

I will learn the true. I will do the good. I will love the beautiful.

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The Beauty of a Child's Imagination

April 14, 2017

Every morning our day begins with the students standing to say the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the pledge of Atlanta Classical Academy: "I will learn the true; I will do the good; I will love the beautiful." Then everyone, teachers and students alike, turns to working on those high and ennobling promises. What such learning looks like in practice varies some from grade to grade and from subject to subject, but the theme is consistent. For deeper insight into what your children are learning in their school—a haven, we hope, for the cultivation of the soul as much as the mind—please read the following lovely and inspiring account by Mrs. Andrew of reading *Alice in Wonderland* with her class.

We finished *Alice in Wonderland* today. I have to say that I enjoyed reading this story with your students. It is strange, full of puns, and it was a learning experience for myself and the class. Good literature takes work, and no doubt *Alice* is a book that takes time to appreciate. We discussed the last paragraph, which is quoted below, and I think it is worth sharing in this newsletter.

Alice has now awoken from her dream, and the final paragraph deals with her sister's reflections on Alice: "Lastly, she pictured to herself how this same little sister of hers would, in the after-

NEXT WEEK

April 16 - 22

ABABA

4/17 - **GA Milestones (4th, 5th & 8th Grade)**; Intent to Return Process Begins

4/18 - **GA Milestones (4th, 5th & 8th Grade)**; MS Girls Soccer ACA @ Boyd; JV Boys Soccer ACA @ Boyd

4/19 - **GA Milestones (4th & 6th Grade)**; JV Girls Soccer ACA @ Boyd

4/20 - **GA Milestones (6th Grade)**; JV Boys Soccer ACA @ Boyd;

time, be herself a grown woman; and how she would keep, through all her riper years, the simple and loving heart of her childhood: and how she would gather about her other little children, and make THEIR eyes bright and eager with many a strange tale, perhaps even with the dream of Wonderland of long ago: and how she would feel with all their simple sorrows, and find a pleasure in all their simple joys, remembering her own child-life, and the happy summer days." (p. 104)

Lewis Carroll is asking his readers to remember the "simple and loving heart of ... childhood." There are simple beauties in this world that are easily overlooked: a small insect crawling on the leaf of a tree, sunbeams pouring through rustling leaves, the laughter of a friend, and the coolness of a summer breeze.

These are things that children often notice and take joy in. Children have a tolerance for imagination and simplicity, and if you ever listen in on conversations between them, then you have seen how vivid and rich their imaginations are. Lewis Carroll is reminding us that these are qualities to encourage in ourselves even as we grow older. Today we talked about simple pleasures, and I was able to hear about the things that make them happy. These were simple: time spent outdoors, memories with you, and friendships.

Alice is reconciling the experiences she is having while growing up. These anxieties are ever-present in her dream: growing tall and small (think growing pains), confusing conversations with critical people and creatures, and lessons that she can't quite seem to understand. However, through all of this, she keeps her sense of humor and good wits. She is a normal little girl with all of the desire to perform and do well that young children often have. And so we learn that Alice in Wonderland is a book about education that encourages beauty and curiosity over utility.

This is what your students have learned the last few months. They have wrestled through difficult language, they have been frustrated and enlightened, they have answered hard study questions, and my hope is that they have learned something about beauty and truth.

The MST Considers Student Life and Student Government

The mission of Atlanta Classical Academy is to develop students in mind and character through a classical, content-rich

Board Meeting

4/21 - GA Milestones (6th Grade);
Spring Supper on the South Lawn; Classic Movie Club

FOLLOWING WEEK

April 23 - 29
BABAB

4/26 - GA Milestones (9th & 10th Grades)

4/28 - Principal's Coffee; Intent to Return Deadline; 9th & 10th Grade Spring Dance

COMING UP

5/1 - GA Milestones (9th & 10th Grades)

5/2 - GA Milestones (9th & 10th Grades); Upper School Spring Fine Arts Performance

5/3 - GA Milestones (9th & 10th Grades)

5/4 - GA Milestones (9th & 10th Grades); Athletic Awards Reception

5/5 - GA Milestones (9th & 10th Grades)

5/7 - Thespians Society and Dramatic Club Spring Performances

5/8 - AP Biology Exam

5/9 - Willy's Family Night

5/11 - 2nd - 6th Grade Fine Arts Spring Performance

5/12 - Principal's Coffee;

curriculum that emphasizes the principles of virtuous living, traditional learning, and civic responsibility.

Atlanta Classical Academy’s Mission Support Team (MST) was created to advance the mission and improve the school through thoughtful engagement with school constituents. The results of the Spring survey were analyzed, and we identified several opportunities for engagement.

