

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.

PALMARIUM

New Format: Palmarium

Last month, for the first issue of 2017-2018 school year the PALMARIUM featured a lengthy retrospective on the first four years of the newsletter. Now, with the second volume of the year, we introduce to our readers the completely redesigned new format. Again this year, as we have for the past few years, we are going to focus on a different character trait for the month and also touch on highlights from around TCA. Thanks as always for reading, and if you have comments please send them to me, Wes Jolly, in my role as editor, at wjolly@asd20.org.



Christina Schwartz-Soper, Dr. Russ Sojourner, and Christian Soper pose with the Titan of the Year sword.

Titan of the Year Award

Christina Schwartz-Soper was recognized in August as the 2016-2017 recipient of the Titan of the Year award. Christina has loyally and fervently served our community as band director for 14 years. With staff, she is known for her passion for her craft. With students, she is kind, accepting, and supportive, serving as an important influence and role model for the young people at TCA. She is an excellent example of what it looks like to love, respect and protect one another. When you see Ms. Schwartz-Soper please congratulate her on this great honor.

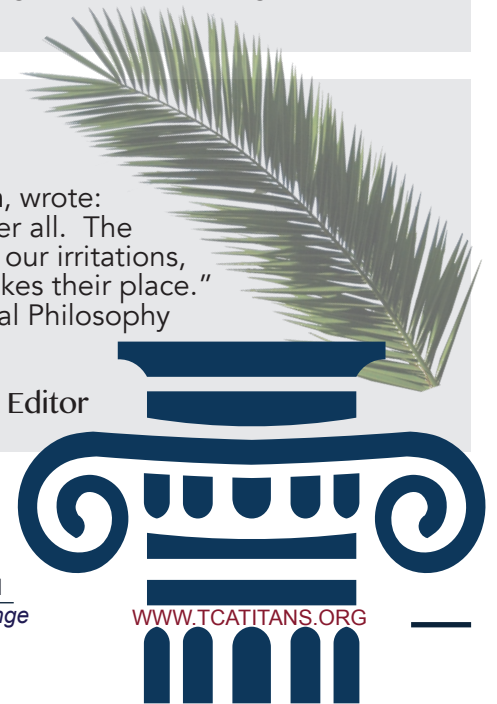
Twenty Years



HUMOR

Samuel Clemens, better known as **Mark Twain**, wrote: "Humor is the great thing, the saving thing after all. The minute it crops up, all our hardnesses yield, all our irritations, and resentments flit away, and a sunny spirit takes their place." This month our Dean of Elementary Educational Philosophy shares some thoughts with us about this very important character trait.

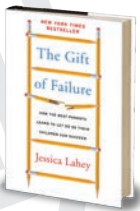
The Editor





Jessica Lahey Visits TCA

In mid-September Jessica Lahey, author of *The Gift of Failure*, visited TCA and spoke to secondary students, staff, and parents. Over 650 parents representing all of our schools and various grade levels attended the evening presentation. If you missed the event we are arranging for a video of the evening to be made available to our TCA parents. Due to contract requirements we must limit access to just those within our school community. Over 125 copies of her book were purchased that evening by parents. We hope to make some extra copies available in each our libraries soon for those that would like to read her work. A couple comments from the intro to her bestselling book are a fitting reminder of her message: *We have taught our kids to fear failure, and in doing so, we have blocked the surest and clearest path to their success The setbacks, mistakes, miscalculations, and failures we have shoved out of our children's way are the very experiences that teach them how to be resourceful, persistent, innovative, and resilient citizens of this world.*"



TCA Wellness Task Force Update

The TCA Wellness Task Force consisting of 19 team members - 13 TCA staff from multiple campuses, 3 high school students, and 3 TCA parents have met three times this year with a plan to meet eight more times before the school year ends. Many discussions continue to take place on how best to meet the needs of our students, staff, and parents. The *Signs of Suicide* training is well underway, and *Sources of Strength* training efforts are beginning soon. Guest speaker Mike Donahue, from *Value Up*, the recent Jessica Lahey presentations, and the three upcoming showings of *Screenagers* are all part of our efforts to assist parents, staff, and students. Please consider attending one of the parent showings of *Screenagers* listed in the poster to the right.

