

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 Kindness

..... Assorted Quotes



William Penn
(1644 – 1718)

Image from website (public domain):
[#mediaviewer/File:William_Penn.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Penn)

I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again. *William Penn (1644-1718)*

We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed. As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop which makes it run over; so in a series of kindnesses there is a last one which makes the heart run over. *James Boswell (1740-1795)*

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. *most likely Christian Nestelle Bovee (1820-1904)*

The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention. *Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)*

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. *Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)*

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. *Aesop (620-564 B.C.)*

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



KINDNESS by Rebecca Sanford (TCA Central Elementary Character Lead)

Kindness: "Doing favors and good deeds for others; helping them; taking care of them." This character strength falls under Humanity, which is defined as: interpersonal strengths that involve tending and befriending others. This is a character trait that when put into action makes a profound impact on one person or the world. We have all had a small, but profound act of kindness done for us, and we realize it doesn't take much to feel the impact that kindness can have on us. We also realize that it doesn't take much to commit an act of kindness especially when it is a small act.

I teach 5th graders, and we read a line out of *My Side of the Mountain*, by Jean Craighead George. "I don't know why, but this seemed like one of the nicest things I had learned in the woods - that earthworms, lowly, confined to the darkness of the earth, could make just a little stir in the world." This quote made me pause and think about the "stirs" in the world that we make; purposefully or accidentally. As a class we discussed different stirs that we can make. Several students came to the conclusion that it is even the small, simple 'stirs' or kind acts that can make a big impact on individuals or society.

Our classes have been practicing ways that they can, "make a stir in the world", and we decided that we would participate in the Rwandan Uniform Project during the Christmas season as our "Act of Kindness". Instead of giving gifts to each other, the students make a donation that will go to Youth Might Ministry in Rwanda to buy fabric, which is then sewn by a young adult who formerly lived on the streets. These young adults are paid for each piece they make which gives them a job, dignity and a purpose. The uniforms are given to impoverished children in the local villages by the young adult seamstresses, who were not able to attend school when they were young. It's a beautiful, kind act to see these uneducated young adults distribute the uniforms so that these children will receive the gift of education!

The ripple effect of kindness is felt around the world because our students are participating in Acts of Kindness. As each student brings in their donation, great change is made in the villages of Rwanda. Our students are making a kind "stir in the world." kindness and generosity can 'stir' the world for

What a delight it is to see our students realize their good. Simple acts of kindness truly change our world.

PLEASE SEE ASSOCIATED PHOTOS NEXT PAGE



CHARACTER STRENGTHS

chapter on "KINDNESS" in *Character* "Kindness, generosity, nurturance, care, closely related terms indicating a common orientation of the self toward the other. This orientation can be contrasted with solipsism, in which the self relates to others only insofar as they contribute to his or her agenda and are therefore considered useful. Kindness and altruistic love require the assertion of a common humanity in which others are worthy of attention and affirmation for no utilitarian reasons but for their own sake. . . . Individuals with this strength would strongly endorse statements such as the following: others are just as important as me; all human beings are of equal worth; having a warm and generous affect seems to bring reassurance and joy to others; giving is more important than receiving; doing good for others with love and kindness is the best way to live; I care for the ungrateful as well as the grateful; I am not the center of the universe but a part of a common humanity; people who are suffering need compassion; people in need require care; it is important to help everyone, not just family and friends" (see page 326 in the Peterson and Seligman book cited below).

CLASSIFICATIONS and DEFINITIONS:

In their *Strengths and Virtues*, Peterson and Seligman write: compassion, and altruistic love are a network of

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

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



LOVE: Both loving and being loved; valuing close relations with others
KINDNESS: Generosity; nurturance; care; compassion; altruism; compassion; altruism; "niceness"
SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE: Emotional intelligence; aware of the motives/feelings of self/others, knowing what makes other people tick

TCA Elementary Students' Efforts "Make a Stir in the World"



students in Rwanda are able to attend school due to uniform donations

2014 School Performance Awards

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) recently announced the **John Irwin Schools of Excellence Awards** for those Colorado schools demonstrating excellent academic achievement over the past three years. Academy District 20 received 11 of the 160 John Irwin Schools of Excellence awards given in the state. The Classical Academy attained 4 of the 11 honors given to the district, one for each of our schools; *TCA High School*, *TCA College Pathways*, *TCA Junior High*, and *TCA Elementary*. Charter schools in the state received 14% of the John Irwin awards (22 of 160). TCA's High School was also awarded the **Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award** for exceeding state expectations for student growth over three years. Only 128 schools in the state received this honor with 9% of those recipients being charter schools.



Gina Hays - ELL Teacher All Campuses

English Language Proficiency Award

The **English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA) Excellence Award** program is designed to award grants to local education providers and charter schools with evidenced based English Language Proficiency Programs that achieve the highest English Language and academic growth among English learners and the highest achievement for English learners who transition out of the English Language program. Three years of growth and achievement results were used to identify the high performing charter schools. Due to the fantastic work of Ms. Gina Hays, TCA was awarded the ELPA Award this year. The award was accompanied with a grant of over \$4,600. Please congratulate Gina on her excellent work.

