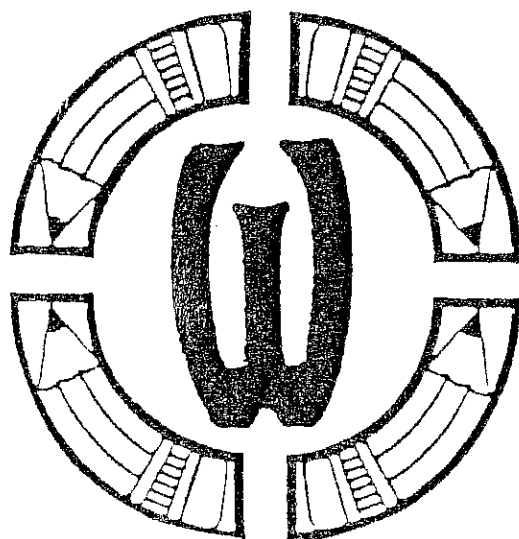


# Writers' Circle

Young Voices at St. Therese Academy



February, 2012

## Second Quarter Writers

Kindergarten	Andrea Alvarez John McNamara
First Grade	Czarina Datiles Barbie Morales-Corona
Second Grade	Adriana Farace Jessica Stuman
Third Grade	Aurelia Willett
Fourth Grade	Nick Burner Luis Mario Islas Hannah Mier y Teran
Fifth Grade	Mariela Lopez-Oviedo Mary McNamara
Sixth Grade	Jessica Dharmawan Jimmy Montee
Seventh Grade	Isabelle Abou Claire McNamara
Eighth Grade	Lindsay Bilger Haley Teves



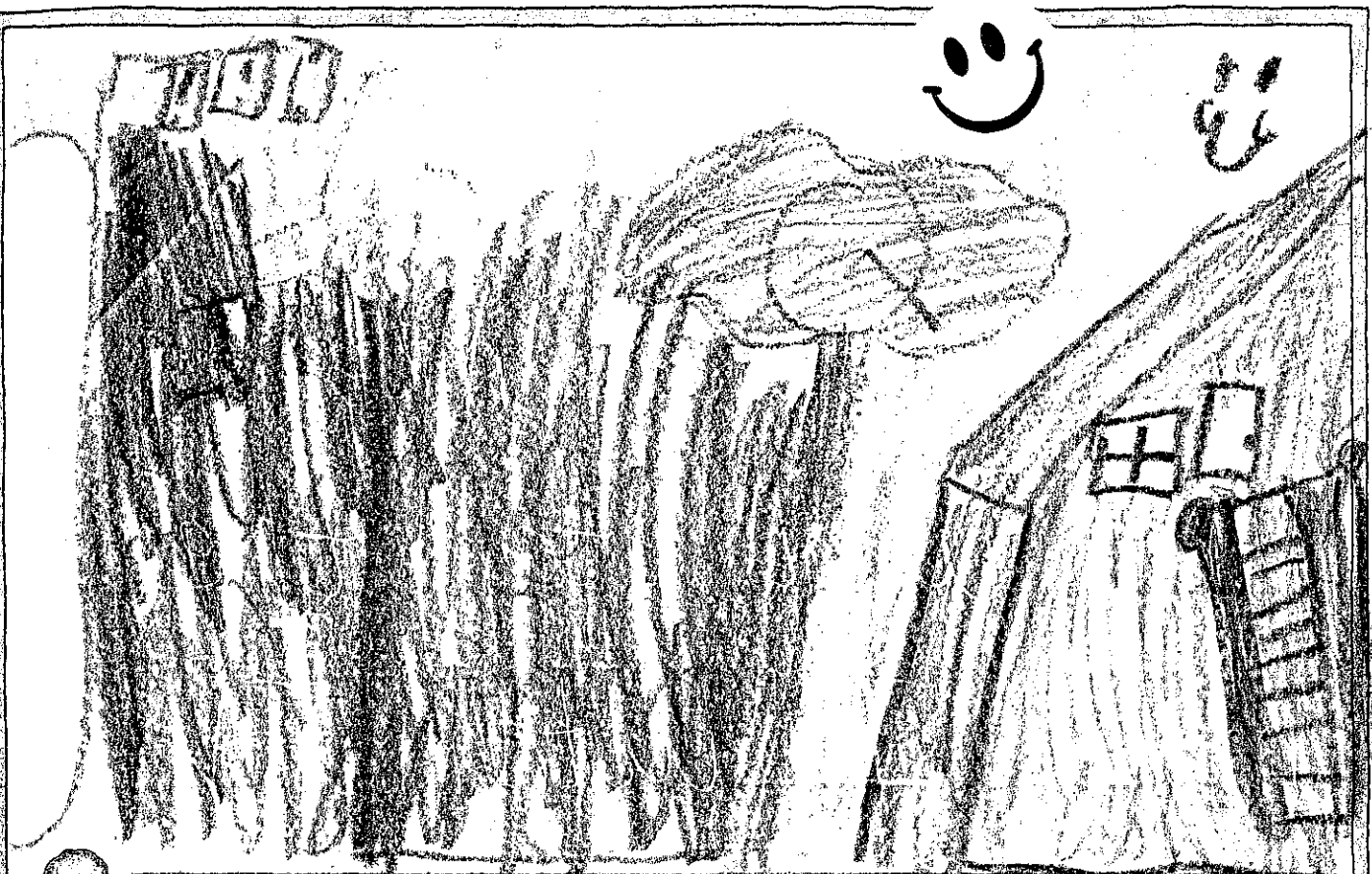
I got a gift. It is a  
new water bottle.

