

# 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.



## Thoughts on Education and Other Topics

by *John F. Kennedy*



*John F. Kennedy*

John F. Kennedy  
Presidential Portrait by  
Elaine de Kooning, 1963  
National Portrait Gallery

personal photo (W. Jolly) of  
painting taken on visit to  
Washington, D.C., in October 2013

“If more politicians knew poetry, and more poets knew politics, I am convinced the world would be a better place in which to live.” *Harvard Address – 1956.*

“The stories of past courage . . . can teach, they can offer hope, they can provide inspiration. But they cannot supply courage itself. For this each man must look into his own soul.” *Profiles in Courage – 1956.*

“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.” *JFK quote*

“Liberty without learning is always in peril; learning without liberty is always in vain.” *JFK quote*

We must think and act not only for the moment but for our time. I am reminded of the story of the great French Marshall Lyautey, who once asked his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree was slow growing and would not reach maturity for a hundred years. The Marshall replied, ‘In that case, there is no time to lose, plant it this afternoon.’ *University of Cal-Berkeley Address – 1962*

“A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.” *Amherst College Address - 1963*

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

## A Titan's Creed Approved by TCA Board

During the course of the 2013-2014 school year the Character, Culture, Curriculum, and Instruction (CCCI) department has worked with numerous stakeholders at TCA – students, parents, staff at all grade levels, administration, and the Academic Lead Team to create a TCA touchstone document (first mentioned in Volume 2 of the PALMARIUM). The goal was to create a clear statement of what we strive for at TCA that could be embraced by all students, staff, and parents. The intent was not to replace the mission statement, or in any way diminish the core values, but rather have a document that embodies the essence of who we are that is actionable in our daily endeavors. The final document after much thought, review, and reflection (*included on the next page*), was approved by the TCA

Board of Directors on Monday, March 10. As we progressed through the stages of development it became apparent that the touchstone embodies *A Titan's Creed*. During the remainder of the 2013-2014 academic year and as we move into the next school year you will see a dedicated effort to emphasize the creed through a variety of school venues. The support by students, staff, and administration has been extremely positive throughout the entire effort and we encourage all of TCA to embrace this powerful statement.



The Classical Academy's Class of 2014



We in this country, in this generation, are, by destiny rather than choice, the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility, that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint, and that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of 'peace on earth, goodwill toward men.' That must always be our goal, and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength. For as it was written long ago, 'except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.'

Undelivered luncheon speech, Dallas, Texas November 22, 1963



President Kennedy and the First Lady in Dallas, TX – November 22, 1963.

# A Titan's Creed

Titans endeavor to recognize and pursue truth, beauty, and goodness.

Titans celebrate virtue in scholarship, relationship, and citizenship.

Titans take ownership of and find joy in learning.

Titans value our responsibilities above our rights.

Titans love, respect, and protect one another.

Striving to be our best, do our best,

And give our best to the world, in

Mind, Body, and Spirit,

**We Are Titans!**



The Lincoln Book Tower at the Ford's Theatre Center for Education and Leadership (approximately 6,800 books are represented in the tower)

See article on book tower at:  
<http://www.fordstheatre.org/home/explore-lincoln/lincoln-book-tower>



### A Daily Desk Reminder: The Hand of a Difference Maker

We all have items that sit on our desks, or otherwise reside in our work areas, that may seem unusual to others. Framed photos and items created by your children usually do not cause anyone to wonder about the origin of the item, but at other times there are sentimental or thought provoking objects that fill our surroundings that beg for conversation. One such item on the desk in my office is a casting of Abraham Lincoln's right hand. A couple have asked me about it, but for the most part it sits there as a personal reminder to me - a reminder of the president that every class I taught for seven years at TCA in U.S. History has rated as our greatest president. Lincoln is the most written about American ever, with an estimated 15,000 books dedicated to some element of his life. Sometimes the hand makes me sit back and think of his impact – the reach of his life even today – and the difficult decisions he faced and how he handled them. The word *meditate* derives from the Latin *meditari* which means: to reflect upon, to contemplate, plan. If nothing more than a small item of connection, something that makes us pause, even momentarily, those mementoes serve a valuable purpose – *reflection*.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S HANDS

"Sculptor Leonard Volk took the castings of Lincoln's hands at Lincoln's home in Springfield in late May 1860. Lincoln had just won the Republican nomination for President, and Volk was already thinking of using these castings, in combination with his recently completed Lincoln bust, to fashion a full-length statue. Lincoln's right hand grasps a section of broom handle that he himself obligingly fetched from a shed when the artist expressed a desire to have him hold something. When Lincoln began smoothing the raw edges of the sawn piece, Volk told him that it really was unnecessary, to which Lincoln replied, 'I thought I would like to have it nice.'"

*Leonard Wells Volk (1828 - 1895)*  
 Plaster life casts, 1917 casts after 1860 originals  
 National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; transfer from the National Museum of American History

Descriptive article above taken from the National Portrait Gallery website:  
<http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/travpres/lincs.htm>



Personal photograph (W. Jolly) of castings of Lincoln's hands at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., taken during a visit in October 2013. A copy of Lincoln's right hand that I purchased at the Lincoln Library and Museum, in the summer 2012, while attending the National Endowment of the Humanities *Summer Institute on Abraham Lincoln* sits on my desk at TCA.



# Upcoming DAS Meetings and Due Dates:

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

- Apr 2: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office
- Apr 23: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office
- May 7: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office
- May 28: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office

## Due Dates and Upcoming Events:

Mar 18: TCA Senate Meeting (6:00-7:30 pm)

Mar 24-28: *Spring Break for Staff*

Apr 2: State Assessment Study – CDE (DAS participation)

Apr 9: Board Working Session – Strategic Plan

Apr 14: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)

Apr 22: TCA Senate Meeting (6:00-7:30 pm)

Apr 23: ACT Testing (Juniors)

May 11: Mother’s Day

May 12: TCA Golf Tournament (Advancement)

May 12: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)

May 14: Senior Breakfast

May 19-22: Final Exams (Secondary)

May 23: TCA Graduation

May 26: Memorial Day

Jun 9: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)

Aug 1-2: Annual TCA Board Retreat

*Please stay aware of the due dates listed on this page of the newsletter. It will help us make sure we are up-to-date on all upcoming requirements/suspenses. See compliance and accreditation specifics in the next column.*



## Compliance and Accreditation Corner

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

### SAC BUSINESS TO COMPLETE:

- SAC minutes to Cheri for Absolutes notebook

### ITEMS DUE IN FUTURE:

- **External Review Prep** – will schedule meetings in Mar/Apr/May to coordinate (Wes, Cheri, Hugh, Becca, and Ben)
- **Final Contact Time** - Cheri will submit April 30, 2014
- **Update Site Plans with new D20 Format** - Cheri to complete by April 30, 2014
- **Updated Site Plans** due to Cheri by May 28, 2014
- **Absolutes Notebook** – Cheri will streamline process & gather appropriate information – due May 31, 2014
- **Site Plan Training with D20** in Fall 2014 (JH and NE coordinate with Cheri)

