

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 Teamwork

..... Assorted Quotes



Helen Keller

Helen Keller
(1880-1968)

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much. *Helen Keller (1880-1968)*

To me, teamwork is the beauty of sport, where you have five acting as one. You become selfless.

Mike Krzyzewski (1947-)

The ability of a group of people to do remarkable things hinges on how well those people pull together as a team. *Simon Sinek (1973-)* in his book *Leaders Eat Last*.

Michael, if you can't pass, you can't play. *Coach Dean Smith (1931-2015)* to *Michael Jordan* in his freshman year at UNC.

Individual commitment to a group effort – that it is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work. *Vince Lombardi (1913-1970)*

No member of a crew is praised for the rugged individuality of his rowing. *Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)*

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



TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK *by Susan Nosal*

(Cottage School Program Curriculum and Program Specialist)

For those of you that have endured the difficult task of packing up your parents’ home after they have passed, you know all too well the bittersweet flood of memories that wash over you during those days, weeks, months until you lock the door for the last time. Leading up to that moment, you and your siblings take turns sorting through family possessions, laying claim to those that remind you of special times together.

When our family tackled this chore last summer, I found a treasure near and dear to my heart: a small box of handwritten notes, saved by my mother. As I read through the pile, I realized these were the very notes she placed on the kitchen table each day through the years, reminding our busy family of eight to ‘pick up a gallon of milk,’ ‘iron your Scout uniform,’ ‘mow the lawn before Grandma and Grandpa Edel arrive,’ and the most repeated note of all - ‘The last one in, lock the door and turn out the lights.’

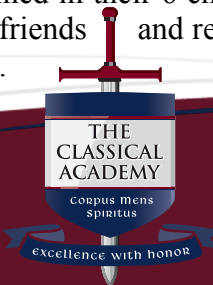
I wondered why my mother saved this insignificant pile of notes when there were more meaningful items that defined her legacy, such as the delicate heart-shaped locket with a family photo tucked inside. Perhaps she intended for one of her kids to find these kitchen notes after she was gone.



It soon dawned on me why these weren’t tossed years ago. These simple notes were reminders of one way Mom helped us pull together as a family, encouraging us to combine our efforts for the good of the group. These notes held great meaning for my mother, a woman who took the idea of teamwork seriously. She believed that when children feel appreciated and valued for their contributions to their family, their sense of teamwork is reinforced.

Through their actions, my parents ingrained in their 6 children, and 12 grandchildren, a deep sense of obligation for each other, while also caring for our friends and relatives, and folks living and working alongside us in our rural community of Bad Axe, Michigan. Ultimately, our family acquired strength in unity.

[continued on next page]



CHARACTER STRENGTHS

on CITIZENSHIP [Social Responsibility, Peterson and Seligman write:

feeling of identification with and sense of stretches beyond one’s own self interest. The individual with these strengths has a strong sense of duty, works for the good of the group rather than for personal gain, is loyal to friends, and can be trusted to pull his or her weight.” **TEAMWORK** is defined as the cooperative or combined effort of a group of persons working together for a common cause. The essence of these strengths is **relational**. Individuals are more likely to be loyal to a group and its values if they feel a sense of solidarity with other members (Clary & Snyder, 1999). To the extent that individuals identify with a group, they are more willing to forgo individual gain to enhance the collective good (Brewer & Gardner 1996). When young people feel that the community cares about them and that they have a say in community affairs, they are more likely to identify with the community’s goals and to want to commit to its service (Eccles & Gootman, 202; C.A. Flanagan, in press).

