

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.

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# PALMARIUM

## Make-a-Wish Fundraiser

In 2017, students from across TCA developed a list of organizations for an annual TCA community-wide fundraiser. The plan outlined six organizations to assist starting in 2018-2019. We have focused our efforts in previous years on **Children's Hospital Colorado** in addition to **Wounded Warrior**. After a one-year hiatus last year, this year our renewed efforts will help **Make-A-Wish Colorado**. Check out page 5 and 6 of this month's PALMARIUM for a TCA donation link and some photos from the High School fundraising efforts. We are **over \$66,500** raised with several schools still planning their fundraising efforts before school ends this year. Thank you for being a part of this endeavor.

## ERICKSON TITANS SPORTS COMPLEX

The construction of the new Erickson Titans Sports Complex is complete! We now have a new two-story facility with a press box, concessions, team rooms, adjacent paved roads and curbs, plus restrooms with flush toilets and running water!

Gary and Donna Erickson, TCA grandparents (pictured below with Dr. Sojourner), donated all the design work, supplies, materials, and labor necessary to upgrade our sports facility, which is fittingly named after them. On Saturday, March 12 we honored the Ericksons during a full slate of sports and performing arts activities, with a ribbon cutting, playing of the TCA Fight Song by members of our high school band, remarks from our President, and touring of the new facility.

During his presentation honoring the Ericksons and dedicating the new facility, Dr. Sojourner mentioned that "Donna and Gary Erickson are two of most generous, kind, and child-centered people I have ever known. I consider it an honor to call them friends - to TCA, and to me personally, and their commitment to our students is immeasurable. When I first started discussing the sports complex concept with Gary, I knew he was all



about building community, and of bringing people together in healthy and life-changing ways. That's what he has done as the developer of neighboring Polaris Pointe, and that's what he did when envisioning what could be accomplished with our North Campus sports facilities. We owe an incredible debt of gratitude to the Ericksons, and I look forward to their legacy living on for decades to come."

See more photos of the day provided by Board Secretary, Sonya Wittleder, on page 2.



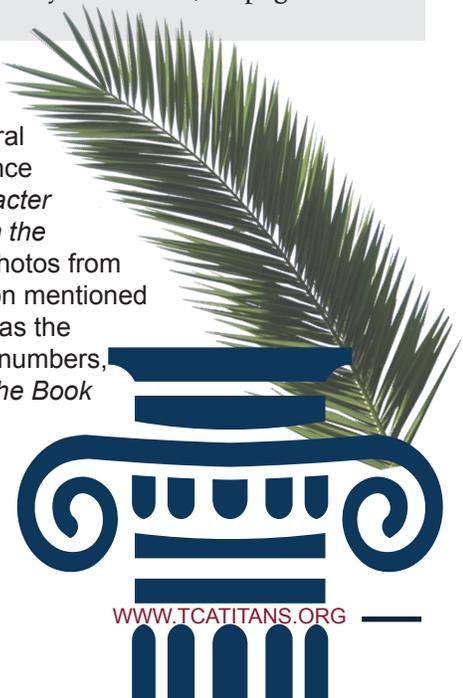
In this month's **Character: Tell Your Stories** series, Abraham Means, TCA Central Elementary 6th Grade Science Teacher shares about *Character Development: Lessons from the Classroom*. In addition the photos from the assembly and celebration mentioned above are included, as well as the Parent Survey participation numbers, and the upcoming *Beyond the Book Club* study title.

The Editor

SEVEN SCHOOLS • THREE CAMPUSES • ONE VISION

established in 1997

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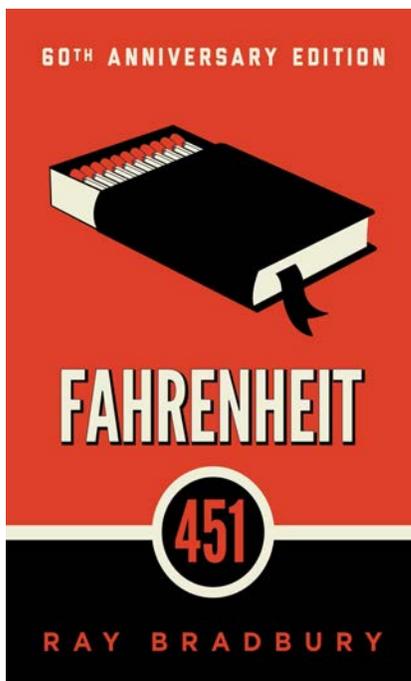


# Book Studies

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury is the last book in the *Engaging Minds: Beyond the Book Club* series for this school year. Two separate 90 minute study sessions will take place on **Tuesday and Wednesday, April 19th and 20th** in the North Elementary Library Pikes Peak Room. Attendees would only need to RSVP for one of the two dates. High School English teacher, Stephanie Catmull, will be leading the sessions. If you'd like to be added to the RSVP list for this study let me know via e-mail at [wjolly@asd20.org](mailto:wjolly@asd20.org). And finally, the May issue of the PALAMRIUM will include the four new book selections for the 2022-2023 school year.

