

# The Vision



**Highlighting Virtue:**

**Temperance**

- He who conquers himself is the mightiest warrior.  
*Confucius*
- Prudent, cautious self-control, is wisdom's root.  
*Robert Burns*



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## What's It All About?

Smoked turkey, grilled turkey, fried turkey or oven baked turkey, along with honey glazed ham, garlic mashed potatoes, fresh green beans and bacon, home-made crescent rolls, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Does a meal get much better than that? Truly, is there really anything more important than that around this time of year?

Sure, there are a couple of other traditions that are important, like watching the Dallas Cowboys play someone and the Detroit Lions show up to practice against someone else. Another tradition may be watching the Macy's parade to see if Snoopy will make it in one more year. Or, maybe you like to sit down after doing all those dishes and begin the big shopping list for the day after. No matter what the tradition, the question remains, is that what Thanksgiving is all about?

To get a better answer on this we need to go back in history about 387 years. It was then, in 1621, that the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared a harvest feast which is considered

by most today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the early colonies. This harvest meal has become a symbol of cooperation and peaceful interaction between people. It became an annual mile marker in American History when President Abraham Lincoln declared the final Thursday in November as a national day of thanks-giving and then, finally, Congress



made Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday in 1941.

So, aside from the turkey, potatoes, beans and pie; the football, Snoopy and big sales, please enjoy the upcoming holiday for a few more reasons:

- Remember that we have a school that is full of caring parents, teach-

- ers and staff - and be thankful.
- Remember that we have a school where students are being taught what real virtue is and "how to think" as opposed to "what to think" - and be thankful.
- Remember that we have soldiers who have willingly signed up to defend our freedom, who will not be home with their loved ones this year - and be thankful.
- Remember we just participated in one of the most historic elections in the annals of time, and we were able to do so because we live in the greatest country on earth - and be thankful.

•And, if you happen to be a Lions fan, remember that at least you get one nationally televised football game once a year — no matter how bad your team is - and be thankful.

—————  
Have a very  
Happy Thanksgiving!

## Do you know . . .

- 1. What utensils did the pilgrims eat with at the first thanksgiving?  
A. All utensils.      B. Their hands  
C. Spoon/knife      D. A fork  
E. B and C              F. C and D
- 2. What foods were served at the first thanksgiving?  
A. Deer                  B. Codfish  
C. Bread                D. Milk  
E. Boiled pumpkin    F. Pastries  
G. A, B, and E        H. A, C, D, and F
- 3. The name of the Indian chief that helped the pilgrims survive the winter?  
A. Massasoit          B. Geronimo  
C. Washaki            D. Sitting Bull
- 4. What vegetable the pilgrims had available for thanksgiving but did not use because they thought it was poisonous?  
A. Beans                B. Pumpkin  
C. Tomatoes          D. Potatoes  
E. Cauliflower
- 5. Who the first president to pardon a turkey from thanksgiving dinner was?  
A. Truman             B. Jefferson  
C. Clinton             D. Lincoln
- 6. What percentage of pilgrims who sailed on the Mayflower survived to celebrate thanksgiving?  
A. 50%                 B. 100%  
C. 20%                 D. 75%
- 7. How high a cranberry must bounce before it is harvested?  
A. 12 inches          B. 8 inches  
C. 36 inches          D. 4 inches
- 8. How long the original thanksgiving lasted?  
A. 2 months          B. 14 days  
C. 7 days                D. 3 days
- 9. That today Plymouth Rock is as big as . . .  
A. a city                B. a car engine  
C. a building          D. a peanut

See page 2 for answers

## Join Us for The “Patriot’s Ball”

Please mark your calendars now. On Saturday evening, February 21, 2009 Temecula Preparatory School will be holding its third annual fundraising event, the *Patriot’s Ball*, at Wilson Creek Winery in Temecula.

More than ever in the past the *Patriot’s Ball* will raise vital funds for TPS. All proceeds that are raised through the event will be applied directly to the purchase of books and teacher’s aids to ensure the school’s vision and mission are being met in the upcoming school year.

