

# The Spartan Sentinel

*...inspiring and equipping...*

Volume 2, Issue 30

*Friday, March 28, 2014*

Good morning! I hope it's been a great week for you. I am looking forward to our staff "fun" time this morning at Tree of Life. Hopefully you can make it. We continue to deal with more "winter-like" weather than is typical for the last week of March. If we just keep holding out I know spring will get here soon. Part of what makes this spring so tough to deal with is the fact that we've been blessed with fairly mild winters and springs the last few years. There have been many years in the last 5-10 where I've already played a round or two of golf by late March.

Speaking of golf, I remember one time reading about Jack Nicklaus and how he visualized each shot before he made it. Just in case you're not up on your golf, Nicklaus is considered by many people to be the greatest golfer who ever lived. He's won the most Major Championships and is well respected in the game. Anyway, I once read about how Nicklaus practiced so much that he said only about 10% of his swing was physical. He said the other 90% was mental. Jack's extensive practice had made the actual physical swing permanent in his muscle memory. He claimed that what really made the difference was his ability to visualize the shot. So before each swing, Nicklaus would literally visualize what he wanted the shot to look like. Nicklaus claims that's what set him apart on the course.

On Tuesday, our 6th graders had the privilege of listening to Eva Kor speak about her experiences as a Holocaust survivor. It was a remarkable afternoon. I told the kids Tuesday morning that I hope they understood that what they were able to do that day was really a once in a lifetime opportunity. There just really aren't that many Holocaust survivors around any more and certainly not many like Eva. Eva was great! Her message of forgiveness was a challenge for every one of us.

One thing that Eva said really stuck out to me. She talked about the confusion she felt as she and her twin sister began to realize what was going on at Auschwitz. It's easy to forget that no one even knew about many of these concentration camps until they were liberated by the Allied Forces so as Eva and her family arrived, she was very confused about what was going on. The first night she was there, she and her sister saw their first dead bodies and it was then that they realized what was going on in this camp. Eva talked about how she decided at that

point that she was not going to die in that camp. She talked on Tuesday about how she visualized her liberation from the camp and when she closed her eyes, all she saw was her freedom.

I'm fascinated by this idea of visualizing outcomes of a situation. Obviously Eva's situation is much more serious than Jack Nicklaus' and I don't mean to trivialize the Holocaust and her experience at all, but *I believe one thing many successful teams and individuals have is the ability to visualize success. It seems to be a key component in their success.*

***Our mission is to inspire and equip all students to continuously acquire and apply knowledge and skills while pursuing their dreams and enriching the lives of others.*** This is our purpose. It's a special purpose for a lot of reasons. I've shared before how I believe the last part of that statement is what sets us apart at Warsaw Community Schools. *Pursuing dreams and enriching the lives of others.*

Why is what we do every day so important?

Because it helps our students pursue their dreams.

Why are those dreams so important?

*Because a key component to our students' success is visualizing...dreaming the success.*

It made Jack Nicklaus the greatest golfer who ever lived. It saved Eva Kor's life. Imagine what it can do for your students! NEVER forget how important what you do every day with our students is. You matter!

Dave