## Photos from Erickson Titans Sports Complex Dedication

contributed by Sonya Wittleder



As a 6th grade teacher at TCA East elementary, I have discovered that my classroom is a gold-mine of hilarious phrases that could hold their own against any comedy writer of today. Aside from their comedic value, however, I have also developed a deep appreciation for the **fundamental lessons on character development** that are hidden just beneath the surface of those very same sayings. A few of those phrases and lessons are most certainly worth sharing.

**“That’s not fair!”**

~ Anonymous student

Every Tuesday I make my rounds to the different corners of the playground during my recess duty. It is my favorite time of the week because I can inconspicuously “check-in” on what my students are saying and doing when no one is watching. Without question there is one phrase I hear spoken far more frequently than any other: “That’s not fair”. In fairness to my students, recess is the only time of day for them to play any sort of game, and I might hear a slightly different word or phrase if I were to observe them at another point in the day. All the same, that phrase is uttered far too often to be a mere coincidence. Even from this early age, every one of my students is aware of some sort of universal standard for right and wrong that must be followed and must be answered to if it is ever broken. To them it matters very little where you are from or how long you have known each other. There is a right and there is a wrong, and “It’s not fair” if you ever behave wrongly. For adults, this view of right and wrong becomes a little



more refined, but it is undoubtedly still there. C.S Lewis puts it another way. “Both parties [*in any sort of conflict*] have in mind some kind of law or rule of fair play or decent behavior or morality or whatever you like to call it, about which they really agree. And they have. If they had not, they might, of course, fight like animals, but they could not quarrel in the human sense of the word. Quarrelling means trying to show that the other man is in the wrong.” The agreement from the two parties in his quote is this: **there is right behavior** that everyone innately knows, and there is wrong behavior that everyone innately knows - a universal right and wrong.

## Character Development lessons from the Classroom

This understanding of right and wrong is crucial to our definition of good character at TCA. Character, the way we mean it, is a person’s predisposition toward making right decisions, or making wrong ones. The more frequently and without thinking that a person makes right decisions, the better character I think we would believe that person to have. Without a standard by which to live, however, we could never rightly say that someone has good character or bad character. It would just be character, in and of itself. I shudder to think of the consequences of a classroom that has not made this distinction. It would be a place where every student is right in their own behavior, all the time and no matter what they do. There must be a universal standard for good character if we are ever going to teach it, talk about it, or pursue it ourselves.

**“Dude. Don’t eat more fruit snacks than you can actually chew!”**

~ Anonymous student

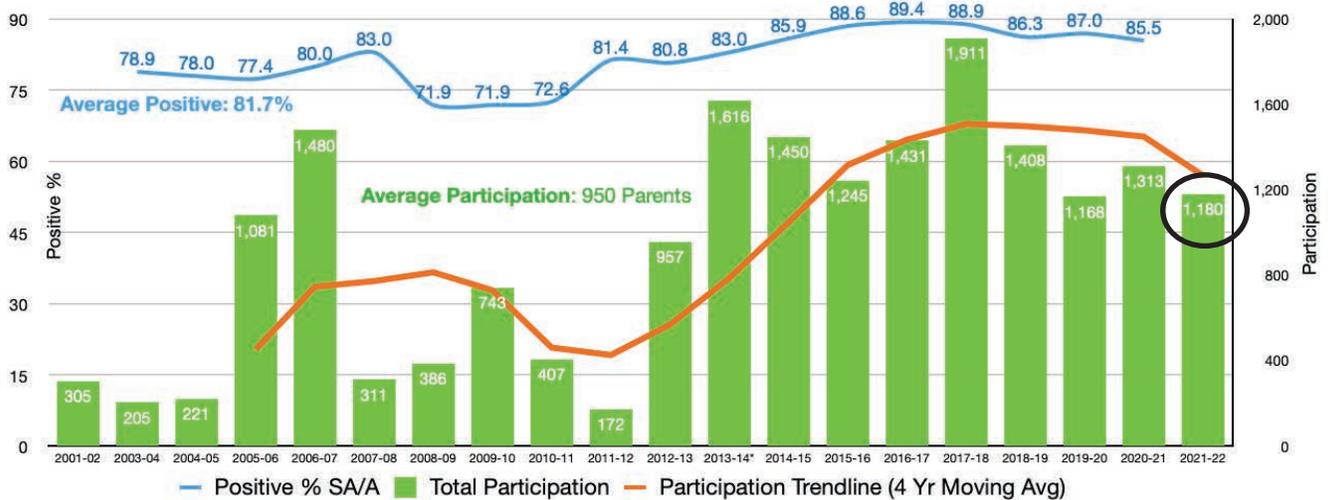
Character building is bitter and mentally exhausting work, forcing the builder to come face-to-face with all their prejudices, pride, and weaknesses, and actively push them away. It is not for the faint of heart and not for the apathetic. It is asking yourself every moment of every day in every decision if your thoughts and actions align with an uncompromising standard of of rightness that will not change on the whim of one person alone. It **demands humility, forces you to admit your mistakes**, and requires actual change in your thoughts and actions when you’d really rather not. It takes years of practice to truly see any significant signs of progress in yourself, and even longer for someone else to see them in you.

