



THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

“When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted... or with gratitude.”

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“Live a good life and in the end, it's not the years in the life, it's the life in the years.” {Abraham Lincoln}

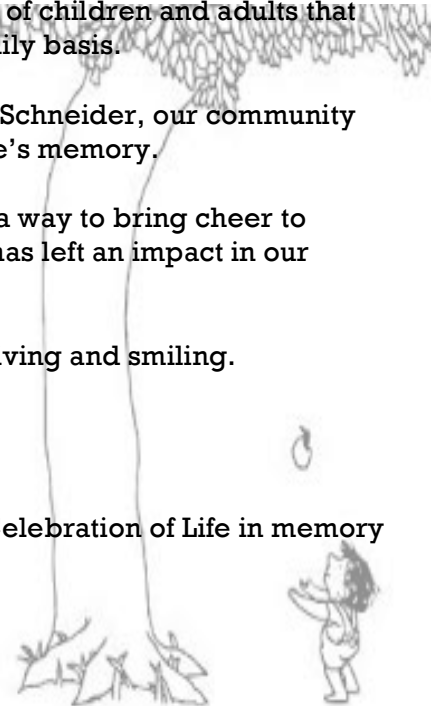
From The Odyssey Preparatory Academy staff and administration, “Thank You”. We are incredibly grateful to be a part of a selfless community made up of children and adults that show their compassion and appreciation for one another on a daily basis.

Faced recently with the tragic loss of one of our scholars, Chloe Schneider, our community immediately connected to support the family and to honor Chloe's memory.

Chloe was a model of joy; she saw the good in everyone, found a way to bring cheer to others and insisted there be laughter in life. It is very clear she has left an impact in our school and our community.

Together we will continue to honor her legacy by connecting, giving and smiling.

Join us Wednesday, November 9th at 5:30 on the OI field for a Celebration of Life in memory of Chloe.



Why Knowledge Matters

-The rationale behind the Core Knowledge Curriculum-

Each of our Odyssey Elementary schools is committed to giving all scholars a well-rounded, Core Knowledge education. However, we frequently have parents ask, “So, what is Core Knowledge?”

If you were to ask our scholars what Core Knowledge is, they would probably associate it with their favorite time of day. This is because each and every day, our scholars are introduced to a broad, balanced, and sequential set of concepts typically grounded in the Sciences or Humanities. While our scholars probably couldn’t tell you what Core Knowledge is... they most certainly could show you what it looks like! From making butter like the pioneers to learning to dance the Georgia Reel...our scholars are exposed to a spiraling sequence of hands-on engaging content that is based in **knowing**.

Right now in the educational world, we are at a place where the pendulum has swung to emphasize test-taking skills over knowledge acquisition. However, research has proven even students who have the skills to read, miss out on the true, rich meaning of the text if they do not have the appropriate background knowledge. It is the mission of the Core Knowledge foundation to reduce the knowledge gap. Core Knowledge states that for the sake of academic excellence, greater equity, and higher literacy, elementary schools need to teach a coherent, cumulative, and content-specific core curriculum. At TOPA, we could not agree more. Core Knowledge is not only a kid favorite, it is one of the best ways we can ensure that our scholars embody the Learner Profile of ‘Knowledgeable’.

Core Knowledge Topics by Grade Level:

Kindergarten	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Native Americans	Mesopotamia	China	Native Americans	China	Forms of Government
Presidents/American Symbols	Egypt	India Greece	Rome	Feudalism (Europe, Japan, Islam)	Plant & Animal Classification
Exploration	Presidents	Democracy	Vikings	Africa	Civil War
Pilgrims	13 Colonies	Westward Expansion		Middle Ages	Westward Expansion
13 Colonies	Westward Expansion	Immigration	Human Body	Magnetism	Forces and Motion
Seasons & Weather	Astronomy	Magnetism	Ecology	Geology	American Revolution
Plants	Matter	Human Body	Animal Classification	Human Body	Human Body

We believe that every person in a diverse democratic society deserves equal access to the common knowledge base that draws together its people, while recognizing our differing traditions and contributions. We believe that offering universal access to this shared knowledge is a primary duty of schooling, critical to literacy, and to the closing of the achievement gap between ethnic and racial groups.

--The Core Knowledge Foundation

You already have permission

{Seth Godin}

Just saying.

You have permission to create, to speak up, and stand up.

You have permission to be generous, to fail, and to be vulnerable.

You have permission to own your words, to matter and to help.

No need to wait!