Andrea



I got a gift. It is a gorilla.

John



Czarina Dátiles

My trip to Escondido

I pick up my dad.

When we got there,

we had so much

fun but our room

was still a mess.

We went to the

mall. I watch T.V.

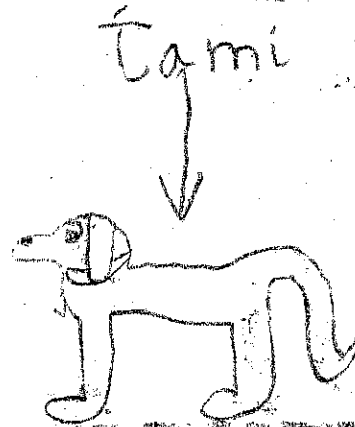
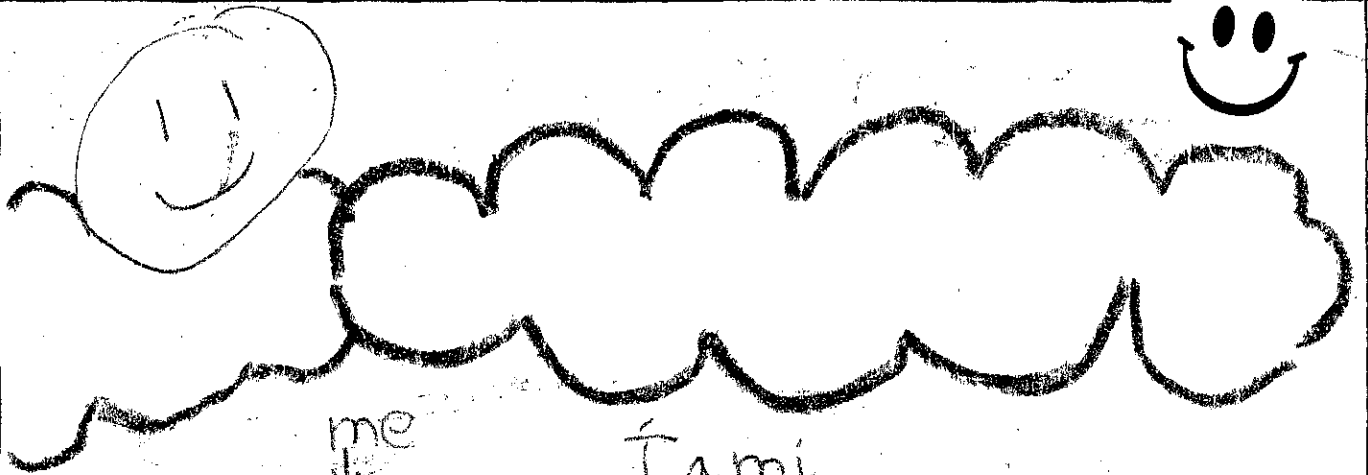
I watched Spongebob.

