

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

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 5-7 of this month's PALMARIUM for a TCA donation link and more information on our Make-A-Wish fundraising efforts. 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.

STATE CHAMPIONS

In the past few weeks TCA's **Cross Country** teams, both Boys and Girls, and our **Marching Band** took state honors in their respective classifications. In addition, **Matthew Edwards** claimed the 3A Boys Cross Country individual state championship title. Photos of the champions are included below for Marching Band and for Cross Country on the next page. Congratulations to all.



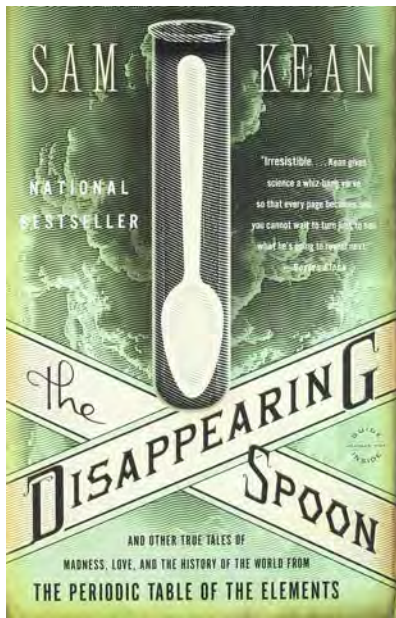
In this month's new **Character: Tell Your Stories** series, Jeremy Reed, TCA High School English teacher allowed me to reprint his graduation speech to the Class of 2021. The goal of our efforts related to character over the K-12 experience and curriculum choices are truly evident in Mr. Reed's words.

The Editor



Book Studies

CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPS



The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements by Sam Kean is the next book in the *Engaging Minds: Beyond the Book Club* series. Two separate 90-minute study sessions will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 22nd and 23rd in the North Elementary Library Pikes Peak Room. Attendees would only need to RSVP for one of the two dates. High School Science teacher, Jen Smith, will be leading the sessions. If you'd like to be added to the RSVP list for this year's remaining studies let me know at my e-mail address: wjolly@asd20.org



Good morning. Thanks for having me.

Seniors, You will forget all of this speech, and you will do so very quickly. And, that's ok. I mean, why listen to me? ...I'm quite incapable of keeping track of my keys most days. The much more shocking reality is that not only will you quickly forget this speech, you will also quickly forget much of what you learned here at TCA. Gone before you know it are the equations, the dates and places, and the rules for subject-verb agreement. But that's ok too. In fact, I base my entire philosophy of education around this inescapable lack of retention. While I hope you long-remember Dmitri, Ivan, and Alyosha (heck, even Fyodor), I suspect they too will be lost to the ether. So, amidst the official curriculum, I have told you stories from my life. If you have been in my class, in addition to my thoughts on Oscar Wilde and Aristotle, you have (very intentionally) heard about my numerous failings, a couple of successes, my beautiful children, and how much I love my wife. **I have sought to model joy, grace, and peace, and to give these to you at every opportunity, because my teaching philosophy boils down to this: you will quickly forget what I've taught you, but you will long remember how you were treated.** Over this year, I have sought to help you become even better people than you already were...if you also learned where a comma goes, that's merely a bonus.

If you don't mind, I'd like to continue by blatantly stealing a bit from one of my favorite authors, David Foster Wallace. It's not plagiarism if I cite it, right?

Here goes:

"There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them

and says "Morning, boys. How's the water?" And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes "What the heck is water?"

What DFW is getting at here is that sometimes the most profound and obvious realities are the ones we miss completely. Somehow, it's all-too-easy to miss the truths that we are immersed in every day. So, today, I want to make something that ought to be obvious to all of us very clear: you are truly incredible people. I credit you with getting us through this year. You could have complained, but you didn't. You could have succumbed to Senioritis, but you didn't. You could have lost your joy, but you didn't. Thank you for being you. You were all just so happy. You made your teachers smile; you made each other smile. Unfortunately, those beautiful, joyful smiles of yours were wasted or at least hidden behind masks. Which, besides any actual physical illness, might just be the saddest thing about this year.

When I pause and consider how to respond to our recent hardships and those things that have been taken from us, my heart once again turns toward St. Paisios of Mount Athos. St. Paisios puts forth this scenario: He says, "If you ask a Fly, 'Are there any flowers nearby?,' it will say, 'I don't know about flowers, but over there is a stinky pile of rubbish.'" However, "if you ask a Bee, 'Is there any rubbish nearby?,' it will say, 'I haven't seen any rubbish, but the field is absolutely full of beautiful, sweet-smelling flowers.'"

CHARACTER IN ACTION

Be the Bee



Be the Bee.

As you know all too well, this world can be a decidedly difficult, unfriendly, and joyless place. I'd like to challenge you to be joyful. Please...Radiate joy and force this ridiculous time and place filled with contentious people to deal with your joyful enthusiasm. Refuse to meditate on things that are ugly, destructive, and hateful, and instead focus on what is True, Beautiful and Good. Be the Bee.

Know the good things in life. Go from each good and beautiful thing to the next, sharing it with everyone around you. You'll do more good this way than focusing on the opposite, forever lamenting what this world lacks. No, Be the Bee. Bees are wonderful little creatures that work hard and work together. The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors but because she labors for others.

So, like her, let's unite not divide, let's comfort not agitate. Let's Be the Bee.

To help remind and encourage you to Be the Bee, I have placed a honey stick under each of your seats...Enjoy.