CLASSIFICATIONS and DEFINITIONS: In their chapter Loyalty, Teamwork] in *Character Strengths and Virtues*, “Citizenship, social responsibility, and teamwork represent a obligation to a common good that includes the self but

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



TEAMWORK: Citizenship; social responsibility; loyalty
FAIRNESS: Just; not letting feelings bias decisions about others
LEADERSHIP: Organizing group activities; encouraging a group to get things done

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK (continued from previous page)

Living in a small town gave everyone plenty of opportunities to put teamwork in action. We each made a difference in our school, our troop, our *Marching Hatchets* band and sports teams, our church, our town. We organized the annual Girl Scout candy sale, tidied up the city park prior to Nixon's '74 visit, and spent four evenings in a row, in a smelly horse barn, twisting tissue paper squares through a chicken wire frame to build a football float for the high school homecoming parade. The word "our" was taken seriously by everyone who lived in Bad Axe. When *Kmart* moved into town, we banded together to keep our mom and pop shops open, often paying more for shoes because everyone knew Mr. Buckley always treated his customers right. We bought groceries at the *IGA Foodliner* because it was well known that they paid our high school cashiers and baggers a fair wage. Folks were loyal to *Flannery and Sons* even when better auto deals could be found in Bay City. The quaint downtown shops of Bad Axe transformed themselves into small boutiques and coffee shops, catering to the big city tourists from Detroit. Yet, despite our little town going through these changes, nothing could cause Bad Axe to lose its sense of teamwork. It would never turn out the lights and lock its doors.



Have you seen the movie *20 Feet from Stardom*? This poignant story describes the role of back-up singers, rarely receiving recognition, especially when pursuing a career of their own. They're often cast in the background, accepting a modest role so the singing act can perform at its best. They lend vocals that often rival or even surpass those of the famous singer. I was impressed with the genuine dedication shown by the back-up singers. They enjoyed the aspect of teamwork that their job offered them. Not every singer in the movie was content to be in the shadows for their career, but I do remember some individuals describing the magic of harmonizing their voices, which is what they liked best about their job. Do you know someone who works tirelessly behind the scenes, rarely seeking or getting credit for his or her contribution to a project, yet finds fulfillment in making the pieces fit?

I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity . . . to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that.

Paul McCartney

Working together is consistently modeled by our staff at TCA, in and out of the classroom. Yet, how did each of us come to value the idea of a team? How does one learn to stretch beyond his own interests to care about other members of the group? People with a sense of duty to the group pull their own weight without being asked, not because external circumstances force them but because they regard it as what a group member should do. As Coach Dean Smith told Michael Jordan, his freshman year at college, "If you can't pass, you can't play."

In my mind's eye, I see TCA's founding families gathered around a kitchen table voicing their shared vision with deep conviction: "*There must be a better way to educate our children.*" They realized that not one person among them had all the answers, so they pooled their resources to draft the charter for The Classical Academy. Since then, Titans of all ages have benefitted from our founders' uncompromised passion for academic excellence and desire to develop exemplary character in their children and others.

TCA is fortunate that our founders worked well as a viable team, melding their gifts to achieve their unified goal. Their teamwork made their dream work. *[continued on next page]*

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK (continued)

We veteran TCA-ers consider ourselves lucky to have been part of growing this fine school from the ground up. We continue to cultivate a deeply-rooted tradition of families, staff, and students uniting their talents, expertise, and creativity to support, inspire, and console each other. Together, we help shape policy, improve instruction, and influence everything from curriculum to uniforms to prom playlists. Whether in a small school or small town, those who choose to be involved are afforded the opportunity – and privilege – to truly make a difference in the community they serve.

When asked why he had a team of twenty-one assistants, Thomas Edison answered, “If I could solve all the problems myself, I would.” A powerful message is sent to our students when we promote strength in unity. Simply stated, teamwork is less me and more we.

Let’s do our share to create an effective Titan team. Amazing results can be achieved through collaboration and cooperation. *We may not have it all together, but together we have it all.* ...and we don’t need a note on the kitchen table to remind us of that.

by Susan Nosal, CSP Curriculum & Program Specialist



If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

African Proverb



TEAMWORK Coach Daggett

Excerpt from Coach Tim Daggett’s speech to our TCA-HS Track team, the night before competing at the 2014 State Championship last spring.

