



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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PADDLE TO THE SEA WITH GREEK AND LATIN ROOTS

One of my favorite books as a child was a story called *Paddle to the Sea* (1941) by Holling C. Holling. I grew up in the Michigan Great Lakes area so for me it was a book about “home.” Still today I have this book on my classroom shelf. If you have never encountered this gem, it’s a story of a Native Indian boy, who carves and paints a model of an Indian paddling a canoe. The boy sets his Paddle Person in the snow before the thaw in the Nipigon region of Canada, above Lake Superior, starting him on a journey which the boy hopes will carry the little canoe to the Atlantic Ocean.

To discourage people from interfering with the voyage, the boy carves a sign on the hull of his model, “Please put me back in the water. I am Paddle to the Sea.” Paddle meets with all sorts of adventures (beavers, a sawmill, waterfalls, etc.) along the way as he meanders through the Great Lakes and down the St. Lawrence River, and the trip provides an informal and entertaining geography lesson.

Several months into his mission,

Paddle has lost most of his original paint and gets a new paint job and a coat of varnish from a man in the Coast Guard. The helpful Coast Guard man also attaches a plaque to the bottom of Paddle’s canoe, on which others who fish him out of the water along his journey can engrave the name of their city, so that Paddle’s journey can be traced by those who find him later. After four years and several thousand miles, Paddle finally reaches his destination, the great wide Atlantic Ocean.

Like *Paddle to the Sea*, each of the Greek and Latin roots we teach in grades 3-5, have traveled an epic journey of thousands of years and several thousand miles to arrive in the ocean of our modern English language. Just as the Atlantic touches many countries, so these roots have found their way into many languages. Some roots seem to have been battered almost beyond recognition by the waves and rocks along their journey, while others seem to have arrived with their original coat of paint.

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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.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 2/1— Career Day Dress Up
- 2/1— Chess Club 3-4 p.m.
- 2/2— Ski Day Pomerelle
- 2/8— Poetry Out Loud Upper School
- 2/8— Chess Club 3-4 p.m.
- 2/8— Winter Ball Dance 7-10 p.m.
- 2/12— Continuous Improvement Planning 6-9 p.m.
- 2/14— Junior Poetry Out Loud Finals
- 2/15— Chess Club 3-4 p.m.
- 2/18— **PRESIDENT’S DAY NO SCHOOL (K-12)**
- 2/21-22— State Student Council Meeting
- 2/21— Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 2/22— Chess Club 3-4 p.m.
- 2/25— Club Pictures
- 2/28— K-6 Math Night 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Paddle to the Sea cont.

The more we know about each word's journey into English, the more our own language comes alive; the more we care about, and the more fun we have, using the right words well.

Have you ever had the experience of learning a new word that you don't remember hearing before, then all of a sudden, once you know what it means, you start hearing and seeing it everywhere? A word that you've heard before in conversation, but had no mental hook to hang it on, suddenly allows conversation to wash over you. Xavier's Greek and Latin study opens for each of our students new doors for vocabulary and then sneaks into conversations, books, and nearly every subject area.

Give children a code! Give them access to the roots of their language and you will find they are able to organize their mental storage system to retrieve words and their meanings when they need them. Effectively piggybacking on their phonics training in grades K-2, we enable as many children as possible to understand their language at the earliest age possible through Greek and Latin root study as they embark on their own personal journey paddling to the sea.

Becky Baird



OPEN AND RE-ENROLLMENT FEBRUARY 1ST — MARCH 31ST

FEBRUARY PILLAR OF THE MONTH

COURAGE — We always do what we know to be right despite fear, hardship, and opposition. We resist negative peer pressure, defend our rights and the rights of others, and encourage others to do the same.

Feb. 4 — *“He is a man of courage who does not run away, but remains at his post and fights against the enemy.”*

~Socrates (b.469 BC-399, Greek Athenian philosopher)

Feb. 11 — *“Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened.”*

~Billy Graham (b.1918 -2018, American evangelist, Southern Baptist minister)

Feb. 19 — *“Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others.”*

~Aristotle (b.384 BC-322 BC, Greek philosopher, student of Plato)

Feb. 25 — *“True courage is being afraid, and going ahead and doing your job anyhow; that's what courage is.”*

~Norman Schwarzkopf (b.1934-2012, United States Army General, Persian Gulf War)

PFA is collecting box tops! Please bring any that you may have starting February 2nd through February 22nd, and the winning grade will win a sundae party with Kiwi Loco!

**Thank you for
your support!**