

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

Parent Survey

For the entire month of February, each school at TCA is conducting their annual Parent Survey. Your feedback is truly valuable to our principals and leadership team. We would so appreciate if you could take a few moments to complete the quick survey. **Our goal this year is to have the highest participation rate ever for this community survey.**



In early February, **Kala Lundahl** (senior) was selected as the winner of the Poetry Out Loud competition at TCA High School. **Nathan Johns** (junior) was the first runner up (*both are pictured above during their recitations*). Kala will represent TCA at the state competition in Lakewood, CO on February 28. From the Poetry Out Loud website: "Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has grown to reach more than 3 million students and 50,000 teachers from 10,000 schools in every state, Washington DC, the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico."

Twenty Years



CURIOSITY

"Curiosity in children, is but an appetite for knowledge. The great reason why children abandon themselves wholly to silly pursuits and trifle away their time insipidly is, because they find their curiosity balked, and their inquiries neglected." - **John Locke**. This month, Justin Peterson, *College Pathways Principal*, shares some thoughts with us about curiosity.

The Editor





IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

Ideas truly have consequences and our Core Values are a collection of the ideas that define TCA. It was written in 2010 by a group including founders, board members and others with a history of strong commitment to TCA, and then vetted by staff members from all areas of the school. This document describes the essence of who we are and how we strive to live as a learning community and it holds us together in a world where educational theories change with the wind.

Continuing last month's discussion on the "roots" of our Core Values we now come to the "trunk"; our Instructional Philosophy.

The trunk of the tree is the component that adds stability to withstand whatever winds are blowing. It is the pathway that delivers all the nutrients from the roots and gives protection in harsh climate changes. Even in its strength, it continues to grow year after year. If this part is underdeveloped or damaged (or in our case misunderstood or ignored) the tree will not produce the fruit or leaves it is meant to produce.

Our ideas about how and what we teach have deep consequences — consequences that move us toward our mission and take us ever closer to the fruit we are committed to produce. Our choices in the classroom and the atmosphere we set are grounded in great ideas that have gone before us. They are not new but are unique in today's educational setting. These ideas are our stability, our pathway to give direction to our students and our protection from a climate of change for the sake of change.

Only the ideas that we really live have any value. Hermann Hess

TCA Wellness Task Force Update

TCA's Wellness Task Force was recognized by the TCA Board at the February board meeting during the **Celebrate TCA** time. Student and parent members were given the opportunity to share with the board about their experiences working with the 19-member team over the past year.

The group has met 18 times, so far, and continues to discuss a variety of wellness related issues - from *Soures of Strength* to school start times. The next major scheduled community event is the 2nd Annual **TCA Mental Health Expo** scheduled for **Wednesday March 21 from 6:00-8:45 pm**. **Click here** to find out more about the evening's events. Several breakout sessions will be offered, including an expanded selection for elementary and tween parents. Our focus will be on supporting student mental health, sleep, communication, how to identify your student's unique needs, healthy social media habits, and several other topics.

On **February 22** Academy District 20 is hosting the second awareness event on the topic of **Social Media/Screen Time and Human Trafficking** (see flyer below). The first event, in January, was very well received by TCA staff that attended. Staff school ID will be checked upon entry for those desiring to attend, additionally, if parents would like to hear the presentation it is asked that ID be provided also, plus information showing your connection to TCA. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Brandt - *Education Awareness Chair* at the e-mail listed below in the flyer. The event is scheduled to last for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Awareness Training Opportunity

SOCIAL MEDIA/SCREEN TIME + HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS IN ALL EL PASO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Colorado Springs Police Department's Human Trafficking Unit, and Deputy Jay Martin, creator of Digital Futures Initiative, which provides screen time guidance curriculum in 35 states, teach compelling content. Register @ <https://schoolnlawareness2018.eventbrite.com>

February 22, 2018

5:30p D20 Administrative Office - Spruce Room
Please bring your school ID badge for entry

"There's no question that any threat to the safety of our students, to our children, must be met with a commitment to increase awareness and to engage in efforts to eradicate it. Hearing from law enforcement field experts, who work on this issue every day, made an impact on me."

-- Dr. Jim Smith, D20 Asst. Superintendent



Lisa Brandt - Educational Awareness Chair
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20.9 MILLION victims are trafficked annually through force, fraud, and coercion

Trafficking is the **2ND** largest criminal activity globally

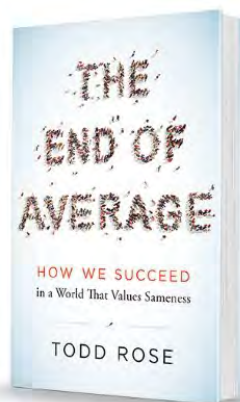
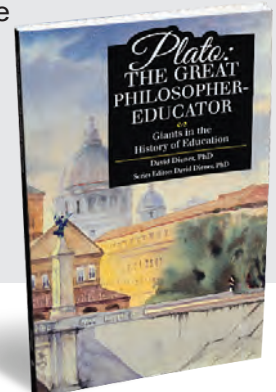
COME LEARN HOW TO SPOT THE SIGNS IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY...

