

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

We Did It!

Largest Match Ever

It is indeed a happy start to the new year for TCA because so many of our parents and grandparents generously donated in December that we more than accomplished the \$60K challenge match (our largest ever). We would like to humbly thank our community for your sacrificial support of TCA's educational endeavors.



TCA Boys' Cross Country Celebrated

In late December our TCA Boys' Cross Country program was recognized at the student athlete and coach levels. TCA sophomore, **Mason Norman**, was named *The Gazette Peak Performer of the Year in Cross Country*. Mason claimed the 3A individual state title (*faster than any other runner, regardless of classification*) and helped lead our team to the 3A state title for the first time since 2011. Additionally, **Coach Alan Versaw** due to his leadership of the cross country team was named *The Gazette's Boys' Cross Country Coach of the Year*. Coach Versaw adds this accolade to his **Colorado High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame** induction in 2017. The boys' and girls' cross country team have now combined to claim 16 state team championship titles for TCA.

Twenty Years



HUMILITY

"At some thoughts one stands perplexed - especially at the sight of men's sin - and wonders whether one should use force or humble love. Always decide to use humble love. If you resolve on that, once and for all, you may subdue the whole world. Loving humility is marveously strong, the strongest of all things, and there is nothing else like it." - **Fyodor Dostoyevsky**. This month, Frank Haist, *College Pathways Registration and Pre-College Advisor*, shares some thoughts with us about *humility*.





Seeing the Roots Through the Dirt

“The foremost measure of our success now and in the future is how well we live up to the words of this document...” These words are found in bold letters on the front page of the **Core Values document** and clearly convey the message that this is the single most important document for us at TCA.

Notice that the structure of the Core Values document is based on the picture of a tree. There are roots, a trunk, branches, leaves, and finally, the fruit. We will begin our in depth look at our Core values by examining the “Roots,” or the Core Beliefs and Values, of the tree.

When looking at a root or a root ball, it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine the type of fruit that tree will produce. Often, the dirt surrounding the roots obscures their identity as well. The only completely reliable method for determining the type of tree, and therefore, the type of fruit that tree will ultimately produce is to look inside of the root, to the DNA. Only upon examining the DNA can the true nature of the tree and ultimately, the fruit, be determined. The roots are more than just a foundation for the tree as they provide often unseen strength and support, while their DNA forever determines the kind and quality of fruit that tree will produce.

TCA is the tree. All staff are the roots and our graduates are the fruit. This first page of the Core Values is the DNA for our roots. It describes the certain kind of people that we need to be in order to produce the certain kind of fruit that we desire to see walking across the stage at the end of 13 years of growth. As you read this first section of our Core Values, take time to note the connection between the roots and the fruit, and remember the importance of each root immutably displaying this DNA so that we may together produce exemplary fruit.

TCA Wellness Task Force Update

We all have our own story. In January, to start the new year, Mike Donahue from **Value Up** addressed the high school students in an assembly and TCA parents that same evening - Wednesday, January 10. Mike’s powerful message focuses on valuing one’s individual intrinsic worth and striving to do the same with others. He has spoken to more than a million students in the last decade and has over 30 years experience working with young people. Since his initial visit with our secondary students at the beginning of the school year Mike has spent many hours walking our halls engaging with our students.

Calendar alert: TCA will be hosting an evening **Wellness Expo**, building upon the success of last year’s event, on **Wed, March 21**. More details to come as we get closer to the event.



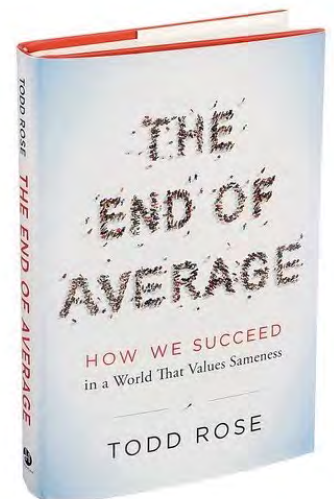
Sources of Strength



2018

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

During the **February 20-22** timeframe we will be discussing Todd Rose’s work, *The End of Average: How We Succeed in a World That Values Sameness*, as part of our **Engaging Minds** series. Later, in this second half of the school year, the **Academic Lead Team** and **Cabinet** will be discussing the same book. If you would like to join in one of the 90-minute book study sessions, later in February, please send me an e-mail at wjolly@asd20.org and I will make sure that you are on the invitation list when I request RSVPs.



On Humility

by **Frank Haist**, College Pathways Registration and Pre-College Advisor and Head Coach, Lady Titans Basketball

True humility does not know that it is humble. If it did, it would be proud from the contemplation of so fine a virtue. *Martin Luther*

Back in college, I remember talking with a mentor about life and the topic of humility came up. As we were discussing this character trait, I made the statement, "I believe I am a humble person." Tommy responded by saying "Frank, no, you're not a humble person, because humble people don't know they're humble." That statement has come to mind many times in the past thirty years. It has provoked a deeper interest in learning about humility and a desire to live it out in my daily life as a husband, father, a coach, and TCA staff member. My hope is that this article will help us enjoy exploring humility together.

