

PALMARIUM

Make-a-Wish Fundraiser

Back in 2017, students from all across TCA developed a list of organizations for an annual TCA community-wide fundraiser. The plan outlined six organizations to assist starting in 2018-2019. We have focused our efforts in previous years on **Children's Hospital Colorado** and **Wounded Warrior**. After a one-year hiatus last year, this year our renewed efforts will help **Make-A-Wish Colorado**. Check out pages 5-6 of this month's PALMARIUM for a TCA donation link and more information on Make-A-Wish Colorado. In addition you can learn a little about Mackenzie, a 3-year old from Colorado Springs, and her wish that this program hopes to fulfill.

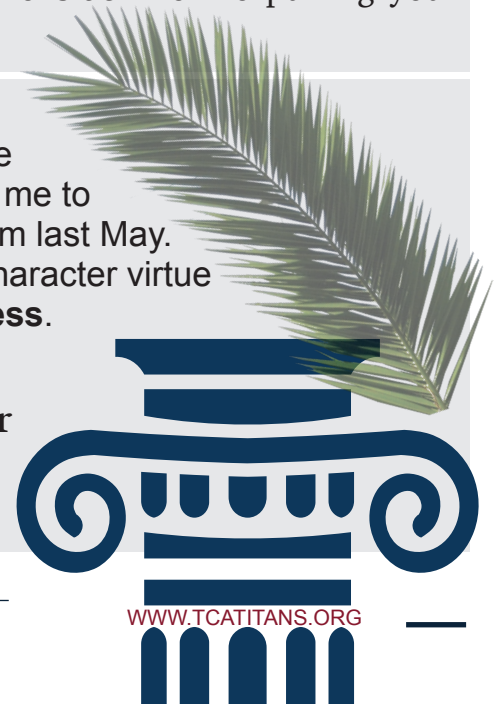


Character: Tell Your Stories

The first volume of the PALMARIUM was published in September 2013 and today's edition marks the 66th volume of this effort. Over that timeframe we have touched on many topics including thoughts on education, Core Values, *Stories from the Classroom*, and various character traits and virtues. Actually, beginning with the August 2014 issue 33 of the 66 volumes (from August 2014 to October 2018 - [linked here](#)) have touched on specific character traits and virtues emphasized by the **VIA Institute on Character** (click on title to go to website). This year the plan is to focus on *Character in Action*, *Character in the Classroom*, *Character: A Leader's Perspective*, *Character: Thoughts from a Parent* - although the specific title may change the focus is the same; how do we see character exemplified around us at TCA. If you have a story to share send me your thoughts to wjolly@asd20.org - I cannot promise they will all be used, but my goal is to share glimpses of how the character development of our students is manifested across our campuses. It is great to be back at school, in-person, building relationships. Teachers, leaders, parents - if you have a story to tell that will encourage our efforts please give consideration to putting your thoughts into writing.

In this month's new **Character: Tell Your Stories** series, Eric Bauman, TCA graduate from this past year's class of 2021 allowed me to print his graduation salutatorian speech from last May. I believe you will agree it exudes the VIA character virtue of *humanity* - specifically the trait of **kindness**.