My dad and mom

slept but Koko watched

with me. I loved

my trip to Escondido.



Barbie 1-19-12 20

Jami was found  
in a trashcan.

She was 3 months  
old. She was brown

and white. She was  
so smart. Jami  
was so cute. She  
Loves to Lick. I  
like her and she  
likes me. Jami  
likes to hug. I  
love her so  
much.

Jan. 19, 2012

Dear Julia,

Thank you for your friendship. Now you are my best friend! You care for me and I care for you. You play with me at play time and I play with you. Thank you for reading this.

Love,

Adriana  
Farace

Jan 19, 2012

Dear Alexandra,

Thank you for the gift you gave me for my birthday. I like the doll that sings. I play with her every day. She is beautiful! When you were at my party, you were the cutest girl I saw. My parents were amazed when you sang the birthday song. You were awesome! You are my best friend. You are very nice.

Love, Jessica Stuman

Aurelia Willett

## Santa Fe

Santa Fe is a wonderful place. I visit there often, because my grandparents live there. Most houses are made of clay. It is very rough. There are many Native Americans there. My favorite place to go is the Flea Market. That's where people sell rugs, jewelry, instruments and much more. There are horseback riding lessons and trail rides. At Easter we go to Bishop's Lodge for brunch. There are many things you can see and do in Santa Fe.

Nick Burner

J.M.J.

The person I go to for advice is my dad. I go to him because he knows a lot. I also go to him because he loves me. My dad thinks the same as me. He helps me with my homework all the time. He tells me good information. He also helps me with baseball. He helps me in hitting and now I hit well. My dad helps me in a lot of other things. He helps me with my homework, mostly math, and now I can do it myself. He also helps me with golf. I can hit the ball straight and not sideways. He helps me when I'm sad after a baseball competition and he tells me that I did my best. He helps me when I get bad grades. He helps me with that subject so I can get the grade up. My dad listens to me. I love my dad.

JMJ

Luis Mario Islas

Soccer

I love soccer! It is my favorite sport. I always play soccer with my brother when I get home. The best season to play in is winter because it snows. I don't like playing in the wet grass. I like playing Fifa in play station. Fifa is a video game about soccer. When I grow up, I want to be a professional soccer player. One day I want to go to Mexico to be in a soccer club. I have a dream that someday I will be a soccer player. Some people like other sports, but soccer is my favorite. Soccer is really fun and you get a lot of exercise.

Hannah Mier y Teran JMT

I like gymnastics because I do flips and jumps. Gymnastics is a very incredible sport. I've been doing gymnastics for 6 years now. When I was five years old, I watched my friends doing cartwheels. I tried but I couldn't do one, so my mom took me to the YMCA. Now I go to the YMCA two times a week for lessons. My favorite teacher is Ms. Hannah. She has the same name as me, too! I love gymnastics because I can do beam, bars, floor, and vault. On floor I can do flips and jumps. On vault I can do high jumps. On beam I can do jumps, walks, and dismounts. On bars I can do turns, middle circles, and back hip circles. I've also participated in some competitions, but not real competitions, just friendly competitions. There are still judges so you will get nervous. I like other sports too but I like gymnastics more. I love gymnastics!