We reviewed extracurricular life at ACA as our first task. We read survey feedback and conducted research on how ACA offerings compare to classical charter schools around the country and to local schools (both public and private). During this process, we uncovered some interesting information.

By the numbers:

Lower School	ACA	Comparable Schools	Area Schools
Activities	19	7	18
Upper School	ACA	Comparable Schools	Area Schools
Sports	10	9	11
Activities	9	12	26
Total Upper Extracurricular	19	21	37

Within three years of our first school day, we either have a similar offering or exceed the number of sports or clubs available to students at comparable classical charter schools around the country.

Upon review of local schools, it is worthy to note that our Lower School students have the opportunity to participate in 19 activities, which exceeds those offered at area schools two to three times our size. Students can enjoy Ukulele Club, learn about aviation and rocketry in Airplane and Rocketry Club, or spend some time immersed in another culture in World Chef’s Club to name a few.

Our 7th and 8th Graders are participating in sports! To be exact, 75% of them run, shoot, and score. In addition, there are three club sports and seven club options.

Most area public and charter high schools serve a student body ranging from 700 to 1,600. Private schools are smaller, but most are still two to three times our size. In both public schools and private, the number of clubs offered varies greatly from school to school. Academic clubs, including National Honor Society and Debate Team, are offered as are those dedicated to more narrowly-focused interests, such as K-Pop, Pokémon, or Tie-Dye Clubs.

Talent Show

5/18 - Board Meeting

5/26 - Last Day of School

View the [online calendar](#) for the full list of school events.

Click [here](#) to view the 2016 - 2017 calendar.

Click [here](#) to view the 2017 - 2018 calendar.



Mission

To develop students in mind and character through a classical, content-rich curriculum that emphasizes the principles of virtuous living, traditional learning, and civic responsibility.

Virtues

- Courage
- Courtesy
- Honesty
- Perseverance
- Self-Government
- Service

Given the size of our high school, where capacity will reach approximately 216 students once the 12th grade is established, we currently offer an array of activities for students. Clubs are carefully selected based on student interest and the spirit of a classical education. 54% of our high school students take part in a sport and 34% participate in Fine Arts.

We recognize the opportunity for additional clubs that align with the school's mission. The administration welcomes clubs brought to life by students, who will learn how to build something from the ground up. Can you think of a better way to for a student to understand leadership and the virtues of perseverance, courage, and service than by bringing an idea to fruition and starting a club for his or her peers?

Students can initiate a club through the following process:

1. Bring an idea to the Student Government for discussion at the bi-weekly informal meeting.
2. Create a summary document and present the club vision during a formal Student Government meeting.
3. The club will be forwarded to School Administration for approval.

Currently, several upper school clubs and organizations are being pursued and are at various stages of incubation. For example, the Quintillian Society is a faculty-sponsored, student-led club for excelling Latin students which seeks to serve other students and provide tutoring services for Latin. The Quintillian Society will be announced by the end of this semester. On the other hand, Civil Air Patrol is a nationally-chartered organization which focuses on leadership, discipline, and community service. The school aims to pursue a charter for a school-based cadet squadron by August 2017. On a different note, one of our high school students is investigating the launch of a Rifle and Shooting Sports Club. The aim of this student-led club will be to grow a competitive rifle team while partnering with local law enforcement agencies for mentorship and leadership development. Finally, the school is in the process of evaluating the option to sponsor a National Honor Society chapter. All of these clubs or organizations—some promoted by the faculty and others generated by student initiatives—will work their way through the process shown above for integration into the school's culture.

Clearly, our student government will play a growing role in forming and shaping these efforts. Over the past two years, our

Board Meetings

Board meetings occur on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Library at Atlanta Classical Academy.

These meetings are open to the public and parents are encouraged to attend. Community comments are limited to 2 minutes and we request they be submitted in writing.

Board meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the [school's website](#).



CHEF ADVANTAGE

To order school lunches, [click here](#).

Remember, you must submit your order four days in advance.



Registration is open for Kiddos After School Program. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

students have collaborated and worked to bring about their own model of self-government. During the Spring semester of the 2016-17 school year, students in the Class of 2019 were invited to participate in the inaugural offering of the Leadership elective. In addition to studying the lives of leaders from Alfred the Great to Benjamin Franklin to Abraham Lincoln, students also drafted the first version of the Atlanta Classical Academy student government constitution. Many laborious weeks of deliberation, debate, and careful consideration yielded an initial draft containing a preamble and two sections—one on student government offices, and a second on how to hold elections. Much like the U.S. Constitution, the Atlanta Classical Academy preamble sets the tone for the entire document:

We, the students of Atlanta Classical Academy, in order to foster our school culture, represent student sentiment, cultivate the school virtues, serve the local and school community, and promote school morale and camaraderie, do establish this constitution for the Atlanta Classical Academy student body.