The Editor

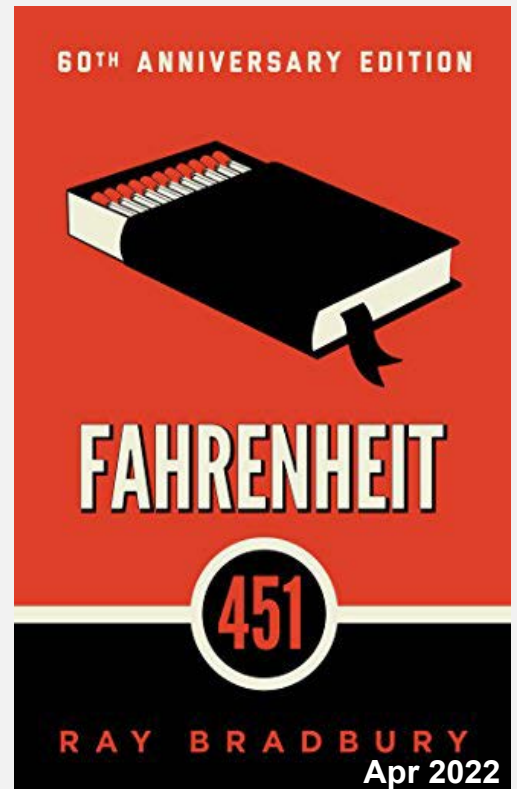
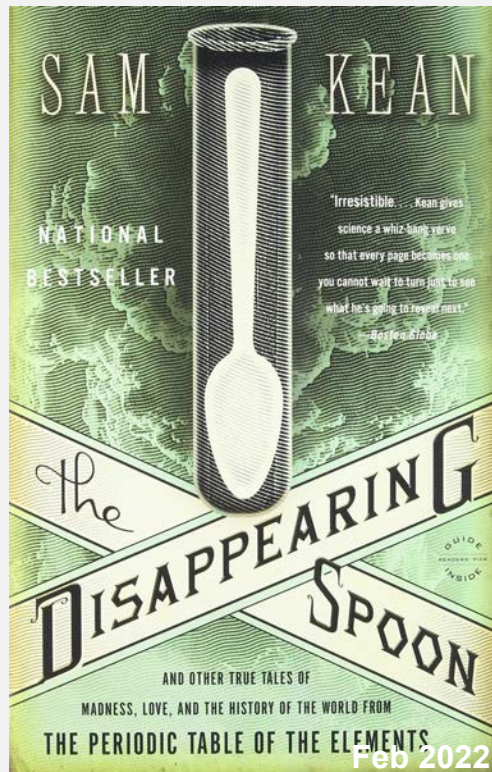
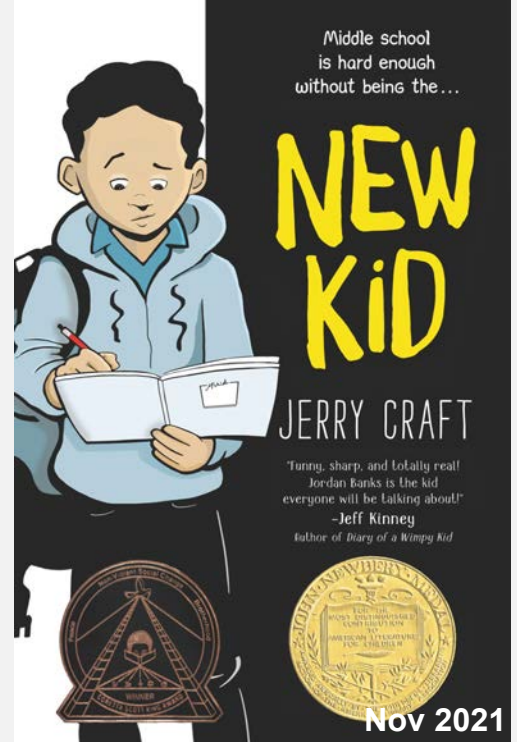
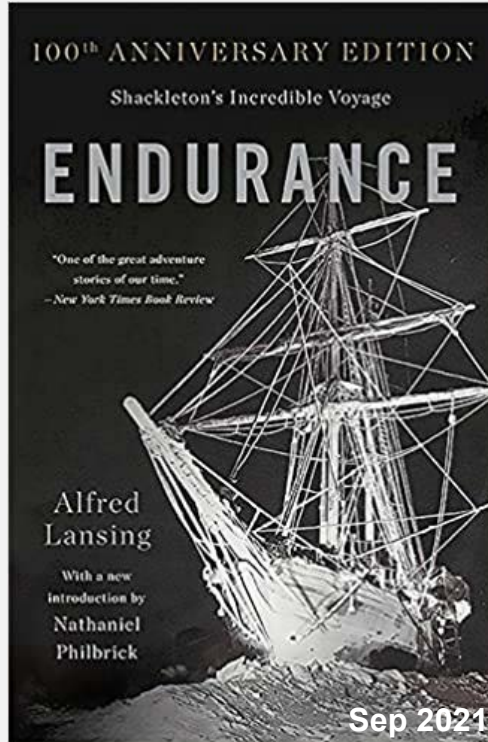


Book Studies

[Reprint from May 2021]

Over the past seven years our staff, parents, and board members, have participated in a multitude of book studies. Altogether 29 different books have been read and discussed (a few, have been addressed two times in our best of series this past year). Hundreds of different participants have shared in this voluntary effort and I would like to thank each of you that have given up 90-minutes of your time, on an afternoon, after a busy day to meet with others to discuss a book. For 2021-2022 we have four new titles to add to our studies. The goal is for us as a community to wrestle with relevant topics pertaining to our endeavors as a school and as individuals. The selected books are designed to stimulate conversation and intellectual discourse, and not everything in each book will directly align with each principle outlined in TCA's philosophy. Images of next year's titles can be found to the right along with the month of book study. If you'd like to be added to the RSVP list for this year's studies let me know at wjolly@asd20.org