“There are a lot of different talents in this room. Talent that hasn’t been buried! Talent that is being used for a greater cause than yourself! Talent that is fun to watch! Enjoy your talent. I didn’t always enjoy mine. I didn’t always see it as my calling. Looking back, running was what I was called to. It got me this team, and I love this team. I love my calling. I love watching you run. If this is just your beginning or if it is your end, enjoy your talent. Finish well!

For three days we are going to spend ourselves for this team. For three days your time is not your own. For three days Denver is the only place to be. Be there on time, remember your stuff, and be easy to find. Get out of the sun! Compete like the team that everyone fears because everyone IS afraid of us. Start and finish well!

- Who do you race for? **The team cheers: EACH OTHER!**
- Who do you start for? **EACH OTHER!**
- Who do you finish for? **EACH OTHER!**
- Who do you jump for? **EACH OTHER!**
- Who do you throw for? **EACH OTHER!**
- Who do you fly for? **EACH OTHER!**

Who do you suffer for? Shared Suffering is shared reward!
Who do you fight for? We are going to brawl, but we’re made of Iron.

You’re strong! You’re ready for anything! Your coaches are proud of you! Let’s finish our time well in 3A.”

**Both Boys and Girls won their 2014 State championships. Both earned their third championship in a row. In total, the TCA Track & Field team has earned 13 State championships. Go Titans!*

WRITER'S WORKSHOP AT CP AND CSP



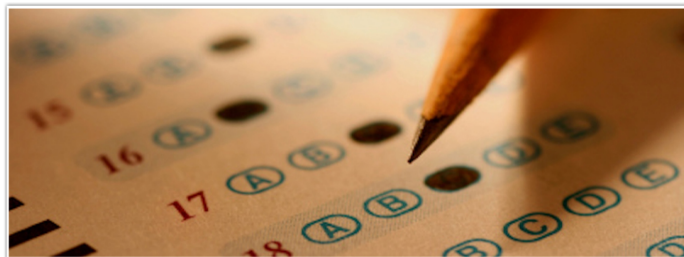
The first ever Writer's Workshop was held at the Cottage School Program and College Pathways earlier in March. High School mentor students created workshops for nearly 60 fifth-eighth grade students. Student session leaders from both the traditional High School and College Pathways led the students in writing related activities while Cynthia Storrs from the High School and Sean Frawley from Central Elementary served as guest speakers and session



leads. Comments received about the day: "a fabulous success" – "the buzz in the hallways was so positive!" -- "it was AWESOME!" (from students participating) – "each of us was truly inspired by your love of the written word" – "this was a very worthwhile event as four schools came together to support efforts for writing within TCA."



2014 TCA ACT Exam Results



The Classical Academy High School and College Pathways once again did an outstanding job on the 2014 annual ACT national exams. Over 200 students from TCA took the ACT exam in 2014. Those students averaged a composite ACT score of 24.8 at the High School and 24.4 at College Pathways. Those scores ranked the TCA High School and College Pathways at 8th and 13th respectively in the state among the nearly 350 high schools. As noted at the recent Colorado League of Charter Schools Conference held at the end of February in Denver - 5 of the top 10 ACT scores amongst high schools in the state belonged to charter schools.



TCA Teamwork Wind Ensemble

There are five regional CBA festivals across the state of Colorado with 16-18 bands performing at each location. Earlier in March approximately 90 bands were heard by the same panel of three judges. TCA's Wind Ensemble was one of 16 bands that performed at Palmer Ridge for the "Southern" Colorado Bandmasters Association regional festival. Our students received the highest rating of **SUPERIOR** during their competition. Such rating means they demonstrated superior pedagogy and musicianship in performance. Our Director of Bands, Christina Schwartz-Soper noted that the wind ensemble represented our bands and our school **BRILLIANTLY!** (emphasis hers) ----- Great teamwork at regionals TCA!



Strengthening OUR Core



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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.