Article I established the following student government positions: president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and parliamentarian. In addition, each high school class is allotted two positions for class representatives. Last Spring, the school year culminated in student government elections, which were held on May 20, 2016. As currently constituted, we have 9 elected student government positions. This will eventually grow to 13 with grades 9-12 in the high school.

The first elected student government began holding bi-weekly official meetings in the Fall of 2016. These sessions are conducted much like a public board meeting using parliamentary procedure, and are attended by the school administration.

During alternating weeks, the student government meets informally to conduct discussions and coordinate business for the upcoming formal meeting. The learning curve this year has been steep as the students grappled with how to establish good governance practices, including how to conduct a meeting, keep minutes, make motions, hold votes, forward communications to the administration, and solicit input from other students.

Furthermore, additional guidance is being developed for incorporation into the constitution, including in matters such as annual budgets, finances, and the fine-tuning of requirements for holding office.

While the role of student government has not yet been as visible as one might hope, the students have been hard at work establishing the institution and building a framework for the

School Partners

Remember to use your Partner Cards to raise money for Atlanta Classical Academy!



*Make sure you specify **Northside Education, Inc.** as the charity.



future. This year's cohort will no doubt pass along valuable lessons and tools to the next round of leaders.

Speaking of the future, this May we will hold our second round of elections as the school year draws to a close. After a campaign kickoff and one week of active campaigning, students will vote for their next slate of representatives and leaders the week before final exams. We plan to continue the tradition of announcing the winners during our end-of-year all-school picnic.

In summary and in the words of one of our parents, "Great civilizations are built over time. Atlanta Classical Academy is just getting started."



SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, MAY 26
8am - 1pm
The All-School Picnic and Field Day
will be just down Northside Drive on the field at
576 FAIRFIELD ROAD
You will have the opportunity to RSVP soon and
purchase your official Atlanta Classical Academy waterproof Picnic Blanket.

We look forward to a wonderful day
to celebrate the ending to an amazing year!

To enlarge the flier, click [here](#).

Carpool Safety

Due to the increased traffic stemming from the I-85 bridge closure, we are asking that you allow extra time in the mornings for carpool drop off (7:15 am – 8:00 am).

For the safety of our students and employees, please **always** follow these procedures:

- **NO LEFT TURN** onto the school property when heading west on Moores Mill Road.
- **NO U-TURNS OR TURNING AROUND** in the Moore Gate Condominium entrance.
- **NO DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP** of students in the South Parking Lot.
- **NO STUDENT SHALL EXIT YOUR CAR** before reaching an attendant during morning drop-off.

Intent to Return Process

The Intent to Return process for the 2017 - 2018 school year will kick off on Monday, April 17 and will continue through April 28 at 3:30 p.m. This is our annual process for families to confirm that their student(s) will be returning for next year. You will receive an email on Monday, April 17 with detailed instructions about how to complete this task in SchoolMint (please note that you may not take action in SchoolMint before Monday, April 17).

Intent to Return deadline is April 28 at 3:30 p.m. Families who do not confirm their returning status and submit re-enrollment forms by the 3:30 p.m. April 28 deadline will forfeit their student's seat for the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Planning for next year is well underway and we look forward to having your student(s) continue their pursuit of virtue, knowledge, and happiness with us.

Questions? Please [email Mrs. Carlson](#).

College Advising Additions

Please note three recent additions to the [College Advising webpage](#)!

First, we are pleased to publish the first version of our **School Profile**. This document will serve as an introduction to our high school for college admissions officers by relaying our unique priorities and offerings and showcasing the strength of our

student body. It will be available online and distributed with college applications. Second, in case you missed them, both December and March editions of the **College Newsletter** can be found on the webpage. In them, you can find announcements, tips, and insights into how to do the college search the right way. Finally, students who are interested in taking a **practice SAT, ACT, or PSAT** may register using the link under Upcoming Events to take these FREE tests on April 29 as part of the Atlanta City Council's "College Prep Series".

Important Notice from the Nursing Staff

Dear Atlanta Classical Families,

We wanted to make you aware that there are several medical devices which have been recalled. Mylan Pharmaceutical Company has recalled several Epi-Pens which are listed by lot number and expiration date [here](#). GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceutical Company has recalled several Ventolin inhalers listed here. Please reference the respective list if you own and use one of these devices.



