receive at least four employee benefits, such as health insurance
 - Staff complete continuing education each year





Carline with the Thompson children, Mrs. Faw and Mrs. Garofalo

OUR DAY BEGINS...

Our day begins when we open the doors at 7:30 am to those children who come for Early Birds. Trinity opens at 7:30 am and closes at 6:00 pm. At 9:00 am early bird children go to their respective classrooms and carline begins. Temperature checks are taken, and the children come into school to begin their day.

From 9:00 am to 11:30 am the children are busy in their classrooms. All academic work at Trinity is done in the mornings, along with music, snack, and recess.

Dismissal is at 11:45 am and carline is utilized to dismiss those children. Children staying for the afternoon program are on the playground, weather permitting.

Lunchtime is at noon. Normally we have two lunch groups – one for the younger children downstairs, one for the older children upstairs.

After lunch, each group does a program that relates to themes throughout the year. Usually, an art project is involved.

Fine and large motor skills are continually being developed with cutting, gluing, beading, and work with model magic and play-doh.

An afternoon snack is served and then the children can go outside, weather permitting. Dismissal starts at 3:00 pm and continues until 3:30 pm.

Then we begin our sunset part of the day. Children can play in the big room with manipulatives and arts and crafts until their parent comes for them.

Once the last child has been picked up our day is over. And tomorrow, it starts all over again.

3-year-old Frog Class

Teacher: Melissa Faw



My name is Melissa Faw, and I am a 5 day/3-day 3-year-old teacher. Our class name is Frogs. I have worked with 3-year olds for 5 years and before that, I taught 2-year olds. I have had a long connection with Trinity because both of my children, who are now in college, attended the preschool. The 3-year-old classroom is a particularly important one because usually, it is the child's first introduction to preschool. Sometimes the transition from home to school is difficult for children and we strive hard to make that transition smooth and without too many tears.

A lot of the 3-year-old program is based on socialization. It is my classroom where the children learn to sit and listen to a story, hang up their backpacks, clean up after snack, etc. Large and fine motor skills are developed through art activities which include cutting, pasting, tracing, coloring, etc. The children learn their colors and shapes as well as how to recognize their name in print. Potty training is a part of our three-year-old curriculum.

Children seem to be highly-successful with potty training when they follow a structure. School can provide that structure. Outside recess and playing in the indoor playroom is a favorite of the 3's as well as a snacktime. I am happy to be part of a child's life that provides the foundation for many happy years of preschool.

4-year-old Ladybug Class

Teacher: Lori Pacelli



My name is Lori Pacelli, and I am a 3-day Ladybug teacher. I have been teaching at Trinity School for the past three years. My background includes a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Moore College of Art and Design. I also have over 10 years of experience working with children. On a personal note, I am a mother of two boys and my family lives in King of Prussia. We do a lot of work in the Ladybug Classroom because most of the children will be going on to kindergarten in the Fall. A typical classroom schedule for the Ladybugs is as follows:

On Mondays, we introduce the letter of the week and the sound it makes. We talk about objects we know that begin with the letter sound.

On Wednesdays is math day when we introduce the number of the week. We discuss the number concept and practice writing the number.

On Fridays, we do a craft related to the letter and number. Crafts also reinforce cutting, coloring, and handwriting skills. Along with all of our work, the Ladybugs manage to add in recess time and snacks.

I have found my employment at Trinity to be very rewarding because I want to make a difference in the lives of young children.

4-year -old Puppy Dog Class

Teacher: Diane Claffey



My name is Diane Claffey and this is my 22nd year teaching preschool. I have a degree in Early Childhood Education.

I have been married for 35 years and I have one daughter who graduated from West Chester University and is teaching in Drexel Hill, PA. I am currently teaching Pre-K in the “Puppy Dog” classroom.

I believe children learn through hands-on activities and social interactions.

As an educator, my goal is to develop each child’s strengths, interests, abilities, and knowledge. I want the children to know they are in a loving, safe, and comfortable environment.

The early years of children’s lives are most significant when it comes to their development.

In the “Puppy Dog” classroom, it is essential for students to develop a positive attitude, independence, responsibility, social/emotional skills, but most importantly to *love* learning.