Hosted by the



IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

On **February 20-21** staff/parents 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 April, the **Academic Lead Team** and **Cabinet** will be discussing the same book. In the **April 23-25** timeframe staff, and parents who would like to join us, will be discussing *Plato: The Great Philosopher-Educator* by David Diener. The study sessions last 90-minutes and are held at the North Campus. If you are intersted in attending e-mail me at wjolly@asd20.org and I will make sure that you are on the invitation list when I request RSVPs.



kyoorē 'äsədē

by Justin Peterson, College Pathways Principal

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

“Dad, what would happen if...?” Those words from my daughters’ mouths usually give me instant pause, but my own curiosity wants to know how they’re going to finish the question. “...we threw this rock on the ice?” As a parent, I have countless times shaken my head or responded with nervous laughter at some of the questions my girls, who are now 8 and 10 years old respectively, have asked over the years. Their minds never cease to surprise and amaze me. I know their brains are churning a hundred miles per hour as they process the infinite amounts of information they take in on a daily basis. “Let’s find out. Go ahead and throw the rock,” I replied to them. This was the scene that played out several months ago as we stood on the shore of Lake San Cristobal, Colorado’s second largest natural lake nestled between 13,000 foot peaks just outside Lake City. My oldest lobbed, as best she could, a mango-sized rock and we all watched it arc through the air and begin its downward trajectory toward the ice. Before it even hit, experience told me what would happen. I knew the rock would make a sharp thud when it hit the ice, the ice would splinter in a spot or two, and the rock would quickly settle after sliding a few feet. It would be anti-climactic. But my girls didn’t know that. To them, there were countless possibilities. Maybe the rock would create a massive crater in the ice, or splinter the ice like a spider web over the entire lake, or create a big enough hole for the Loch Ness Monster to surface and take a breath.



Curiosity unleashes our minds and allows us to entertain the wildest imaginations, ideas, and possibilities. It urges us to ask “Why?” and “How?” and “What if?” It gives us the courage to throw bigger and bigger rocks on the ice, to ask the questions nobody else is asking, to venture out and see what’s around the corner, and to unlock and understand the great mysteries of life. These are questions essential to being, to living, to learning. We know our students are innately curious, but we are all born amazingly curious about the world around us. The struggle is to continue to be curious as we get older. We find joy when we see our students, or our own children, light up with new knowledge as they explore science topics, or role-play on curriculum

days, or predict the outcome to a story. These moments are why many of us are here at TCA. We have



A Few Thoughts on Curiosity

Curiosity is the very basis of education and if you tell me that curiosity killed the cat, I say only that the cat died nobly. *Arnold Edinborough*

Socrates told us, ‘the unexamined life is not worth living.’ I think he’s calling for curiosity, more than knowledge. In every human society at all times and all levels, the curious are at the leading edge. *Roger Ebert*

Curiosity is one of the more permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect. *Samuel Johnson*

The public have an insatiable curiosity to know everything, except what is worth knowing. Journalism, conscious of this, and having tradesman-like habits, supplies their demands. *Oscar Wilde*



kyoorē 'äsədē (continued)

to make sure, though, that the curiosity we love to see in our students is just as evident in us. All of us need to continue to wonder, question, and discover.

In 2011 NASA was set to launch the Mars Science Laboratory rover that would provide us with details and information never before known about Mars. They wanted to give its rover a unique name and so they offered a naming contest, open to students across the country. Twelve year old and then-sixth grader Clara Ma's recommendation that 'Curiosity' be the moniker for the rover was selected as the winner out of more than 9,000 names entered. Here is what Clara had to say about her name choice: "Curiosity is an everlasting flame that burns in everyone's mind. It makes me get out of bed in the morning and wonder what surprises life will throw at me that day. Curiosity is such a powerful force. Without it, we wouldn't be who we are today. Curiosity is the passion that drives us through our everyday lives. We have become explorers and scientists with our need to ask questions and to wonder." Today, Clara is a student at Yale University, still in love with space and, by her own admission, "still asking too many questions." We are never too old to be curious. Find your rock and throw it.



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!

Plutarch

Moralia. On Listening to Lectures.

The mind is not a vessel that needs filling,
but wood that needs igniting

