

# #paideialiving

A.D. 2018-2019 | January-February Newsletter | Paideia Classical Christian School | Gladstone, Oregon



## The Root and Fruit of Piety

In the entrance of the school office is painted a tree. The trunk of the tree has many words on it, words that highlight the curriculum of a classical education, words like *Trivium*, *Quadrivium*, and *Natural Philosophy*. Among the leaves of the tree are words that show the fruit of a classical education, words like *Faith*, *Hope*, *Love*, *Truth*, *Goodness* and *Beauty*. But at the base of the tree is blazoned only one word. Right where the roots enter the ground we read the word *Piety*.

The term *piety* has emphasized different things over the ages. For the Romans, *piety* meant doing your duty to the gods, your ancestors, and your country, even if it went against your own personal desires. The quintessential Roman hero was *pious* Aeneas, a man who does his duty to leave burning Troy and found a civilization in Italy as the gods demand.

Nowadays, *piety* has a blander and sometimes more negative connotation. The dictionary defines it as “the quality of being religious or reverent.” It is often confused with the related word *pietism* which is “religious sentiment of an exaggerated or affected nature.”

But *piety*, as understood in a more historical Christian context, is more than a fatalistic adherence to duty. It is more than affected religious sentiment. It involves both the true feelings of the heart and the right actions of the hands. The book *The Liberal Arts Tradition* (Jain and Clark), from which our tree is inspired, defines *piety* as: “the proper fear and love of God and man.” It is this piety which is at the root of classical education and it is only with this root that the trunk and fruits of our education can flourish.

To truly learn, students must reverence the authorities in their lives, beginning with God and continuing from there to parents and teachers. As Solomon tells us, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,” and as Paul tells us, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” Education is, by the very derivation of the word, an act of submission to authority. It comes from the Latin *educere*, “to lead out.” Children who are educated, are led out of ignorance into knowledge. And to be educated, they must allow themselves to *be led*.

This reverence of and submission to authority, however, must always come in conjunction with love, and not just any love, but a love that is Scripturally defined—a love that adores the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and a love that esteems others more highly than ourselves. For piety to take root, we must learn to re-

order our loves in what St. Augustine called the *ordo amoris*. Or, as we like to explain it to the elementary students: “God first, others second, me last.”

The charge, given to parents and especially fathers, to bring their children up in the training and admonition (*paideia*) of the Lord is assuredly a call to ground those children in the proper fear and love of God and man. And while *piety* must be planted first in the home, it is our privilege as teachers to assist parents in cultivating it so that its firm root may produce the fruit that we all long to see in our children.

The most significant component of our early elementary classrooms is the cultivation of *piety*. Phonograms are important. Arithmetic is important. But *piety* is essential, the *sine qua non* of our school without which true education cannot begin.

—David and Rose Spears

## Upcoming Events

- ❖ **MONDAY, JAN. 21**  
MLK Day (No School)
- ❖ **SATURDAY, FEB. 9**  
High School Protocol  
Dinner & *Sense and Sensibility* Play
- ❖ **THUR.-SAT., FEB. 14-16**  
Choral Festival  
Optional Trip for 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> to Spokane
- ❖ **MONDAY, FEB. 18**  
Presidents' Day (No School)
- ❖ **FRIDAY, MAR. 15, 7PM**  
Talent Night
- ❖ **MAR. 25-29**  
Spring Break

## A Look Inside

Mrs. Lacine's eighth graders get hands-on experience with pig anatomy.



## Spotlight on Theater

The Tortoise (Margo Dau, 5<sup>th</sup>) and the Hare (Paisley True, 6<sup>th</sup>) wow the audience with their hijinks in our December elementary theater production.



## HOW WE TEACH: Singing and Making Melody

If you've been at Paideia very long, you've seen our vision statement. You've read that the very reason for our school's existence is to train up worshipers of Jesus Christ. While all of our curriculum is pointed towards this end, the subject that strives for it most visibly is our music class.

