

# The Panther Press

NEWS BY THE STUDENTS FOR THE STUDENTS

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## STAFF SUPERSTAR

**By Aaron Allen and Paul Saladin**

Mrs. London, the secretary here at school, is this month's Staff Superstar. Mrs. London has been working at Trinity for 17 years, since 2004! She is the only secretary that every student here has ever known, including the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. One of her hidden talents is that she can touch her nose with her tongue.

Another hidden talent/hobby is that she is a big gardener. "I love to work in flower beds, but I can't keep an indoor plant alive."

When asked what she would do if she won the lottery, she said that she would be "boring and pay off all her bills" and then buy some fun stuff like a Jeep so she can go off road.

Mrs. London says that her favorite part of the school year is the "first week, week and a half, when the kids want to be here." She says that a good day at school is when she sees the older kids intermixing/playing with the younger kids. She enjoys the family feel of it all. When asked if she had any wisdom to pass onto the students, she offered this bit of advice: "Always be yourself. Don't act like you're not supposed to. God made you for a reason; act like he made you for that reason." We at Trinity are truly blessed to have her as our secretary.



## CLASS BY CLASS

### **Preschool**

**By Lilly Allen and Fiona Rohde**

The Preschool teacher, Mrs. Kienitz, says that she loves teaching Preschool because when the students come in, they are excited to learn new things. They especially love learning about Jesus and what he has done for us as sinners. Mrs. Kienitz also loves



teaching "anything to do with numbers and the alphabet." She would not want to teach any other class than the one she is already teaching.

When asked the same questions, the Preschoolers came up with pretty different answers. Evangeline, when asked what she likes to do at recess said, "Play and do chalk because there is chalk at school." On the other hand, Camden says he likes to play in the sandbox. Evangeline says she enjoys learning how to paint. However, Ila likes learning the alphabet, "because there are animals." Whether in or out of the classroom, it seems the Preschoolers love to learn!

Did you know that there is a stray cat wandering



about the school's property? Mrs. Kienitz has been feeding and watering the cat, which was recently named "Oreo" for his black and white color. Preschoolers, Bracy and Anderson Lee, brought in some tuna for Oreo. He is friendly and loves people and cuddles.

Update: Oreo is no longer here at school! The Rohdes took him to their house

where he will be well cared for, loved, and fed. Although we miss seeing Oreo at recess, we are happy he has a new, warm home.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

**By Miriam Hunt and Mary Saladin**

Mr. Jacobson's class is off to a great start this year. Being as there were not any Kindergarteners enrolled this school year, Mr. Jacobson is teaching First Grade. The students are very happy to have him as their



teacher again. Creighton Koetje says that his favorite thing about Mr. Jacobson is how "He helps us when we need help." Onnabelle Garvon says she likes how nice he is. They are working hard and learning a lot.

The students are doing a lot of projects for Science which is one of Mr. Jacobson's favorite subjects to teach. They have been studying the human body. Last week they made blood! Don't worry, it was fake. They used corn syrup and red food dye.

In Math, they have learned about subtraction and number bonds. Onnabelle says that Math is her favorite subject. Creighton likes "Jesus time" or Religion. When asked what his favorite Bible story was, he replied, "Chapter one, Genesis." Brendan Watson's favorite thing he learned was about sharing.

When you walk down the hall to go outside you always see the First Graders' art projects. Brendan Watson's favorite was the red, yellow, and blue hearts they made. Chloe Tonn's favorite was their leaf prints. They all enjoyed painting pumpkins which are in their classroom. They are all proud of their masterpieces.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

By Emma Davis and Claire Miller

When you stroll into Miss Eising's Second Grade classroom the first detail that might catch your eye is her desk. Her desk is at the entrance of the classroom, overlooking her students' desks in front of the white board. A small class means there is more space in the room for creative learning.

Miss Eising appreciates their time together. According to Miss Eising, a good day at school is



"When we can work happily together and do fun things." Even though she only has six students this year, she enjoys learning with them and teaching them. Happily learning

in school with her students pleases Miss Eising exceedingly.

The students in her class are excited for Thanksgiving. Usually, when people think of Thanksgiving they think of a feast of food. Addi and Emma agreed that turkey is the best Thanksgiving food, while Layla thinks that potatoes and gravy are the best. The students are looking forward to a brief vacation from school.

