

Terra Firma

A Student Magazine

Summer 2019



Providence Classical Christian School



PROVIDENCE
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Terra Firma, Vol. II 2018-2019

Terra Firma, solid ground, represents a metaphor for the vision and mission of Providence. We seek to teach and train young men and women to reach their highest potential in truth and character, to cultivate minds "well-made" not simply "well-filled. From this solid foundation, rooted in Scripture, students prepare to go forth in service to God and man.

Credits:

Headmaster: Ryan Evans

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Student Editor:

Cienna Dumaoal

Student Graphic Design:

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Staff Photographers: George Mould, Ethan Grant, Culver Bontrager

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Tryn Haney, Jackson Letsche

Student Photography Contributors:

Preston Robertstad, Jenna Jenkins, Tryn Haney, Hollie French, Belle Marshall

Photographers: Phil Shen, Nathan Morris, Julia Lodder, Stephanie Robertstad; many parent volunteers

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Above: First graders Jacob Antony, Olivia Kading, Faith Kwakye, and Nolan Webber attend a performance of *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*.

Front Cover: Some of the cast members of *Newsies* pose for the official cast photo. See the "Secondary" pages for more information.

Right: The Bouckennooghe family enjoys Math Night.

Back Cover: Students honed their photography skills by practicing various techniques taught by guest speakers and parents: Phil Shen, Melana Bontrager, and Thomas Hurst.

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From the Headmaster:

Commencement Speech



In his latest book entitled, *Them: How we hate each other and how to heal*, Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse reveals a troubling trend. Among doctors, psychiatrists, and public-health officials, there is a growing consensus that the number one health crisis in America right now is not cancer, not obesity, not heart disease: it's loneliness. Loneliness is literally killing people.

Sasse continues: Social scientists have identified four primary drivers of human happiness. They are identified in the following questions:

1. Do you have family you love, and who love you?
2. Do you have friends you trust and confide in?
3. Do you have work that benefits you and your neighbors?
4. Do you have a worldview that makes sense of suffering and death?

We need each other, we need purposeful work, and we need a way of viewing the world that provides meaningful answers to life's biggest questions.

C.S. Lewis said, "The most dangerous ideas in a society are not the ones being argued,

but the ones being assumed." The focus, the emphasis, the ultimate goal of your education at Providence has helped enculturate you in a way of thinking about the world, indeed a way of living that grounds you in eternal truths. Our hope is that your assumptions, your worldview, even your affections, have been cultivated and shaped to conform you to the Scriptures and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Each year we celebrate virtues students observe in other students. Here are a few about your class that you are hearing for the first time:

- He's friendly to everyone in the halls, and makes the atmosphere more welcoming to all;
- She worked hard and always had a cheerful attitude, but most notably she always takes time to invest in people around her;
- She consistently shows kindness and love to those who may not deserve it;
- He expresses God's love and kindness and walks proudly as a Christian;
- She is loving and inclusive and treats everyone around her with respect and kindness. She has made me think about who I truly want to be.

I could go on, but you see the common thread: You have learned to serve and love people.

To be blunt: It's unlikely these comments would have been written last year about you guys. By the grace of God, you've grown in sanctification this senior year, and this growth has not gone unnoticed. Thank you.

Friendship, of course, while an essential component of the Christian life, is not a cure for loneliness. The void in each of our hearts cannot be filled by social media, the pursuit of adventure, incessant busy-ness, or a noble calling. No, the hole in our hearts can only be filled by the One who created us. Your identity is not found in the grades you've earned, the college you'll attend, the mission trips you'll go on, or even godly friendships. As Miss Andrews made profoundly clear, Jesus Christ must continue to be your plumb line, your anchor, your One Thing. All diversions from this first love will end in nothing but loneliness.

I love PJ O'Rourke's famous quote, "Everyone wants to save the earth, but nobody

wants to help mom do the dishes." Translation? The most heroic, the most faithful, the most spiritual acts you will ever commit are seldom big things. Rather, they are manifested in our mundane daily choices.

