



# Renuntio

No nobler training exists but that which cherishes the good, the beautiful, and the true, thus producing disciples of knowledge and lovers of wisdom.

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## The Unraveling of Character

The horses eyes bulged and blood vessels popped. Screams of sheer terror filled the air. A moment of weightlessness made everything clear. I was going to die. At five years old, I was clearly too young to die but anything is possible. Thinking back on it now, I would say that moment in my life was a character builder. The phrase "character builder" was coined by my parents. You may disagree, claiming that you heard that same phrase from someone else. I cannot tell you who came up with it first; I can tell you how it feels though. The ground rushed to meet me with a kiss that took my breath away. Tears streamed down my face and fear gripped my heart. A surge of will and determination took over as human instinct kicked in. The shine of horse shoe wheeled in the blue sky as it sought my very destruction. Fight or flight. Like a cat fleeing a barking dog, I ran to the nearest building and hid. I had survived to fight another day. The acquisition of character hurts. It can be humbling and possibly scary. And yet, it makes us who we are.

Character traits can be passed on to our own children or to people we are close to as mentor figures. Ironically, my grandfather was helping me build character with the bucking-off incident. I thought it was interesting when my grandmother gave him a scolding for putting me on "that horse". Apparently we both learned some important les-

sons that day. I'm sure any reasonable person could think of some character lesson titles for this incident; "You Gotta Be Tough in this World", "If You Get Bucked Off, Get Back in the Saddle" and so on. There is no doubt in my mind that my grandfather was tough and full of grit. This also explains why he put me on a horse that was not used to a rider. Would I be filled with toughness and grit by riding a wary horse? How could you plan that sort of thing? The lessons of life fill us with character. There is no way of knowing when they will show up.

In the year 1917, a young Russian boy (my grandfather) and his siblings hid in their barn peeking out of the shadows. At dusk it was difficult to see, figures mostly but there was no denying that the Bolsheviks had come. His father, mother and eldest brother stood in a line in front of the house. The crack of the rifle broke the stillness as did the next two shots. In an instant his family was cut in half. Crumpled bodies soaked the earth with blood. Shadows climbed aboard horses and slipped into the growing darkness. The revolution had come to their doorstep and left only death. Fight or flight. Over the next few months my grandfather and siblings made their way cross country to Belgium. A ship would take them to Canada and freedom from a growing tyranny. (cont. pg. 2)

## THE XAVIER PROMISE

*Xavier Classical Charter Schools are dedicated to providing a classical, intellectually rigorous, content-rich, liberal arts education, preparing students to excel in every duty and guiding them toward wisdom and virtue.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

1

- 3/20-24— **SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL (K-12)**
- 3/28-30— Homework Club
- 3/31— **60's Hippie Day**
- 4/4-5— Homework Club
- 4/6— **Student-led Conferences**  
3:30-6:30 p.m.
- 4/7— Early Release 1 p.m.  
**Kindergarten No School Student-led Conferences**  
1:30-4:30 p.m.
- 4/11— **No School** (gr. K-10)  
SAT Testing Day (gr. 11)  
Senior Compendium
- 4/12— Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 4/17— **LOTTERY DAY**
- 4/18-20— Homework Club
- 4/21-21— Hooverville (gr. 7-8)
- 4/25-27— Homework Club
- 4/28— **Western Gear Day**
- 4/28— Arbor Day Assembly

## Unraveling of character —

freedom from a growing tyranny. My grandfather was not so lucky. He became ill with a high fever and was not cleared to join the ship. His two older sisters would go on without him as he was cared for by a local family. At ten years old, he finally gained passage to Canada and was soon reunited with his siblings. If his dad was still alive, I think he may have told his son that it was a good character builder.

Building character is life. Or perhaps life is building character. Character is built over time, like the winding of a multicolored string over a ball of clay. If we unravel it, we learn that some parts were dark and some were light. If we unravel to the core we realize that these character building traits have molded our clay core into who we are at this instant. We show our character by getting “back on the horse” or looking evil and despair in the face and choosing to fight it and survive it. As Earle J. Glade states “*We are where we are, as we are, because of what we are*”. As I think of the 28 new third grade students that will become a part of my life for nine months, I brace for the character building moments that will include tears, joy, humility and excitement. I will use all of my own experiences to help guide them. Of course something new always seems to show up, in which case, I’m sure it will be a new “character building” experience for me.

Josh Dickson, 3rd grade teacher

## CONGRATULATIONS CHLOE WHERRY!!! 2017 POETRY OUT LOUD STATE CHAMPION

### VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

**CITIZENSHIP— We honor rules and laws and respond to authority in obedience. We give of our time and abilities to serve others. We uphold liberty and social equality through respect for individual differences and knowledge of our democratic system.**

**Mar. 6 —** “It is not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen.” ~Aristotle (Greek philosopher, b. 384-322 BC)

**Mar. 13 —** “You will ever remember that all the End of study is to make you a good Man and a useful Citizen.” ~John Adams (2nd US President, b.1735-1826)

**Mar. 27 —** “The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight.”

~Theodore Roosevelt (26th US President, b. 1858-1919)

**COOPERATION— We work with others for the good of all involved with a positive attitude. We equitably participate in mutual responsibilities for the completion of shared ends and direct our efforts and attention accordingly.**

**Apr. 3—** “No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.” ~John Donne (English poet, lawyer and cleric, b. 1572-1631)

### SAVE THE DATE

#### WHAT?

**FIRST ANNUAL  
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

#### WHEN?

SATURDAY  
MAY 13, 2017  
1-4 PM

#### WHERE?

XAVIER CHARTER SCHOOL

#### HOW?

THROUGH A DELIBERATE  
EFFORT BY XAVIER  
STAKEHOLDERS

#### WHY?

TO FOSTER CONTINUED  
COMMUNITY AND TO RAISE  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MONIES  
FOR XAVIER  
CHARTER SCHOOL

**Would you like to help?**

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