

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 Honesty

●●●●● Assorted Quotes



Photo taken by Mary Harsch (no changes made to image) <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mharsch/2401694852>

George Washington
(1732-1799)



I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy. *George Washington's Farewell Address 1796*

No legacy is so rich as honesty. *William Shakespeare (1564-1616) in All's Well That Ends Well*

Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters. *Albert Einstein (1879-1955)*

The first qualities for a great statesman is to be honest. And if it were possible that this opinion were an error, I should rather carry it with me to my grave than to believe that a man cannot be a statesman without being dishonest . . . All men profess honesty as long as they can. To believe all men honest would be folly. To believe none so is something worse. *John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) in letter to William Eustis – June 22, 1809*

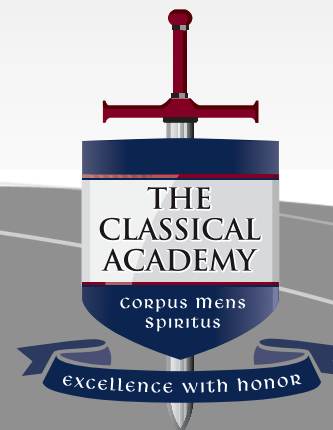
A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to put its pants on. *Winston Churchill (1874-1965)*

Nothing in this world is harder than speaking the truth, nothing is easier than flattery. *Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881) in Crime and Punishment*

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



HONESTY (continued from previous page)

A few years ago, I was walking out of the grocery store one evening with my sons. At the time they were probably about 11 and 7 years old. As we were placing our bags in the back of my car, I discovered an avocado that had slipped underneath my reusable shopping bags that I had forgotten to give to the clerk when we were checking out. (I tend to forget my bags often—even when I actually do take them into the store!) My oldest son said, “Oh no, Mom, we didn’t pay for that!” In that moment, after a hectic day at work, and a frantic race to the store to figure out something to have for dinner, standing at the back of my car, in the middle of the rain, I had a decision to make. Of course, I seriously considered just throwing the avocado in the car and getting home before the rain turned into snow, but I realized not only was my older son looking at me wondering what I would do, but the big brown eyes of his little brother were fixed on the

rock hard avocado that I really needed for guacamole that night! Suddenly those big eyes were looking at me...ARGH!!! I just wanted to get home! However, I knew what I had to do. The three of us raced back into store, jumping over



puddles and avoiding other shoppers exiting the doors. When we reached the service desk, the manager seemed quite surprised that we had come all the way back into the store to pay for one lonely, unripe avocado. Honestly, so was I! And honestly, I was wondering to myself if I would have gone back into the store if my sons had not been with me. But then I thought, doing the right thing should not depend upon whether anyone is looking; we do the right thing because it is the right thing to do, and our soul knows it! I wanted to set an example for my kids that night. I hoped that the choice we made to return to pay for our avocado would stick with them when they were faced with choices, choices where doing the right thing might not always be convenient. I hoped that it would somehow transcend through the years to remind them that they should admit when they did not do their homework, instead of trying to copy a friend’s right before class. I hoped it would remind them to do the right thing and accept whatever grade they got on a test based on their own effort, and not try and cheat somehow just to get a higher percentage. And of course I truly hoped it would remind them to do the right thing when faced with much bigger “adult” choices!

My boys are now 14 and 11, and I honestly cannot say that they are 100% truthful all of the time. But I like to think that myself, my husband, and the other adults in their lives are doing everything we can to encourage them to be young men of integrity, not only by what we say, but by how we live our lives. Our children need to know that being honest and doing the right thing will get them further in life than any grade on any test or assignment ever will. If we teach them to be honest and truthful



with things as small as an avocado, we can hope that they will recognize and pursue truth in the big decisions of their lives.



Strengthening OUR Core II



2nd Generation Titan!

Dear TCA Family,

Whether I've seen you in the hallways or at one of our many school events, I love catching up and hearing what's going on in your family. And if I haven't had the pleasure of introducing myself or talking, I hope we get the chance soon! Recently, during one of these chance encounters, I heard about a former TCA student of mine - she has a great story, and one I'd like to share with you...

"Mary" told administrators and teachers continuously that she wasn't cut out for TCA. She hated the uniforms, the rules, the academics, and the entire TCA atmosphere. She was thrilled to withdraw from TCA mid-Senior year and transfer to a "normal" school. TCA was just not for her! It turns out Mary never did graduate from the new school; instead she earned her GED after finding herself pregnant.

