

Trinity Review

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 5 January 2011



this issue

Trinity Travels P.1
What are Schools For- Essay P. 2
Essay Continued P.3
Upcoming Events @ Trinity P.4

Trinity Travels

The first week of January 2011 Trinity worked with Peer Leaders at Sacred Heart High School (Walkerton) and St. Mary's (Owen Sound). During the mid-term training the Peer Leaders talked about their experiences of delivering the workshops to Grade Nine's this year so far as well as working on the coming workshop exercises.



Schools Trinity Visited in January

**Sacred Heart High School
(Walkerton)**

St Mary's (Owen Sound)

York Humber HS

Sir Oliver Mowat CI

East Alternative

Bendale BTI

Norseman Jr. P.S

Runnymede P.S

Earl Haig

What are Schools For? An Ongoing Discussion

Continued from Trinity Review – December 2010

(ix)

Between October and December 2009, the Toronto Star carried a series of articles on the controversial push to use brain science to improve education by writer and journalist Alanna Mitchell.

Here are some quotes of interest to educators:

There is no essential biological difference at birth between a boy's brain and a girl's brain.

The newborn's brain contains about 100 billion neurons – the same number it will always have – the nerve cells capable of communicating with each other electrochemically.



The difference between a baby's brain and adult's is the amount and location of connective tissue – synapses – among the neurons. So the business of growing the brain from newborn to child to adult is to build synaptic connections and then networks of these connections within the brain.

Those synapses carry understanding and memory, or what we know as learning.

The adult brain will have 100 trillion to 500

trillion synapses and is capable of running and building more. The more synapses and the more efficiently they connect, the smarter you are.

Conceptually then, given the same stimulation, any brain can be as smart as the next. Except in real life that doesn't happen. What gets in the way seems connected mainly to social factors – including how you perceive your own ability and how others do (however prejudiced) as well as the amount of experience you get and what you eat.

That means that two brains that start out the same way can be dramatically different at the age of 2 if one has been deprived of play, talk, touch, food or love. By the age of 5 the differences in connective tissue in the brain can be even more startling.

All of this doesn't mean loading them up with Baby Einstein videos or playing them Bach – it just means connecting with them, talking, reading together, feeding and teaching in a loving way.

Recognition Inspiration Learning.

(x)

Every Person is creative

In schools the question is often "How do we foster creativity?" But the more serious question is "Why isn't every person creative? Where has this universal human potential gone?"

One of the contributing factors to this loss





Continued from page 2...

in our schools is that creativity is seen as synonymous with art products. The song, the picture, the writing, the graphic design, etc, are seen as what being creative is all about.

But creativity and its major contributor play, are about so much more.

For instance our creativity gives us the capacity to imagine what we want to happen in our lives and the ways we might pursue to make our vision happen. Our creativity also contributes to our ability to combine and recombine information and experience culled from relationships in new and novel ways in our minds.

Thus creativity is a major factor in learning. Play itself has been demonstrated by scientists to play a crucial role in brain development. And the proverbial "making it your own" necessary for students to benefit from teaching is the exercise of creativity.

Most importantly it is our creativity that connects our social/emotional lives with the rational side of our natures, giving us the opportunity for potentially fulfilling lives that are more beautiful and complex than any work of art.

So are we educating our children to reproduce the world we know?

Or are we nurturing their creativity so they may transform what is into new worlds?



Notable Calendar events @ Trinity This month

Safe & Caring Schools

Trinity will be doing professional development workshops at TDSB's Safe & Caring schools this month. Professional development is one of the TDSB's priority initiatives for the 2010-2011 school year.

Collaborative Meeting

Trinity will be attending York Humber HS's collaborative meeting later this month. York Humber has a Collaborative Community and School Programming Committee which uses community resources to enhance student learning through initiatives including Trinity's Anti-bullying program.

Full Service School Meeting

This month Trinity will be attending Bendale BTI's full service school meeting. In Full service schools the TDSB partners with other organizations and agencies who offer specialized education, health and social services both inside the schools and in the local community. The goal is improved quality of life for students, their families and their communities.

Inspiring Quotes

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at of challenge and controversy.

- **Martin Luther King Jr.** (Honouring Martin Luther King Day – January 17th)

The social responsiveness of the brain demands that we be wise, that we realize how not just our own moods but our very biology is being driven and molded by other people in our lives – and in turn, it demands that we take stock of how we affect other people's emotions and biology.

- **Daniel Goleman.** *Social Intelligence*



Upcoming events at Trinity

Moving Forward

Trinity's *Moving Forward* program, a social/emotional development program for long term support students, is being put together in a manual for educators in January

The *Moving Forward* manual will be introduced at a workshop to be held Jan.31st 2011 for TDSB's Safe & Caring Schools' Educators.

Middle School Program 1+1=3

Trinity will begin the middle school program *1+1=3* at Norseman P.S. later this month. We are looking forward to working with all of the students.

Focus on Success

Trinity's Focus on Success programming will continue development at Earl Haig, Central Commerce, Bendale BTI and other TDSB schools.

Drama Therapy Workshops

Trinity will be continuing to develop dramatherapy workshops for TDSB's long term support programs this month.

Toronto Focus on Success Schools

Bendale BTI

Winston Churchill CI

Earl Haig SS

Central Commerce CI

North Albion CI

Victoria Park CI

Marc Garneau CI

Lester B. Pearson CI

Runnymede CI



Trinity Theatre

434 Strathmore Blvd
Toronto, ON M4C 1N5
t- 416.421.4888 f- 416.406.2011

www.trinitytheatre.ca

Facebook: Trinity Theatre

Twitter: @TrinityToronto

contact@trinitytheatre.ca