Mariela Lopez-Oviedo

### Character Matters

What is character? You have good character by showing respect, compassion, love, and helpfulness to others. Mother Teresa is a great example of character because she did lots of good things helping the poor, sick, and the children who needed homes. My parents also are another good example to me because they help me when I need them and they care for all of my family.

When Mother Teresa was 36 years old, she asked if she could live in the streets of Calcutta with the poorest of the poor. That's how the Missionaries of Charity started, and that's being helpful. She helped abandoned children, people with leprosy, and many families adopt children. But above all, she respected every religion without imposing hers on others by helping them find God through good character.

The world is a big place, and there are many people suffering. If each of us helps a less fortunate person, half of the world would be a better place. If we help the less fortunate people, we would start a chain and make the world better not just for us but for everyone. We would be showing respect, compassion, love, and even be helpful to these people. So, with just a grain of rice, we could change the world. We will have to work harder to make the world a better place.

My mom is an example of good character. She shows respect, compassion, love, and she is helpful. She is a great model to me. My mom rebuilt a day care center that was run down in Tijuana. She started it with her own money, and then people saw what she was doing and began to help out. Soon she was able to complete the project. Today, more than two hundred children come to the day care center while their parents work. She did this because she wanted a better life for the people who worked, stayed, and counted on this day care center. She made a lot of people happy! I wouldn't be the person I am right now if it wasn't for her. She is the sweetest mom I could ever have.

My dad is another person who shows good character, and he even proves to me that having character matters. My dad is always telling us to exercise and take care of our bodies. He eats healthy and asks us to do the same. He taught me how to ride my bicycle, and when he goes jogging we follow him on our bicycles. My dad leads by example so when I grow up, I want to be just like him, too.

A good character is being respectful, compassionate, loving, and helpful to others just like Mother Teresa and my parents. These three people are great examples for everyone. By growing up with character, you can be a great person. It's going to be hard to do these things but you will change the world, show good character, and be proud of what you have done. You would make a difference!

Mary McNamara

## Why Character Matters

It is often said that character is what you do when no one is watching. Character is a moral habit that is unique to each person who shows it. Character matters in many situations in everyday life. Character determines how we act at school, at home, at the store, or even on the soccer field.

I have seen bad character and good character on the field. I saw different character from the coaches, the other team, and players on my team. Sometimes I notice that the coaches yell a lot. My coach yells too, but he's always trying to help us get better. He never tells us what we did wrong. He just says things like, "Try to kick the ball away from the middle and away from our goal next time, Mary. You're doing great." For a coach, I think good character is raising the players up and having confidence in them, not bringing them down.

Players sometimes get rough, and I always try to stay out of doing that and making a big deal out of it. Once, a girl on the other team elbowed my teammate so hard she started crying. I felt an urge to somehow hurt that other girl the next time I got a chance, but that wouldn't be showing good character. Showing good character for someone on the opposing team would be not being violent, teasing, or bragging.

Other people on my different teams have sometimes been ball hogs. Ball hogs really bug me and I try to not do that because it probably bugs other people too. I heard a girl in my class say, "There is no I in team." I really liked that because it means you cannot be selfish, for example, in soccer with the ball. There are many ways of being a team player, and one of them is being unselfish.

I try to show good character by listening to what my coach has to say to me and trusting his judgment. I am not violent or rough, either in words or actions. I try to be a team player. I pass the ball, I have trust and confidence in my teammates, and I try my one hundred percent hardest for me and my team. I work on showing good character and I hope that other people do too, because character matters.

Mary McNamara

## A Bright Future

Hopefully, the world will be at peace in 25 years. There will be no poverty and no hunger. There will be no murdering or kidnapping and weapons will not be used in a bad way. Everyone will believe in God and will worship Him.

Like the world around them, families will be stronger and more peaceful. Children will treat their parents with respect and will obey them. There will be no child abuse. Nothing will be expensive and no houses will be shabby or run-down. There will be no abortion. Perhaps a baby who is not aborted, but would have been, will find the cure for cancer.