Composer Award Goes to TCA Student Recovering from a Severe Head Injury

by Charise Simpson of Woodmen Edition



Jacob Smith, a sophomore at The Classical Academy, lost his entire freshman year due to a concussion. He turned to his keyboard to help him cope with the pain, dizziness and insomnia

Jacob Smith, sophomore at The Classical Academy, won first place in the 2014 University of Colorado High School Composer Competition this month. His composition was an original symphony he wrote while suffering through the healing process of a head injury.

Smith has participated in sports since he was a little kid, and estimates he's suffered about five concussions from injuries while playing football, basketball and baseball. But, it was a fall from a water slide at Elitch's last year, followed by another blow to the head in basketball that proved to be the last straw.

Since that time, Smith has been suffering from debilitating headaches that sometimes develop into migraines, requiring trips to the hospital. Other symptoms include fatigue, dizziness and extreme insomnia. "Sometimes I go three days without sleeping," he said.

The symptoms were so severe, Smith ended up missing his whole freshman year of high school. He was able to participate in band, however, and receive credit for the class, likely because music proved to be a way for Smith to distract himself from the constant pain and dizziness.

On those nights when sleep avoided him, Smith turned to his keyboard to pass the time. He said, "When I don't sleep there's not really much I can do. I can't think right, and watching television makes my head hurt worse, so I just played a lot of piano up in my room."

Fortunately, for Smith, music has always been easy for him. "I don't really have to think about it," he said. "I had played the piano since I was in kindergarten and I was always really good at memorizing music and playing by ear."

Smith's band teacher suggested he enter the composer competition because he had done some musical arrangements for the band previously. To Smith's surprise, it turned out to be a great success in the middle of all the difficulty.

The aspiring movie score composer hadn't written any music before the contest other than the arranging, but to his delight, writing also came easily. He said, "The music is just naturally there, and there's no problem to writing more. If I'm playing, there's always something else to play that will fit in after that."

Smith's mother Anna is grateful for the release music provides her son. She said, "Music has been his saving grace through this whole ordeal. Jacob has always been an athlete, but suddenly that's gone. He really can't play sports again, ever, and risk hitting his head again."

"Music has been the other half of him," she continued, "so for all those months when he couldn't so much as read, he really poured his heart into music. When his head hurts badly or he's not feeling good, this is something that takes him away. It's something he can do and do really well. Having that outlet has truly saved him from getting depressed."


The road to recovery has been very frustrating and very scary, according to Anna. "We've dealt with doctors throwing all sorts of heavy duty prescription meds at him that have side effects if they work and withdrawal issues he has to deal with if they don't work. We even had one neurologist observe how he would fall over when he closed his eyes, then strongly suggest that Jacob was faking."

The multiple medical visits will likely continue for the near future while Smith continues to recover. But, in the meantime, he can take pride in the \$500 he won in the contest, and look forward to visiting the Boulder campus for the two composition lessons he was awarded - a pretty good start for any composing career.


To hear Jacob play the piano version of his symphony on You Tube, look up Loreto by Jake Smith (Squatch.)

Used with permission from the November 21, 2014 edition of the Woodmen Edition. The full paper can be found at the following website: <http://www.waltpub.com/papers/we/wood%2011-21-14.pdf> Special thanks to Charise Simpson, Pattye Votiz, and Andrew Walter for permission to reprint this article.





Strengthening  OUR Core

DONATE NOW



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Strengthening Our Core Campaign 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. Specifically, we'll be able to stabilize our operational budget and expand the Central Campus, build a new North Elementary gym, and make many additional improvements to our North and East Campuses.




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Initiative UPDATES


Initiative Launch December 5th!

Go to www.tcacore.org to find out more on the Strengthening OUR Core campaign



Henry James
(1843-1916)

photographer unknown

Image from website (public domain):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_James#mediaviewer/File:HenryJamesPhotograph.png

Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.



Upcoming DAS Meetings and Due Dates:

ALT Meetings (11:00 am-12:30 pm):

- Wed, Jan 14: ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
- Wed, Jan 28: ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
- Wed, Feb 11: ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
- Wed, Feb 25: ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
- Wed, Mar 11: ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
- Wed, Apr 1: ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
- Wed, Apr 15: ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
- Wed, May 6: ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
- Wed, May 27: ALT Meeting – Colorado Room

Due Dates and Upcoming Events:

Fri, Dec 19 – Mon, Jan 5	Winter Break for Students
Thu, Dec 25	Christmas Day
Thu, Jan 1	New Year's Day
Tue, Jan 6	DAS/Central Principal Meeting (9:00-10:00 am)
Tue, Jan 6	Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
Thu, Jan 8	DAS/Compliance Mtg (8:00-8:30 am)
Thu, Jan 8	DAS/East Principal Meetings (9:00-11:00 am)
Mon, Jan 12	Attrition & Classroom Projections Meeting
Mon, Jan 12	TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
Tue, Jan 13	DAS/North Principal/SSS Mtgs (8:00-11:00 am)
Mon, Jan 19	Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday – No School
Tue, Jan 20	Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
Wed, Jan 21	Poetry Out Loud – High School (East Campus)
Thu, Jan 22	DAS/Compliance Mtg (8:00-8:30 am)
Thu, Jan 22	New Parent Info Night (CP/CSP) – East Gym
Fri, Jan 23	Sock Hop – All Schools (East Gym)



Compliance and Accreditation Corner

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

SAC BUSINESS TO COMPLETE:

- quarterly meetings
- update SAC by-laws
- e-mail SAC minutes to Cheri throughout the year

ITEMS DUE IN FUTURE:

- **External Review Report Response** - DAS coordinated due *mid-January*.



