

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 Curiosity

..... Assorted Quotes



Voltaire

François-Marie Arouet (Voltaire)

(1694–1778)

Image from website (public domain): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voltaire#mediaviewer/File:Nicolas_de_Largilliere,_Francois-

Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers. *Voltaire (1694-1718)*

Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning. *William Arthur Ward (1921-1994)*

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. *William Arthur Ward*

Curiosity is, in great and generous minds, the first passion and the last. *Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)*

It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education. *Albert Einstein (1879-1955)*

Satisfaction of one's curiosity is one of the greatest sources of happiness in life. *Linus Pauling (1901-1994)*

Free curiosity has greater power to stimulate learning than rigorous coercion. *Augustine of Hippo, known as St. Augustine (354-430)*

The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards. *Anatole France (1844-1924)*

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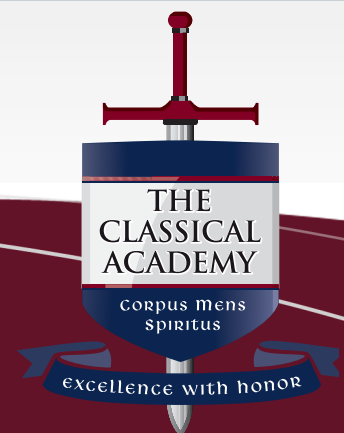
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- Whole Person Focused
- Relationship Based
- Classically Oriented
- Idea Centered

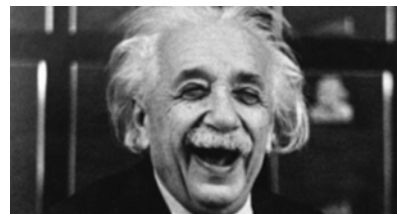


CURIOSITY by Rebecca DeMeyer (TCA East Elementary Assistant Principal)

Socrates said, "Wisdom begins in wonder." This quote reminds me of a very special day with my two-year-old nephew at the aquarium. Throughout the day, he continually asked, "What's that? What's that?" as every curious toddler does. We traveled through the building, examining every type of sea life we passed. I couldn't help but smile as his eyes widened when we arrived at the shark tank. He delighted in the simple things at first, but then became interested in the fins, tail, and teeth. In his simple toddler speak he asked, "How shark swim? What shark eats? How many sharks? What called?" My nephew began to ask more and more questions. Not being a shark aficionado, I began to use the resources of the aquarium and the lovely invention of the smart phone. The questions changed to, "What does that say?" On and on he went, as he inquired and waited for a response. Oh, the wonder in his eyes was mesmerizing. We sat for an hour watching the animals swim back and forth. The spirit of wonder and curiosity is born into a child yet as we grow into adulthood it slowly begins to diminish. Having a spirit of curiosity makes us students. His curiosity spurred me to ask, "When was the last time I was this curious? Am I a person that delights in curiosity? Do I encourage my grown children to be curious?"



When we are curious, we learn. When we passionately engage our curiosity, we learn and continue to become more curious. Albert Einstein was a fervently inquisitive child. He indulged in building block and card towers as high as he could and learned to play the violin at an early age. Albert took apart his father's pocket compass at five years old. He was amazed by the fact the no matter where the compass was pointed, the needle always oriented to the north. Einstein said, "I can still remember - or at least believe I remember - that this experience made a deep and lasting impression upon me. Something deeply hidden had to be behind things." This curiosity led Einstein to a fascination with math and physics. He eventually received the Noble Peace Prize in Physics. Many consider Einstein a genius, yet he would say, "I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious." When we feed our curiosity, real learning and growing can take place. Our society is becoming so busy that we do not allow for curiosity in our lives, even as adults. Are you passionately curious? Are you modeling curiosity for your child? Sharpen your mind by finding something to be curious about. The world is your oyster, so keep exploring as it will lead to wisdom and a more enriching life.



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CHARACTER STRENGTHS

chapter on "CURIOSITY" in *Character* write: "Curiosity, interest, novelty-one's intrinsic desire for experience and knowledge. Curiosity involves the active recognition, pursuit, and regulation of one's experience in response to challenging opportunities. . . . [C]uriosity is ubiquitous, manifest in the mundane activities that make our daily lives more fulfilling: being absorbed in the plot of a movie, completing a crossword puzzle without awareness of time passing, opening and reading with eagerness a handwritten letter, watching the flight of a seagull, conversing with an intriguing stranger, . . . listening carefully to a new song on the radio. All individuals experience curiosity, but they differ in its depth and breadth, and in their threshold and willingness to experience it. . . . Greater curiosity-related behaviors and cognitions are consistently associated with greater learning, engagement, and performance in academic settings and work organizations." (see page 125-126 and 135 in the Peterson and Seligman book cited below).

