

# Learning to Be

## Hero's Journey Play Project

Starting in January, Nat Miller, Education/Outreach Director for Austin Theatre Alliance (check out his blog at <http://paramountoutreach.wordpress.com>), and his colleague Seth Magill have been coming to Acton Academy once a week to work with the students. Along with Mr. Nat and Mr. Seth, students have been creating and experiencing a hero's journey in which they have been tasked with finding the evil sphinx who is hoarding what has been called "the world's greatest treasure."



Each week, students face new challenges or problems they must solve in order to continue on their way, getting closer and closer to their ultimate goal. Through their dramatic journey, students have been learning acting and persuasion skills, public speaking skills, creative problem-solving skills, decision-making skills, and time management skills.

This project also emphasizes self-reflection and writing. Each morning after Mr. Nat and Mr. Seth leave, students write in their journal about the day's events and the lessons learned. Our students have never been more proud of their work and excited about writing!

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## Art and PE



Our students have Art with Ms. Kristi every Tuesday and Thursday, and PE with Coach Z every Monday and Wednesday. Ms. Kristi and Coach Z come to us from [Minds in Motion](#).



## Student Contract

I am on a hero's journey.

Even through hard times, I will not give up because I have courage.

I will be honest with myself and others about the way I lead this journey.

I will try my hardest to reach all of my goals and I will make new goals as well.

I will try new things I have never done before, even things I might not be good at, to discover new talents.

I will encourage other people on their journeys, but make sure they want and need my help.

I will take care of things around me that help me learn and live.

I will take care of my body, my brain and my heart by giving them the things they need to be healthy and grow such as exercise, information, challenges and love.

I will never give up on myself.



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## Hero Statement

**A Hero Is...** by the 2009-2010 Class of Acton Academy

*A hero...is someone who has or will make a good change in the world...is someone who develops and practices their talents so that they can help others...is someone who has lots of courage...is someone who takes care of themselves so that they can help others...is someone who sets a good example that people look up to...is someone who would do anything to help others...is someone who cares about other people...is someone you depend on...is someone who creates things to help other people...is someone who teaches you something valuable...We are all heroes in our own way.*

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# Character Curriculum

Our class focuses on one character trait during each school session. So far we have focused on courage, honesty, gratitude, and creativity. Our current character trait is patience.

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## Thank You Notes



At Acton Academy, we write thank you notes as a class whenever we receive a gift, are given a special opportunity, or have a speaker.

