

# Palmarium

The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.



## Reflections on Hope

### ..... Assorted Quotes



**Samuel Johnson**

The natural flights of the human mind are not from pleasure to pleasure, but from hope to hope. *Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)*

The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man. *T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)*

Fairy tales do not tell children that dragons exist. Children already know that dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children the dragons can be killed. *G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936)* paraphrased variant

Hope is a waking dream. *Aristotle (384-322 BC)*

To live without hope is to cease to live. *Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881)*

A great Hope fell  
You heard no noise  
The Ruin was within *Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)*

Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality. *Jonas Salk (1914-1995)*

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all. *Dale Carnegie (1888-1955)*

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- Whole Person Focused
  - Relationship Based
  - Classically Oriented
  - Idea Centered



# HOPE by Matt Brunk (Junior High History Teacher and Character Lead)

What is hope? Is it more than a popular girl’s name of the Indie culture or a popular TV show? It sounds like a new celebrity fragrance by Taylor Swift marketed toward those going through a midlife crisis. However, with a deeper look it may be single-handedly the most important virtue next to love that the world has ever known. So exactly what is it?

Hope - Expecting the best in the future and working to achieve it; believing that a good future is something that can be brought about — *Character Strengths and Virtues*

Everything that is done in the world is done by hope – Martin Luther



Hope is an essential part of human life. It is the other side of the coin; it is the silver lining; it is the half-full part of the glass. Even the pessimist, has a little hope, for to know the bad outcome the pessimist must know of the good outcome. Hope has been the integral virtue of every successful world leader since the beginning of time. Every human being has hope. Without hope there is no apple pie, baseball, or USA.



Hope was prevalent in the colonies in July 1776. The risk of going to war with one of the largest empires the world had ever seen was clear and Ben Franklin may have said it best: “We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.” However, it was hope that won the day and the world was forever changed as people took hold of their own destinies around the world by electing leaders to represent their interests and ideas.

Interestingly, hope doesn’t just topple Everything that a person does is driven [continued on the next page]

empires; hope also keeps humanity moving forward. by hope in some way or another. Throughout history



## CHARACTER STRENGTHS

on HOPE [Optimism, Future- and Virtues, Peterson and Seligman

orientation represent a cognitive, emotional, and motivational stance toward the future. Thinking about the future, expecting that desired events and outcomes will occur, acting in ways believed to make them more likely, and feeling confident that these will ensue given appropriate efforts sustain good cheer in the here and now and galvanize goal-directed actions. Individuals with this strength would strongly endorse such statements as the following: despite challenges, I always remain hopeful about the future; I always look on the bright side; I am confident that my way of doing things will work out for the best; I believe that good will always triumph over evil; I expect the best; I have a clear picture in my mind about what I want to happen in the future; I have a plan for what I want to be doing 5 years from now; I know that I will succeed with the goals I set for myself; I never go into a game or competition expecting to lose; If I get a bad grade or evaluation, I focus on the next opportunity and plan to do better (569).”

Peterson, C., & Park, N. (2009). Classifying and measuring strengths of character. In S. J. Lopez & C. R. Snyder (Eds), Oxford handbook of positive psychology, 2nd edition (pp. 25-33. New York: Oxford University Press. [www.viacharacter.org](http://www.viacharacter.org)

Peterson, C., & Seligman, M. E. P. (2004). Character strengths and virtues: A handbook and classification. New York: Oxford University Press and Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. [www.viacharacter.org](http://www.viacharacter.org)

## CLASSIFICATIONS and DEFINITIONS:

In their chapter Mindedness, Future Orientation] in *Character Strengths* write: “Hope, optimism, future-mindedness, and future orientation represent a cognitive, emotional, and motivational stance toward the future. Thinking about the future, expecting that desired events and outcomes will occur, acting in ways believed to make them more likely, and feeling confident that these will ensue given appropriate efforts sustain good cheer in the here and now and galvanize goal-directed actions. Individuals with this strength would strongly endorse such statements as the following: despite challenges, I always remain hopeful about the future; I always look on the bright side; I am confident that my way of doing things will work out for the best; I believe that good will always triumph over evil; I expect the best; I have a clear picture in my mind about what I want to happen in the future; I have a plan for what I want to be doing 5 years from now; I know that I will succeed with the goals I set for myself; I never go into a game or competition expecting to lose; If I get a bad grade or evaluation, I focus on the next opportunity and plan to do better (569).”