Even though Mary was away from TCA, she came back periodically to visit me and some other staff favorites - teachers, office members, and counselors.

Just a few weeks ago, Mary came back to visit again. She wanted to let us know that she had started college and had a great job she loved. She handed out some of her business cards, and we were able to catch up with her about how her life was going. She told us about taking the entrance exams at PPCC; she said she was surprised at how well she had done. No remedial classes needed! She said, "There really must be something to this Classical Education thing..." Mary went on to tell us about her daughter, who will be entering kindergarten next fall. When asked where her child was going to attend school, Mary quickly said, "TCA, of course. I've had her on the waiting list almost since birth. TCA wasn't for me - but it is for my daughter! She deserves the best!"

I am so proud of our school - where a former student thinks there is so much value in a TCA education that she is planning to make her daughter a 2nd generation Titan! Thanks for all you do to make this a great place to develop extraordinary people!

We are Titans!
Russ Sojourner



www.TCAcore.org

FOUR KEY PROJECTS



Strengthening Our Core Initiative 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.

Strengthening Our Core Initiative — \$2.4 million, 3 years

Please go to www.TCAcore.org today to donate.



ROMAN DAY

On October 23, Latin III and IV students from the high school spent the morning with the 3rd grade classes at North Elementary for Roman Day. The 3rd graders were able to experience the following events organized by the upper level Latin classes: Roman military training, Pyrrhus of Epirus's invasion of Italy and subsequent "victory," a Roman mythology talent show, everyday life in Ancient Rome, and trade throughout the Roman Empire. The high school students created all the activities with great success (and learning) for all.



TCA Marching Band Takes Third at State

This year the TCA marching band threw their hat into the ring of competitive marching band and had a tremendously successful season. Beginning with sectional rehearsals over the summer, full band camp the first week of August, and 4-6 hours weekly in the evenings and on Saturdays, staff and students created and crafted their 2015 show, "Phoenix Rising" by Gary Gilroy. The music is the story of the phoenix, a bird on fire that incinerates itself and then is reborn from its ashes.

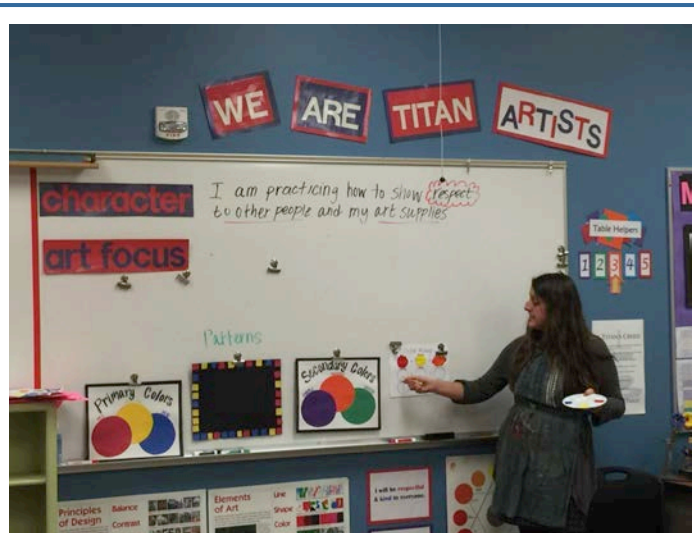


The marching band competed on October 10th at the Legend Band festival winning first in their division. They then performed again at the Colorado Bandmasters Southern Regional completion (our state qualifier competition) on October 14th at D20 stadium. They also placed first at that event and as a result secured a state competition spot, which took place on October 26th at the CSU Pueblo Thunderbowl. Our band was able to perform twice, advancing from semifinals to finals, where they finished **third in the state** in their **FIRST** year competing! We are all very proud of our band and what they have accomplished. GO TITANS!!!



