



### OUR MISSION:

*To train the minds and improve the hearts of young people through a rigorous, content-rich classical curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences, one that produces thoughtful leaders and virtuous citizens.*

### UPCOMING DATES

**October 7**  
School Picture Day

**October 14**  
End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

**October 22-23**  
Early Release for students  
(Parent-Teacher Conferences)

### OUR SCHOOL PLEDGE:

*I WILL LEARN  
THE TRUE*

*I WILL DO  
THE GOOD*

*I WILL LOVE  
THE BEAUTIFUL*

Phillip Schwenk | Principal | [pschwenk@nocacademy.org](mailto:pschwenk@nocacademy.org)  
Michael Kelleher | Dean of Students | [mkelleher@nocacademy.org](mailto:mkelleher@nocacademy.org)

### Coffee with our Principal

Join Mr. Schwenk on zoom on Friday, October 9 from 8:15-9:00am for an informal chat on zoom. Please email the office ([info@nocacademy.org](mailto:info@nocacademy.org)) for the login information.

### Virtue of the month

Each month we focus on a virtue and reward students for exemplifying that behavior pattern. This month's virtue (beginning October 15) will be Friendship. We will focus on being kind and generous, and learning how to get along well with others.

### NWEA Testing completed

Our students completed fall MAP testing. MAP Growth is the most trusted and innovative assessment for measuring achievement and growth in K-12 math, reading, language usage, and science. It provides teachers with accurate, and actionable evidence to help target instruction for each student.

### Uniform Reminders

- Starting October 1, shorts are no longer an option for student uniforms for the cooler months. They may be worn again in May.
- Formal uniforms are required on Wednesdays. For more information, please see the Uniform Policy on the NOCA website.

### Early Release

Students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm on Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23 to facilitate Parent-Teacher Conferences. After-School will be available from student release to 5:30 p.m.

### Parent-Teacher Conference info

VIRTUAL Parent Teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23. NOCA encourages all parents to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress. Report Cards will be mailed out the week of October 26. A digital sign-up sheet will be sent to families via email. Keep an eye out for more information about how to sign up for a 15-minute (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) or 5-minute (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade) appointment with your child's teacher(s). All meetings will be held virtually.

### Fall Picture Day

We will have individual pictures taken on October 7. Forms were sent home with students for those who want to order photographs. Time has been set aside for Remote Learners to have their pictures taken from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on the same day—no appointments are necessary.

### Additional Funding for NOCA

Thanks to all the NOCA families for completing the income forms for the 2020/2021 school year. Because of your help, NOCA will qualify to receive additional funding for this academic year.



*"Play is the  
highest form of  
research" ~*

*Albert Einstein*

## PTO Board [NocaPTO@yahoo.com](mailto:NocaPTO@yahoo.com)

President | Anna Pagal  
Vice | Patrick Pagal  
Secretary | Janelle Schaller  
Treasurer | Jamey Koralewski  
Vices | Erin Mathias, Melanie Woolwine

## Upcoming PTO dates:

- ❑ October 1-16– Cookie Dough/ Magazine subscriptions fundraiser
- ❑ Tuesday, October 6– PTO Meeting 6:30pm (in the large grassy area on the East side of the parking lot.)
- ❑ Wednesday, October 7– Picture Frame fundraiser orders due (for more information, see flyers that were sent home with students or see the NOCA family Facebook page)
- ❑ November 2- Chipotle family dine-out night (Airport Hwy)



NOCA Instructional Aides work with students daily

Top: Mrs. Reusch, Mrs. Schaller, Mrs. Pannenberg  
Bottom: Mrs. Kania, Mr. Bane, Mrs. Hunter

## Technology Grant Awarded to NOCA

NOCA has been awarded a broadband grant of more than \$60,000 to be used on technology for the school. The school will be able to purchase more laptops for student use as well as extend our Wi-Fi to the entire campus.

## NOCA Recognized by School's Sponsor

NOCA has been honored to have the school's hard work highlighted in the October monthly publication by Charter School Specialists (CSS). The article has been posted in the Main Office.

## NOCA Teachers in Hillsdale

Four NOCA teachers will be in Hillsdale for additional training October 5-7.



# NORTHWEST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY

# Primrose Went to the Party

Cheryl Swope

When I learned that this issue of *The Classical Teacher* would focus on fairy tales, I sought in-house counsel. My daughter readily climbed up on a chair, grabbed a book from her tottering stack, and produced a worn collection. Bookmarked by a thin clear “glass” wand, such as a fairy godmother might wave over one’s life, the pages opened.

