

# the oak leaf

Fall 2011

Equipping future generations with wisdom,  
knowledge and character to impact their world for  
Christ with servants' hearts.

“Do not let this Book  
of the Law depart  
from your mouth;  
meditate on it day and night,  
so that you may be careful  
to do everything written in it.

Then you will be  
prosperous and successful.  
Have I not commanded you?  
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be terrified;  
do not be discouraged,  
for the LORD your God will  
be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1: 8-9 2011/2012 Year Verse

## Fall Calendar

**Fall Fundraising Banquet**  
*October 8*

**Grandparents' Day**  
*October 14*

**End of 1st Quarter**  
*October 19*

**Staff Development/No School**  
*October 20 & 21*

**Parent Teacher Conferences**  
*November 3 & 4*

**Veterans Day Formal Chapel**  
*November 11*

**Thanksgiving Break**  
*November 23-25*



# leading the way

News from in & around our school and community

*Head of School, Paul Wrobbel*



The theme for our junior high retreat this year was “Meditate” as we focused on the year verses Joshua 1:8-9. I ask you to join me in praying that our students will learn to treasure God’s Word and commit themselves to Read, Meditate, and Obey it. According to our year verses this is God’s formula to Prosperity and Success. I summarized it this way for our junior high students at the retreat: R+M+O = P&S. We are thrilled that 23 new families committed themselves to our mission of partnering with the home in the training of children to lead Christian lives; in all 39 new students enrolled this year. Joining these new families are five new faculty members whose stories I would encourage you to read in this issue of the Oak Leaf.

None of this would be possible without your prayer and financial support of the ministry of Trinity Oaks Christian Academy. Thank you for helping us train the next generation to anchor their lives on the Word of God and learn to live by those biblical principles in order to impact the world for Christ. Please continue to pray for our students and faculty as they pursue living out their lives fully committed to Christ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wrobbel".

## Congratulations to the 2011 8th Grade Graduates

Brandon Cufu-Home Schooled through the University of Nebraska  
Talia Duzey-Cary-Grove High School, Cary, IL  
David Dyer-Prairie Ridge High School, Crystal Lake, IL  
Gabriel Dzialo-Crystal Lake South High School, Crystal Lake, IL  
Erik Fuhler-Crystal Lake Central High School, Crystal Lake, IL  
Janessa Hodge-Crystal Lake Central High School, Crystal Lake, IL  
Thaddeus Kaszuba-Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, MI  
Christopher Klockenga-Crystal Lake South High School, Crystal Lake, IL  
Austin Knauer-Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein, IL  
Justice Lesperance-Cary-Grove High School, Cary, IL  
Anton Lima-Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein, IL  
Elly Mann-Prairie Ridge High School, Crystal Lake, IL  
Matthew Panek-McHenry East High School, McHenry, IL  
Emma Porter-Prairie Ridge High School, Crystal Lake, IL  
Brett Rider-Prairie Ridge High School, Crystal Lake, IL  
Tristan Sullivan-Faith Lutheran High School, Crystal Lake, IL  
Cara Wessley-Crystal Lake South High School, Crystal Lake, IL

# honorable mention

## Class of 2011 Valedictorian Elly Mann

Trinity Oaks Christian Academy is proud to recognize Elisheba (Elly) Mann as Valedictorian of the graduating class of 2011. Elly started at Trinity Oaks during the last month of 1st grade after she was adopted from India. Mrs. Mann was on a missions trip with her church when she first met Elly. Once home, Mrs. Mann shared slides from her trip with her family. Mr. Mann began to question whether their family should adopt Elly, after he saw her picture. The Manns prayed and began to take steps to adopt her but because of Mrs. Mann's history with breast cancer, the adoption agency rejected their application. The Manns believed that the Lord led them to continue to pursue adopting Elly. Three years passed and after a transfer from an orphanage in New Delhi to a different village that allowed the adoption, Elly was united with her new family. At the time, she primarily spoke Hindi and little English. She does not recall having fear of the new culture or of starting school at Trinity Oaks. "Everyone was so nice it made the transition easier." In seven and a half years, Elly has learned English and now exceeds most students her age in the language. She has been placed into high school honors English next year as a freshman and will be taking Honors Biology and Honors Algebra with Trigonometry. She also is enrolled in Introduction to Engineering to explore whether she might like that for a future career.

Her favorite memory that she carries with her as she leaves was the 5th grade year. "Mrs. Dodge was a good teacher and really made learning fun!"

Looking back, Elly reported having a great experience at Trinity Oaks. "The teachers always cared for the individual needs (of the students) and prayed for each student and family.

Congratulations Valedictorian Elly Mann, and God bless you at Prairie Ridge.