Engaging Minds: Beyond the Book Club



SELECTIONS 2021-2022

One day in junior high, I was having one of my rare bad days. I don't remember exactly what was happening, but it felt like most things were going wrong. But some people noticed how I was feeling. They made me a card on a big piece of paper, and it cheered me up so much. I still have that card to this day. Here at TCA, so many people are kind and caring. I could mention Mr. D, or the camaraderie of the band, but here at graduation, I will simply note this: when I went to the senior breakfast, in everyone's little paragraphs, I noticed that so many people were praised for their kindness. In fact, if you go through that book, you would be far more hard-pressed to find someone who it doesn't say was kind, or cared about their friends, or brightened people's day, or wanted to make the world a better place. We are a group of kind people.

Really, there is a massive spirit of kindness and caring here at TCA. We all care about each other, and we all show it. I have so many more memories of people being kind than being mean. This place just exudes kindness and respect and so many good qualities. I am so glad I was able to come here for school with all you amazing people.

And that's why it's sad to leave this place. I don't want to leave you all. I don't want to not see all these amazing students and teachers again. Graduation is a bittersweet time, because while we are going somewhere new and exciting, we are also leaving somewhere behind. The light of our faces isn't going to be seen around here as much anymore. It feels like something is being lost.

But that's not actually true, is it? There is a **culture of kindness** at TCA, and that means that even when some people leave, the next class takes their place and gives their own kindness and love to the



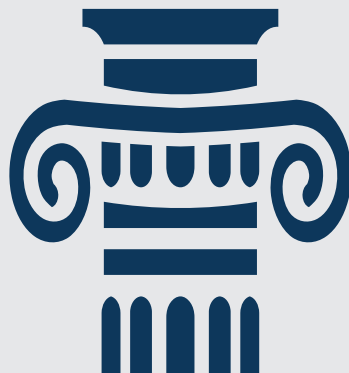
community. And we, even though we won't be here anymore, we will carry that culture with us. We are taking that kindness that we have experienced here and planting its seed in a new place. We have had this unique experience, formed by this place and its values, that enables us to bring this kindness to the world and everywhere we go. The light of our faces will continue to brighten people's days, just now in tons of new places across the country, bringing that light to lots of new people. And as anyone who's ever been on the internet can tell you, people need that. I'm not a fan of saying that we need it more than ever, or that it's worse than it was before. But we do need that kindness as much as we ever have. Maybe even as much as we always have. And we are the people who can do it! We will take the kindness of TCA and show it to the world.

So keep trying to brighten people's day. Give someone a smile, a wave, a high-five, and a big "Hello!" I know that each of you will continue to bring joy

Character In Action

wherever you go. I love you all, and thank you for spreading your joy all around our community. Now let's keep that joy and kindness and spread it everywhere we go from here.

Eric Bauman,
Class of 2021



Titan of the Year Linda Durck

On behalf of the TCA Titan of the Year Committee, the parents of TCA and TCA's Board of Directors, the 2020-2021 Titan of the Year award was presented to Mrs. Linda Durck at our Teacher In-Service, Thursday, August 12, 2021.

Linda Durck has worked at TCA for 18 years as an East Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher. Mrs. Durck is known



for creating a caring and welcoming atmosphere for students and parents alike. She finds ways to bring personality and life into her classroom, which is affectionately known as the "cabin", and pushes the students towards honor and integrity.

Sometimes you need someone to believe in you and Linda Durck is that special teacher who does just that. She has a gift where she recognizes strengths and weaknesses in different students and then pairs them together. Linda teaches students to persevere in the learning. She does not give up on students, and she does not let them give up on themselves.

If you see Mrs. Durck, please congratulate her on this great honor! Click [here](#) to watch Titan of the Year video.

Give someone a smile, a wave, a high-five, and a big “hello.” I know that each of you will continue to bring joy wherever you go.

ERIC BAUMAN, TCA Class of 2021



ANNUAL TCA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Dear TCA Staff, Parents, and Community,

The Classical Academy (TCA) is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination. 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. All TCA educational programs, activities, and employment opportunities offered by the school are offered without regard to disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, genetic information, or conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth. With respect to employment practices, TCA does not discriminate on the basis of age.