This may seem counterintuitive, but much of the Christian faith is steeped in paradox. Jesus himself said, "He who is faithful in little is faithful in much." We acknowledge that the way up is the way down; when we are weak, we are strong; in order to live, we must die. Perhaps the best remedy for loneliness is to take up your cross and follow Him.

So go and do big things: Go serve your country; go prosecute some bad guys; go share the Good News to a needy world. But remember to help mom with the dishes. You just may find that in doing so, the life you save may be your own.

~ by Ryan Evans,
Headmaster

Above, left: Seniors don their graduation year glasses for a fun pose.

Below, left: Seniors and juniors come together for the last time.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

*SEE OFFICIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR
FOR FULL DETAILS

Back to School Fellowship
AUG 29

School begins
SEPT 4

Grammar Curriculum Night
SEPT 12

Secondary Retreat
SEPT 16-19

Golf Marathon
SEPT 20

Secondary Curriculum Night
SEPT 26

Jog-a-thon
OCT 4

PSAT/SAT testing
OCT 16

Academic Competitions: Speech Meet and Spelling Bee



After more than 39 rounds of competition, 5th grader Grace Lipsey correctly spelled “dissertation” to claim the title. Congratulations to the 2019 Providence Spelling Bee champion!

Classroom Winners who participated in Providence grammar school bee competition:

First Grade: Winner - Ella Mattson; Runner-Up - Faith Kwakye
Second Grade: Winner - Timothy Ma; Runner-Up - Elly Wilson
Third Grade: Winner - Miles Lipsey; Runner-Up - Cameron Bixby
Fourth Grade: Winner - Nakia Brunswick; Runner-Up - Samantha Welch
Fifth Grade: Winner - Sean Nursalim; Runner-Up - Grace Lipsey
Sixth Grade: Winner - Sophie Day; Runner-Up - Blake Tibbetts

Top performers at the
Grammar Speech Meet Assembly:

1st grade: Ruby Sykes-Poetry; Memphis Brown-Poetry; Grace Willet-Bible
2nd grade: Marguerite Elliott-Poetry; Duncan Ness-Bible; Lyla Belle-Fable
3rd grade: Clara Day-Poetry; Emma Badillo-Bible; Gresham Nugent-Fable
4th grade: Evi Smith-Poetry; Drew Mattson-Bible; Micah Wilson-Fable
5th grade: Sean Nursalim-Poetry; Von Sandeno-Bible; Jacob Haikel-Historic Oration
6th grade: Thomas Nugent-Historic Oration; Aaron Langub-Bible; Katie Brooks-Poetry



Rubik's Cube Competition: second graders participate and WIN!!

Have you ever tried to solve a Rubik's Cube? If you have, you probably fiddled with it for a couple moments, maybe getting one single side to be a solid color, before tossing it aside in frustration.

Most people have a similar relationship with the small, multicolored cubes, but not Providence 2nd graders Willem Sandeno, Winston Sandeno, and Judah Penner, who recently won the state team competition in the activity. Judah, who has also participated in local cubing events, took up this hobby with his dad after receiving a Rubik's Cube as a gift. They were determined to solve the cube, and they did so through watching YouTube videos in order to memorize the algorithm required. Judah became faster and faster at solving the cube as he became better at solving the problems that he encountered in doing so, and he then teamed up with the Sandeno twins with great success.

Judah's mom, Wendy Penner, said: “the most recent competition Judah (and Winston and Willem Sandeno) participated in was the Rubik's state team competition. What a fun experience for them to not just participate in it, but to have WON!”

Cubing does not only provide the boys with the opportunity to improve practical skills but also gives them great joy.

History: Egyptian Day, Little House Day, and Civil War Day



History came to life for grammar students and they didn't even have to leave school.

The second graders, for example, enjoyed both Egyptian Day and Little House Day. During Egyptian Day, they dove deeply into the vibrant history of Egypt through an archeological dig, a video tour of ancient Egyptian tombs, hieroglyphics decoding, an Egyptian art lesson, and a period feast. The 9th grade students even teamed up with the 2nd graders to help them create sugar-cube pyramids and sarcophagus designs, and, of course, everyone wore costumes!