TCA Obtains Kinder Readiness Waiver

Over the summer TCA started the process to submit for a waiver to the Kindergarten Readiness (School Readiness) portion of the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) legislation that was passed in 2008. Last school year (2014-2015), TCA, along with other schools within Academy District 20, entered into a pilot program for assessing Kinder Readiness in compliance with state statute. The state approved assessment protocol was Teaching Strategies GOLD (TS GOLD). After participating in the pilot program last year TCA felt that our own system of evaluating kindergartners met the requirements of the law in a manner far more suited to our pedagogical approach and community desires. Once the opportunity for submitting a waiver to the mandate was offered by the Colorado State Board of Education, TCA worked diligently to capture how the program and assessments we have in place met the requirements of the state statute. At the September 2015 meeting of the Colorado State Board of Education our waiver was reviewed and approved through June 2038. Academy School District 20 followed with a similar waiver request the next month, which was also approved by the state board (the largest school district in Colorado to acquire such a waiver). TCA is thrilled to have obtained this waiver which reduces an intrusive burden on our kindergarten teachers with no evident benefit over previous practice. The waiver process gave TCA, other charter schools, and some districts that have sought relief, an element of local control that our board, administrators, and others have promoted over the past few years. For this school year, and into the future at TCA, the readiness of our kindergarten students for first grade will be assessed in a manner consistent with TCA values.



CLASSROOM VISITS

by Wesley Jolly (Director of Academic Services)

As I mentioned last month during this school year I have been able to visit many classrooms at all seven of our schools. So far I've spent time in 84 of our 242 teacher's classrooms. My visits only confirm the great things that are going on at our schools everyday. The passion displayed by staff, the engagement shown by students, and the depth of the discussions remind me each visit why TCA is a special place. In late October, I was able to join Laura Forbes' kindergarten art class at **East Elementary** for a painting lesson (see picture above). Laura started the class with a character focus on *respect* and how it related to the task at hand that day in the art classroom. The excitement over learning about the primary and secondary colors, especially as the paint was hitting the page or the brushes were cleaned in the water was truly enjoyable. At the beginning of last month I was able to participate in Lisa Kuyper's 4th and 5th grade PE classes at **Central Elementary** for the *Golf in Schools* program. The students loved being able learn a little about golf and swing the clubs. Additionally, the 6th graders at Central were able to take a field trip to Deer Creek golf course on a misty, foggy morning and practice their newly learned skills (see photo below). Our students and staff continually strive to live out the Titan's Creed by **taking ownership of and finding joy in learning.**



