

Education

More school news

Uptown school builds backyard laboratory

After receiving a \$1,000 grant from N.C. Beautiful, a nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental education and beautification in North Carolina, Trinity Episcopal School is about to start construction on a new outdoor laboratory, designed for the school's gardens and slated for completion this spring.

The grant was facilitated by Trinity's Garden Committee, made up of faculty, staff and parents dedicated to the upkeep and growth of the school's garden program. The group worked relentlessly to receive the funding and will now implement plans to build a 12-by-14-foot open-air shelter designed to seat one class of students. The shelter will enable teachers to conduct classes in an outdoor atmosphere to promote more hands-on student learning experiences.

Founded in 2000 with 102 students, Trinity Episcopal School now has 402 students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade. Its curriculum emphasizes creative and critical thinking. The school's Garden Committee expects the outdoor

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laboratory to further that mission. The campus is located at 750 E. Ninth St. in the First Ward's garden district, making center-city Charlotte an extended classroom for cultural enrichment, hands-on learning and service opportunities.

Gardening is an integral part of Trinity's curriculum, with applications in sci-

ence, math, language arts, reading, social studies, written expression and art. With the assistance of the Garden Committee, each grade level participates in projects throughout the year, including bird studies, the International Tulip Project, the Three Sisters' Project, composting, hydroponic gardening and more. The school is recognized as a Schoolyard Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, with its campus gardens consisting of a butterfly garden, keyhole vegetable garden, composting bin, Three Sisters' container garden, North Carolina native prairie garden, wetlands area, courtyard planters and an earth quilt. Harvesting potatoes, planting tulips, maintaining bird feeders, banding trees and cleaning Little Sugar Creek are just a few of the beautification projects in which Trinity students have participated.

To learn more about the N.C.

Beautiful grant or Trinity's gardening curriculum; visit www.tescharlotte.org or contact science catalyst and Garden Committee member Mary Kluttz at mk-luttz@tescharlotte.org.

Area students finalists for national list of excellence

Fourteen local high school students are now candidates for one of America's top academic honors, the Presidential Scholars Program. Each year, up to 141 students are chosen as Presidential Scholars based on their past record of excellence and marked potential for greatness. The local candidates will learn this spring whether they are among that hallowed group.

Established in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was created by an executive order from President Lyndon Johnson to honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts.

Each year, candidates are chosen based on exceptional scores on the College Board SAT or the ACT assessment. The pool is then narrowed to 500 semifinals whose applications are sent to the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars for a final decision.

Local candidates nominated for Presidential Scholars include Elizabeth Carney, Myers Park High School; Rachel Crane, Charlotte Latin School; Elisa De Castro, Providence High School; Sarah Dominguez, East Mecklenburg High School; David Fan, Myers Park High School; Julian Genkins, Charlotte Latin School; Kristin Hogan, Charlotte Catholic High School; Walker Hudson, Providence Day School; Timothy McGinnis, Providence Day School; Morgan Salomon, Providence High School; Lucas Scholl, Myers Park High School; Anna Sweigart (high school not specified); Ethan Treanor, Charlotte Latin School; and Anna Zimmer, Providence Day School.

In March, an independent, national committee of educators will review the candidates' essays, self-assessments, extracurricular activities, leadership and service activities, secondary school reports and transcripts to narrow the field to 500. From that pool, the 2008 Presidential Scholars will be selected. The scholars will be honored in June during National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C.

For more information on Presidential Scholars, visit www.presidentialscholars.org. □



Students at Trinity Episcopal School spend plenty of time learning about the world around them. A planned outdoor laboratory, funded by a generous grant from N.C. Beautiful, will facilitate the learning process for students studying a myriad of topics.