



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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A PROMISE OF READING by Carole Stevens

I have made the same promise to every first grade class I have taught. If you promise to listen, I promise you will read. Each year when I make that promise, I realize it means more work for me, as their teacher. I will have emergent readers, who are getting comfortable with the books and the pictures. My early readers are learning to predict the words. My transitional readers love a specific series that they are comfortable with. Finally, my fluent readers are consistent and hopefully will develop a love long love of reading.

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I still remember when Charlie had missed a week and the principal came to see me after school to let me know Charlie was in Children's Hospital. He wanted me to come and bring his homework. He was in the hospital and wanted his homework! I went over on my way back to school and his eyes just lit up when I came in with his "homework". Then I did what I did with him every day when the rest

of the students went to recess. I read him a story. I continued to do the same thing every day for another week, and then I talked to his mom and told her I thought the homework was taking its toll on him. She didn't think he would like that - and indeed he didn't! I sat down on his bed and tried to explain my concerns, but he kept crying and saying "I need to learn to read...PLEASE!" So for the next 10 days as soon as I finished teaching, it was back to the hospital. We read a couple beginning books together each day until he fell asleep. One day as I left, I wasn't sure I would see him again but I didn't know his perseverance! The next day, I left for the hospital, not knowing what I would find.

As I walked in his room, Charlie was sitting in his bed, his hair slicked back, and two little books in his hands. He told me to sit down. I was really confused. He picked up one book and read it with a smile like none I had ever seen. As soon as he finished the first one, he read the second one! Charlie could read, and all of us were crying! That night as I left, he sat up and said, as loud as he could, "I CAN READ"! Charlie passed away the next evening with both books on his chest.

In the 30 years since Charlie passed away, I think of him each time one of my students had the "light come on for them" just like it did for Charlie.

After all, a promise is a promise!

THE XAVIER PROMISE

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/19— **Academic Decathlon Invitational**
- 11/21-25— Thanksgiving Break—**NO SCHOOL**
- 12/1— Picture Retakes
- 12/2— Sadie Hawkins Dance (7-12)
- 12/6-9— James and the Giant Peach Rehearsal 5 p.m.
- 12/10— Jingle and Mingle Craft Show
- 12/12— Winter Showcase (K-2) 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.
- 12/13— Roman Festival (Gr. 3) 5:30 p.m.
- 12/14— Medieval Tournament (Gr. 4) 5:30 p.m.
- 12/14— **BOARD MEETING** 6:00 p.m.
- 12/15— Winter Showcase (Gr. 5,6) 5:30 p.m.
- 12/19- 1/2— Winter Break (K-12) **NO SCHOOL**
- 1/3— **SCHOOL RESUMES**

MEET MR. KEENE

Our new counselor, Dr. R. Brian Keene, comes to us with a wide variety of experience. He grew up in Meridian, Idaho. He served two years in the U.S. Navy before going to college at Boise State University, but joined the Army ROTC program and the Army Reserve while in college. He retired from the Army after 32 years of military service (7 years active duty, 25 years in the reserve) following a helicopter accident in Iraq and retired from the Clark County School District after 30 years in public education where he has taught math, science, PE, psychology, and career and personal development, and has served as a counselor, a vice-principal, a principal, and a central office administrator.

He has also taught college and university part-time and is an adjunct professor at two state colleges and a university.

He has 5 children and 3 grandchildren and moved back to Idaho after a 20 year absence specifically to be closer to his grandchildren. His hobbies include SCUBA diving, camping, and hiking and he loves to debate both politics and religion and will often claim to support a side opposite of his own leanings just to get a better debate.

He enjoys travelling and went to the Philippines over fall break and anticipates spending winter break in Hong Kong. Although he has already retired twice, he doesn't ever plan to stop working because not only does he enjoy being around kids (they give him energy) but he also needs the money to pay his Royal Caribbean bills (you can see a lot of things from the deck of a cruise ship).

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

Perseverance—We spurn despair and strive to complete tasks to the best of our abilities, regardless of the difficulty. We respond creatively to overcome obstacles and ask for help when necessary.

Nov. 28 — *“When you get into a tight place, and everything goes against you ‘til it seems you couldn’t hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that’s just the place and time that the tide ‘ll turn.”* ~Harriet Beecher Stowe (American Abolitionist and author, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, b.1811-1896)

INTEGRITY— We are individuals with strong ethical values, who make consistently good choices in keeping with our knowledge of right and wrong. We seek the wisdom of others in cases of moral uncertainty.

Dec. 5 — *“Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.”* ~Samuel Johnson (English writer, novelist, poet, b.1709-1884)

Dec. 12 — *“Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it’s right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity.”* ~W. Clement Stone (American businessman and philanthropist, b. 1902-2002)

WORDS from the past...

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever: Its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness.”

~John Keats

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

Please send your children with appropriate winter wear— hats, gloves, coats, etc.

Jack Frost has arrived!!!