Next came Little House Day, which was the culmination of much of the literature genre the second grade enjoyed this year. The students played like the prairie kids, making dolls, hammering tin objects, learning to sew, having relays, learning prairie games, and eating a huge prairie breakfast just like Almanzo in Farmer Boy! Of course, more costumes made an appearance, as well.

The 6th graders also got up close and personal with history on Civil War Day. In March, these students donned the attire and characteristics of Americans living during the Civil War era. The event consisted of wearing costumes and eating a soldier's lunch, as well as many other special events. The students recited the Emancipation Proclamation and played games that were relevant to the time period.

These students had the opportunity to actually experience what they had been studying, like all students who took part in a "history day" in the latter part of this school year.



Field Trips: Pioneer Village and the Seattle Zoo

Providence students from first to twelfth grades embarked on several exciting field trips during the latter part of this year.

The 2nd grade ventured to Pioneer Farms, a historic location complete with hands-on history of pioneer life. This trip was filled with experiences like walking into a 19th century pioneer home, preparing food, jumping in the hay, riding in a horse-drawn wagon, and learning in a one-room schoolhouse. It was a true "day-in-the life" that illustrated the amount of work that children did on the prairie farms centuries ago.

First and tenth graders took a combined trip to the zoo. Less than ideal weather did not stop the small groups made up of students from both grades from exploring the different exhibits and learning about the animals.

Providence successfully compounded classroom learning with hands-on learning this year with experiences from milking cows to gasping at the wildlife.

page written by

Cienna Dumaoal, 12

What's New



Above: Newly inducted, sixth grade Pendragon members Odessa Kaufman, Sophie Day, and Katie Brooks show their spirit on Field Day.



Above: Lebanos Abraham (6) is inducted into the House of Loxley by Headmaster Ryan Evans and welcomed by Rep. Preston Robertstad (11) and temporary House Dean Julie Hansen.

House System

In a competitive year, we saw the **House of Caspian retain the House Cup** for the next school year despite a valiant effort by the House of Eorl. Our bursting-at-the-seams secondary needed to grow into six houses from the four that have been competing the past few years. Providence has had six houses before, so we brought back the houses of Pendragon and Loxley.

House Council has also made some structural changes: in addition to the eight executive officers and committee heads, we are adding six members, including freshmen Jeffrey Evans, Annika Haney, and Keith Larkin. Other 2019-2020 HC members are: President Tryn Haney, Vice President/Eorl Rep Ashley Dougherty, Treasurer/Heorot Rep Hollie French, Secretary/Caspian Rep Jackson Letsche, Social Director/Loxley Rep Preston Robertstad, Spiritual Director Claire Lyshol, Student Ministries Director/Orfeo Rep Angela Wessel, Academic Director Benjamin Brokaw, Ethan Larkin, Pendragon Rep Culver Bontrager, and Anabelle Shen.

~ by Tryn Haney, 11



After years of Mother's Day celebrations, dads got their day! Organized and decorated by Stacey Sykes and her team, the Dad's Day event enabled dads to enjoy playing games, eating food, and spending time with their children at school as seen with the **Poole** (above) and **Yang** (right) families.



Dads Day



MS *Alice in Wonderland* Drama

Under the direction of sixth grade teacher Mattie Butaud, the middle school students along with upper grammar students, presented a theatrical version of *Alice in Wonderland*. Students donned rabbit, Alice, Queen of Hearts, playing cards, and caterpillar costumes. Drama was at its height in this first-ever, middle school production.

Alumni

(send info to stephanierobertstad@pccs.org to be included in the next magazine)

Eleya and **Carter Butaud '07** welcomed another son, Edmund William Butaud. Son, Sam, will attend Pre-K in the fall at Providence.

Krystal and **Gregg Kniss, Jr. '07** welcomed another daughter, Cersi Kniss.

Marcella and **Joe Morris '09** welcomed baby number three: daughter Zoe was born on December 16, 2018.