Join us for a special screening of

SCREENAGERS

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE
SCREENAGER SHOWINGS FOR PARENTS
 East Gym for Elementary: Oct 24 @ 7:00 pm
 East Gym for CP/CSP: Oct 25 @ 7:00 pm
 North Gym for Secondary: Nov 2 @ 7:00 pm
screenagersmovie.com

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:



Central Elementary's New Field Ribbon Cutting

On September 18 the new artificial turf field at Central was opened for play. The sixth graders that were part of this ceremony have anxiously awaited this day. We are so thankful to everyone that made this project become reality.



GOT HUMOR?

by Dorothy Simpson, Dean of Elementary Educational Philosophy

From there to here, and here to there, funny things are everywhere.

- Dr. Seuss

Despite a life marked by difficulty, Samuel Clemens' (Mark Twain's) journey is characterized by an uproarious sense of humor. His youngest daughter once remarked: "Father was always ready to make jokes at the breakfast table . . . I would say that my father was the only one at the table who found real joy in life so early in the morning, and of course he didn't find it; he created it".

A good sense of humor is so multi-faceted that researchers have found it difficult to define but we do seem to know it when we see it. Authors Peterson and Seligman in their book *Character Strengths and Virtues* speak of it as "the playful recognition, enjoyment and or creation of incongruity as well as a composed and cheerful view of adversity that allows one to see its light side and thereby sustain a good mood. It also includes "the ability to make others smile or laugh."

Few things bring people together like laughter. It is common knowledge supported by a surprising amount of research that humor is good for your health, your emotional well-being, and your relationships. All of our work to create great lessons and beautiful spaces for our students can be stagnant without "joy of the heart that comes from cheerful souls," says Charlotte Mason.

Those connections it builds within a community are powerful. We want our students engaged in relationship and eager to learn, and humor is powerful fuel to that end. According to authors Lawrence Robinson, Jeanne Segal, Ph.D., Melinda Smith, M.A. in their article "Managing Conflict with Humor" when you are laughing you are more open and less defensive and feel closer to the ones sharing the moment. It is an effective way to address sensitive issues and to diffuse tension so that the relationships can grow.

Like all 24 of our VIA character traits we can strengthen our sense of humor with intention and practice. Some focus point for growth are:



- Pay attention to people you or others think are funny
- Learn a few basic jokes
- Ask a trusted friend to let you practice on them
- Be careful not to offend people

For more information go to: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/relationships/fixing-relationship-problems-with-humor.htm>
All of the VIA strengths build our capacities for a good life in ourselves and in others by the gifts we give through them. We learn to laugh even before we can talk, so let us take things a little less seriously and find those opportunities to connect through something funny.

A Few Thoughts on Humor

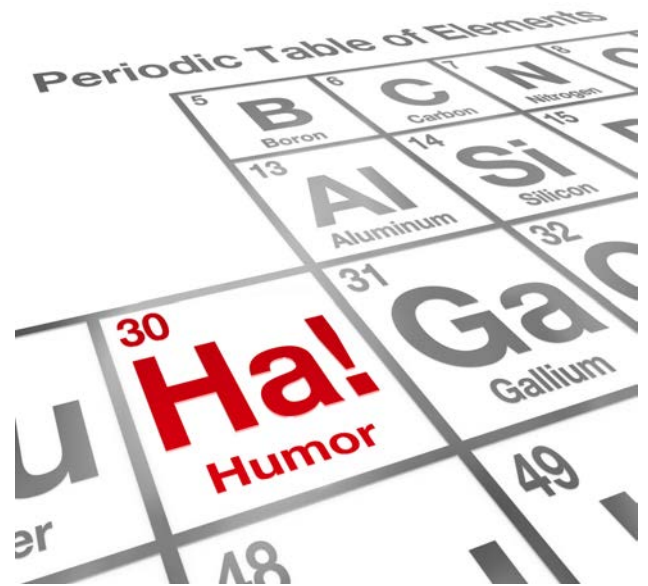
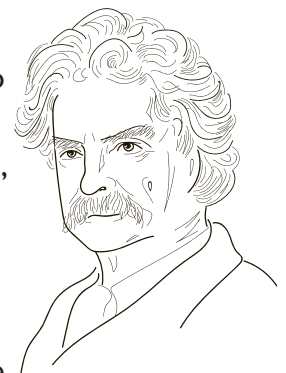
Imagination was given to man to compensate for what he is not; a sense of humor to console him for what he is. *Francis Bacon*

My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style. *Maya Angelou*

The most wasted of all days is one without laughter. *e. e. cummings*

Humor is mankind's greatest blessing. *Mark Twain*

Laughter without a tinge of philosophy is but a sneeze of humor. Genuine humor is replete with wisdom. *Mark Twain*



