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# The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: September 2022

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## President's Report

Dear friends and subscribers,

Welcome to the September edition of the ACES newsletter. First of all, I would like to thank Karen Chegwidden from the [HEA](#) (Home Education Association Inc.) for including me as one of the speakers during their annual conference which was held online this month. It was an honour to speak about classical education and offer some suggestions to parents as to how it can be implemented in the home. I would also like to thank Jennifer Ruth Dow and Kevin Donnelly for their excellent articles that are included in this edition.



As mentioned in the previous edition, a group of Australian educators have decided to enrol in the *Paideia Pedagogy Certification* course with Dr Robert Woods from Kepler Education. This three month online course looks at the Paideia model of classical education and so far the class discussions have been very rich and thought provoking. More will be said about this training over the next few months as it unfolds.

In addition, I am very pleased to announce that an online mini-conference with Beautiful Teaching will occur on Saturday October 29 from 8am to 12pm (AEST). This conference will include three immersive-based sessions on classical pedagogy.

The sessions include: ordering the affections, mimetic instruction and the Socratic dialectic. There is a 30 person attendance cap so I strongly encourage interested persons to register early. Names will be placed on a waiting list for 2023 in the event that more than 30 people express an interest to do this course. One of the goals of ACES is to offer ongoing professional development to teachers who aspire to become classical educators. The October conference is one more opportunity to explore classical pedagogy by learning from highly esteemed classical teachers in America. Please follow the instructions at this [link](#) to register and make payment.

Previously, I have discussed the free Paideia nights, a reading group on classical education, hosted by Jennifer Dow, founder and owner of The Paideia Fellowship. Each month we read, learn about and discuss a selection from Richard Gamble's *The Great Tradition: Classic Readings on What it Means to be an Educated Human Being*. Gamble's anthology includes thinkers, philosophers, educators and leaders all concerned with education. The one hour sessions occur online via Zoom on the last Friday of each month at 9pm (AEST). The next session will be on Friday September 30 and we will be reading a selection from Rhananus Maurus. To register please follow this [link](#). Similarly, Sarah O'Dea from Logos Australis also offers a fortnightly online book club exploring the book *The Liberal Arts Tradition* by Ravi Scott Jain and Kevin Clark. A selection of books from Classical Academic Press can also be purchased by visiting her [website](#).

Other exciting news that has recently come to the fore is that a new classical school will be opening in Brisbane in a few years called John Henry Newman College: <https://www.newmancollege.com.au/>. This is exciting news when groups of parents come together to form these schools. We at ACES hope that parents in other states and territories will follow this example by developing similar future plans to create new classical schools.

On this note, one potential priority for ACES next year will be to coordinate and help organise parent information workshops on classical education at various parishes or community centres. These sessions will be designed to inform and arouse parents' consciousness about what we mean by classical education. This project can only take off and be sustained if groups of volunteers (parents) work diligently to promote and organise these events. Imagine if, in 2023, at least one or two parent information sessions occur in each state and territory. Even if 10 parents attend the first session, it's a humble beginning! If any of our subscribers know any parents who are willing to plan and organise these information sessions please send an email to [contact@classicaleducation.org.au](mailto:contact@classicaleducation.org.au).

In closing, there are many opportunities available to allow each one of us to slowly become classically educated and flourish as a human being. Whether it be joining a book club, attending the October conference or reading articles on the ACES website - it is never too late! Remember to set some time each day to read a great book. I am currently reading *Reforming Education* by Mortimer J Adler and *Education at the Crossroads* by Jacques Maritain. Which book or books are you reading? Send me an email if you have any other good suggestions, I'd love to hear them. Even better, create your own online book club! Great books have formed our culture and we Australians need to read them. Hope to see you soon at one of the online book

clubs!

If any person would like to contribute a short article to our monthly newsletter or have any enquiries, please feel free to contact ACES at [contact@classicaleducation.org.au](mailto:contact@classicaleducation.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

Kon Bouzikos  
President of ACES

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## Articles of Interest

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### THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION

Dr Kevin Donnelly, Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic University, has penned this excellent piece explaining what it means to be truly educated and the purpose towards which any authentic educational system should be directed. In this detailed study, Dr Donnelly considers and critiques various approaches to education, before concluding:

***...it is a liberal education that best addresses what it means to be educated and the purpose of education. Education in its fullest and most enriching sense is not concerned with practical skills and training but addresses fundamental questions out the nature of reality and one's significance and place in the wider universe. As noted by T S Eliot a liberal education stands "for the preservation of learning, for the pursuit of truth, and in so far as men are capable of it, the attainment of wisdom".***

***Closely associated with a liberal education is a commitment to rationality and the ability to more closely approximate the truth of things and to identify what constitutes right and wrong reason. A liberal education is also based on the established disciplines of knowledge that are an essential part of a conversation that predates the individual and that is on-going. A liberal education is also inherently ethical and moral as it deals with what constitutes good and bad behaviour and how best to contribute to the common good.***

The full article can be found [here](#).

