



# 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.

## THE MIGHTY PEN

*The Effectiveness of the Written Word  
versus the Typed Word*

Most have heard the age-old adage that the “pen is mightier than the sword,” meaning that writing is a more effective tool than the power of might. In the current age of technological power, is it possible that the “pen could be mightier than the keyboard? Several studies conducted since 2012 seem to point in that direction.

Two researchers at a French university neuroscience laboratory carried out a study of 76 children age three to five. Recognizing letters was far easier for the children who learned to write them by hand than those who learned letters through typing. The study was repeated on adults learning Bengali and Tamil characters. Stunningly, the results were the same.

Some scientists believe that crafting each letter by hand is really an action of “body memory.” The movement of the body directs cognitive function and awareness helping the brain “grab onto” and hold in-

formation.

Over 300 students at Princeton and the University of California, Los Angeles took part in a study that suggested longhand note taking compared to typed notes stood out as superior for long term recollection (2-4 weeks). Students who typed, however, had a greater volume of words per minute – 33 words versus 22 words – and were able to answer questions better immediately after note taking than their longhand counterparts.

Scientists conducting the study concluded that students who hand wrote text tended to “rephrase” information while taking notes which required them to mentally carry out the process of summarizing and comprehension. Keyboard users took plenty of notes, even making a literal transcription, but were lacking in what is known as “desirable difficulty” which is what makes it possible to own information.

Cont. on pg. 2

December, 2017

Volume 7 | Issue 4

## 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.*

### DECEMBER EVENTS

12/12-14— READING CLUB

12/11— K-2 SHOWCASE  
5:30 PM

12/13— 5/6 SHOWCASE  
5:30 PM

11/14— 4TH GRADE MEDIEVAL  
TOURNAMENT  
5:30 PM

12/11-15— PIZZA PIE CAFÉ  
NIGHTLY

12/19-21— READING CLUB

12/19— 4TH GRADE ROMAN  
FESTIVAL-5:30 PM

12/21— BOARD MEETING-6PM

12/25-1/5—

**CHRISTMAS WINTER BREAK  
K-12 NO SCHOOL**

### The Mighty Pen cont.

Scientists concluded that although writing by hand is more time consuming than typing, it allows the brain time to assimilate, store, regroup and retain information. According to recent studies, long hand allows the necessary time to thoroughly think through what is being written. Strong writers tend to have the ability to draw relationships between ideas and develop out of the box solutions to complex problems. Since handwriting is so slow, students are forced to mentally engage with the information.

These questions remain – Do people express themselves more freely and clearly with the pen? Does either the typed word or the handwritten word make a difference in the way the brain works? Is the pen indeed mightier than the keyboard? Recent research suggests a correlation.

At Xavier Charter School the handwritten word holds much value and is utilized daily. It is validating to see broad studies support a basic premise of classical education.

Becky Baird

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND HAVE A BLESSED TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. SEE YOU ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9!**

### PILLAR of the Month

**INTEGRITY** — We are individuals of 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. 4** — “The future depends on what we do in the present.” ~Mahatma Gandhi (lawyer, politician, activist, b.1869-1948)

**Dec. 11** — “Never look down on anybody, unless you’re helping them up.” ~Jesse Jackson (Civil rights activist, Baptist minister, politician, b. 1941- present)

**Nov. 18** — “The measure of a man’s real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out.” ~Thomas Babington Macaulay, (British historian, Whig politician, b. 1800-1859)

### PIZZA PIE CAFE

#### ATTENTION PARENTS:

**DURING K-6 SHOWCASE WEEK, PFA IS ENCOURAGING XAVIER FAMILIES TO ENJOY PIZZA PIE CAFÉ BEFORE OR AFTER ATTENDING SHOWCASES.**

**IT IS AN OUTRAGEOUSLY WONDERFUL AND ENTERTAINING WEEK AS WE MOVE TOWARD CHRISTMAS BREAK!**

### SKI CLUB NEWS

Ski Club spots are filling up fast!!! There are only 15 seats available. The remainder of the dues and sign-ups are due by December 20<sup>th</sup>. If you intend to ski this year, do read the necessary information and fill out the permission slip right away. We hope to see you on the slopes this winter.

### CHRISTMAS WORDS...

*“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plentiful in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.”*  
~Calvin Coolidge