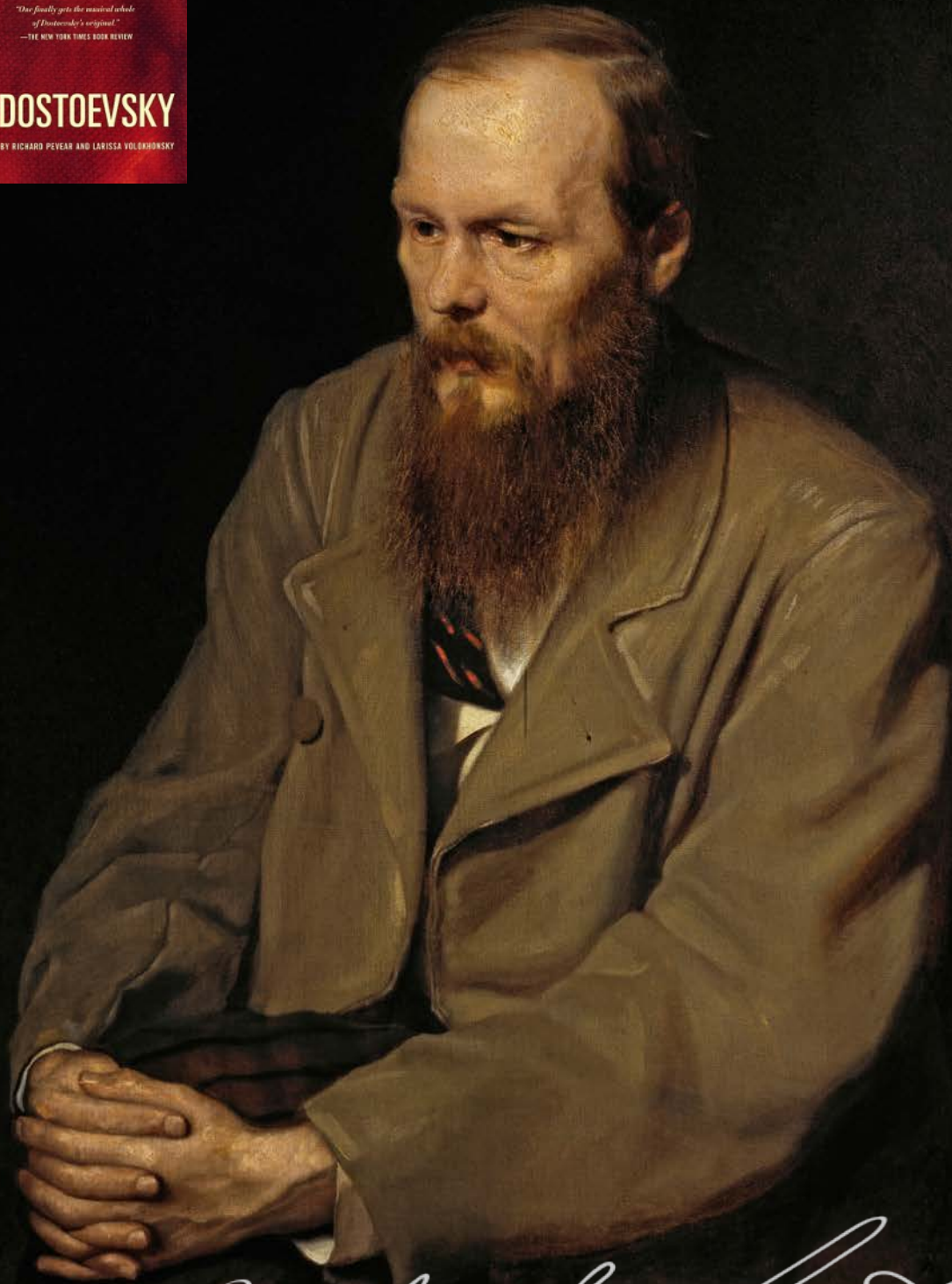
**THE BROTHERS
KARAMAZOV**

*"One finally gets the maximal whole
of Dostoevsky's original."*
—THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN BY RICHARD PEVEAR AND LARISSA VOLKHONSKY

*"Ah, children, ah dear friends,
don't be afraid of life! How good
life is when one does something
good and just!"*



Федор Михайлович Достоевский