More people will be happy and healthy. No one will be perfect, but more people will realize that goodness is worth working for. There will be a cure for all sicknesses and there will be no smoking or drugs. There will be no obesity and no bullying and everyone will accept each other. Everyone will die at an old age satisfied with their lives.

I personally hope that soccer will be the most popular sport and everyone will have good sportsmanship. All Toms will come in all sizes and will be inexpensive. Nordstrom will be inexpensive, too. Converse will come in half sizes and will be more comfortable and have arch support like Vans.

We might have robots and computers do everything. It all depends on what we do now. Hopefully, our world will be a better place in 25 years.

Jessica Dharmawan  
Lifelong Learner

### Character Matters

What does character mean to me? It means that a person has his or her own traits. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." Everyone has a different kind of character. Respect, responsibility, trust, gratitude, self-discipline, and honesty are some character traits that have influenced me to become a better person.

Respect means to be generous to other people. For instance, I can think about other people's opinions on things that I do not agree with. I can respect other people's property by not taking their belongings. I can also pay attention in class to whoever is talking. These are examples of how I can demonstrate the trait of respect.

Responsibility is shown when human beings take care of their things. They also have to watch out for themselves. In the first place, I can do my chores at home. Then, I can be prepared at school by bringing my supplies when they are needed, studying for tests, and doing my homework. These reasons display the quality of responsibility.

Trust is meaningful because it is having confidence in someone. In particular, if someone gives me a letter to give to someone, I can deliver the note to that certain person right away. Another example is if my neighbors are out of town, I can watch over their house. Finally, I can wash the dishes if my mom tells me to while she is at a meeting. These are samples of how I can be trustworthy.

The definition of gratitude is the quality of being thankful. Every day, I am thankful for having a family. I am also appreciative for being in a Catholic school. As a final point, I am glad that my dad is able to earn money for my household's needs. These are explanations of how I am grateful.

Self-discipline is when someone is training them self for improvement. As Grenville Kleiser once stated, "By constant self-discipline and self-control, you can develop greatness of character." If it is a school night, I can wake up in the morning, even if I would want to stay in bed. I can take time to put things in their proper places instead of rushing. I can start a habit of choosing the right path in everything I do. I can be capable of expressing self-discipline in these ways.

Lastly, honesty is revealed when the truth is told. Honesty is the best policy. Illustrations of being truthful is if someone pays for an item and the cashier gives that person back too much change, that person should give back the change for the right amount of money. In the song Honesty by Billy Joel, he sings, "Honesty is hardly ever heard, and mostly what I need from you." That is how significant honesty is.

In conclusion, all forms of character are important in everyone's lives. Everybody is born with some kind of character that should be in good use. If all people follow the rules and set examples to others, this world would be filled with great people. The character traits respect, responsibility, trust, gratitude, self-discipline, and honesty have helped me to develop into an accepting individual. That is why character matters to me.

Jimmy Montee  
Jan. 18, 2012  
Reading  
Character Matters Essay

## Character Matters

Character matters. Character traits define who we are. The character traits that a person chooses to practice and develop, determine how that person interacts with the world around him. Seeing good examples of people exhibiting positive character traits helps a person learn to be a good example. The people that are learning today are going to be teaching tomorrow. Although there are many character traits, the character traits that are most important to me are compassion, bravery and honesty.

The nineteenth century German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer said, "Compassion is the basis of all morality." He meant that he believed that all good behavior is rooted in compassion. A compassionate person is someone who is understanding and sympathetic to others. Being compassionate means showing courtesy to others and doing good deeds without expecting a reward. An example of someone being compassionate would be to show sympathy for a friend who has experienced a loss. At school when someone is sad, a good friend should show compassion by trying to

understand why the person is unhappy and attempting to make them feel better. Sometimes when a person's feelings are hurt, that person can lash out at the people around them, even if the people they lash out at had nothing to do with why the person is feeling bad. When faced with hurt or anger, it is important to respond with compassion and kindness. Practicing the character trait of compassion can make us better people, and can make a positive change in the world.