“This is my favorite,” she explained matter-of-factly: “‘How Primrose Went to the Party,’ by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey.”

I had not heard of the fairy tale or the writer. I settled in to see what had so captivated my daughter for all these years:

The Prince who lived in the great white castle at the top of the green hill was to give a party, and he had invited the children from the village to come.

For days there had been talk of little else at the cottage doorsteps, and in the market place. Oh, the children all knew how wonderful a party at the Prince’s castle would be. The doors would be thrown wide open; in all the rooms there would be rose trees of every kind and color; birds would sing in golden cages; and each child would be given a feast and precious gifts.

There was something else, though, that the children knew. One must be dressed in a fitting way to appear at the castle of the Prince....

All were ready to meet the Prince, they felt sure, except Primrose; she walked apart from the others for she had no party dress, and no gift to carry.

She was named Primrose because she made a poor, bare little hut on the edge of the forest bright, just as a wild flower makes a waste spot beautiful. In all her life Primrose had never been to a party, and now she was invited with the others. But her feet were bare, and her little brown dress was torn, and she had no hat to cover her wind-blown, yellow hair.

I paused here while reading to marvel at the similarity to *Cinderella* and all its retellings, including one of our favorite operas, Rossini’s *La Cenerentola*. How can a poor, discarded girl measure up to others in finery, wealth, or ancestry? I continued, curious:

As they went up the hill, the children passed a poor stick gatherer, bending under her great bundle.

“Off a pleasuring, with little thought for others,” the old woman mumbled to herself, but Primrose stole up to her side and slipped one soft little hand in the woman’s hard, care-worn one.

“I will carry half your sticks for you to the turn of the road,” she said.

And she did, with the old woman’s blessing on her sunny head at the turn.

Farther on, the children passed a young thrush that had fallen out of its nest and was crying beside the road. The mother bird cried, too. It was as if she said, “You have no thought of my trouble.”

But Primrose lifted the bird in her two hands and scrambled through the bushes until she had found its nest and put it safely in. The branches tore her dress that had been ragged before, but the mother thrush sang like a flute to have her little one back.

Just outside the castle gates, there was a blind boy seated, asking alms. When the other children passed him, laughing and chattering of all that they saw, tears fell down the cheeks of the little blind boy, for he had not been able to see for a

long, long time.

The others did not notice him, but Primrose stopped beside him and put her hands softly on his eyes. Then she picked a wild rose that grew beside the road and put it close to his face. He could feel its soft petals, and smell its perfume, and it made him smile.

This made *me* smile. This single fairy tale had shaped my gentle daughter for many years without my knowing. I kept reading:

Then Primrose hurried through the castle gates and up to the doors. They were about to be closed. The children had crowded in.

“There is no one else to come,” the children shouted.

Then they added, “There is no other child except Primrose and she has no dress for a party and no gift for you, great Prince.”

But the Prince, his kind eyes looking beyond them, and his arms outstretched, asked, “What child, then, do I see coming in so wonderful a dress and carrying a precious gift in her hand?”

The children turned to look. They saw a little girl who wore a crown; it was the stick bearer’s blessing that had set it upon her head. Her dress was of wonderful gold lace; each rag had been turned to gold when she helped the little lost bird. In her hand she carried a clear, white jewel, her gift for the Prince; it was a tear she had taken from the little blind boy’s face.

“Why, that is Primrose,” the children told the Prince.

Overcome, I placed the clear wand back where it belonged and closed the book. The fairy tale ends with those simple words. I thought of the way my daughter takes the hand of an elderly woman to chat with her in the nursing home. I flashed to the many times my daughter has been shunned by other children. How this story must have comforted her.

...When a child is outcast, fearful, or lonely, a fairy tale reminds him that all is not lost. When a child becomes self-absorbed, arrogant, or mean toward others, a fairy tale reminds him that he ought not live this way.

Through fairy tales as a young boy, G.K. Chesterton writes that “there had come into [his] mind a vague and vast impression that in some way all good was a remnant to be stored and held sacred.” He continues: “I left the fairy tales lying on the floor of the nursery, and I have not found any books so sensible since.” In fairy tales, good is good, and evil is evil. Consider, he says simply, “what ethic and philosophy come from being fed on fairy tales.”

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