

The VOICE

"Leadership and learning are Indispensable to each other." - John F. Kennedy

TCS is Packing Up to Move to Oak Park: Help Us On Moving Prep Days, or Virtually!

The time is here! We are packing up for our June move to our new Oak Park facility at the former St. Edmund's parish school. We are hiring a moving company and making our plans, while teachers and staff are sorting through years of memories, projects and supplies, and packing everything away in boxes. The actual movers will come on June 26 and 27 to deliver everything to our new home.

Our hope is to paint the new wall a week before our "stuff" arrives. Meanwhile, we're meeting with our sign company, working to set up new WiFi and phone service, and changing the address on our letterhead, forms, and marketing materials. We're also planning a special "ribbon-cutting" event on student open house day, Wednesday, August 29th.

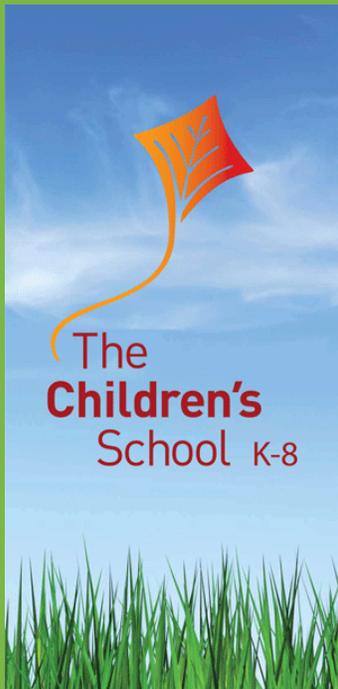
Summer will be busier for all of us here at TCS this year as we unpack, tinker with our new environment, and recreate the colorful, welcoming, engaging learning environment our students and families have grown to love. Undoubtedly it will take on its own magic as time evolves.

Are we excited? You bet we are! Do we need your help? You bet we do! We need your tool skills! Your organizational skills! Your love of purging! But we understand not everyone can take a day off and come pitch in. That's why we've also created a "virtual move event" online so that you can even help us from the comfort of your favorite arm chair. Check out the information below and join us for the challenge of moving TCS!

Volunteer Moving Prep Days: We'll be breaking down lofts, helping teachers pack, taking down shelving, packing boxes, and moving expired treasures to the dumpster. Pizza lunch and refreshments provided. Dress for a mess! To sign up to help on any or all of the days below, call 708-484-8033, or send an email to pfreese@thechildrensschool.info.

- Thursday, June 7, 9-12 am and 1-4pm
- Friday, June 8, 9-12 am and 1-4pm
- Saturday, June 9, 9-12 am and 1-4pm
- Thursday, June 14, 9-12 am and 1-4pm

**Can't make our Moving Prep Days? Join our Virtual Move Event:
www.thechildrensschool.info/virtual-move-event**

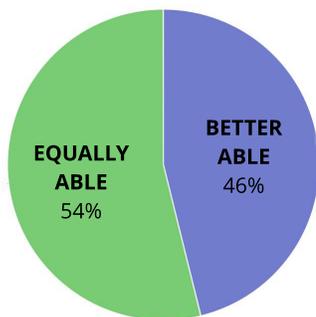


*An independent
not-for-profit K-8
school that embraces
progressive education.*

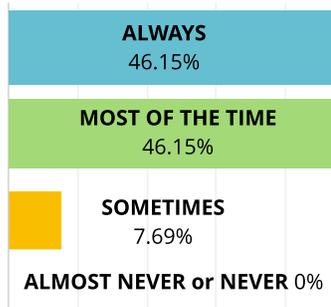
2018 Alumni Survey Digs Deep on Perceptions



How grads rated the job TCS did in preparing them for academic success in high school



How grads rated their ability to meet the academic demands of high school compared to peers who went to other elementary and middle schools



"I feel okay about my social skills in interacting with my peers in high school..."

The Children's School had 53 respondents to an extended 2018 Alumni Survey sent earlier this spring to TCS alumni and their parents. 68% of responses came from parents of alumni, while alumni accounted for 32% of responses. Alumni include those who graduated from TCS in fifth grade before there was a middle level program, as well as more recent 8th grade graduates. TCS now has graduates in both high school and college.

Additions to this year's survey included questions on how students felt they were doing in relation to their peers from other schools. Did they feel socially confident, academically prepared? We were encouraged to find that our alumni completing the survey generally felt they were doing well in meeting both academic and social challenges.

In addition to asking alumni how they are doing academically, we asked for their insight on how they felt TCS prepared them in specific subjects, such as mathematics, science, history, and social studies. Survey outcomes show alumni feel that TCS did best at preparing them in English skills (reading, writing, literature), as well as creative arts.

Grads rated very highly the level of socio-emotional support from teachers and staff that they received when they were students at TCS. They rated the level of support for their transition to high school somewhat lower.