Transitional Kindergarten, Turtle Classroom

Teacher: Karen Kokinda



My name is Karen Kokinda and I have been fortunate to have been a teacher at Trinity for six years. Currently, I teach in the Turtle classroom and have done so since joining Trinity. I live in Paoli with my husband and we have two adult children. I enjoy reading, cooking, sewing, and walking in the neighborhood.

Working with young children is my passion, which I have been blessed to have been able to do for over 20 years. My goal has always been to provide a nurturing environment where children can learn through socialization and hands-on experiences to help ensure they have a seamless transition to kindergarten.

Some of the activities that we do in my TK class include creating an alphabet and number book, Circle Time and Calendar, and Storytime.

This year we have included weekly STEM activities which the children have been enjoying. I look forward to continuing to have a positive impact in supporting your children's growth and helping to develop their confidence.

Transitional Kindergarten, Dolphin Classroom

Teacher: Stacy Padworny



Hi there! I am Stacy Padworny. I have had the pleasure of teaching Trinity students for five years now.

I was drawn to Trinity for its church/school atmosphere, focusing on the whole child: social growth, emotional growth, spiritual growth exploring various cultures and traditions, and of course educational expertise preparing students for their next big adventure in elementary school.

I attended Temple University earning a bachelor's degree and have twelve plus years' experience with early childhood development.

Teaching, learning with my students, and nurturing their growth has become a passion.

I put "my all" into developing lessons and personal instruction. I love teaching because I love seeing the moment a child discovers a new ability or skill...the light in their eyes when they realize, for themselves, "yes, I can!"

I am grateful for the opportunity to help young learners realize their potential.

Kindergarten, Cheetah Classroom

Teacher: Janice Newton-Famous



I have worked with children for over 20 years. I am currently working on my 6th year at Trinity. I started as a teacher in the 3's classroom for two years, then 4's for three years, and this is my first year as a kindergarten teacher.

I love teaching. I love the look a student gets when they realize they understand the concept of a lesson they have been working on. And then they are so excited to share that understanding of knowledge with their peers.

I believe learning should be fun, like making a skeleton, carving pumpkins, making different color drinking water, and making ice pops. Learning should have some repetition to it, for example, morning meetings, scheduled for the day and writing work. Learning should have a mix of old teaching (ex: listening to books on CD) and new teaching (ex: Ten Frame). Creativity also plays an important part in today's education like using a cardboard box to make a house. As a teacher I should have fun too so it is nice when I get to play games with my students like Duck, Duck, Goose, Who Am I, and Freeze Tag.

Substitute and Lunch Teacher:

Dara Wallis

Trinity is happy to welcome Dara back to the classroom. She is no stranger to our school community and starting in January she will be acting as a teacher's aide in the Frog class, assisting Melissa Faw, the classroom teacher. Dara will be working Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, in addition to her regular Thursday and Friday afternoon lunch classes. – *Mary Jo Garofalo*



My name is Dara Wallis and I work primarily with a younger downstairs lunch group on Thursdays and Fridays.

Lunch is served at 12:00noon. When a child finishes his/her lunch they to the bathroom and wash their hands. Then they may choose coloring or manipulatives to work on until everyone is done eating. When lunch is completed, the children go outside to the playground for some fresh air.

When the children come inside the school, they use the bathroom and wash their hands. Then they are ready to do their afternoon project. Usually, this project follows a theme that has been introduced during the month. After the craft is done and everything is cleaned up the children use the bathroom and have an afternoon snack. Weather permitting, we go outside to play until parents come for pickup.

On a personal note, I live in West Norriton with my son Shawn and our dog McKenzie. I have my degree in Elementary Education from Penn State. I have 15+ years' experience working with children of all ages, but I have found my favorite age is that of preschool.

OUR CLASS OF 2020-21

Semester One Students

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Kindergarten | Emily, Morgan, Gabriella, Lyra, Henry |
| TK (Turtles) | Brady, Connor, Brandon, River |
| TK (Dolphins) | Connor, Cason, Payton |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 5 day 4's | Penelope, Zachary, Carter, Mark, Roman |
| 3 day 4's | Jonathan, Samuel, Krithi, Riohn, Hanna |
| 5 and 3 day 3's | Olivia, Dominic, Lake |

Joining us in Semester Two

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| 3's | Grant, Adam, Ellery, Eshan |
| 3 day 4's | Henry, Audrey |
| 5 day 4 | Lana |
| TK | Declan, Ethan |



By Emily, Kindergarten