Bravery is a very important character trait because it enables a person to do the right thing even when it is not easy. Bravery is not the absence of fear, but the ability to do the right thing in the presence of fear. Practicing the character trait of bravery can help a person face the fears and doubts of everyday life. Facing things bravely helps a person to understand that things are often not as bad as they might seem. Sometimes things really are bad. Doing the right thing in a bad situation can be difficult. It is important to do the right thing even when it isn't easy. Acting bravely means thinking of, and acting for the greater good, without selfishness.

The eighteenth century American inventor, philosopher and politician Benjamin Franklin and the sixteenth century English playwright William Shakespeare both said, "Honesty is the best policy." Both men believed that without honor, a person was of little value to society or to themselves. Honesty

builds credibility. People believe and trust an honest person. An honest person can be relied upon to tell the truth and do the right thing. In my family, being honest and telling the truth earns trust. Being trusted means being allowed to make more decisions and to do more things independently. If a person says what he means and means what he says, he is honest and reliable. Being honest is an important part of being a good friend and a good person.

The character traits of compassion, bravery, and honesty are very important because with those traits, a person can be a good member of society. If a person practices compassion, bravery, and honesty in everyday situations, that person will be kind, generous and reliable. Compassion helps us to understand each other. Honesty helps us to trust each other. Bravery helps us to do the right thing. Together these character traits can provide a good roadmap to being a good person and living a good life. It is important to try to be a good person and to try to make the world a better place. Character defines what we do. What we do defines who we are. Character matters.

Isabelle Abou

Ms. Fitzpatrick

Writing

### Three Wishes Essay

If I had three wishes, I would use them for ending wars, bringing back the dead when you last saw them, and finding cures for all diseases. I feel that these three wishes will be able to help me help others all over the world.

My first wish would be to end all wars. Ending wars means world peace, and world peace means a happier place to live. Wars include a lot of violence and grief, and to end all of that horror would be spectacular. Countries would make a truce and start anew. They would share cultures and try to make other countries better, not worse.

My second wish would be to bring back the dead as you last saw them. I know that there are many tales when someone uses a wish to bring back the dead, and they look dreadful. For example, if someone brought back another person from the dead who had passed away five years ago, the dead human would be a walking and talking decayed skeleton. Or, if they were murdered, they would come back all mangled.

My third and final wish would be a cure for all diseases. I would want this because it means much longer lives and happier people. Death is a devastating disaster and to hold it off for many years to countless people worldwide would make millions of people happy.

Although a magical genie will not knock on my door and grant me three wishes, I can still try to make a difference in the world. With my wishes, everyone's lives will change for the better. It is highly impossible to end wars between people, cure every disease in existence, and it is truly impossible to bring back the dead. But we can all dream, can't we?

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Claire McNamara

Ms. Fitzpatrick

Writing

### My Three Wishes

If I had three wishes, I would use them carefully. My wishes would be for success, peace everywhere, and no more poverty. I chose a wish for myself, a wish for everyone, and a wish for others.

My first wish would be for success. This means that I would be good at everything I attempt. For me, the wish would be better than simply wishing for money because I could get a good job and receive money but also feel accomplished.

My second wish would be for peace. I chose this for a couple reasons. First, people all over the world living in fighting areas could be safe. Second, all our troops could come home. Also, there would be peace in homes and schools. Of all the wishes I would make, I believe that this would have the greatest effect. Everyone would benefit from complete peace.

My last wish is to end poverty. People would no longer live on the streets. Also, it would indirectly affect crime. Nobody would be desperate for money so there would be no need to steal. Everyone should have the chance to live a happy life, and nobody should have to sleep in the cold.