When pursuing good character, it is best to take things one step at a time. No one has ever said, “I am going to be the world’s fastest runner,” and then immediately ran a record-breaking race. **It takes time, lots of mistakes, and no small amount of personal reflection.** In my own life, I have found it easiest to focus on one character trait at a time. (*TCA has a great many resources on the different character traits if you are interested*). This way, there is a tangible word or phrase that I can write down and carry with me wherever I go, for however long I wish to focus on it.

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**Parent Survey - 1,180 Participants  
THANK YOU to Our Community**



PARENT SURVEY: Participation Numbers and Positive Ratings (Strongly Agree / Agree) Percentages on TCA-Wide Questions (includes homework and uniform in years asked)

[continued from page 3] After a few weeks of reflection, I can switch it out and begin anew with another word or phrase. It is amazing to me how each character trait bleeds into the others, and how concentrating on one aspect of good character often leads to an improvement in all of them. There are three, above all others, I have found to be the “golden traits” by which I work to live my own life: **Hard Work, Honesty, and Integrity**. I recommend starting with these if you are struggling to find your own.

Character development is a difficult work because it isn't enough to choose rightly just one time. It is a constant battle to **discern right from wrong, made more difficult by a modern culture that suggests there is no such thing**. In this way, it is like a gemstone made beautiful by its constant polishing - a practice intensively time consuming for the polisher. It would seem, by this description, that it isn't worth the trouble. All this effort for the sake of making right decisions. WHY?

**“He gave us time to study, but he can't make us study. Right?”**  
~ Anonymous student

There may be a universal right and a universal wrong, but there is nothing of the sort that will give all people the same desire to pursue good character all the time. My suggestion? Find any excuse at all to start the process of character development and watch it grow almost unconsciously into a priority. In this respect good character is a lot like running or any other sport - the better I get, the better I desire to be. Once started, it is a **pursuit that gives purpose unto itself** (or more simply put, the desire to grow in good character is caused by an already-developing good character). The struggle is in the starting. What motivation could ever be strong enough to make a person put themselves through so much hardship? It would need to be something with incredibly high personal value. I think parents specifically are able to find this excuse easily enough: “I desire to develop good character for the sake of being a good example to my children.” Young adults and college students, too, will not find the starting too difficult: “I desire to develop good character for the sake of my reputation, or my significant other, or my job.” Therefore, this challenge is first and foremost for my students and athletes. Find an excuse - any excuse- to start the process of your own character development. Because **character development is a lifelong process**, the earlier you start the longer you'll have to see actual success. Do it for a sports team, or a role model, or even that Nintendo your mom promised you for Christmas. If you can't find an excuse, make one up (your math teacher knows how good you are at this). I have seen the results. Once begun, I personally guarantee that **you will find character development to be one of the worthiest, most rewarding, and most noble pursuits of anything else in your life**.



# Make-A-Wish Colorado: TCA Fundraiser Click Here for TCA Fundraiser Pages

Make-A-Wish.  
**KiDS**  
FOR WISH KIDS®  
COLORADO



I wish to...go to Disney  
World  
Mackenzie, 3  
leukemia

## The Classical Academy, meet Mackenzie from Colorado Springs!

Mackenzie's favorite things are:  
The color red, chicken nuggets,  
Raising Cane's, painting, water  
color, The Jurassic Park series on  
Netflix, PJ Masks, Merida, Elsa and  
Anna, Toy Story, all animals, and  
jumping on trampoline.