APPRECIATION OF BEAUTY & EXCELLENCE: Awe; wonder; elevation  
GRATITUDE: Thankful for the good; expressing thanks; feeling blessed  
HOPE: Optimism; future-mindedness; future orientation  
HUMOR: Playfulness; bringing smiles to others; lighthearted  
SPIRITUALITY: Religiousness; faith; purpose; meaning

## HOPE (continued from previous page)

the travails of many cultures were battled simply because of hope. For example, in the middle ages, people hoped they survived the bubonic plague and would see at least one child reach the age of adulthood. In the decades immediately following World War II, the hope of parents was that after working hard enough to send a kid off to college that they would choose to do so. In the 1980s and 1990s, the hope was 2.5 kids, a dog (not a cat), and a white picket fence in the suburbs.

Humanity marries and divorces with hope; they take jobs and quit jobs because of hope. Hope is the reason why everyone gets up in the morning – without it there is seemingly little to live for. Children understand hope even if they cannot define it. It's the anticipation and waiting with expectation that surrounds Christmas day, your birthday, or even graduation day.

Adults experience hope in their first job, marriage, buying a house, and even in retirement. Humanity expects things from this life, and those expectations are never fulfilled unless they are surrounded by hope. Hope is the quality that keeps humanity going when things get dim.



Personally, I have found that hope can be many things. One of the most beautiful images of hope was actually a piece of art done by a high school student that I knew years ago. In it there was a single flower, I believe it was a rose, and it was alive among dried, cracked earth, and off in the distance were storm clouds full of rain. I remember looking at that artwork and realizing that hope is truly at its strongest and brightest when life is difficult. The more difficult and dark life is, the brighter that glimmer of hope becomes. Like the worn out flashlight in a black room, it draws close all who need it.



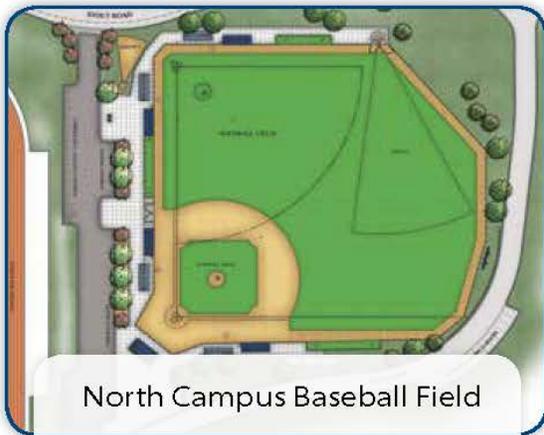
To be candid, one of the darkest times of my life was last summer in June of 2014, when my wife and I experienced a miscarriage. This came after trying for two years to get pregnant. It was incredibly painful, for both my wife and I, yet incredibly, we were filled with hope. It may sound crazy, but there are two major reasons why hope was imminently present. First, we were surrounded by so many people who loved us and shared similar experiences and yet had kids later on. Second, which cannot be overlooked, my wife can get pregnant! Though not a circumstance I would wish upon anyone, that fact was the small sliver of hope in a sea of darkness that has only grown brighter as time has passed. We are still not pregnant, but oddly enough, that experience has brought us so much closer to each other. We believe that among other things, it was hope that played an important role in that healing. So

much so, that annually we get an ornament to hang on the Christmas tree that defines the year coming to an end. The ornament that we chose was a Willow Tree® Angel holding a small star, and the angel's name is *Hope*.



[www.TCAcore.org](http://www.TCAcore.org)

## FOUR KEY PROJECTS



North Campus Baseball Field



Central Campus Expansion



East Campus Playground



College Pathways Office Modular

**Strengthening Our Core Initiative** is a 3-year initiative totaling \$9.4 million. Our challenge is to raise \$2.4 million in addition to the \$7 million received from the sale of the Scarborough property and the bond restructuring. The additional funds will support our core programs and provide additional capital funds to improve our campuses.

**Strengthening Our Core Initiative — \$2.4 million, 3 years**

Please go to [www.TCAcore.org](http://www.TCAcore.org) today to donate.