Second Grade has so much fun with Miss Eising. Learning with her, reading with her, or just laughing with her. The classroom definitely gives off a sense of joy, love, and creativity. The students in her class make the room feel bubbly and exciting. Miss Eising and her class are an important piece of this school puzzle.

## 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade

By Caelynn London

At the start of every November, our school has Teacher Appreciation week. The theme for this year is the Wild West. The whole school is decked out with



cowboy-related items. All the teachers' doors have posters with their pictures on them, along

with a country-themed saying.

Mr. Rohde's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom door says, "Hats off to you" along with a picture of Mr. Rohde wearing a cowboy hat and all the kids' names written on little cowboy hats. His students have their own opinions on the theme. Tabitha Saladin says she doesn't really like the theme because she just doesn't like cowboys in general, but Noah Waldman, Evelyn Tonn, and Sutton Koetje say that they like the theme.

Since the first quarter is over, they were asked if it seems as if school is going fast or slow. Both Tabitha and Evelyn said that school is going fast while Noah said it was going slow. On the other hand, Sutton said that it was in between fast and slow, "Medium."

Mr. Rohde's students say they are learning Science, Math, History, and Religion. They are also doing art projects which are on display in the hallway located in the newest section of the school. Tabitha, Evelyn, and Noah say that they have enjoyed their school year so far. Hopefully, they will enjoy the rest of their school year too.

## 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade

By Fiona Rohde and Paul Saladin

In the fifth and sixth grade classroom, the kids

recently went to Outdoor Education at Camp Roger in Rockford, Michigan. Mr. Keup says that "Outdoor Ed went as good as Outdoor Ed could go." He said one positive thing was that they didn't spend the night like previous trips, which was a lot less stressful. Genevieve Nicklas says





that her favorite part of it was the high ropes course. Briggs Pruitt says that he enjoyed an obstacle course.

Back in the classroom, Phoenix Bergman states that he enjoys doing math, but only because he's good at it. Savannah London and Mary Saladin disagree saying that if they could take out any subject of the day, they would take out Math. Savannah also said that she would like to improve in Math. Mason Dickson says his favorites are Science and Social Studies.

When asked if they could pick where they could go for a field trip, Savannah said that she would go to Emerald Isle, North Carolina, because she took a fun trip there before. Mary said that she would like to go to Paris, France, to see the Eiffel Tower. Both Michael Visner and Mackenzie Bergman say that their favorite day of the school week is Friday, a very popular answer.

Mr. Keup, when asked how his first quarter went said that it was especially brutal. He says that with being sick with Covid and having to go virtual, he was out for 4 out of the 8 weeks. He says that the main thing that his students have to improve on is organization and prioritizing. Coming up soon, the students will be making paper mache turkeys. Sounds like fun!

## 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### By Aaron Allen

In the seventh and eighth grade classroom there are many new changes happening. There is a new teacher, new projects, and new field trips. Austin Burgess, a seventh-grader, says Mr. Genthner “is a lot like Mr. Chatel,” who was the old teacher for that class. When asked what Austin thought about being in one of the highest grades in all of the school, he said, “It’s different, and it’s not as hard as I thought it would be.”

Austin’s favorite part of this new grade is the Country of the Month tastings. What are “tastings”?



Every month a new country is chosen for the class to learn about. September was France, October was Germany, and this month is mostly about Native Americans. After students learn about the cultures, languages, histories and landmarks, they have a tasting where they sample different foods from whatever country they are studying. Germany was Austin’s favorite.

After a tasting, it’s nice to take a break from eating and go outside. If it was Austin, he would be playing his favorite game at recess, “Six Square”.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

In this new feature, we will be showcasing samples of Trinity student writing and art. Our first is an essay written by seventh grader, Oliver Williams.

### *My Hero Wears Carhartt Bibs*

What is your idea of a hero? Is it someone who is wealthy, impacted history, invented new technologies or someone you read about in a book? My hero isn’t rich, will not be



recorded in history books or ever win scientific adulations. My hero is my grandfather, “Papa Mike”. This past winter, Papa Mike was quite ill with Covid-19. When he was finally discharged from the hospital, it took him months to recover his strength. Every day, I would deliver coffee to his house and stay and talk awhile. This was the best part of my day, because I got to hear his stories. It was during this time that he became my hero. Papa Mike didn’t do anything amazing, but he’s my hero because of his tenacity, devotion to his family, and his love for God.