the
smartest
kids in
the world



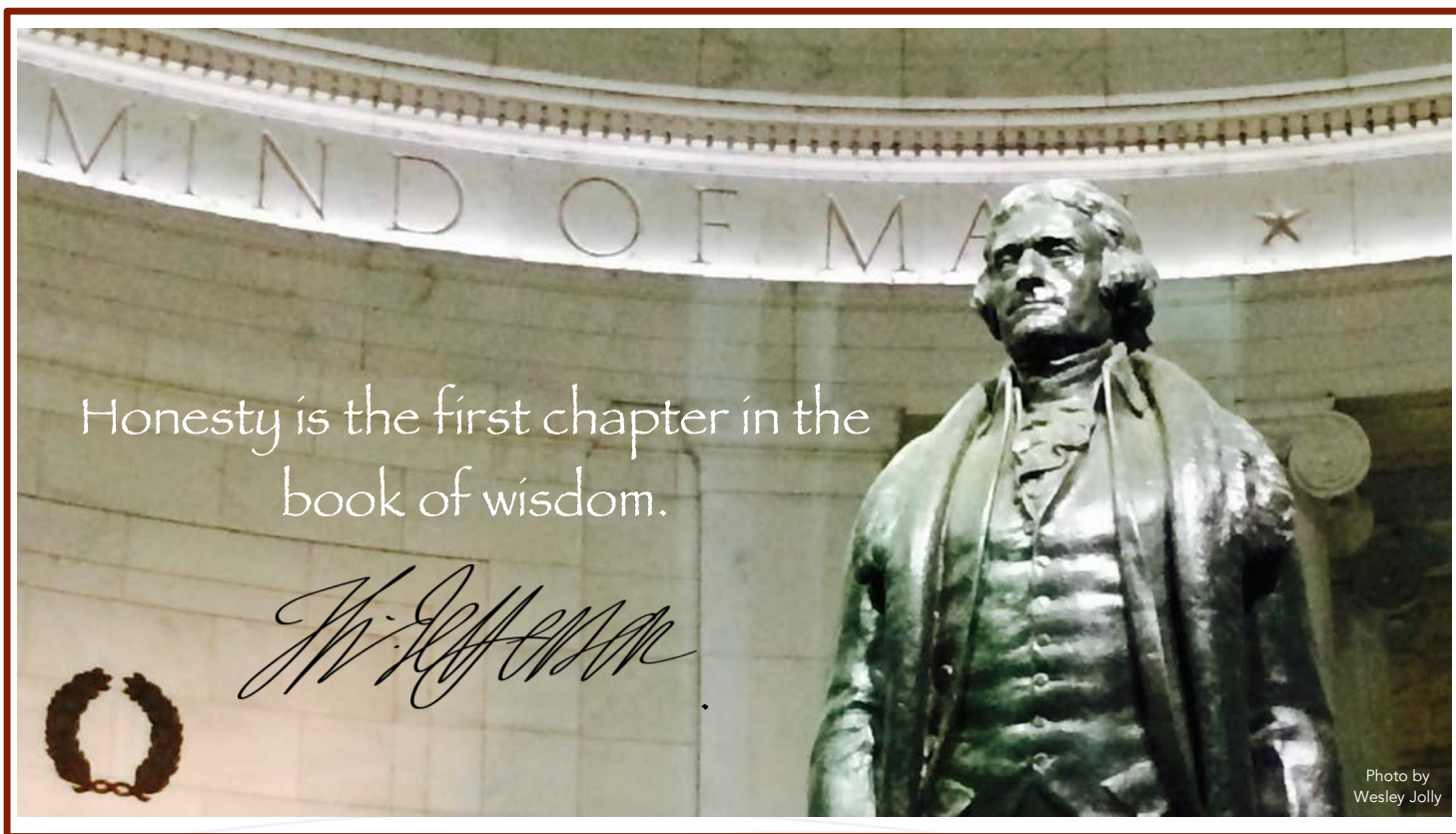
and how they got that way

amanda ripley
Author of *The Unthinkable*

BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

The final two books in our *Engaging Minds* series this academic year for the **Beyond the Book Club** meetings are Amanda Ripley's *The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got That Way* and Jay Winik's *April 1865: The Month That Saved America*. The planned discussion sessions for these two titles are February 22-24, 2016 for Ripley's work and April 25-27, 2016 for Winik's history of the waning weeks of the Civil War. We typically have ninety-minute discussion sessions that meet on the selected days at either 4:00 or 6:00 pm.

If you would to join us next February or April for either of the books listed please pick up a copy and read prior to the meeting. If you'd like to make sure you get an invitation to the sessions once they are finalized please send an e-mail to me at wjolly@asd20.org letting me know the title you plan to read. I hope you are able to join with us as we examine these interesting and thought-provoking works.





Upcoming DAS Meetings and Other Dates:

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

- Wed, Nov 18 ALT Meeting – Colorado Room (10:00-12:00)
- Wed, Dec 9 ALT Meeting – Colorado Room
- Wed, Dec 16 ALT Meeting – Colorado Room (*added meeting*)
- Wed, Jan 13 ALT Meeting – Colorado Room

Due Dates and Upcoming Events:

- Mon-Tue, Nov 16-17 Beyond the Book Club Sessions
- Tue-Sat, Nov 17-21 *Mary Poppins* (@ Wasson HS Theater)
- Tue, Nov 17 High School Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
- Tue, Nov 17 DAS/Compliance Meeting (2:30-3:00 pm)
- Wed, Nov 18 College Pathways Visit – DAS (8:00-9:30 am)

Mon-Fri, Nov 23-27	Thanksgiving Break – No Students
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- Mon, Nov 30 DAS/CCCI Meeting (8:30-9:30 am)
- Tue, Dec 1 North Elementary Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
- Thu, Dec 3 Central Elementary Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
- Mon, Dec 7 Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
- Tue, Dec 8 Cottage School Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
- Wed, Dec 9 College Pathways Visit – DAS (8:00-10:30 am)
- Thu, Dec 10 East Elementary Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
- Mon, Dec 14 DAS/CCCI Meeting (8:30-9:30 am)
- Mon, Dec 14 TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- Thu, Dec 17 DAS/Compliance Meeting (2:30-3:00 pm)

Dec 18 – Jan 3	Winter Break (traditional Elem, Sec and CSP)
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Dec 19 – Jan 4	Winter Break (College Pathways)
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- Mon-Tue, Jan 4-5 Teacher In-Service (no students Elem & Sec)
- Mon, Jan 4 Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
- Thu, Jan 7 Central Elementary Visit – DAS (8:00-11:00 am)
- Thu, Jan 7 DAS/Compliance Meeting (2:30-3:00 pm)
- Mon, Jan 11 TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)