"The results give us an important mirror to check how we are doing, where our strengths are, and where we might improve," says Dr. Pamela Freese, director of administration at TCS. "We've known that strengthening our efforts in helping students make the transition to high school is important. That's one reason we now have a dedicated faculty member serving as high school transition coordinator."

"The 2018 survey garnered our highest number of participants compared to those in recent years, thanks partly to efforts by our board member and alumni relations representative Susie Donohue," continues Dr. Freese. "We're hoping to expand the number of participants next year and keep the communication with our alumni strong, since they serve such an important role in our school community."

In addition to completing its 2018 Alumni Survey, TCS is sending out its yearly survey to current parents at the end of the academic year. "We value everyone's input and urge parents to share their views," says Dr. Freese.

ALUMNI QUOTES:

"TCS taught me how to think and problem solve, so that when a problem is difficult I can work out how to complete it."

"Independent work helped me with time management and organization."

"The focus on writing and creative problem solving were huge helps to me. I feel that I am frequently better prepared to solve difficult problems than my peers, and am able to offer a lot of help. Also, I think that TCS kids tend to be much better at helping other students in a subject they might be good at. I always see them as the first ones to offer assistance."

Meet Our 2018 TCS Graduates!

Eighth grade is a special year at The Children's School. Our oldest students are busy, not only with regular classroom lessons, projects, and field trips, but also with considerations of where they will go to high school and how they will make that transition.

In addition, each eighth-grader completes their own "Capstone Project," which is a major undertaking of planning, research, and execution on a topic of their choice. The Capstone process requires each student to create a website about their project, meet with both their teacher and an adult mentor at regular intervals, and keep a blog as their project plans unfold. The final step includes a presentation to a review panel of adults, which can include faculty, board members and TCS parents.

Below, we are proud to introduce each student from our "soon-to-graduate" class of 2018. They each share where they will be attending high school, a bit about their Capstone Project, and their fondest memories of their years at The Children's School. We know they will do well as they continue their journey as lifelong learners!

(Photos of our graduating class by Kira Tannenwald, from her Capstone Project!)



Aaron Zartman ...will be attending Oak Park River Forest (OPRF) High School. His Capstone Project was an essay on CRISPR, a biological gene editing tool, and why it would be good for clinics and hospitals to use it. His favorite memory from TCS was, "the 4th grade Hootenanny and all the ones after that... also Lorado Taft was a super fun camp field trip which was possibly the most fun I've had at school." Aaron's favorite project was the "Creation of the World" play in 5th grade.



Carter Nasralla ...will be attending Wolcott School next year. For his Capstone Project, Carter created a dirt bike track awareness video. "I thought about what I love to do and I thought of dirt bikes. And the dirt bike riders in Chicago that ride illegally on the streets." It just so happens that his Capstone Project is also his best memory and favorite project from his years at TCS.



Elliot Andries ...will be attending Morton West High School. Elliot's Capstone Project was building an electric guitar out of household objects, and sharing his experience with the music elective class at TCS. He says, "I am literally in love with guitars. I wanted to learn more about how guitars operate and the scientific concepts that go into building an electric guitar." His favorite memories from TCS are field trips to Bemis Woods and his Capstone Project, which was his favorite project at TCS.



Grace Sobczynski ...will be attending OPRF High School. For her Capstone Project, she made a board game about Mesopotamia, combining her love of board games with a topic that fascinated her. Grace's favorite memory of TCS is Fridays in spring of last year. "I love those Fridays because it puts a very calm, happy feeling in my brain. We went to the park for team time and came back and cleaned the room before we left for the weekend and I had never seen a school have a schedule like this." Her favorite project, coincidentally, was her 8th grade Capstone Project.



James Beatley ...will be attending OPRF High School. His Capstone Project was an essay on cinematography, as he wanted to make something based around film. His best memory of TCS was when he came as a visitor in 3rd grade. "I remember the overwhelming amount of joy I felt compared to the school I was coming from. I'll always remember that day, not for anything it taught me, or for changing my point of view, but just for the pure happiness it brought me. James' favorite project was in 4th grade, when he made a book report called: "A Squire, his Knight, and his Lady" about Sir Gawain.



Jonny Hugh ...will be attending OPRF High School this fall. Jonny's Capstone Project about homelessness included raising funds to provide 120 care packs to give to the Night Ministry and Housing Forward. "I've always wanted to help the homeless and I thought this would be a good way to start." His favorite memories from his time at TCS are the Peace Town project in Kindergarten and his recent Capstone Project. His absolute favorite project was the space project in 2nd grade with Mrs. Robinson.