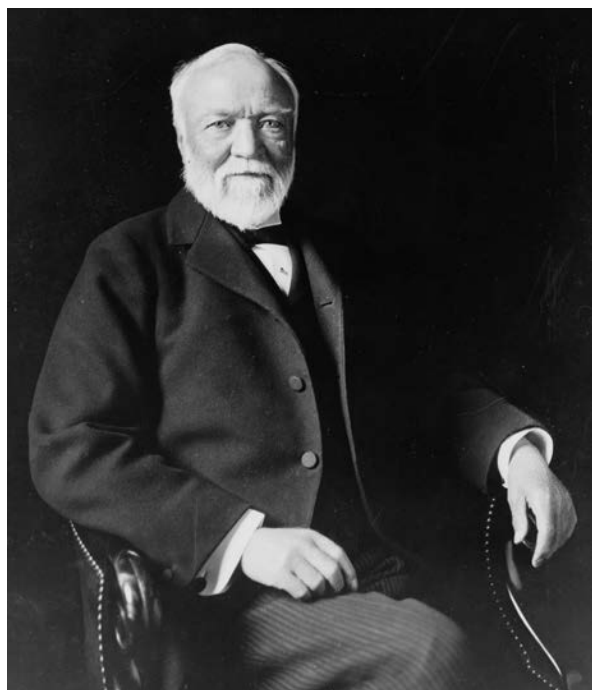
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Initiative UPDATES



Initiative Launch December 5th!

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



Andrew Carnegie

(1835-1919)

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

Andrew Carnegie



Upcoming DAS Meetings and Due Dates:

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

- 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:

- Thu, Apr 2 Compliance/Accreditation Mtg (8:00-8:30 am)
- Mon, Apr 6 Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
- Mon, Apr 6 CSP – Prospective New Parent Mtg (East Gym)
- Tue, Apr 7 DAS/Central Principal Mtg (9:00-10:00 am)
- Thu, Apr 9 DAS/East Principals Mtg (9:00-11:00 am)
- Fri, Apr 10 High School Spring Choir Concert
- Mon, Apr 13 TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- Tue, Apr 14 DAS/North Principals/SSS Mtg (8:00-11:00 am)
- Wed, Apr 15 Secondary Band Concert – North Gym
- Fri, Apr 17 8th Grade Dinner Dance – North Gym
- Thu-Fri, Apr 16-17 Spring Play (Co Spgs Charter Academy)
- Sat, Apr 18 Junior-Senior Prom
- Mon, Apr 20 Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
- Mon, Apr 20 NHS Induction – North Gym
- Tue, Apr 21 Info Night for New 7th Graders – North Gym
- Thu-Sat, Apr 23-25 Spring Play (Co Spgs Charter Academy)
- Tue, Apr 28 State ACT Exam (Juniors)
- Fri, May 1 Choir Vocal Variety – Chapel Hills Church
- Mon, May 4 Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
- Mon, May 4 Character Advisory Team Mtg (3:15-4:45 pm)
- Fri, May 8 8th Grade Dinner Dance at CP/CSP
- Mon, May 11 TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- Tue, May 12 AAA Awards Night for High School – North Gym



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
- e-mail SAC minutes to Cheri throughout the year



ITEMS DUE IN FUTURE:

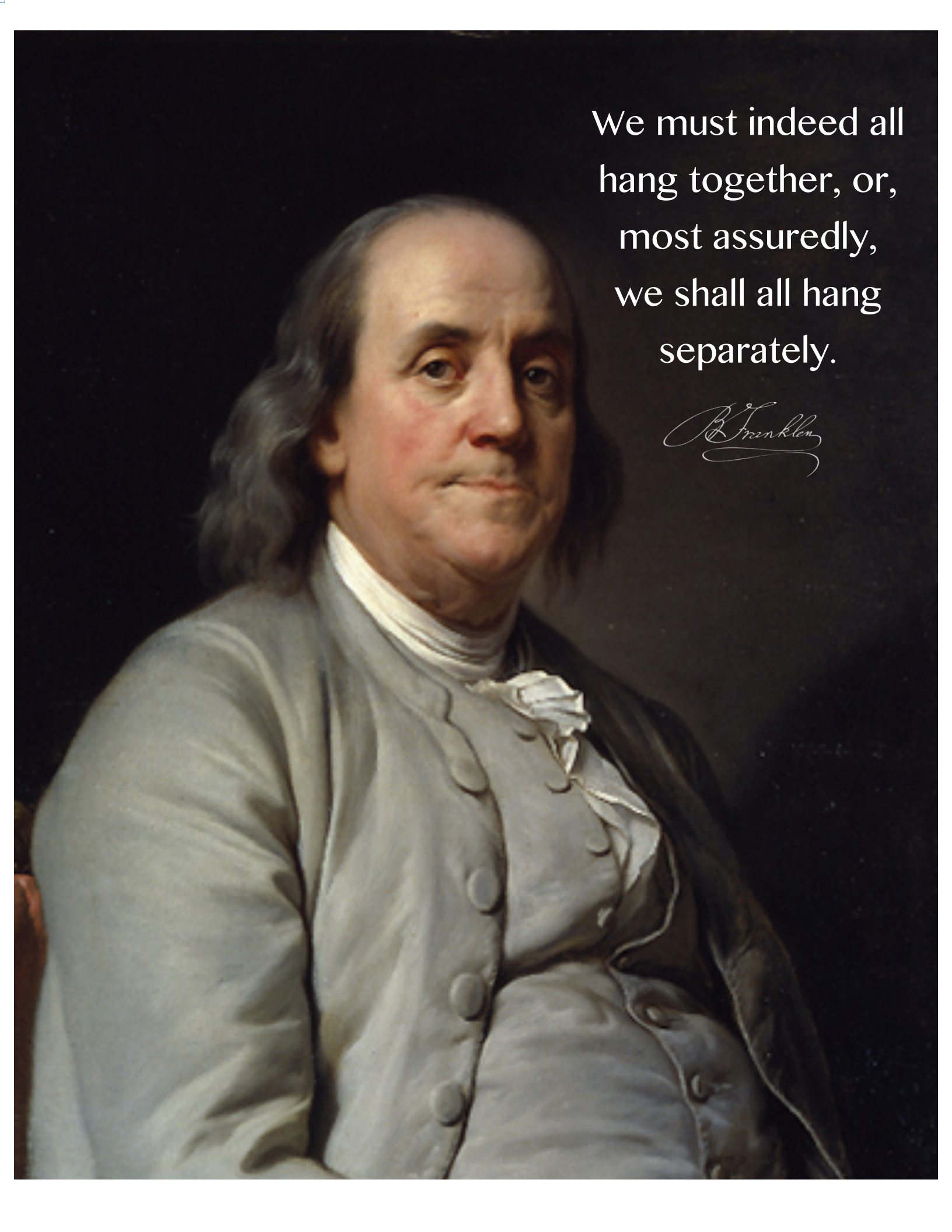
- **Absolutes Notebook Certification** – due in May 2015 (submitted by Cheri)
- **Update Site Plans** – principals submit to Cheri in May 2015
- **Student Contact Time Report** – due in May 2015, submitted by Cheri to D20

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

PALMARIUM YEAR-END ISSUE: There will be a combined double-volume year ending issue of the PALMARIUM celebrating a myriad of TCA student academic and athletic achievements released around graduation in May. Due to the time involved with collecting and organizing all of the information for the combined issue there will not be a PALMARIUM released in April. Thanks.

A portrait of Benjamin Franklin, an elderly man with long, wavy hair, wearing a light-colored, buttoned coat over a white cravat. He is looking slightly to the right of the viewer with a serious expression. The background is dark and indistinct.

We must indeed all
hang together, or,
most assuredly,
we shall all hang
separately.

B. Franklin