## VETERANS DAY

The annual TCA Veterans Day Assembly was held on November 11<sup>th</sup> this year and despite the winter weather that morning there was a great turnout to honor our veterans. We were privileged to have Jill Hortman Morris, a Gold Star family member, serve as our guest speaker and share with us about the ultimate sacrifice made by her brother Army Captain John "David" Hortman. Once again this event made for a memorable day for our veterans, students, staff, parents, and community members. Many comments were provided to administration about this inspiring assembly. One veteran commented, "I served 24 years in the USAF and never saw such a rich and respectful Veterans Day Assembly as what I saw at TCA."

[photos listed clockwise: Jill Morris, our guest speaker; Cynthia Storrs recites her poem "Navy Blue"; Eleni McClure shares about TCA board member Col Kathleen Harrington]



## TCA GRADUATE NAMED RHODES SCHOLAR

Emily Mediate (TCA Class of 2011) was recently selected as a 2016 Rhodes Scholar. After an extensive application process reduced the initial 2,000 applicants to 869 endorsed candidates, Emily was one of only 32 selected this year as a Rhodes Scholar.

Emily graduated from the University of Notre Dame in May, and is currently a Kellogg Institute postgraduate International Development Fellow with the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) in Kampala, Uganda, where she is evaluating a USAID-funded program that aims to improve the well-being of children in HIV-affected families. Emily will begin her studies in evidence-based social intervention policy evaluation (EBSIPE) at Oxford University in the fall of 2016.



Click on the following link to learn more about this prestigious honor: <http://news.nd.edu/news/62739-notre-dames-emily-mediate-named-rhodes-scholar/> and <http://www.rhodesscholar.org>



# WREATHS — across — AMERICA

For the second year in row TCA has joined in the *Wreaths Across America* campaign to place wreaths on the graves of veterans across America. Fundraisers have taken place at TCA in each of the past two years to contribute to this effort. Last year we donated just over 240 wreaths and for 2015 TCA donated nearly 300 wreaths for this worthy cause. The *Wreaths Across America* organization's mission is to *Remember, Honor, and Teach* through the coordination of wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and other veterans cemeteries in all 50 states on a specified Saturday in December each year. The wreath laying events for this year occurred on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Next year the event will take place on December 17, 2016. To find out more about go to: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>



## TCA vs. Cancer

The *TCA Leads Committee*, a group of highly dedicated high school students, has recently partnered with the American Cancer Society in order to combat cancer by heightening awareness and fundraising for advanced medicine and preventative research. *TCA vs. Cancer* is a school wide cancer fighting week that will take place from January 11-15<sup>th</sup>. This week of fundraising and awareness will end with a boys basketball game on January 15 at which we will honor those in the TCA community that have been affected by cancer. All seven schools will be participating in different fundraising efforts during this week. Thank you in advance for helping TCA reach out into the community and make a difference to those who have faced cancer head-on, and to those who may be prevented from going through the same struggle in the future.



One of TCA's East Elementary students, Kaylee Chavez, was recently featured in a St. Jude Children's Research Hospital *Thanks and Giving* ad campaign with Jennifer Aniston. You can view the video at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPx5MT3zRnY&feature=youtu.be>



## CLASSROOM VISITS

by Wesley Jolly (Director of Academic Services)

As I mentioned previously in this update it is my goal to get into as many classrooms as I possibly can during this school year at all seven of our schools. So far I've been able to spend time in 129 of our 242 teacher's classrooms as we reach the mid-year point of this school year. These visits are easily the best part of my day each week. And they make me feel old as I visit the classrooms of former history students of mine that are now teaching – I've had four such experiences over the past few months. The image above is from one of those classrooms – **Morgan (Bender) Nelson's** 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at East Elementary. At the beginning of each school year Morgan has the students develop a list of their focal habits for the year and the top three areas are listed on a canvas and thumbprints of the students mark their commitment to improving in those areas for the year. I think we can all agree *respect*, *kindness*, and *responsibility* are habits that we can all focus on, personally, each and every year. Some highlights of my visits over the past month are **Peggy McGee's** *On Course* students at College Pathways sharing the results of their community services projects, **Rebecca Emas'** High School *Anatomy* class forensic Socratic Seminar on "*Whose Skeleton is in My Closet*," hearing a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader in **Rachael Angles'** classroom at East Elementary commenting during a *math lesson* "I love challenges" as he dived into the next problem set, and finally witnessing the *art/history project* and chatting with the students about their chosen artists in **Yvette Butler's** North Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Our students and staff continually strive to live out the Titan's Creed by **taking ownership of and finding joy in learning**. Looking forward to my January visits.