CLASSIFICATIONS and DEFINITIONS:

In their *Strengths and Virtues*, Peterson and Seligman seeking, and openness to experience represent

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



CREATIVITY: Originality; adaptive; ingenuity
CURIOSITY: Interest; novelty-seeking; exploration; openness to experience
JUDGMENT: Critical thinking; thinking things through; open-minded
LOVE OF LEARNING: Mastering new skills & topics; systematically adding to knowledge
PERSPECTIVE: Wisdom; providing wise counsel; taking the big picture view

Barbara Saks - College Pathways Guest Speaker by Bruce Casson

The past two years I, along with Rollie Stoneman, have had the honor of inviting Barbara Saks into my classroom here at College Pathways. My fascination with Mrs. Saks is that she's a study in the value and joy of "living history", in bringing history to life by introducing my 10th grade students to someone who served in critical years during the darkest, most amazing years of WWII. (We're currently studying the German Reformation, nowhere close chronologically . . . but Mrs. Saks reminds us that real flesh-and-blood people occupy the "narrative of the past", whatever age). In Barbara Saks' case, that narrative was during the most intense, fascinating years of WWII, the subject of Hollywood's recent portrayal of top-secret British Intelligence operations at Bletchley Park in the movie *The Imitation Game* (an extra credit assignment for my kids before Mrs. Sak's visit). Mrs. Saks is also just a delightfully witty, pistol of a woman with a memory for details like a steel trap!



Mrs. Saks celebrated her 97th birthday on September 15, but began her story in September, 1940, her 23rd birthday and the outbreak of the historic, monumental Battle of Britain. During the battle, Mrs. Saks served as a British fighter plane plotter, responding to an SOS by scrambling pilots during the ensuing air battle between Nazi Germany and the Royal Air Force. From this moment on, she began serving a crucial role in the Intelligence and Communication security during WWII (a "small cog in a giant operation", she said).

From 1940-1943, Barbara Saks worked in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF), plotting British fighter aircraft on a map table in the Ops room. When Adolf Hitler and Hermann Goering's Luftwaffe hatched the plan to invade Britain (named Operation Sea Lion), Mrs. Saks' work in the WAAF was part of an instrumental effort to squelch the invasion. In the end, the Battle of Britain was Germany's first major defeat and a turning point in the war. "If Germany had invaded Britain, there wouldn't have been a D-Day. No D-Day, and WWII would have gone very differently."

During her time as an aircraft plotter, Mrs. Saks pushed at the door to key military Intelligence jobs rarely available to women at the time. She passed the officer selection board, and in 1943 was at officer candidate school when Air Ministry officials announced they were seeking six officers for "a special hush-hush job they couldn't reveal details about." The call was for Intelligence workers selected to work at Bletchley Park and devise methods to decipher enemy military codes that would provide vital intelligence ahead of German invasion. Saks was one of six people chosen to transfer to Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire, England (the site and subject of *The Imitation Game*) and had to sign a sworn oath to never reveal details about the Intelligence work she was doing. "The whole place was top secret," she told my class.



Barbara Saks served at Bletchley Park in a brick block building, Hut 3, helping decrypt codes sent by the famed Nazi "Enigma" machine during the war. British Intelligence had cracked Enigma much earlier; by 1940, Saks said, the Brits were decoding nearly every German message sent about Nazi plans of attack, and air and troop movement. Sak's role as a code-breaker in Hut 3 during these crucial years allowed Britain access to German secrets and radio transmissions.

Between 10-12,000 people worked at the massive Intelligence operation at Bletchley Park (something perhaps unclear in *The Imitation Game*), and no one broke their oath of sworn silence until 1974, Saks told my students, when a book came out about the operation. The secrecy and intrigue of staying "covert" for so long was a lingering fascination with my students.

At the end of WWII operation in Europe, Mrs. Sak's WAAF group disbanded and she left Bletchley Park to take an assignment helping compensate WWII survivors. After living in California for many years, she now resides in Colorado Springs, and in 2011 was presented with the Defense Medal and War Medal by the Royal Air Force. Prince Harry himself paid a royal visit to this charming decorated WWII heroine in the spring of 2013 (a rare moment when she seemed caught off guard)!

I can't think of a more fascinating visit to inspire, amaze, and spark a love for history in my students than Barbara Sak's visits into my classroom. Her memory for the colors and textures of soldiers' uniforms, the personalities and details about war leaders (e.g. Goering was a "fat, obnoxious man", another had a "long milky-white mustache") added a richness to her descriptions of wartime operations during the Battle of Britain and later at Bletchley Park. I'm honored and humbled by her willingness to share her wonderful, timeless story with my lucky sophomores, and I'm deeply proud of their own inquisitiveness and wonder at all she shared.



2014 ColoradoSchoolGrades.com Report

“Colorado School Grades is presented by a coalition of 18 non-profit community organizations that believe all children deserve access to a high-performing school. Our mission is to provide community members, parents, students, and educators with accessible and easy-to-understand school performance information. To do this, we use data from the Colorado Department of Education to create an A-F grade for every public school in the state. . . . Colorado School Grades replaces fuzzy categories such as “performance” and “priority improvement” with universally understood A-F letter grades. Our theory is that community members, parents, students, and educators can much more easily understand grades, which convey a ranking scale in a way that the state’s categories do not [taken from the organization’s website].” TCA’s ColoradoSchoolGrades.com scores have remained pretty consistent over the years and are indicative of our K-12 approach to education.

