

Together for Trillium (TFT)

Together for Trillium is our answer to a traditional PTA. Somewhat untraditionally, since fall 2007, we include students as members of the TFT. So all students, parents, and staff at Trillium are automatically members and have a vote in all meetings. There are no forms to fill out to join, no dues to be paid; the only requirement is your willingness to participate in creating a wonderful educational community. Meetings happen once a month: check the calendar on the Trillium website (www.trilliumcharterschool.org) for meeting dates and times.

TFT Fundraisers

TFT has organized a few fundraisers each year to raise funds for the scholarships and grants we provide, for the social activities that we organize, and for the school in general. We have had wonderful and dedicated volunteers who have been very successful selling Scrip (to ourselves) and Chinook Books (to ourselves and others) for the past couple of years and plan to continue those fundraisers this year. Many TFT members also helped organize and run last year's 2-day Trillium in Bloom event which included, among other things, an art sale and raffle of baskets of donated items. We will help again this year with a similar event October 9th and 10th and the raffle of baskets in the spring.

Our few TFT fundraisers have enabled us to provide:

- classroom materials funds for each staff member
- activity fee scholarships
- grants for Trillium community members (see more below or the Trillium website-- <http://www.trilliumcharterschool.org/index.php?page=tft-grants>— for more info on how this works)
- grants for senior projects, specifically— application process will be announced to seniors soon!
- funds for the community-building events that we organize
- and with our help last year's new Trillium in Bloom event and the raffle raised \$10,000 in funds that went directly to the school's general fund and to the specific programs that participated in the event.

TFT Grants

The TFT has a grant process in place to assist members of the Trillium Community when funds are needed for various projects. Grants are considered four times a year: at the TFT meetings in September, November, February, and April. A request will be approved or refused by vote of the TFT members present at the meeting when the request is made. A grant request must be made in writing. The Request Form (available on the website at <http://www.trilliumcharterschool.org/index.php?page=tft-grants>) must be filled out, including the signature of the school Director (Stephanie Hinkle), and turned in to the TFT mailbox behind the Trillium front desk at least a week before the meeting when the request will be considered. See the website for more advice and details about this process. A few examples of projects funded by the grant process in the past include:

- The bioswale project on the Interstate side of the school
- Basketball hoops for the playground
- Drums for the African drumming program
- Software and equipment for the student newspaper and yearbook classes

TFT Events

Some of the community-building events we have had in the past and hope to have this year (we need your help for some of these to happen) include:

- **Back-to-school Ice Cream Social**—scheduled this year for **Sunday, September 13th, 2-4 pm, at Peninsula Park** —an event for all Trillium families, a chance to see old friends and meet new community members—TFT provides the ice cream.
- **Back-to-school Coffee/Tea for parents**—this year, on **Monday, September 14th, 8:30 am**—join other parents as we celebrate the start of the school year for our kids and hear a bit more about plans for the new year from the TFT and from the Director of Trillium, Stephanie Hinkle.
- **Run for the Arts**—this is really a school fundraiser but one for which the TFT helps provide volunteers and which really is fun.
- **First Friday Coffee Klatch**—on the **first Friday of each month, starting in October this year—for staff at 8:00 am and for parents at 8:30 am**—this is a chance to hang out with other parents, hear a bit about what’s going on with the TFT and at the school in general, and relax (or not) with some coffee or tea and maybe some starchy goodies.
- **Movie Nights**—this laid-back family event will happen occasionally on weekend evenings—exact dates to be announced later—there will be a movie projected in the multipurpose room for younger students and one upstairs for older students; people bring snacks, blankets, even pajamas.
- **Swim Party**—family event, usually in the evening, often with a snack-oriented potluck—date to be determined.
- **Field Day**—this is a school-wide event that happens each spring and, again, needs lots of parent volunteers and is great fun to help with.
- **Snacks for staff meetings**—happens each week—for this we’ll have more info soon and sign-up sheets to ask folks to bring some yummy snacks in for our wonderful staff members—to keep them fueled during their important staff meetings.

Classroom Liaisons

The TFT also coordinates classroom liaisons (aka “room parents”) for each advising group. The goals of the Liaison program are to build community from the classroom out, maintain and encourage communication, and to support our teachers. The role of class Liaison is a dynamic one since the needs of a K-1-2 teacher are very different from the needs of a HS advisor. If you would like to be more involved with TFT and helpful to your teacher, this is the job for you! It is a fun way to get to know the parents in your advising group as well as have a better understanding of the way our school works. If you have questions about the job or want to sign up, please contact parent Mary Drinkhouse, our wonderful liaison coordinator (mdrink@yahoo.com or 503-282-1950).

TFT Leadership

Currently, elections for leadership positions within the TFT happen at the October meeting and you are very much encouraged to get involved. With the exception of the Student Representative position, only parents and staff members are eligible for holding elected office within the TFT. The positions (and names and emails for folks currently in these roles) are:

- President—parent Kerri Creager (kerri@trilliumcharterschool.org)
- Co-President—currently unfilled
- Communications Specialist—parent Catherine Murphy (goodkarm@teleport.com)
- Treasurer—parent Dawn Weaver (gamelian@hotmail.com)
- Volunteer Coordinator—parent Ajna Rae (magickat1313@gmail.com)
- Teacher Representative—teacher Polly Christopher (polly@trilliumcharterschool.org)
- Board Representative—parent Melynda Retallack (mdydesign@yahoo.com)
- Student Representative—currently unfilled (due to graduation of our rep)
- Classroom Liaison Coordinator—parent Mary Drinkhouse (mdrink@yahoo.com)