# Make-A-Wish Colorado: TCA Fundraiser Currently Over \$66,500 Raised

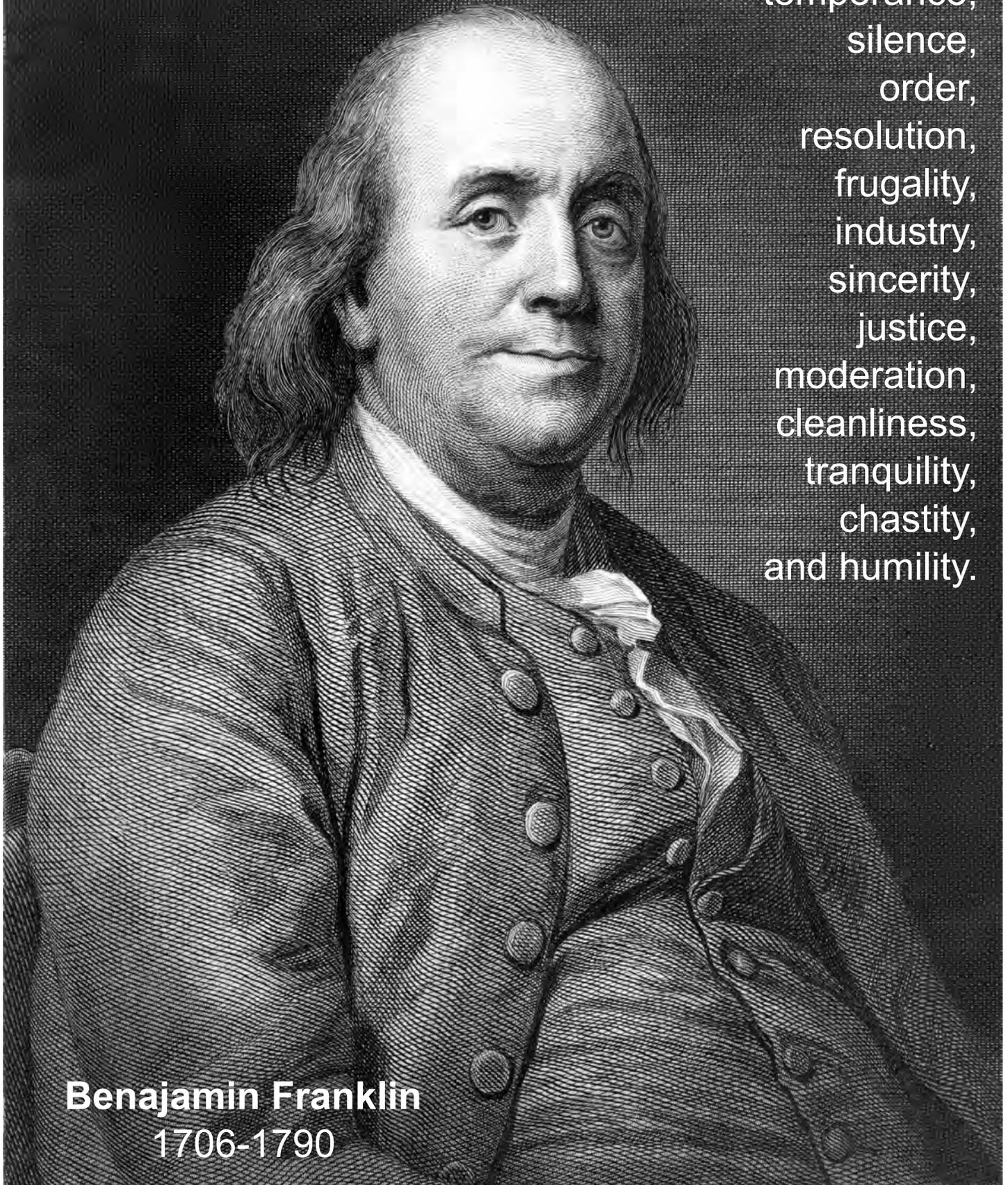


## High School Make-a-Wish Assembly



**College Pathways, Cottage School Program, Junior High, and East Elementary fundraising efforts are still ongoing through May. Please consider donating to this worthwhile cause. The all-time TCA combined school fundraiser record is well within reach due to your generosity. Thank you!**

Thirteen virtues  
necessary for true success:  
temperance,  
silence,  
order,  
resolution,  
frugality,  
industry,  
sincerity,  
justice,  
moderation,  
cleanliness,  
tranquility,  
chastity,  
and humility.



**Benjamin Franklin**  
1706-1790