Humility is the character trait that is difficult to see and acknowledge in ourselves; it is more a trait that is best seen and acknowledged by others. We can take some time to reflect on our own growth and conclude that we have

become more courteous, more disciplined, more kind, more generous, or even more courageous.

However, can we truly assess our own growth in the area of humility? If my college mentor, Tommy Maxwell was correct, then we cannot gauge this for ourselves because humble people do not know they are humble. This leads me to look deeper into the character trait of humility: to understand how it is defined, explore examples of what humility is, and then provide some practical applications.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines humility as "freedom from pride or arrogance; the quality or state of being humble. Both of the words humility and humble have their origin in the Latin word *humilis*, meaning "low". This 'low' view of oneself may be best illustrated in the following insights by C.S. Lewis:

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."

"To even get near [humility], even for a moment, is like a drink of cold water to a man in a desert. Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays; he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility; he will not be thinking of himself at all." - C.S. Lewis



C.S. Lewis

A Few Thoughts on Humility

In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet. *Winston Churchill*

Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. *Saint Augustine*

Humility is the foundation of all virtues. *Confucius*

Great leaders don't need to act tough. Their confidence and humility serve to underscore their toughness. *Simon Sinek*



On Humility (continued)

My growing understanding of humility led me to make it the core of my teaching and coaching standards early in my career. When I was a high school social studies teacher who, in my humble :) opinion, was not doing a very good job managing my classroom, I took it upon myself to interview teachers who had good reputations amongst our staff and good relationships with their students. After hearing from my colleagues, it helped me shape my definition of humility as simply having a sober understanding of who we are in relation to others. This understanding leads us to treat others how we would want to be treated and exhorts us to love others as we love ourselves. I created an equation to help me visualize how my students, athletes, and I can apply this on a daily basis. The equation is: **RR + TT = H**. "**RR**" stands for the **Right Rule**, which means: *do the right thing, the right way, at the right time, for the right reasons*. Plus "**TT**" - the first "**T**" stands for **Treating Others like you want to be treated**. The second "**T**" stands for **Taking Care of Business**. Lastly, "**H**" represents the outcome of combining the RR and TT which is **Humility**. This is the mindset where we focus on "it's not all about me." When remembering this equation of humility, I find that when I live this out, I benefit by having good community and by being more others-focused.

In closing, Tommy may be right that humble people don't know they're humble. Yet, we can all commit to pursue a sober understanding of who we are in relation to others. We can all seek to become more others-centered in our thoughts and actions. And, we can all seek to live out "**RR + TT = H**".



John Chrysostom states that "Humility is the root, mother, nurse, foundation, and bond of all virtue." And Francois Fenelon believed that "Humility is not a grace that can be acquired in a few months; it is the work of a lifetime." Let's continue to push each other in our journey at TCA to work towards becoming more humble so that our community and our students will become our focus and we can eventually look at ourselves in the mirror and at least know that we have taken steps forward in our path to humility.



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!

CORE VALUES in ACTION: COURAGE Presentation at East

At the first East Elementary Friday Assembly after returning from the Winter Break, three teachers shared with the students about **courage** (a topic discussed in the May 2016 edition of the PALMARIUM) and what it has meant in their lives. All of the stories, interestingly, revolved around running. The students were challenged to have courage in their own lives, whether it be a goal they may set for themselves, as they shared, or simply standing strong, with courage, in the face of difficulties that may arise in their lives. As I listened to their stories I thought to myself - what an excellent example, in action, of our Core Values. **We value an education that cultivates virtuous character including excellence with honor, moral courage, compassion and relational grace** [from the "Roots" section under Core Beliefs and Values]. Included below are some of the images shared with the students and a photo of the assembly. Thank you **Jill Ciolli, Tracy VanCura, and Emily Hanenburg** for sharing your stories with the East Elementary students.