As a little boy, Papa Mike always seemed big and strong. But it wasn’t until I got older that I realized he wasn’t just big and strong, but tenacious. Papa Mike was the oldest son in a farming family where much was expected of him. He physically worked every day for as long as he could remember. By the time he was ten he was regularly carrying fifty-pound bags of livestock feed. This took a toll on his body and by 12 years old, he would regularly dislocate his shoulders. His family did not go to the doctor often, so the first couple of times this happened, his father would help him reset his shoulder. After this he learned how to reset his shoulder by himself. This tough up-bringing would create in Papa Mike a tenacity that would prepare him for the next chapter of his life.

At 21-years-old, Papa Mike was newly married. He was looking forward to all that his new life would bring when tragedy struck. My great-grandfather, Papa Mike’s father, would die unexpectedly. This left my great-grandmother with the farm to run and three children still living at home, the youngest child with Down Syndrome. Being deeply devoted to his family, Papa Mike knew what he had to do. Papa Mike worked his job during the day then farmed and did all the outside chores until well into the night. He did this for a year until the following summer when selling the livestock and farm equipment would yield a better price. Papa Mike would

continue to do all the outdoor work, cut the firewood and maintain the house for his mother until she passed 35 years later. Papa Mike also became the surrogate father figure to his 3 youngest siblings who were still living at home. The older two siblings would view him as a brother, especially once they themselves became adults. But, Papa Mike shared a special relationship with his youngest sister and remained her surrogate father until the day she died at the young age of 22.

A devotion to his nucleus family is not the only deep devotion that Papa Mike has. He is also devoted to his Christian faith and church family. Since Papa Mike grew up and never had much, I think the idea of eternal life in Jesus drew him closer to God. Papa Mike has routinely served in many roles within his church. He is comfortable formally leading in positions such as church chairman, but is just as happy serving behind-the-scenes as a trustee, maintaining the building and grounds. At the age of 69, Papa Mike still serves in the weekly children's after-school ministry program. He knows the importance of reaching the next generation with the love of Jesus Christ. Papa Mike also knows how many children in our community do not have a reliable father or a loving grandfather, so he tries to always be there for them each week.

My hero never had much momentarily. He always had to "make do" as he puts it, yet he's rich in tenacity. My hero doesn't have lots of people who work for him; he works for lots of people. My hero never did amazing things that are seen on the news, yet he is amazingly devoted. My hero doesn't wear a cape, he wears Carhartt bib overalls.

Next in our showcase is a fall sunset by Caelynn London.



## WANTED

The Panther Press staff invites all Trinity Lutheran students to enter our December art/writing contest. Your entry, an original drawing, poem, comic strip, or essay, should be titled: "What Christmas Means to Me." Drawings should be done on letter-sized paper, and writing should be 100 words or less. The Panther Press staff is not eligible to enter. Please drop off entries in the office by November 30, 2021. The top three entries will be published in the December issue of the Panther Press.

## FROM US TO YOU

### **By Mrs. Strube**

Isn't it great to be back in school? I'm especially excited to be working with this year's new Panther Press staff. Of course, not all are new.

Three seasoned eighth graders kindly returned and have been such a help to me.

Thank you, Aaron, Caelynn and Paul! Three seventh graders,

Claire, Miriam and Emma, are all gifted writers and I couldn't be happier that they joined the staff.

Additionally, with the permission of Mr. Keup, I invited three sixth graders to audition for the Panther Press staff. Lilly, Fiona, and Mary, met and surpassed the challenge with flying colors. To be honest, though, I already knew these three were talented writers. During lockdown in 2020, Lilly used to write letters to me and our kitten, Peggy. Her letters were always so entertaining, complete with artwork. Likewise, Fiona wrote the most beautiful condolence note to me when our first kitten, Angel, died. I was impressed not only with her caring words, but also her perfect punctuation and spelling. And finally, Mary, who was inspired by last year's Panther Press, created her own version of the newspaper every time she visited me last year. Her paper even included Want Ads, which is the inspiration for our new "Wanted" feature in this month's edition.

We worked hard on this first issue and we hope you enjoy it. From us to you, Happy, Blessed, Thanksgiving!

### **November Staff and Features:**

Aaron Allen and Paul Saladin: "Staff Super Star"

Lilly Allen and Fiona Rohde: Preschool

Miriam Hunt and Mary Saladin: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Emma Davis and Claire Miller: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Caelynn London: 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Fiona Rohde and Paul Saladin: 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Aaron Allen: 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mrs. Strube: Editor