TCA’s schools ranked as follows for the 2013-14 school year:

High School:

TCA Traditional HS	9 of 345	A
TCA College Pathways	1 of 345	A+

Junior High:

TCA Traditional JH	84 of 505	B
TCA College Pathways JH	101 of 505	B

Elementary:

TCA Elementary	252 of 1101	B
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TCA is truly honored to have both of our high school programs named in the top 10 schools in the state of Colorado by Colorado School Grades. We feel the rankings are a great reflection of the academic commitment of our students and staff. In four of the past five years (2010-2014) one of TCA’s high school programs has been named either #1 or #2 in the state by Colorado School Grades out of the 345 ranked high schools.



Blake Galvin – Head Soccer Coach
and Director of Secondary Educational Philosophy

NSCAA Coach of the Year Award

In early November 2014 TCA’s head soccer coach was selected by his peers in Colorado as the NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America) High School Boys Small School Coach of the Year for Colorado. After review by a selection committee at the NSCAA, coach Galvin was selected as the Far West Region High School Boys Small School Coach of the Year for 2014. This award put coach Galvin in an elite group as one of eight finalists in the country for the National Coach of the Year award. Coach Galvin attended the NSCAA National Convention in Philadelphia from January 14th–17th to receive this award. The NSCAA is the largest soccer coaches organization in the world with over 35,000 members. The convention in Philadelphia had over 10,000 in attendance. Even though coach Galvin did not receive the National Coach of the Year award, to be one of eight finalists in such a large, prestigious, organization is quite an accomplishment.

Strengthening  OUR Core

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.


Initiative UPDATES

Initiative Launch December 5th!

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click logo to visit website



On December 13, 2014 National Wreaths Across America Day, a total of 700,000 remembrance wreaths were placed in honor of veterans at 1,015 locations nationally and abroad (including Arlington) through the Wreaths Across America program. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Arlington National Cemetery, the 23rd year wreaths have placed there in December and the first year all veterans' graves were honored. TCA Contributed 242 of the 230,000 wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery.



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



Eleanor Roosevelt
(1884-1962)

I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity.



Upcoming DAS Meetings and Due Dates:

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

- Wed, Feb 4: 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:

- Mon, Jan 26 HS Poetry Out Loud (East Gym, 7:00-9:00 pm)
- Wed, Jan 28 HS Course Information Night (6:30-8:00 pm)
- Thu-Sat, Jan 29-31 HS Improv Show (7:00-9:00 pm)
- Fri, Jan 30 Secondary Fine Arts Assembly – North Gym
- Mon, Feb 2 D20 Lead Team Mid-Year Retreat
- Tue, Feb 3 DAS/Central Principal Mtg (9:00-10:00 am)
- Tue, Feb 3 Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
- Thu, Feb 5 Compliance/Accreditation Mtg (11:00-11:30 am)
- Mon, Feb 9 CP Poetry Out Loud (East Gym, 6:30-8:30 pm)
- Tue, Feb 10 DAS North Principals/SSS Mtg (8:00-11:00 am)
- Thu, Feb 12 DAS Central Principals Mtg (9:00-11:00 am)
- Fri, Feb 13 JH Science Fair (North Gym)

Mon, Feb 16 President's Day – Holiday – No School

- Tue-Thu, Feb 17-19 CSP Teacher-Teacher Conferences
- Tue, Feb 17 Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00 am)
- Thu, Feb 19 TCA Staff visits Ridgeview Classical
- Mon, Feb 23 CCCI Meeting (8:30-9:30 am)
- Thu/Fri Feb 26-27 President & DAS to CLCS Conference
- Thu-Sat, Feb 26-28 HS One Acts (North Theater Room)

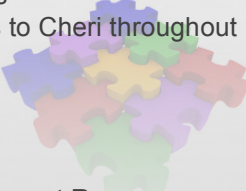


Compliance and Accreditation Corner

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** - submitted by DAS on January 23.
- **Absolutes Notebook Certification** - due in May 2015 (submitted by Cheri)
- **Update Site Plans** – principals submit to Cheri in May 2015
- **Student Contac Time Report** – due in May 2015, submitted by Cheri to D20

SCHOOL CALENDARS: the approved 2015-16 School calendars are now posted on the TCA website. The draft 2016-17 calendars are also included. Use links provided below to preview:

http://www.tcatitans.org/pages/The_Classical_Academy_Charter/Parents/2015-16_School_Calendars

http://www.tcatitans.org/pages/The_Classical_Academy_Charter/Parents/2016-17_Calendars

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEYS: Soon an e-mail with survey links should be arriving in your inbox from school principals asking you to complete the school-specific annual parent surveys. Let's top last year's outstanding participation numbers. The survey window is February 2-27.



The important thing is not to stop questioning; curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when contemplating the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of the mystery every day. The important thing is not to stop questioning; never lose a holy curiosity.

ALBERT EINSTEIN
Life Magazine, May 2, 1955



Albert Einstein