Pikes Peak Ascent
21K (13.1 Miles)
7,815 Feet Elevation Gain



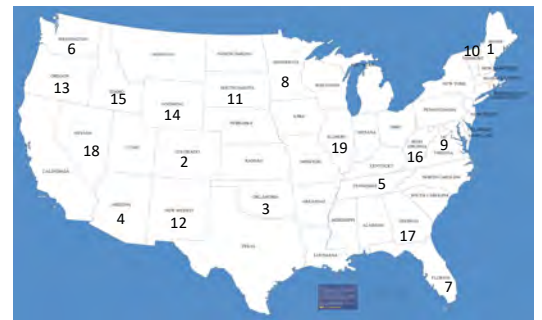
Behind the Rocks
30K (18.6 Miles)
Moab, Utah



"Courage is not the lack of fear. It is acting in spite of it!"
- Mark Twain



Marathon (26.2 miles)



"The miracle isn't that I finished, it's that I had the courage to start."
- John Bingham

states where Tracy has completed a marathon

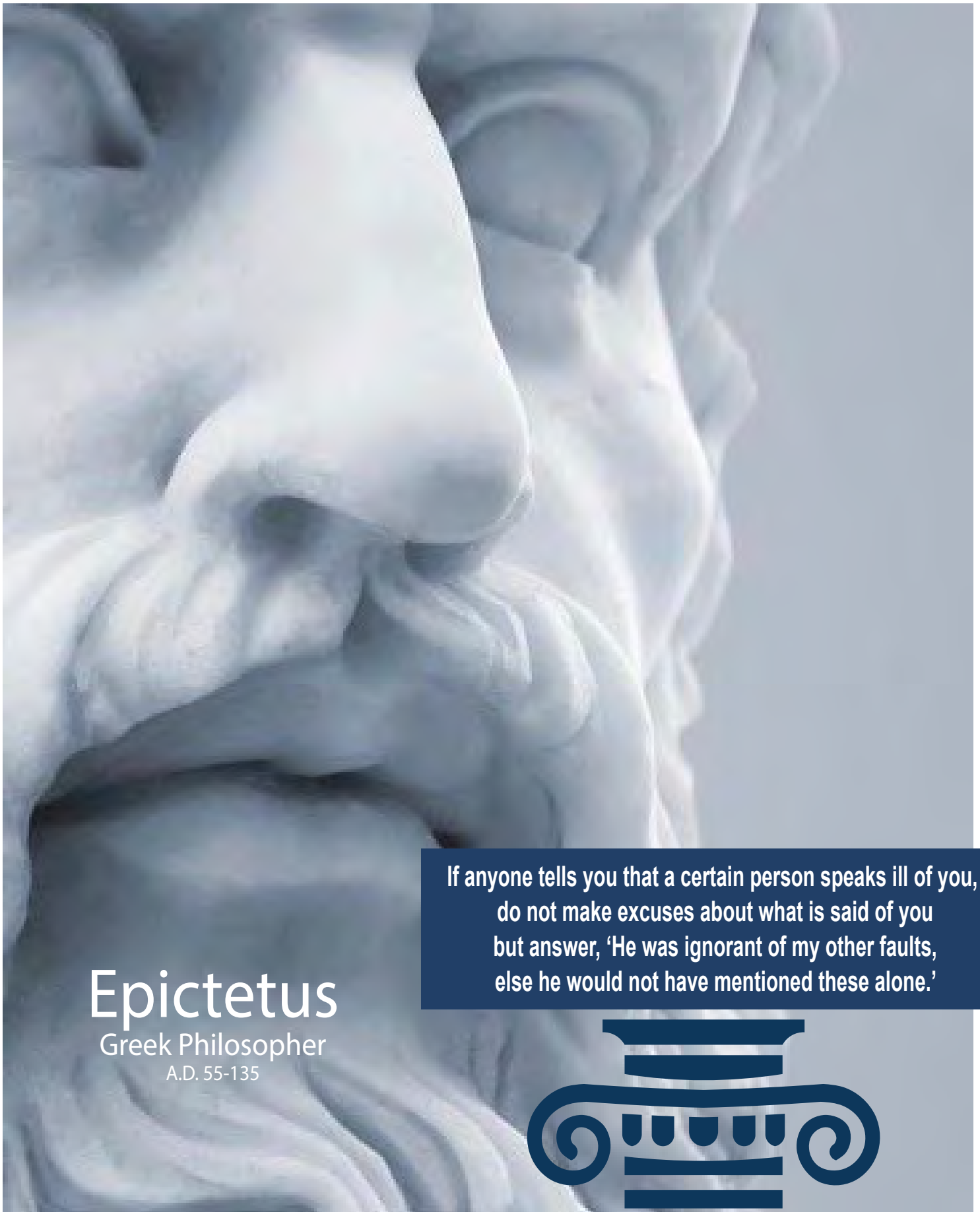


Pikes Peak Marathon
42K (26.2 Miles)
7,815 Feet Elevation Gain



"Going on from there was the bravest thing he ever did. The tremendous things that happened afterwards were as nothing compared to it. He fought the real battle in the tunnel alone, before he ever saw the vast danger that lay in wait. At any rate after a short halt on he did."

-The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkien



Epictetus

Greek Philosopher
A.D. 55-135

If anyone tells you that a certain person speaks ill of you, do not make excuses about what is said of you but answer, 'He was ignorant of my other faults, else he would not have mentioned these alone.'