ENGAGING MINDS: BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB *THE SHALLOWS*

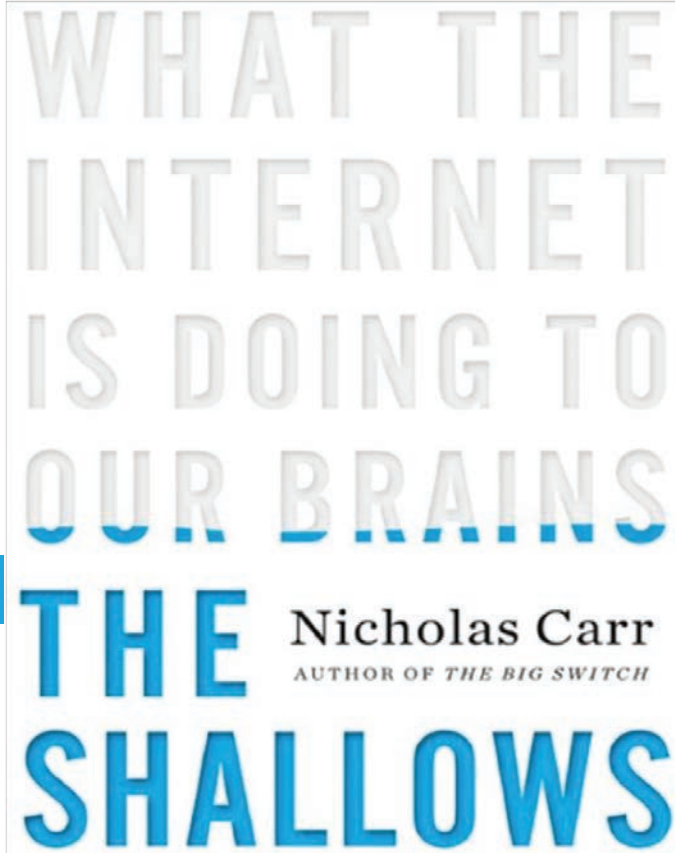
For November the **Beyond the Book Club** staff selection is Nicholas Carr's book *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*. "Widely heralded as the flashpoint for the ongoing debate over the power and peril of technology, *The Shallows* is Nicholas Carr's best-selling exploration of the Internet's intellectual and cultural consequences. Part intellectual history, part popular science, and part cultural criticism, *The Shallows* sparkles with memorable vignettes even as it plumbs profound questions about the state of our modern psyche" [taken from back cover of the book]. We plan to host afternoon book studies in the mid-November timeframe at the North Campus. Staff, look for invites via e-mail. For others that would like to join in please e-mail me at wjolly@asd20.org.

"Carr [is] a Paul Revere for our Net age."
- USA Today

"Persuasive. . . . [Carr] cites enough academic research in *The Shallows* to give anyone pause about society's full embrace of the Internet as an unadulterated force for progress."
- Peter Burrows, *BusinessWeek*



BOOK STUDY MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE **NOVEMBER 14-16**
MORE INFORMATION TO COME VIA PALMARIUM AND E-MAIL



If you hear a voice within you say,
'You cannot paint,' then by all means paint,
and that voice will be silenced.

Vincent Van Gogh

ANNUAL TCA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Dear TCA Staff, Parents, and Community,

The Classical Academy (TCA) is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, marital status, disability, or any other legally protected class. Respect for the dignity and worth of each individual shall be paramount. Accordingly, we have a "no tolerance" policy with respect to acts of discrimination or harassment.

Protecting against and not tolerating discrimination and harassment is consistent with TCA's Core Values and our Creed, which states that "Titans love, respect, and protect one another. Striving to be our best, do our best, and give our best to the world."

Recently policy AC-TCA: Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity has been updated and is now available by clicking [here](#). This policy outlines the procedures on how students, parents, staff, and the community may file complaints and how TCA will work to resolve all complaints.

The Classical Academy is committed to conducting prompt investigations. Any students or staff found to have engaged in any type of discrimination or harassment will be disciplined, and if circumstances warrant, suspension or expulsion of students may result. Consequences of discrimination for employees may include, but are not limited to, termination of employment. Let's work together to prevent all types of discrimination and harassment.