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." Policy AC-TCA: Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity was recently updated and is 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, including any Title IX, Section 504, or ADA complaints, to any TCA principal, counselor, or the following liaison:

Cheryl Birkey
Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator
975 Stout Road, Room 1114
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
719-488-6209
cbirkey1@asd20.org

We Are Titans!

Respectfully,

Dr. Russ Sojourner
TCA President



Make-A-Wish Colorado: TCA Fundraiser

Make-A-Wish.
KiDS
 FOR WISH KIDS®
 COLORADO



I wish to...go to Disney
 World
 Mackenzie, 3
 leukemia

The Classical Academy,
 meet Mackenzie
 from Colorado Springs!

Mackenzie's favorite things are:
 The color red, chicken nuggets,
 Raising Cane's, painting, water
 color, The Jurassic Park series on
 Netflix, PJ Masks, Merida, Elsa and
 Anna, Toy Story, all animals, and
 jumping on trampoline.



**Click Here for
 TCA Fundraiser Pages**

The Story of Make-A-Wish® Colorado

Make-A-Wish Colorado was founded in 1983 in memory of seven-year-old Jennifer Mazak. Although she did not receive a formal wish, Jennifer wanted to meet a local radio mascot: the KIMN Chicken. The chicken visited Jennifer one day at her home and the experience had a profound effect on her young life. Shortly after Jennifer passed away, her mother, Joan, founded the Colorado chapter of Make-A-Wish to bring that same magic and joy to other children in the state.



TRANSFORM LIVES, ONE WISH AT A TIME.

Mission: Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Fast Facts

- ★ Children who qualify for a wish are between the ages of 2 ½ and 18 and have been diagnosed with a critical illness by their doctor. They are not necessarily terminally ill; in fact, the majority of wish kids overcome their medical conditions and go on to lead strong, healthy lives.
- ★ Every eligible referred child is granted a wish. A family's socioeconomic status is never a factor in determining eligibility and the family is always included in the wish.
- ★ Wishes are funded from through the support of individuals, corporations, and foundations. Make-A-Wish Colorado does not receive any governmental support. Frequent flier miles and used vehicles are also accepted as donations. Of every dollar received, 79 cents goes toward granting wishes.

Types of Wishes



I WISH TO GO



I WISH TO BE



I WISH TO MEET



I WISH TO HAVE



I WISH TO GIVE

DID YOU KNOW?

5,785+
wishes

granted to Colorado children since 1983.

196
wishes

granted in Fiscal Year 2020.

98%

of parents surveyed said the wish made them feel like a normal family.

89%

of medical professionals surveyed believe a wish experience can positively influence a child's health.



“The impact a wish has on the child and their family is pretty endless. It gives them hope, it gives them a break from their disease and it gives them an opportunity to be a kid away from their illness.”

– ANUP PATEL, MD, Neurologist, Nationwide Children's Hospital





YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

TCA Parent Academy Opportunity

64.1%

of youth with major depression do not receive any mental HEALTH TREATMENT.

Mental Health America

1 in 5

teens & young adults lives with a mental HEALTH CONDITION.

National Alliance for Mental Illness

5.13%

of youth report having a substance use or ALCOHOL PROBLEM.

Mental Health America

**Saturday,
September 25, 2021
8:00am to 4:00pm**

Why Youth Mental Health First Aid?

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you **how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.** This 8-hour training gives adults who work with youth the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to adolescents (ages 12-18) who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

WHO SHOULD TAKE IT

- Teachers
- School staff
- Coaches
- Camp counselors
- Youth group leaders
- Parents
- People who work with youth

WHAT IT COVERS

- Common signs and symptoms of mental illnesses in this age group, including:
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Eating disorders
 - Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use.
- How to interact with an adolescent in crisis.
- How to connect the adolescent with help.

The course will teach you how to apply the ALGEE action plan:

- **Assess** for risk of suicide or harm
- **Listen** nonjudgmentally
- **Give** reassurance and information
- **Encourage** appropriate professional help
- **Encourage** self-help and other support strategies



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID®

Want to take the course?

Contact Suzanne Laffely at slaffely@asd20.org or Ashley Hermann at ahermann@asd20.org



Kindness is a language which the deaf
can hear and the blind can see. *Unknown*