We want to mention this now, so you can plan ahead. We would be absolutely thrilled if every TPS parent was able to attend.

This event is going to be very important. If you have paid any attention at all to the state’s budget crisis you will understand the truth and concern that underlies these words: **TPS needs your help.**

With the state’s budget cuts, we will not be

able to meet our budget for this year or next. Some schools are already planning for a second round of cutbacks. However, **with your help** we can avoid having to take a step backward.

After making tremendous progress over the past several years we had hoped to ensure we have the best possible curriculum in the upcoming years – this is the direct, hands-on material we use to teach our students. But, without it our mission to inspire students to become virtuous citizens, critical thinkers, and life-long learners will suffer a serious setback.

The bottom line is this, without your help we will have to begin saying “no,” to those books and teaching aids that are crucial to the classical educational we offer. This has a direct impact on our students.

So, we have set a large fundraising goal for the *Patriot’s Ball* -- a target of \$25,000. That might sound like a lot – especially this year – but, based upon our growth TPS will have



over 600 students in 2009 and 2010. ***Our target goal of \$25,000 allows us to spend an average of \$41.67 (\$42.00) on each student’s education.***

Soon, you will be receiving an invitation to the ball. We want every family to take part in the event one way or another. There are a number of ways you can help. So, please look for our invitation, read over it carefully, and decide what it is you can do to help us continue forward with our vision to leave a heritage of virtue, wisdom and knowledge!

## Why the “Flying Elvis”?

If you have noticed the new painting on the outside of the MPR this year you will see the name of our beloved school on one side and on another, you will see our school logo which was borrowed — with permission — from the NFL’s New England Patriots. Some in New England and some in Temecula have humorously referred to this logo as the “Flying Elvis” due to the nature of the graphic. So, while this is always a fun discussion the real question is why did TPS choose the logo in the first place?

The answer is simple, it depicts the TPS mas-

cot, which is the Patriot. So, why choose the “Patriot” as a mascot?

Merriam - Webster’s defines a patriot as: “*one who loves his or her country and supports its authority and interests.*” “Patriot” is also the namesake our Founding Fathers clung to as they acted behalf of the interests of the original American colonies.

Both the definition of the term — love of country, and the historical significance of the term — the Founding Father’s namesake to describe their endeavor to secure the freedoms we enjoy today — are extremely impor-

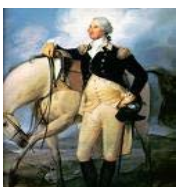
tant to the values of TPS.

The desire to act upon and a need for true patriotism embodies all that we desire in leaving a heritage of virtue, wisdom and knowledge with those who attend our school.



It is for this reason that TPS is honored to be known as “The Patriots”. Please support our students by proudly displaying our colors, our name, and even the “Flying Elvis” when you have the chance!

## George Washington on Civility



In this year’s first edition of the *Vision* we looked at the short but timeless set of guidelines penned by our nation’s father, George Washington. As you may remember his *Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior* were written when he was still a young man and was establishing a set of conduct for himself and others that modeled temperance, or self-control.

The 67th rule is: *Detract not from others neither be excessive in Commanding.*

In other words, in our words and deeds we should not attempt to act superior to those with whom we interact. If we are indeed in a leadership role, we need to take extra caution not to be overbearing or dictatorial. Instead, we should make every effort to serve those we lead.

It is with these thoughts in mind that we stress the importance of self-control to our students. For, in so doing, we are teaching them to be able to control those aspects of our human character that can

be of potential hurt or harm to others. If our students, your children, learn that all men were created equal and that leadership is more a responsibility than privilege, then our nation’s future can be secured a while longer.

1. E. - Their hands, a spoon and a knife. *They did not have forks available* 2. G. - Deer, Codfish and boiled pumpkin. *They had no ovens to bake bread and no sugar or milk. Their food supply was very low* 3. A. - Massasoit 4. D. -Potatoes 5. A. - Truman 6. A. - 50% 7. D. - 4 inches 8. D. - 3 days 9. B. - The size of a car engine. *It has cracked 3 times over the years, each time getting smaller and smaller.*