the  
**smartest**  
 kids in  
 the world



and how they got that way

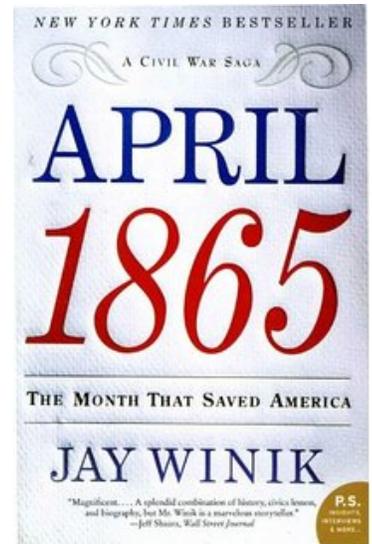
amanda ripley

Author of *The Unthinkable*

## BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

The final two books in our *Engaging Minds* series this academic year for the **Beyond the Book Club** meetings are Amanda Ripley's *The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got That Way* and Jay Winik's *April 1865: The Month That Saved America*. The planned discussion sessions for these two titles are February 22-24, 2016 for Ripley's work and April 25-27, 2016 for Winik's history of the waning weeks of the Civil War. We typically have ninety-minute discussion sessions that meet on the selected days at either 4:00 or 6:00 pm.

If you would to join us next February or April for either of the books listed please pick up a copy and read prior to the meeting. If you'd like to make sure you get an invitation to the sessions once they are finalized please send an e-mail to me at [wjolly@asd20.org](mailto:wjolly@asd20.org) letting me know the title you plan to read. I hope you are able to join with us as we examine these interesting and thought-provoking works.



We must accept finite disappointment,  
 but we must never lose infinite hope.

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

Photo by  
 Wesley Jolly



## Upcoming DAS Meetings and Other Dates:

### ALT Meetings (11:00 am-12:30 pm or as noted):

Wed, Dec 16	ALT Meeting (added) – Colorado Room
Wed, Jan 13	ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
Wed, Jan 27	ALT Meeting – Colorado Room (11:00-1:00 pm)
Wed, Feb 17	ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
Wed, Mar 9	ALT Meeting – Colorado Room

### Due Dates and Upcoming Events:

Thu, Dec 17	DAS/Compliance Meeting (2:30-3:00 pm)
Dec 18 – Jan 3	Winter Break (traditional Elem, Sec and CSP)
Dec 19 – Jan 4	Winter Break (College Pathways)
Mon-Tue, Jan 4-5	Teacher In-Service (no students Elem & Sec)
Mon, Jan 4	Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
Thu, Jan 7	Central Elementary Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
Thu, Jan 7	DAS/Compliance Meeting (2:30-3:00 pm)
Mon, Jan 11	Cottage School Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
Mon, Jan 11	TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
Thu, Jan 14	East Elementary Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
Mon, Jan 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – School Closed
Tue, Jan 19	High School Visit – DAS (08:00-10:15 am)
Tue, Jan 19	Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
Thu, Jan 21	Junior High Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
Thu, Jan 21	DAS/Compliance Meeting (2:30-3:00 pm)
Mon, Jan 25	DAS/CCCI Meeting (8:80-9:30 am)
Tue, Jan 26	College Pathways Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
Wed, Jan 27	ALT/Cabinet Book Study (12:00-1:00 pm)
Thu, Jan 28	North Elementary Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
Mon, Feb 1	Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
Mon, Feb 8	TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
Mon, Feb 15	Presidents' Day – School Closed



## Compliance and Accreditation Corner

Check here for updates on compliance and accreditation items as we move through the year:

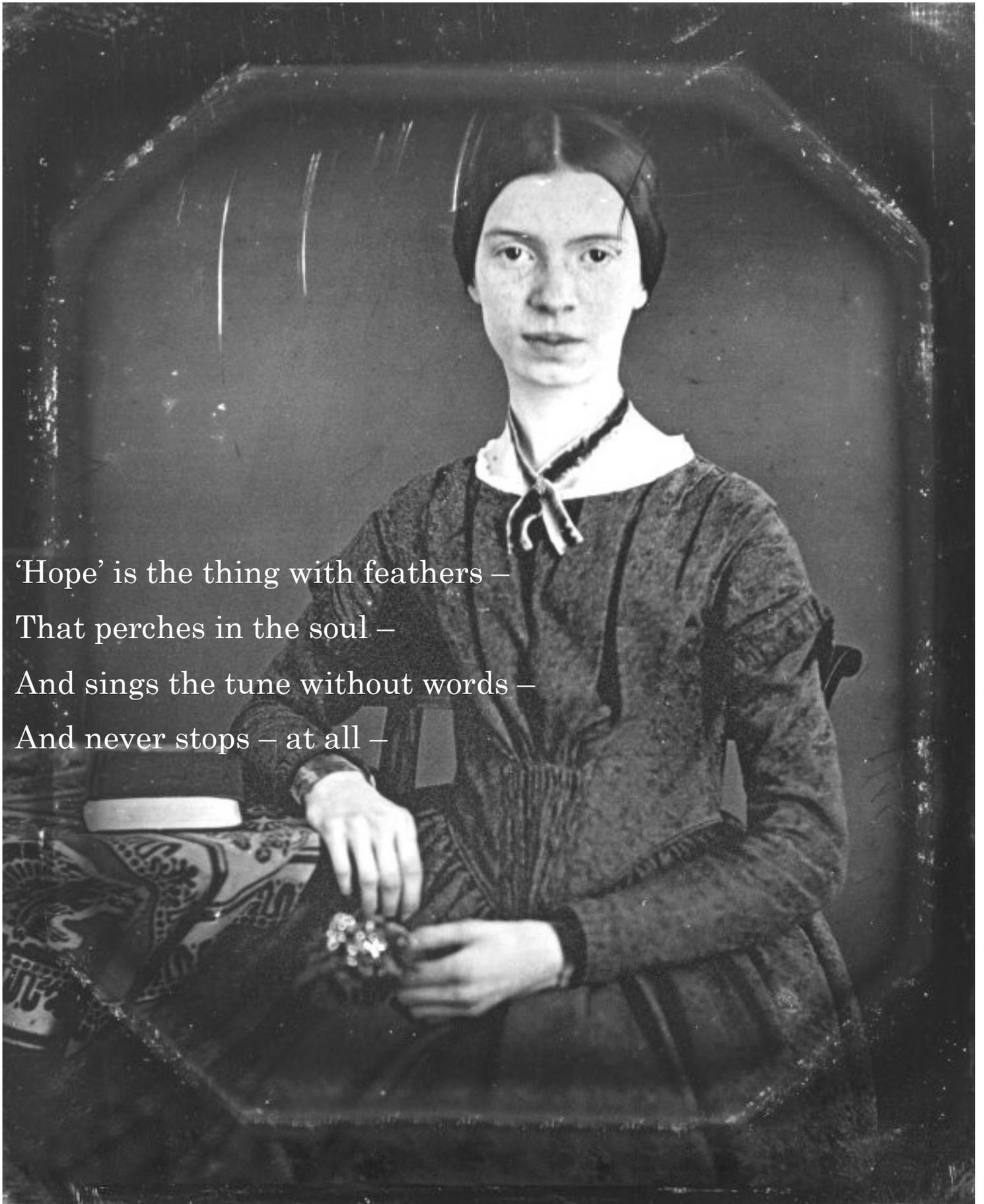
### SAC BUSINESS TO COMPLETE:

- update SAC bylaws

### ITEMS DUE IN FUTURE:

- **DAC to review site plans and SIPs/UIPs – November and December** with feedback to principals in **January 2016**
- Principal **Budget Priorities** for 2016-17 due **January 29, 2016**
- Absolutes (Cheri)





'Hope' is the thing with feathers –  
That perches in the soul –  
And sings the tune without words –  
And never stops – at all –

*Emily Dickinson*