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Dancing Machine

Our youngest daughter – now 10 – became a fan of *Dancing with the Stars* during season two, when Drew Lachey took home the mirrorball trophy. Next week, the show crowns its sixth champion, and Olympic gold medalist

Ideas For Success | May

Subway has been airing TV spots celebrating Jared for keeping his weight off for 10 years. I heard him on a local radio program last month, and was surprised at what an ordinary, genuine person he appears to be. "I'm not an actor, athlete or celebrity," he said. "I'm simply well-known for being that guy in the Subway commercials."

He spoke of traveling more than 200 days per year all over the globe, starting each one giving thanks for his good fortune, then trying to make every person he meets feel special. "They don't care if I have a headache or don't feel well," said Jared. "I get paid to smile, be kind and brighten their day." There's a good lesson in there.

E= mc² Last week I saw this headline on CNN.com: "Physics wonder boy to test Einstein's theories." So, naturally, I clicked on it. The article described Nima Arkani-Hamed, a mid-thirties former Harvard professor who is now on the faculty at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, where – it's no small coincidence – Albert Einstein spent the last 22 years of his life.

Arkani-Hamed is a leading expert on particle physics. His "revolutionary ideas about the way the universe works" will be challenged this summer in a powerful accelerator in Switzerland that will slam particles into each other at super-high energies. If his hypotheses about the properties in nature prove true, it will be the first extension of the spacetime continuum since Einstein.

A trait of our species is inquisitiveness about the origin and structure of the universe. Those who lived before us explored land and sea. We journeyed into space. There is much more discovery ahead. Stay tuned. Be curious.

Walt's Wisdom This month's magical idea from my encounters with Disney cast members suggests everyone in your organization needs to understand the importance of focusing on your core purpose:

"Do our people demonstrate our value statement? Memorizing it is not the objective. Living it every day is the key."

Jared gets this. Are your team members living your values every day?

And Down the Stretch They Come A buddy of mine and I like to go to a nearby track to watch the simulcasts of the Triple Crown and Breeder's Cup races. We do it for the camaraderie and brain exercise of analyzing the horses' performance charts, betting less than \$20 on each of the day's 10 races. Leaving with a few dollars more than I brought is always the goal, and such was my mindset on May 3rd for the races from Churchill Downs.

skater Kristi Yamaguchi is the favorite. It's interesting to see celebrities step out on a ledge by agreeing to perform and allow themselves to be vulnerable before the judges. After being voted off the show a few weeks ago, comedian Adam Carolla said: "You at home, there's something that scares you, there's something that's your *Dancing with the Stars*. Embrace it, don't run from it. Do it."

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I was not having a good day, however, and found myself down \$100 heading to the 10th Race, which you know as the Kentucky Derby. Having narrowed the field of 20 three-year-olds to four, I got in line at a betting window. Then I had a change of heart, and decided to protect my losses. So, I put \$10 to win on #20, and departed for the 10-minute drive home to watch the race in HD.

For the first time since 1929, a horse from far outside – #20, Big Brown – won the race, and I made a few bucks betting on the favorite. That night while reviewing my handicapping notes, something familiar struck me about the names of the other three horses I had circled. I went online and discovered they had, indeed, finished in the top four.

Now, there are all kinds of exotic wagers in the sport of kings, and I had placed several of them on the earlier races. For the Derby, I intended to "wheel" a \$2 Superfecta (top four in order) with Big Brown on top of the other three horses – covering every possible mathematical combination – for a total investment of \$12.

However, I got conservative, played scared, chickened out. And what did my concerns about losing \$12 cost me? The Superfecta returned \$58,738. That's a lot of money for someone with a daughter starting college in August.

Babe Ruth said, "Never let the fear of striking out get in your way." Here's another lesson to remember: After your research, when you think you know the best answer, move forward. Hesitate and you could miss out on a really big opportunity...one that might not come racing around the turn again.

Until next month, continued success in all things...and take Big Brown in Saturday's 133rd running of the Preakness Stakes.

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