Compliance and Accreditation Corner

Check here for updates on compliance and accreditation items as we move through the year:

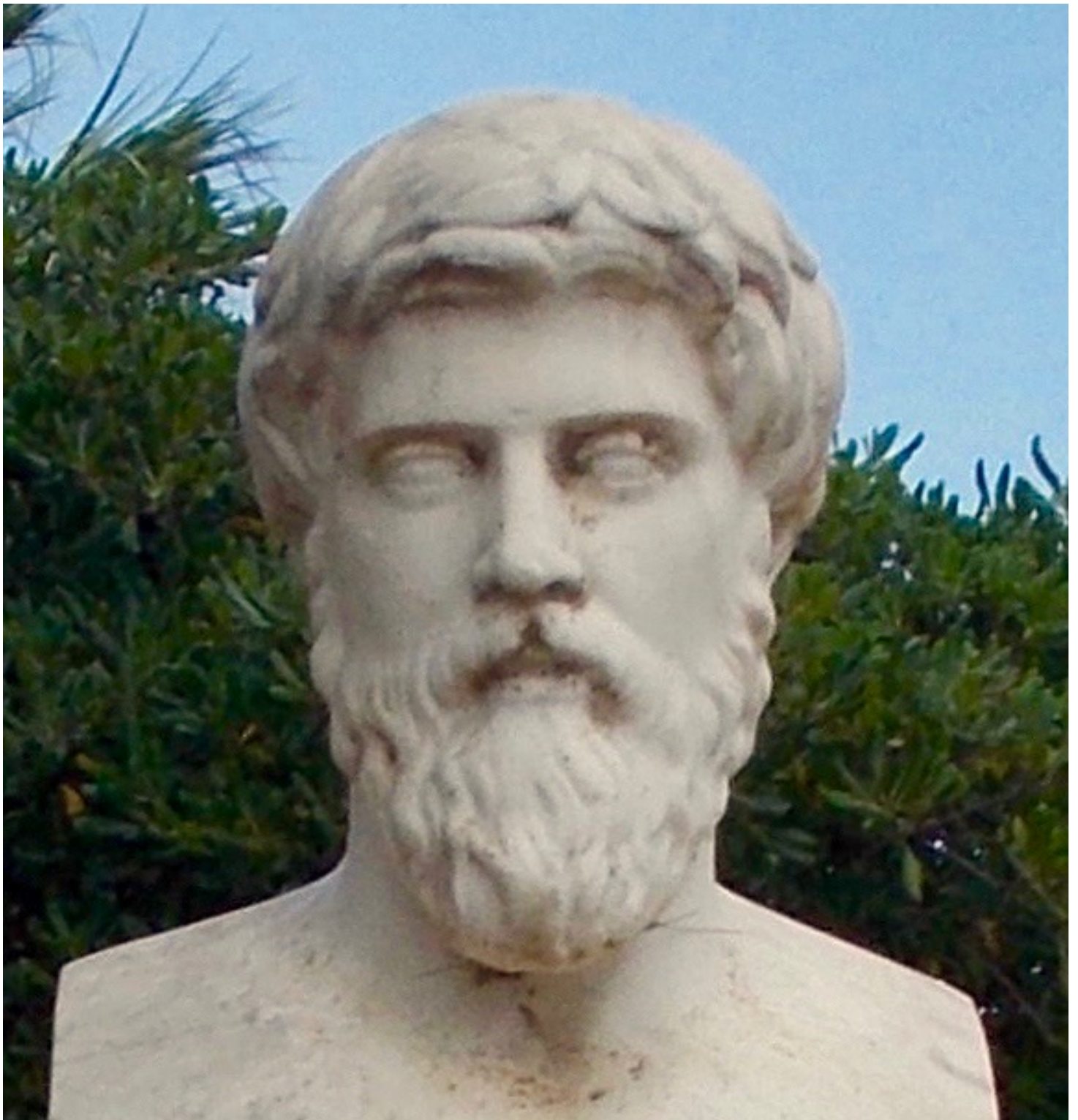
SAC BUSINESS TO COMPLETE:

- update SAC bylaws (Cheri)

ITEMS DUE IN FUTURE:

- **DAC to review site plans and SIPs/UIPs – November and December**
- Principal **Budget Priorities** for 2016-17 due **January 29, 2016**





The very spring and root of honesty and virtue lie in good education. *PLUTARCH*