Supper on the South Lawn

*All Atlanta Classical Academy families
are invited to our
Spring Supper on the South Lawn*

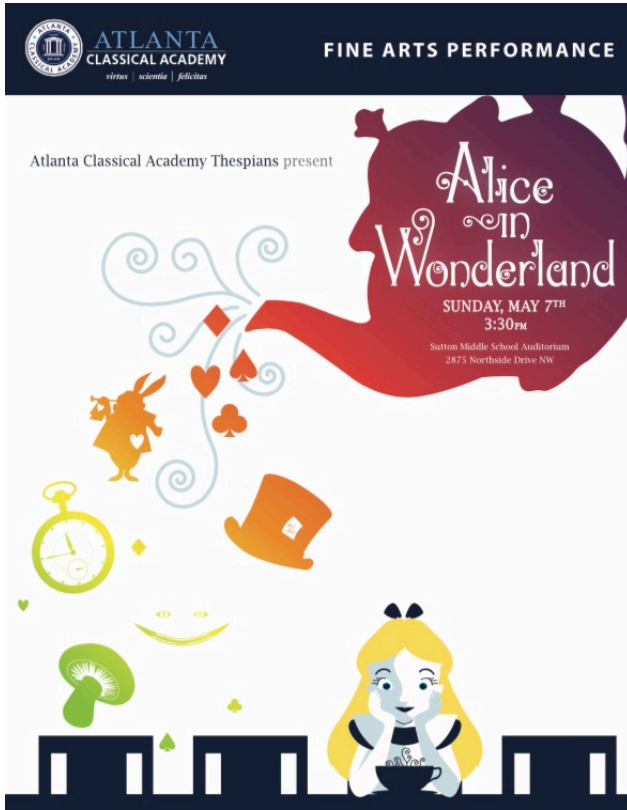
**FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017
6 PM - 8 PM**

*Food trucks will be on campus for you to purchase supper or you may bring your own.
Don't forget to bring your blankets, lawn chairs, frisbees, footballs, etc.*

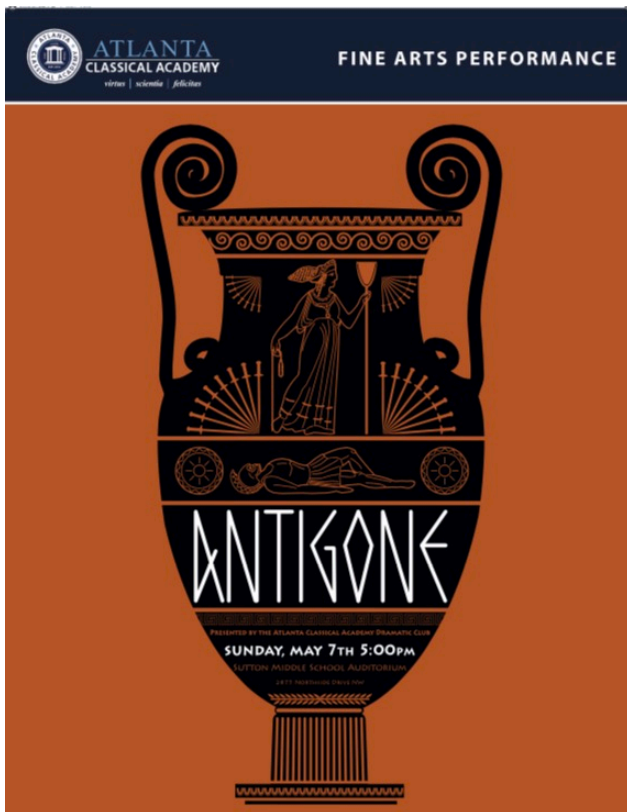


Limited parking will be at Northside Drive Baptist Church, once the lot is full please go to Trinity Presbyterian Church upper lot - A shuttle will run continuously.
Please no pets or alcohol - In case of rain event will be cancelled

To enlarge the flier, click [here](#).



To enlarge the flier, click [here](#).



To enlarge the flier, click [here](#).

ACA Athletics GO CAVALIERS!

To view the full athletics calendar, [click here](#).



Calling All Cheerleaders!!!!

We are excited to host our second Cheer Team tryouts for rising 8th through 11th grades. There is so much in store for our new Atlanta Classical Cheer Team this upcoming year, and most of all having you makes that even better! Please make sure to wear shorts, and a T-shirt, and sneakers. For any questions or concerns please contact [Coach Holland](#) or [Coach Adams](#).

Prep Day (optional): 3:10 - 4:45 pm on April 17

Tryout Dates: 3:10 - 5:00 pm on April 18 - 20

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