



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.

March, 2019

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THE POWER OF A STORY

The year was 1588. The Spanish dominated the seas and had done so for quite some time. Steadily and purposefully, Spaniards had built an empire unparalleled for the day. Mighty galleons carried gold, silver, precious stones, expensive dyes, and sugar. Serving dual purposes, these vessels were both trader ships and warships. The Spanish were forever ready to defend their prize. The seas were theirs.

During this time, an English sailor (“sea dog”) prowled the waters. His name was Francisco Drac (Drake). Drake was in his 30’s, small in stature (short) with a fair (light-colored) beard. According to Spanish noblemen, however, he was one of the “greatest mariners to sail the seas.” He was widely known as the “perfect sailor.” He treated his men with affection and in return they treated him with respect. Elizabeth I provided him with the finest accommodations for his sea travels. He ate from “silver dishes with gold borders and gilded garlands.” It is said that violinists serenaded him at meal time. He was Queen Bess’s darling boy.

Francis Drake considered it a duty to his queen and country to take the seas from the Spanish by whatever means necessary. From 1577 onward, while voyaging down the west coast of Africa and then across the Atlantic Ocean, around the Americas, Drake took every opportunity to

attack Spanish and Portuguese vessels and steal their riches. To the Spanish he was a pirate, “master thief of the unknown world,” but to his queen he was a hero, “our golden knight.”

As the story of Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada was retold in my classroom a few weeks ago, students learned that in July of 1588, the Spanish had had enough of Drake’s and other English sailor’s pirate antics, and planned a stealth attack on England. They moved into English waters in tight formation with a fleet of 130 galleons and 30,000 men with every intention of launching a land battle on the unsuspecting English. The English had 1500 men. They were outnumbered to say the least.

What the Spanish sailors didn’t realize was that the English were expecting them. Brilliantly, they used cunning and knowledge of their own seas to, for all intents and purposes, outsmart their attackers. With the help of a carefully thought out plan, the weather, and Dutch reinforcements, the Spanish were forced to turn back having lost many ships and half of their men. England rejoiced! Queen Elizabeth declared a day of Thanksgiving as the English celebrated what they fully considered victory against impossible odds.

(Cont. pg. 2)

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.

MARCH EVENTS

- 3/1— 1990’s Dress Up Day
- 3/1— Chess Club 3-4 p.m.
- 3/5— Blood Drive (All Day)
- 3/7— Travel Club Meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 3/8— Chess Club 3-4 p.m.
- 3/14— Pi Day Assembly
- 3/15— Chess Club 3-4 p.m.
- 3/19— Spring Portraits
- 3/20— **Parent Teacher/Student Led Conferences 3:30-5:30 p.m.**
- 3/21— **Parent Teacher/Student Led Conferences 1:00-4:00 p.m. Kindergarten No School Early Release— 1 p.m. (Gr. 1-12)**
- 3/21— Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 3/22— **NO SCHOOL (K-12)**
- 3/25-29— **SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL (K-12)**

Power of a Story cont.

As this story drew to a close, a resounding round of spontaneous applause rang throughout our classroom and spilled into the halls, I was humbly reminded of the role these “stories of history” play in the hearts and minds of our youth. Stories whose purpose is to tell the truth about history as best we can and inspire the next generation of adults toward courage and valor, toward life as free men and women. Whether the story is melancholy and miserable or whether it is valiant and victorious, we as teachers are challenged to point our young people to the goodness and beauty sometimes not immediately evident.

I let the story rest and take root in the minds of my students over the weekend. On Tuesday I asked them to tell me by using their “thought boards” (clipboards with paper ready for thinking) what inspired them about the story. I was curious about what motivated the emphatic response to the historical narrative from the previous week. Tears welled in my eyes as I read each statement. A few are following:

“The story inspired me by the English thinking ahead and listening to each other, planning together and using teamwork.”

“The Spanish Armada inspired me because even though the enemy is strong, that doesn’t mean you’re going to lose.”

“The story inspired me that if you try hard and never give up, you can do anything. Even if you don’t actually win a battle in your life, you feel like you are a winner because you gave it your all.”

“It inspired me to try hard and that I don’t always have to have a bunch of people on my team. If we work together we can accomplish anything.”

“It inspired me because it shows numbers aren’t the most important thing.”

“The story inspired me because even when you are in a bad situation you should never ever give up.”

“This story made me realize that sometimes you win the battle and sometimes you don’t.”

“The story of the Spanish Armada inspired me because now I know that I can face big things in my life; things that seem impossible and still win.”

Out of the minds and mouths of our youth! Oh, the power of a story!

~Becky Baird

FEBRUARY PILLAR 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.

March 4 – *“There can be no daily democracy without daily citizenship.”*

~Ralph Nader (b.1934 - , American political activist)

March 11 – *“Obedience to lawful authority is the foundation of manly character.”*

~Robert E. Lee (b.1807-1870, led Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, American Civil War)

March 18 – *“Every good citizen makes his country's honor his own, and cherishes it not only as precious but as sacred.”*

~Andrew Jackson (b.1767-1845, 7th United States president)



ENROLLMENT AND
RE-ENROLLMENT
FEBRUARY 1ST
THROUGH
MARCH 31.