*Valedictorian Elly Mann*

## Class of 2011 Salutatorian Talia Duzey



*Salutatorian Talia Duzey*

Trinity Oaks also recognizes Talia Duzey, Salutatorian of the graduating class of 2011. Talia was a Trinity Oaks student from kindergarten through 8th grade. She remembers feeling welcomed and at home as a four year old in Mrs. Janczek's class. Over the years at Trinity Oaks she has found all of the teachers to be very caring and loving. Her favorite memories include the lock-ins and junior high retreats. She reflected on the fun she had during those events with her classmates on the giant slide and having shaving cream fights.

Relationships are very important to Talia, especially those she made while at TOCA. "The friends you make here will stick with you your whole life." While she is unhappy about not being able to see her best buddies at school every day, she knows that they will make the effort to continue to stay close. At the same time she is excited about the new friends and adventures at Cary-Grove.

When asked how she felt when she was told that she had earned Salutatorian, she replied "surprised and happy because I had worked very hard. Then I became nervous because I knew I had to make a speech at graduation!"

Talia is taking several honors classes at Cary-Grove. Honors Algebra with Trigonometry, Honors Biology and Honors Ancient Civilizations are a few of those classes. She is looking forward to continue running on the cross country team in high school as she did here at TOCA. She is considering joining the track team and trying out for basketball and club volleyball. Great job Talia! We pray that the Lord will guide and protect you as move on from Trinity Oaks.

# meet the teachers



*Teachers joining the TOCA staff this year pictured from left to right: Brenda Morrison, Caroline Christensen, Pam Blodgett, Cheryl Arnold, and Peggy Boldwyn*

## Meet Cheryl Arnold

We welcome Mrs. Cheryl Arnold who joins the Trinity Oaks staff as the full day kindergarten teacher. She graduated from Trinity College in Deerfield with a BA in history. Following graduation, Cheryl worked as an editor and proofreader until her children were born. At that time, she stayed at home with them and occasionally did some freelance work. Additionally, there were several opportunities to volunteer at church and school and through that she discovered her love for working with children. When both of her children were in school, the volunteer work led to a position as a one-on-one aide for a special education student. She felt God calling her to be a classroom teacher, so she returned to Trinity and obtained an elementary teaching certificate with middle school endorsements in language arts and social science. While attending evening classes, she continued to work full-time as a one-on-one aide and then as a substitute teacher for grades K-8 in both the Lake Zurich and Kildeer Countryside school districts. Since obtaining a teaching certificate, she has taught half-day kindergarten at Christian Heritage Academy in Northfield, and full-day kindergarten and first grade at Harvest Christian Academy in Rolling Meadows. Cheryl has a passion for Christian education and is "delighted to be at TOCA."

Cheryl and her husband Mike are Lake Zurich residents. Their oldest daughter Liz recently graduated from Bradley University in Peoria and is working as a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at one of the largest Peoria hospitals. Their youngest daughter Kate just returned from a year at Capernwray Bible School in England, and she is currently living at home and attending Trinity International University in Deerfield. She has a music scholarship, so the Arnolds are looking forward to attending her choir concerts and voice recitals. They are

members of the Village Church of Barrington and are currently serving as leaders of a home small group.

Exercise is very important to Cheryl. She works out regularly at the gym and at home with aerobic videos and power walks around the neighborhood. She likes to read and attend concerts and musicals. "My husband and I especially enjoy classical concerts at Ravinia throughout the summer months, and we plan to attend some of their winter recital concerts as well."

Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 86:11-13, "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave."

## Meet Pamela Blodgett

Pam Blodgett, second grade, has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University. She has ten years of experience in kindergarten, first and second grades for Cary School District 26. Pam lives in Cary with her husband Barry, an actuary at Swiss Reinsurance in Schaumburg. They have three daughters, Kristyn 21, Kelsey 17, and Lauren 13. Kristyn attends Miami University of Ohio, Kelsey is a senior at Cary-Grove High School and Lauren recently joined TOCA's eighth grade class and is adjusting well. Pam believes that teaching is the perfect place for her to use her gifts. "I am passionate about literacy instruction and helping children identify and develop the unique gifts God has given them."



# meet the teachers

When she isn't planning instruction, her favorite activities include eating dinner out, boating on Lake Geneva, reading and traveling. She enjoys spending time with her family and watching them perform in musical theater and dance. Pam grew up in a Christian home and committed her life to Christ when she was a high school senior. She and her family are members of Living Grace Community Church where she preciously served in a variety of ministries including as the MOPS Program Coordinator and Women's Ministry Director. Her favorite verse is Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father who is in heaven." Welcome Mrs. Blodgett!

