

## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS PRESENTATION EVENINGS 2018

Students, special guests, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance tonight and for joining with me in celebrating the achievements of our students during 2018.

The very purpose of schooling is to encourage and cultivate a joy in learning about our spiritual, social and physical worlds. Students should be equipped and motivated to actively continue the learning process through life, especially in the face of continual change. An important outcome of schooling is that students have the ability to apply ideas, skills and knowledge to new situations. These situations can involve meeting new characters through literature or local people with challenging stories; discovering the complexities of science or the application of mathematical concepts to solving an industrial problem; or expressing ideas and feelings through the composition of a piece of music for chapel or the creation of a series of art works exhibited for others to admire.

Our mission statement is quite clear:

*At Trinity Lutheran College, we are guided by the gospel of Jesus Christ to nurture and challenge each individual learner to grow into an inquiring and compassionate global citizen with a heart to serve, shape and enrich the world. We aim for quality in all that we do.*

At our secondary evening, we heard Shania sing these challenging words:

Because the heart still knows, If our lives are to have any meaning,  
There's only one way to go, Take the road less travelled.

Over the past 4 ½ years I have on a number of occasions challenged our older students, especially our student leaders, to make a difference. What can and will you contribute to Trinity? Will you take the conventional route and the easy option - turn up to school each day, go to class on time, have a go on sports day, hand in all your assessment and do the minimum required to receive a satisfactory report card, and mostly – don't annoy the teachers?

Or will you take some risks? Speak up? Connect with people who are different? Train intensely or study rigorously to reach the level you have dreamt about? Will you take the less travelled fork in the road? Life is a challenge. It is a series of problems, choices and decisions. Do we want to moan about them or solve them?

Our primary students and our year 7 and 8 students and their teams of teachers embarked on the road less travelled for us at Trinity when they commenced their international baccalaureate program at Trinity. We have presented for you this evening, some aspects of their journey so far.

Our secondary students have many opportunities to travel on different roads in their journey towards future pathways. Eligible Year 10 students may commence a year 11 VCE unit at Mildura Senior College; year 10, and sometimes year 9, students can commence a vocational education and training course at one of the Mildura Regional Trade Training Centre campuses or Sunraysia TAFE; a school based apprenticeship may be started and career days attended.

When we come to that fork in the road, these experiences will help us make the decision of which pathway to take.

Portia Tomich and Amelia Morrison have both embarked on a road that has taken them from their home to another country on a student exchange for 12 months.

When on their year level camp, some year 7 students learnt how to stand up on a surfboard for the first time; year 8 students attempted the leap of faith in the Grampians; year 9 students had to find their way around Sydney, a city not many had been before; and some year 10 students experienced their first ski on fresh snow at Falls Gap. They may never do any of these activities again but they gave it a go!

Different roads for different people. I would encourage you all here tonight to consider the possibility of that fork in the road for yourselves. Uncommon knowledge gives rise to uncommon leadership. Do something uncommon. Go to the library and pick out a book that you would never touch in a million years. Find a sport or hobby that you know little about, learn all about it and give it a go. Try a food that challenges your taste buds that you have never tried before. Reach out and share the love of Jesus to your neighbour.

I challenge you all to embark on the journey – find meaning in having a go. 4 ½ years ago I embarked on the journey to lead Trinity Lutheran College. In the first 6 months, I worked with College Council to determine our strategic direction for the next 5 to 10 years. I take a moment now to summarize our journey over the past 4 years.

Strategic intent 1:

“ At Trinity, we aim to live out our faith so that we may well lead others to explore the teaching, ask questions and enable us to tell the gospel story. We all stand at the foot of the cross as servants of Christ.

- ✓ Ministry worker part time
- ✓ Pelican Kids Program 0-5years
- ✓ Student worship including the vibrant secondary chapel band
- ✓ Spiritual life themes each term
- ✓ Annual spiritual retreat for staff
- ✓ Stones of celebration introduced
- ✓ FUSE team in every week for years 5 to 10

Strategic intent 2:

“ At Trinity, the learner is at the centre, learning how to learn and displaying the attributes and attitudes of a life long learner. Quality teaching and learning occurs in and through a rich diversity of experiences designed to enrich, enable and extend the individual learner.

- ✓ LEAP (Learning Enhancement) program and STAR (Students At Risk) case management
- ✓ ESQ, TOM, LYOTY, chess, eisteddfod, maths games, debating ...
- ✓ Learning & Teaching charter developed and synchronised with IB
- ✓ Secondary schooling future directions discussions
- ✓ Chinese alongside Italian in years 5-7 in 2019 and incrementally into year8 in 2020
- ✓ IB journey
  - Feasibility / Candidacy / Action Plan / Stakeholder engagement / Consultant visit

Strategic intent 3:

“ At Trinity, relationships are intentionally and explicitly nurtured and positive and responsible relationships are developed between all members of the college community to create a productive, safe, caring, challenging, supportive and engaging college culture and climate.