At Paideia, we believe that every Christian is called to praise the Lord in song. From kindergarten onward, we begin training students in the one instrument they can always carry around with them—their voices.

Early elementary students learn to sing in unison, to clap and march on beat, to name the solfege syllables (do, re, mi...) that make up the fabric of music.

Upper elementary students learn to sing in rounds and in two or three part harmony. They begin to sight-sing with their solfege syllables, attempting easy lines of music they've never seen before. They develop a wealth of musical vocabulary and expression, understanding the louds and softs of dynamics.

Secondary students commence ear training exercises, learning about intervals and chords. By high school, many of our students can sing through basic melodies by just looking at the notes without ever having heard the piece before. As our young men's voices change, we can now form a four-part chorus with sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. We sing psalms, carols, and hymns that are part of our Christian heritage as well as contemporary pieces that explore new ways to worship.

This year our secondary students have the option to attend a Choral Festival in Spokane (Feb. 15) where they will join with junior high and high school students from other classical schools in an all-day music workshop that culminates in an evening concert. We are excited to give them further opportunity to cultivate a love for music and to hone the skills they need to worship throughout their whole life.

*...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord... (Eph. 5:18-19)*

—Rose Spears



## Talent Night

This year's Talent Night will be held on Friday, March 15, 7:00 p.m. Enjoy an evening of music, poetry, and fun as the students glorify God with their talents.

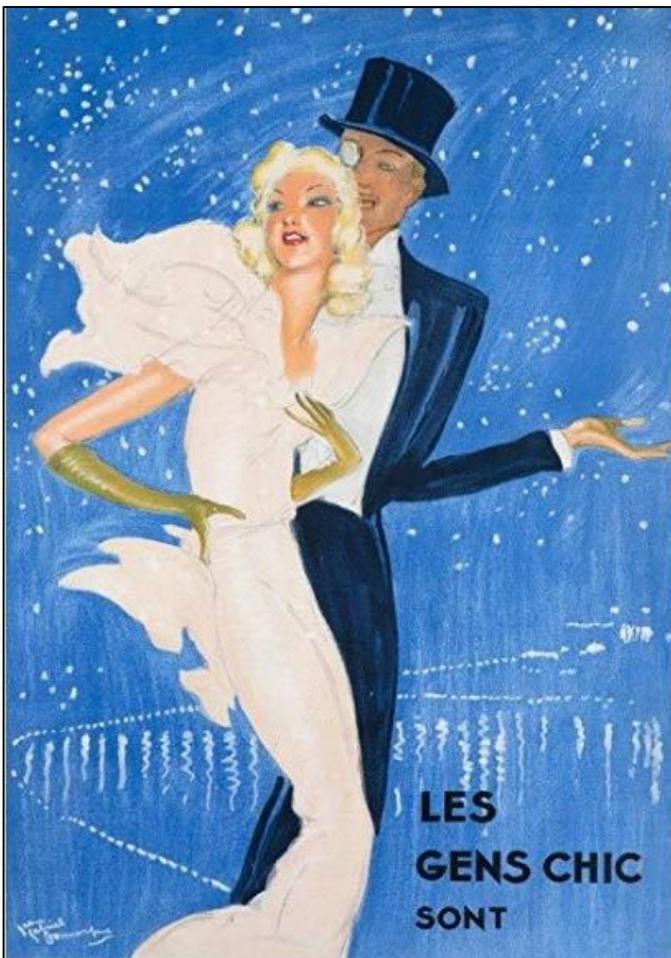
Sign-ups will go around the last week of February and auditions will be held the week before the show to ensure that all performers are adequately prepared.



# Paideia Spring Auction

*Eat, Drink, and Bid at this “Roaring Twenties” themed event and support our school!*

**Saturday Evening, April 27**



**À L'AUCTION DE PAIDEIA**

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS  
AND  
STAY TUNED  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**