## Meet Peggy Boldwyn

Trinity Oaks is pleased to introduce you to Peggy Boldwyn. She was hired mid-year last year to work with Mrs. Glenn as an aid in the preschool room. This year she is using her talents and training in the junior high as the language arts teacher and 6th grade homeroom teacher. "I love middle schoolers. I find this age fascinating. This is the time when they find their voice. I enjoy watching and helping to guide them as they try to figure it all out." Mrs. Boldwyn completed her undergraduate studies at Illinois State University in Bloomington and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a K-9 teaching certificate. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia. Prior to working at Trinity Oaks, she taught 6th grade in District 47 for nine years before staying at home with her children. Cary residents, she and her husband Bob have three children, Emma in 5th grade, Audrey in 2nd and Luke in full-day kindergarten. She knew from a very early age that she wanted to be a teacher. She is passionate about learning and this is evident when you speak to her about language arts. One goal she has is to be an example to her students. "I always have a curiosity and thirst for knowledge." Currently in her new position in junior high, she is striving for balance as a mom, wife and now teacher. She finds the verse in Philippians 4:13 running through her mind often these days. It reminds her that she can do all things through Christ who gives her strength. She puts her trust in the Lord and knows that He is providing all that she needs in this transition time.

## Meet Caroline Christensen

Caroline Christensen also joined the Trinity Oaks staff last year to fill an unexpected vacancy in the Spanish department in May. She stepped into teaching Spanish as a substitute and returned this year as the first full-time Spanish instructor Trinity Oaks has had in its history. She is teaching Spanish to grades 1-8 and 6th grade Bible. Caroline earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and has an Illinois teaching certificate from Northern Illinois University. She enjoys the

language and all of the various cultures of the world. This coupled with her travels abroad influenced her to pursue teaching Spanish. Caroline student taught last year at Prairie Ridge High School in Crystal Lake. She is the head pom coach at Crystal Lake Central High School and spends much of her time outside of school at practices, football/basketball games and competitions. She also choreographs routines and has other coaching responsibilities at Crystal Lake Central. She enjoys water sports and traveling with her family. She currently lives with her younger sister Michelle and her parents in Crystal Lake.

This past summer, Caroline traveled to Gibraltar, a small British territory that borders Andalusia, Spain. She climbed the Rock of Gibraltar with two of her friends and when they arrived at the top they found wild monkeys. Caroline explained, "Tour buses often go up the rock to see and feed the monkeys." While they were there, one of the tour guides was giving food to a baby monkey. Suddenly two monkeys jumped on her shoulders/head. Then a third monkey, probably the monkeys' mama, jumped on her. Caroline believes she was probably trying to protect her babies.

Caroline has been a believer as long as she can remember. Her favorite Bible verse Philippians 4:13, is one she applies to all aspects of her life. "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." She accepted Christ through Willow Creek Community Church in Promiseland in 2nd grade. She was baptized in Crystal Lake in 2006.

## Meet Brenda Morrison

For the last 8 years, Brenda Morrison has been serving Trinity Oaks as the Spanish teacher for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. She has also helped the office staff with various tasks and teachers with special projects. Anyone new to Trinity Oaks would think that Brenda is a paid staff member because she is always here! This year she is being added to the roster of teachers after Dr. Wrobbel approached her about teaching 7th grade Bible. Brenda has taught pre-kindergarten and kindergarten but also substituted in junior high. She enjoyed junior high so she agreed to take on the teaching position.

Brenda is married to Mark who served on the board of trustees in the past. They live in Algonquin with their daughter, Shannon (8th), and their two sons, Shane (6th) and Ian (3rd). The family attends Christian Fellowship in Crystal Lake. Every summer they enjoy serving together at a Christian family camp in northern Wisconsin.

As a Christian she believes that we should persevere through circumstances that make up our lives. She is a runner and appreciates the analogy that the Bible provides in Hebrews 12:1b-2a "Let us throw off every hindrance and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith."

# reflections

News from in & around the school

## Race for Education

The annual Race for Education was a success. \$35,000 was raised for the school and all participants enjoyed the cooler weather. Pictured running in front are Nicole Dorn and Becky Gudagno.



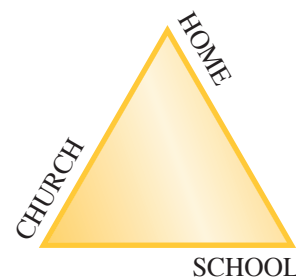
## The Class Rocks!

What a sweet time our students had during the summer program. Pictured is Mrs. Doubleday distributing the rock candy that the Edible Science students grew while learning about crystals.



## Fun with a Purpose

The annual back to school picnic was a huge success! Families and staff members enjoyed great food and a beautiful day. The combination annual pie auction, wardrobe sale and dunk tank raised nearly \$2,900 toward the 3rd grade Smart board. Pictured: Aaron Cufur, Jared Arkell and Tristan Viegas.



## Our Mission: A Community of Believers

The mission of Trinity Oaks Christian Academy is to partner with the Christian home and church in the training of children, maximizing their potential to lead Christian lives according to biblical standards.

## Trinity Oaks Christian Academy

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