- ✓ Restorative practices consolidated
- ✓ P-10 personal development and pastoral care scope and sequence
- ✓ Daniel Morecombe child safety curriculum

- ✓ Secondary vertical pastoral care
- ✓ The Year 9 Rite Journey
- ✓ Tuning In social emotional parenting programs

Strategic intent 4:

- “ At Trinity, a school wide professional team of highly able teachers and competent support staff will operate with a shared responsibility for student learning and success in a culture of continuous professional learning and improvement.
- ✓ Early career teachers program
  - ✓ Staff affirmation program
  - ✓ Professional learning and personal improvement plans SMART model
  - ✓ Professional networks local, state and national
  - ✓ IB professional development requirements

Strategic intent 5:

- “ At Trinity, systems, processes and resources are consistently applied in a targeted manner to meet educational needs, shape improvement and support responsible practices.
- ✓ Enrolment growth strategy
    - Prep recruitment
    - Yr7 retention & recruitment
    - Regaining our quality edge
  - ✓ Systematic advertising and promotional strategies
  - ✓ Parent and student portals through TASS
  - ✓ Victoria Prep-year 2 learning community refurbishment 2014
  - ✓ Mallee Sports Hall & outdoor sports precinct 2015 with support from PTFA
  - ✓ Reverse cycle air conditioning 2017 for remainder of College with support from PTFA
  - ✓ SMART TV's across primary 2017
  - ✓ Secondary refurbishment research planning team for commencement in 2019
  - ✓ Sound financial position within system parameters on all key performance indicators

Strategic intent 6:

- “ At Trinity, learning and wellbeing is enhanced by partnering with families, local business and community organizations, being committed to a common goal and connected by a sense of belonging to the Trinity community.
- ✓ Deutschfest
  - ✓ ALWS connections with annual Gifts of Grace support in term 4
  - ✓ Extensive guest speaker program across the curriculum
  - ✓ Year 10 work experience
  - ✓ Community service programs eg Eco Village

Strategic intent 7:

- “ Trinity is sustainable through visionary leadership, effective governance, wise stewardship, accountable management and strategic partnerships
- ✓ Commitment to annual governance training, annual college council retreat and forward agenda
  - ✓ New constitution in 2018
  - ✓ IB leaders training

And the journey for Trinity Lutheran College will continue to be one of taking the road that will lead to quality educational outcomes for each and every student.

And now a word to our graduating year 10 class of 2018. Some of you have been here since prep and we treasure the many contributions you have made over your time at Trinity. You have been encouraged to look at the world through new eyes. You have shared new learning through your academic work, experienced new cultural and sporting challenges, and through the many opportunities to hear the Word of God, have hopefully come to put the world in its proper perspective. Tonight you will be presented with a Bible, the sustaining book. In Ecclesiastes 3 verse 1 it reads: "There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven." So ...

Take time to rest – it is the foundation of health and vitality  
Take time to think – it is the source of achievement  
Take time to read – it is the foundation of wisdom  
Take time to play – it is the secret of staying young  
Take time to be quiet – it is the opportunity to seek God  
Take time to share – it is too short a life to be selfish  
Take time to be aware – it is the opportunity to help others  
Take time to laugh – it's the music of the heart  
Take time to be loved – it nourishes the soul  
Take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness  
Take time to pray – it is the greatest power on earth  
Take time to dream – it is the well of inspiration  
There is a time for everything.

I trust that the sustaining book will not be left to gather dust on some bookshelf. I pray that you will take the time to let it sustain you in the tight places that you might find yourself, and that it brings comfort, assurance and the way forward.

It has been both a challenging and rewarding four and a half years at Trinity and I thank the Mildura community for making me feel so welcome and a part of the community. I thank the dedicated team of parents who are the PTFA and the Deutschfest committee, who work so hard to enhance the high standard of resources and facilities for our students. To the parents here tonight – I urge you to find the time to be part of this great team.

I would like to thank all staff for their commitment and dedication in all facets of college life. Their tremendous efforts on behalf of students must be recognized, whether it is in the classroom, at co-curricular activities, maintaining the grounds or providing the inevitable ice pack. I especially thank my dedicated and hardworking leadership team and my executive assistant. Your loyalty and continued enthusiasm have certainly made my job that much easier. My appreciation is also extended to Trinity College Council and especially the chair, Deb Bennett, for their encouragement and support during my tenure as principal.

To the students – you make Trinity a great place to be and in turn I ask that you reflect the love of Jesus and keep on being the best that he enables you to be. I have enjoyed working with many of you and I wish you well in your future. Follow your dream and take the road less travelled.

I thank all of you - staff, students, parents, volunteers, friends and members of the local community for working together in creating the exceptional school that is Trinity.

Blessings

*Cheryl Bartel*

Principal