Joshua Mullen ...will be attending OPRF High School next year. For his Capstone Project, he created a website for fellow frog owners to assist them in taking care of their frogs. He loves frogs but had two that died from mistakes he made caring for them. He didn't want other frog lovers to experience that. His favorite memory from TCS is when his name idea was chosen for the eighth grade class name. His favorite project of all time was making the magazine "Look Up" in 6th grade, in which his photo appeared on the front cover!



Kira Tannenwald ...will be attending Wolcott School next year. For her Capstone Project, Kira studied portrait photography. Her project included producing a yearbook for 5th-8th grade. In fact, all of the portraits of our grads are by Kira and are featured in her yearbook! "I chose portrait photography because I like taking pictures of patterns and buildings and I wanted to branch out and learn something new." Her favorite memories of TCS include her first day of school and making the magazine "Look Up" in 6th grade.



Max Keller ...will be attending G.C.E. Lab School next year. His Capstone Project was all about drones. He even taught a class to our younger grades about drones. His favorite memories from TCS will be "the memes" and the parties. His favorite project during his years at TCS was constructing a Rube Goldberg machine.



Phoebe Hopper ...will be attending OPRF High School this fall. For her Capstone Project, Phoebe created a photo gallery where each photograph stood for one identity under the LGBTQIA+ umbrella in order to educate people through art. Her favorite memories include her first day at school and the musical. "It was so much fun and everyone did such a great job!" Her favorite project was the boat project in 7th grade.



Reed Fancher ... is keeping his options open for high school next year. Meanwhile his Capstone Project was all about pianos. He started learning to play the piano a few months ago and wanted to dig deeper. His favorite memory from his time at TCS is learning to throw a Frisbee in physical wellness, and the Cabaret musical performance. Reed's favorite project was his Capstone Project, "because it's something you get to pick that you like and find interesting."



Veronica Waid ...will be attending Trinity High School next year. For her Capstone Project, Veronica has made and is selling a calendar with nature photos she took, and is donating the proceeds to the Howard Brown Broadway Youth Center. "I wanted to help LGBTQ+ youth, and their center provides services to LGBTQ+ youth that are homeless, live in a hostile home, or don't get the services they need." Her favorite memories of TCS are organizing the Hootenanny in 4th grade, and Peace Town (she named it!). Although it was hard for her to choose a favorite project, she says the 5th grade "Creation of the World" play was so much fun.

Middle Level Students Look at Interpersonal and Social Challenges

Both the 6th and 7th grade classes chose project topics that examined interpersonal and social challenges common to our modern human experience. The 7th grade Tiger's Eye class examined racial and other stereotypes. Part of their work culminated in a gallery which included poetry, sculpture, music playlists, and infographics from their research.

6th graders embarked on a social disconnection project they called *"In Our Own Worlds."* They put together multiple surveys and investigations to learn how we are disconnected from each other and the impact of social media on our lives. The class worked on exploring ways to increase the amount of real human interaction within our school community. They formed a "Welcoming Squad" to greet other students and parents every morning with encouragement or a "high-five."

Through these topics, students had a chance to see that what they might consider a strictly individual struggle -- being stereotyped, or feeling socially isolated -- may actually be part of a larger sociological trend, or an experience shared by a large number of people from all walks of life. The projects empowered students to take action to find ways to diminish how they might be stereotyping others, or take action to reduce social disconnection by being the first to reach out to another person.



Explore the 6th grade project on social disconnection by visiting the website they created at <https://sites.google.com/tcsconnect.org/inourownworlds/home>



"Poems in Your Pocket:" A TCS Library Tradition!

Librarian Polly Smith celebrates National Poetry Month each April by collecting poems from TCS students and assembling them into a small pocket book distributed school-wide. This year 70 TCS students contributed! You can read more about *"Poems in Your Pocket"* on Polly Smith's blog at tcslibrary.weebly.com/blog. In the meantime, we thought we'd share some wonderful selections from our students!

There once was a human named Vito
He was always dressed super neato
He had a dresser
That was even messier
Than one of his homemade tuxedos.
--Vito

The Children's School

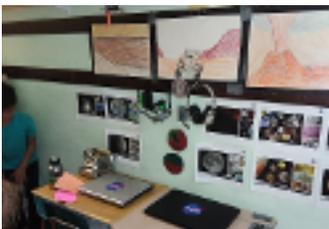
Children's School, Children's School
You have a thousand children in your school
You will have even more next year
You can see the beautiful children,
looking at you

All the teachers will love you
You might see everyone
Wearing beautiful shirts and pants
And you will have a beautiful time
With the kids at The Children's School.
--Riya

2nd Grade Iron Stars Colonize Mars in an Exploration of Space

Just look at the multi-faceted learning and building that can happen in one project!