Any student, staff member or parent should report any discrimination or harassment to any TCA principal, counselor, or the following liaisons:

For Students:

Cheryl Birkey
Compliance & Nondiscrimination Specialist
975 Stout Road, Room 1114
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
719-488-6209
cbirkey1@asd20.org

For Staff:

Katryna Lays
HR Generalist/Employee Liaison
975 Stout Road, Room 2200
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
719-488-6232
klays@asd20.org



We Are Titans!

Respectfully,

Dr. Russ Sojourner
TCA President



Help TCA continue moving forward in our 20th year. Please consider donating to our kids future.



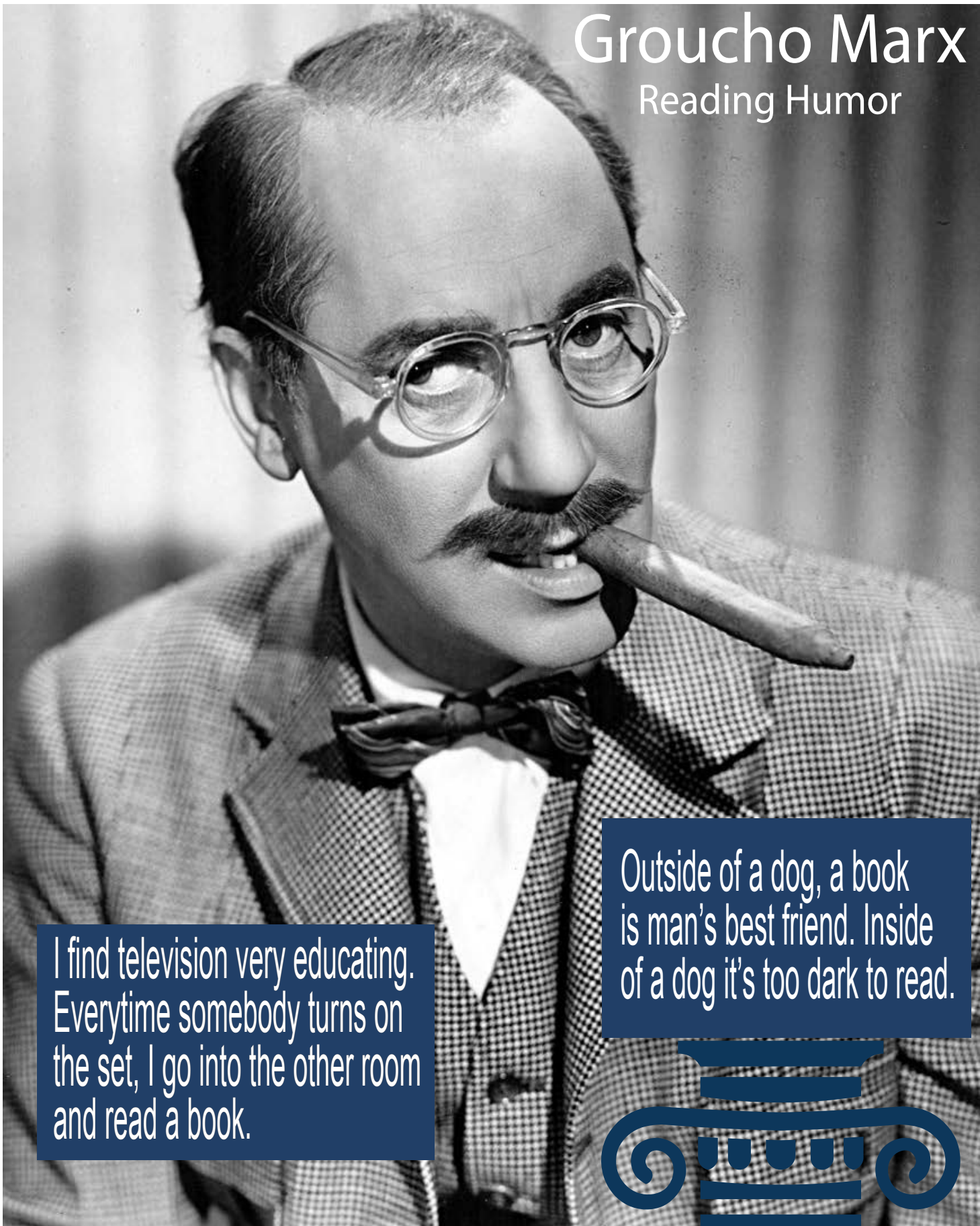
Our Kids.
Their Future.
Our Challenge.

20 Years and Counting

Click on the image above to donate now!

Groucho Marx

Reading Humor



I find television very educating. Everytime somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.