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### GETTING AT THE GRASSROOTS

Jonathan Hili, Secretary of ACES, shares his thoughts on the role and importance of parents in helping to create classical schools. He argues for the need for grassroots initiatives if classical education is to grow and become sustainable in Australia. Read the article [here](#).

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## HOW DO YOU BECOME A CLASSICAL TEACHER?

In this [article](#), Jennifer Ruth Dow from Paideia Academics shares her insights about what makes one a classical teacher. She further exposes the difference between regular teachers and classical ones. Two key hallmarks of a classical educator are *practising the classical form of instruction* (particularly in embodying a spirit of inquiry, prioritising living content and lessons, and maintaining space for normative questions) and *pursuing a pedagogical purpose that is ethical and aesthetic*.



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## WHAT IS CHRISTIAN VS. CLASSICAL EDUCATION? (PART ONE)

Sarah O'Dea begins to delve into the points of difference and convergence between Christian and classical education in this series of posts. Read part one [here](#).

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In this episode, Shane Saxon talks with Martin Cothran about his article “What is a Curriculum?” published by Memoria Press. In the article, Martin outlines the elements that make a successful curriculum. Shane follows up on this article, asking Martin about “what got left on the cutting room floor?” If you enjoy Martin’s writing on the many facets of classical education, you’ll love this episode where we ask the question: “What is curriculum in education?”

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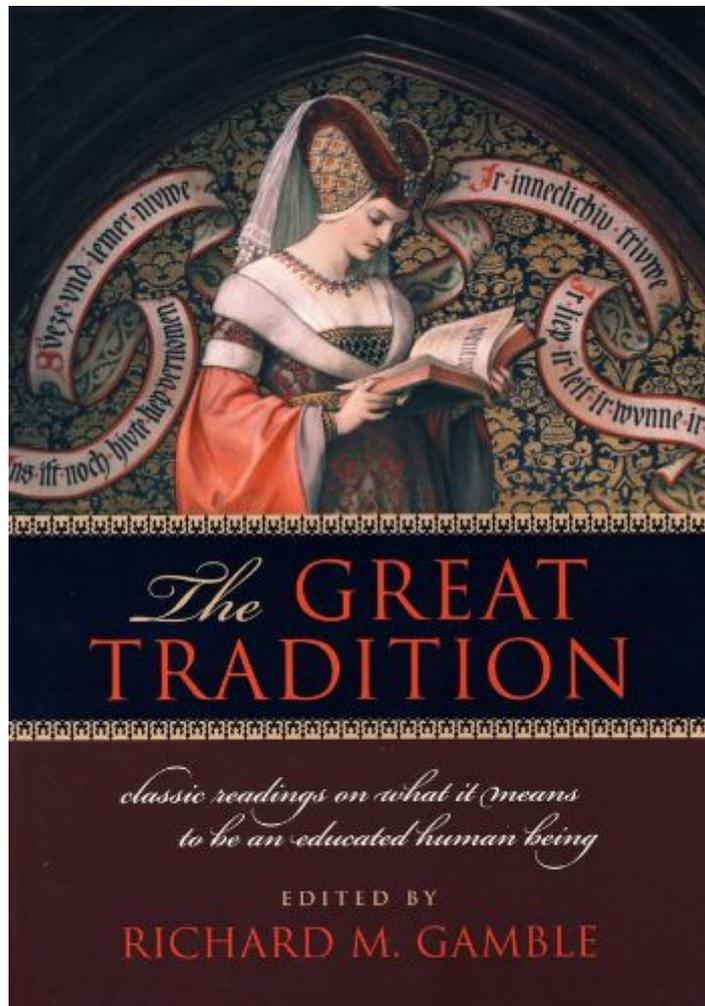
## WHY STUDY THE ANCIENT GREEKS?

In this [video](#), Wes Callihan talks about why studying the Ancient Greeks is important for students today.

Find out more from this superb series: [Old Western Culture - The Greeks](#). This is a full-year literature and history curriculum for high school students (and above). Guided by Wes Callihan, it introduces the greatest and most influential works in Western civilisation, starting with the two epic poems by Homer, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Discover the genius of the Greek playwrights at describing human emotion. Enjoy the winding story telling of Herodotus, the "Father of History". And ponder human nature with Plato and Aristotle. A highly recommended resource!

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## Books of Interest



Edited by historian Richard Gamble, this anthology reconstructs a centuries-long conversation about the goals, conditions, and ultimate value of true education. Spanning more than two millennia, from the ancient Greeks to contemporary writers, it includes substantial excerpts from more than sixty seminal writings on education. Represented here are the wisdom and insight of such figures as Xenophon, Plato, Aristotle, Seneca, Cicero, Basil, Augustine, Hugh of St. Victor, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Erasmus, Edmund Burke, John Henry Newman, Thomas Arnold, Albert Jay Nock, Dorothy Sayers, C. S. Lewis, and Eric Voegelin.

The book can be purchased from [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com) and a fine review found [here](#).

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