Mission Control



Spacesuits for the whole crew



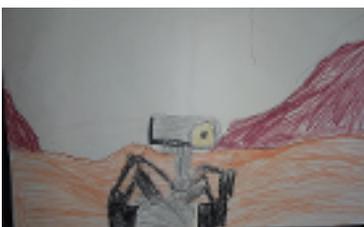
Mars Rover explores the harsh terrain



Designed for Mars survival



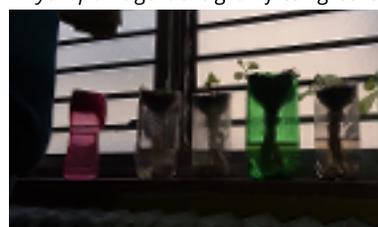
Live feed from the Mars Rover



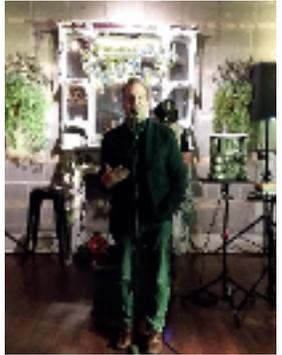
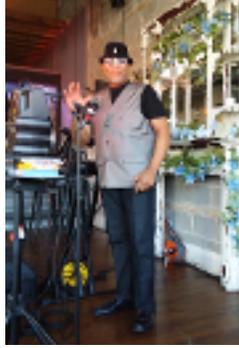
Geodesic Mars space station



Hydroponic gardens grow fresh greens



Annual Benefit Opens a New Chapter!



The Children's School enjoyed "Beginning a New Chapter" at its 2018 annual benefit, raising over \$18k for program funds. The money will also help TCS in readying its new facility in Oak Park, where it will kick off the 2018-19 school year.

At the event, guests heard remarks from founder Daniel P. Ryan, Ed.D., as well as several TCS alumni. The party heated up with karaoke, great food and drinks, and a variety of fund-raising activities.

Thank you to all who gave so generously, and to all the many parent volunteers who helped make the event a success.

Oceans Away: 2018 Hootenanny a Hit!

The 4th grade Titanium Titans did a great job with their planning and execution of this year's Hootenanny event. They raised \$2200 to donate to The Ocean Foundation for conservation work, a cause they picked out of their concern for the conditions of our oceans and desire to preserve the health of the oceans for the future.

Thanks to everyone who came, and to all the parents who baked or volunteered in the evening activities! Congratulations, Titanium Titans!

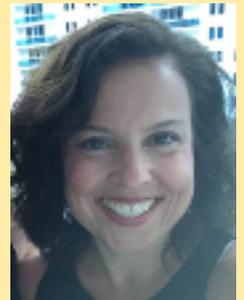
Change in Publication Schedule

The VOICE will now be published three times per year, in Fall, Winter and Spring, while school is in session. We've decided that instead of a summer issue, the school would be better served by initiating an annual report for publication and distribution during the summer months. The report will be available to the entire TCS community.

Welcome to Maureen Pulick Meyer, New TCS Assistant to the Directors

Meet Maureen, mom to TCS grads Sydney (age 18, class of 2011) and Isabelle (age 15, class of 2013). Maureen brings extensive experience and an incredible local network to TCS. She has a BA from the College of the Holy Cross, worked for Price Waterhouse in Boston as a CPA, and spent time living in Sydney, Australia in 1997, where she completed a Masters in International Social Development at the University of New South Wales. She worked for Amnesty International on refugee issues until moving back to the US.

"I served on the board of TCS while my girls attended school here," she says. She also served on the board of *Parenthesis Family Center* as vice president until they merged with *New Moms*. Maureen has also worked at an after school center for underserved children in K-12 in the south Austin neighborhood called *Kidz Express*. "I am so excited to be back at TCS!" says Maureen.



For more information on each event, please visit the event calendar on our website or call 708-484-8033.

JUNE 4TH 7-9:00 PM
GRADUATION CEREMONY

JUNE 5TH 10:00-11:30 AM
PUBLISHING PARTY &
EARLY DISMISSAL
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

JUNE 5TH 11:30 AM-2:00 PM
ALL-SCHOOL PICNIC

JUNE 7TH 9 AM-NOON & 1 PM-4 PM
MOVING DAY PREP EVENT

JUNE 8TH 9 AM-NOON & 1 PM-4 PM
MOVING DAY PREP EVENT

JUNE 9TH 9 AM-NOON & 1 PM-4 PM
MOVING DAY PREP EVENT

JUNE 14TH 9 AM-NOON & 1 PM-4 PM
MOVING DAY PREP EVENT

JUNE 26TH
MOVING DAY!

SEPTEMBER 5TH 8:45AM-11:00AM
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The VOICE

Welcome to our newsletter from The Children's School. Here we share stories, photos, interviews, and feature articles highlighting our student's work, faculty, school activities, and other news that gives readers a better understanding of progressive education and our school community. If you would like more information or have comments, please call 708-484-8033 or email us at thevoice@thechildrensschool.info, and be sure to visit us online at www.thechildrensschool.info.