I believe that if these three wishes were to come true, the world would be a better place. My life and others' lives would change for the better. My wishes have the potential to shift life as we know it. All I can hope for is that someday one or more will come true.

Lindsay Bilger

Homily on Psalm 139

My favorite color is purple, but I am positive that someone else has another color that is their favorite. My favorite ice cream is cotton candy, but there are other people who like other flavors of ice cream. Even though those are two very miniscule things about me, they are what make me unique. I probably won't be able to tell you everything about yourself, I probably can't tell you everything about myself either. Only God knows everything about me. Have you ever made a drawing? You spent so long on this beautiful drawing and you look at it and could tell someone all about that drawing. You have memorized every inch of that paper and you're so proud that you want others to see what a wonderful drawing you have created. I believe this is how God is: God is an artist and we are all one of his drawings. Each person is a different color, a different painting. Not one picture is like another but billions of completely different people, completely different masterpieces. Yet God is able to identify each painting with a name and describe each painting perfectly. I believe that this is why we call God creator of all.

If God created everything, then He knows every corner and hiding place on this planet, right? I remember when I was little, when I did something wrong I would hide because I was afraid I would get in trouble. Eventually my parents would find me and I would apologize and fix my mess, but I would always wonder what happens when my parents did something wrong. Who would get them in trouble I would ask myself. Well, when I got older, I realized that being an adult comes with responsibility. I noticed that it was harder for my parents to apologize and fix their mess because they couldn't hide from God. Not only would they have to apologize to the ones they hurt but to God. Yet I was completely mystified by someone who could forgive someone if they <sup>were</sup> truly sorry. And that is when I realized adults don't have to hide because if they were truly sorry, they are forgiven.

Haley Teves

Mrs. Deatherage

1-17-12

8th

Religion: Homily

### **Hope Turns Into A Wish**

There are many important things that one needs to do in life, but in order to do all of those things, one must have hope. They must be determined and they must believe in their goal. They cannot just wish for something to happen, they must work for it and they must not give up faith in God. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a wish fulfilled is a tree of life." - Proverbs 13:12. Deserting hope will not help a wish, it will only deny it, so one should hope even if their seed might take work, before it can grow to become a tree.

One of the greatest lessons in life is hope itself. Hope shows us that if we believe, than we can succeed. If we give up, then our wish can never come true. It teaches many things. We need to have hope in everything that we do, in order to love others. Love itself takes courage and the ability to have hope in oneself. Many people do not realize this, but if we do not have hope, then we cannot believe in God and cannot follow in his footsteps. Jesus must have had the most amount of hope out of all of us. He had hope in the Jews, the apostles, The Father, Himself, and us. He had hope, and his hope was not even to achieve his own wish, but the world's wish of salvation. We must do the same by having hope in all that we do and in others. God has hope for us and we too should have hope in him and in everything. We must act like God's creation of waves, day and night, reaching higher and higher to the starlight moon.

I have learned many things from the Proverb 13:12. It has inspired me to have hope in myself and others. Now I can have hope in myself and my sister to get into OLP. I have hope that my Dad will get more jobs in his business. I have hope in my Mom who will always believe in her students. I have hope in my brother, that he will continue to strive in school. I have hope in my Aunt because I know how hard it is for her to keep hope at her side with her horses. I have hope for my grandmother, who will always share the gift of reading with others.

After realizing all of this, I now see my definition and explanation of hope. A dream is a seed, that I must put it into the ground if I want it to sprout. I must water it after I plant it with the nutrients of my heart. I will sprinkle tiny drops of joy and kindness into the dry soil, quenching its thirst. Then I must be patient as I watch it grow. Following these instructions that I learn in my daily life is called hoping. I must hope. After I do this and am sitting, waiting on a rock nearby watching time and all of God's creations pass me, I see the sun in all of its glory. I see God sending the sunbeams straight to my creation. Now my wish is complete. It will flourish and blossom. Now I must be grateful to God and must plant new seeds of goals, using the gifts that He gave me.