And now, because it's all I know, I'd like to turn to the Literature studied at TCA to see what lessons are contained in those pages. Or, maybe more correctly stated, here are some literary hot-takes...

Let's see...

-*The Iliad* teaches us not to pout and disengage when others need us.

-*The Great Gatsby* teaches us to drive carefully.

-Dante's *Inferno* teaches us that Hell has indeed frozen over, while *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* teaches us to be willing to go there if that's what virtue requires.

-*The Awakening* teaches us the importance of Swim Floaties.

-*The Brothers Karamazov* teaches us the value of Pancakes, Nuts, and especially Onions.

-*Lord of the Flies* teaches us to be careful with rocks, especially big ones.

-*Frankenstein* teaches us to love others, no matter how monstrous they may appear to us.

-*The Scarlet Letter* teaches us the dangers of labeling others.

-*Hamlet* teaches us...well, so many things...don't blindly stab curtains,

don't poison your wife's wine,

don't let the enemy march his

army right in front of your castle, but DO listen to ghosts...hmmm...I'm not sure how much of this is actually viable...How about this, *Hamlet* teaches us that "brevity is the soul of wit," So, don't be long-winded, like Polonius.

And, since I'd like to follow that last bit of advice, allow me to leave you with this...

No matter where you go or what you do next year...No matter what you accomplish throughout the rest of your life...the only thing I really want for you is to **Be loved and be loving.**

Thank you, Class of 2021. It's been a joy to teach you.

Have a great life; Be of good cheer!

Jeremy Reed, TCA High School English

I'd like to challenge you to be joyful. Please . . . Radiate joy and force the ridiculous time and place filled with contentious people to deal with your joyful enthusiasm. Refuse to meditate on things that are ugly, destructive, and hateful, and instead focus on what is True, Beautiful, and Good.

JEREMY REED, TCA HIGH SCHOOL
ENGLISH TEACHER



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: CORE VALUES

TCA's Core Values states that "we value the fact that *freedom isn't free* and honor the sacrifices made by the men and women who serve or have served in the Armed Forces." In 2014, and each year thereafter, TCA has raised funds and awareness about *Wreaths Across America* as a way to honor our Veterans. Over a seven year period TCA has donated over 2,150 wreaths to be placed on veteran grave sites. In a few weeks TCA volunteers will help once again with over 350 wreaths donated this year. The goal of *Wreaths Across America* is to **Remember**, **Honor**, and **Teach** and on December 18th [National Wreaths Across America Day] wreath-laying ceremonies will take place at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 states.



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

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**

Make-A-Wish Colorado: TEA Fundraiser CE and NE Raise Over \$54,000



CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

see next page for more about this effort



NORTH ELEMENTARY

Our students had the privilege of listening to Sarah Grosh from Make-A-Wish Colorado during a recent assembly. TCA has chosen Make-A-Wish to fundraise for throughout the school year. Our service run this year will support Make-A-Wish Colorado and specifically a three-year-old with leukemia who is waiting on a wish. Our students were able to hear how impactful Make-A-Wish is in our state. Ms. Grosh shared how **172 wishes were granted last year; however, there are over 450 kids waiting for their wishes to be granted.** She talked about the power of a wish and how the wishes granted through their organization bring hope. With hope the children who are suffering can be resilient and rediscover joy. The wishes granted by Make-A-Wish are wishes to go, have, meet, be, or give. We are excited to have the opportunity for our Central community to make a wish come true this year!

Our students became wish granters on Friday, October 1, during our Service Run. We started our day hearing from a former Central student and TCA 9th grader, Collin Frye. Collin was six when he was diagnosed with leukemia. After three rounds of chemo, his family was put in touch with Make-A-Wish. Collin shared how having a wish granted was something to look forward to on the hard days in the hospital. He described how the wish brought him joy and hope, lifting his spirits, especially when he just wanted to be a kid and have fun. Collin thanked our students for making the world a better place by making wishes come true for sick kids in our state.

The run provided an opportunity for our students to grow in their character and demonstrate to our community what it means to be a Titan! **As each student ran laps** and participated in exercises related to the wishes granted by Make-A-Wish Colorado, they realized they were providing more than an opportunity for a sick child to receive a gift; **they realized they were giving a gift of hope and encouragement.** Our impact may be small in the grand scheme of life, but our students recognized the importance of programs like Make-A-Wish and why Titans give back to our community. The students had a teachable spirit when it came to understanding the “why” behind our service run. Their hunger to learn anything and everything that will help them be better humans is contagious. **Having a teachable spirit is an important piece of becoming an exemplary citizen.** When faced with the challenge of a 40-minute run and wish exercises, our students seized the moment to give back and persevere.

Developing students’ character is at the heart of our daily experience at Central. Jon Mertz, Thin Difference Founder, believes, “Character is a verb, demonstrated in what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. Each choice and action we take adds or detracts from our character. Any given day, we should have more positive character choices and actions than negative ones. We need to remember to be big in our character and reduce the size of our personality.” Community service opportunities foster the development of courage, empathy, generosity, and selflessness. **Our ultimate goal is that character becomes more than something that’s known when it is seen; it is engraved in our students’ minds and hearts.**

Becca DeMeyer, Central Elementary Principal

Colin Powell
1937-2021

All children need a laptop. Not a computer, but a human laptop. Moms, Dads, Grannies and Grandpas, Aunts, Uncles - someone to hold them, read to them, teach them. Loved ones who will embrace them and pass on the experience, rituals and knowledge of a hundred previous generations. Loved ones who will pass to the next generation their expectations of them, their hopes, and their dreams.