Ryan Morris '11 married Kadence on May 11, 2019.

Josiah and **Elise Hatcher Warner '11** welcomed their first baby Isabel Elora born on March 7, 2019. The family now lives in Lebanon, OR, where Josiah starts med school this fall.

Bradley Evans '15 graduated from Grove City College and works as an Assoc. Story Editor in Phoenix, Az where he now lives.

Aidan Walsh '15 graduated from Texas Christian University with a BS in Finance and works as an Assoc. Consultant for Bain & Co. in Dallas, TX, where he now lives.

Cole Butaud '15 graduated from Cedarville University with a BA in Global Business and now resides in Bothell, WA.

Matthew Morris '15 will be teaching math classes at Providence in the fall. Be looking for more information in the Winter *Terra Firma*!

Duncan Shaffer '15 graduated from Azusa University with a BA in Honors Humanities and Graphic Design and works in the Seattle area.

Mitchell Bonner '15 graduated from Grove City College with a degree in Marketing and now works for ClearBrands Inc.

Megan Grotte Sweeney '15 graduated from Cedarville University with a degree in early child education.

Nate Smidt '16 is a Program Coordinator for Lil' Kickers, which is a child development program that uses soccer to help children tackle important developmental milestones.

Katie Adair '16 worked in Strasbourg, France this summer and then traveled extensively through Europe with her mother, Vickie.

Lauren Haft '17 pursued a dream to teach students in Africa this summer, spending her time in Rwanda, and will be a junior at Colorado Christian University in the fall.



FIRST ALUMNI WEDDING ON JUNE 6TH

"**JACKSON [MORRIS '17]** AND I FELL FOR EACH OTHER DURING OUR SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, IN MR. MORRIS'S CALCULUS CLASS. HE WOODED ME WITH HIS WILLINGNESS TO SOLVE EVERY ALGEBRAIC PROBLEM USING HIS 'BOX METHOD.' FROM THERE WE BECAME THE BEST OF FRIENDS... AFTER A LITTLE OVER A YEAR OF DATING, JACKSON PROPOSED TO ME THE DAY BEFORE MY BIRTHDAY ON THE DOCK OF MY FAMILY CABIN. I HAPPILY SAID YES AFTER TEN MINUTES OF [HAPPY] CRYING..."

~ **REYNA LACALLI MORRIS '17** (FROM *THE KNOT*)



It is dark backstage. Hugs, high fives, and prayers are passed around. A few people strike up an impromptu dance party behind the closed curtain. People fidget with their suspenders, fold their newspapers, and fix their lipstick for the last time before taking their places. The whole cast and crew hold their breath as the intro music begins. The lights come up on two actors alone onstage, lying on a set meant to mimic a New York rooftop. Providence's production of *Newsies* the Musical has begun.

This year's edition of the annual school show featured a tap number, New York accents, and a story about standing up for what is right. *Newsies* took place at Northwest Performing Arts Center at Bothell High School, a new stage

for Providence drama. The whole production team greatly appreciated this space, as it provided effective lighting, clear sound, more room, and – best of all – hundreds of seats to fill, which audiences did every night.

Another first for Providence drama was participation in the 5th Avenue Awards for high school drama productions. *Newsies* received an honorable mention for choreography, while stage manager and junior Hollie French was awarded the "Special Honor - Student Achievement," a well-deserved award. The success of *Newsies* the Musical, which encouraged audiences to "seize the day!," bodes well for the future of Providence drama.

~ by Cienna Dumaoal, 12



GRAND TOUR

Every class is told, "You'll get closer together as a class over the course of the trip," but before we left for Europe, we all had our doubts. However, as we walked through the shops of Athens, ran and danced through the night streets in Rome, climbed to the top of the Duomo in Florence, toured the plazas in London, and dined at Eynsham Hall in Oxford, we really did come together as a class. Grand Tour is a capstone to our education, but it's also a once-in-a-lifetime trip that we won't forget.

~ Jackson Letsche, 11



Spring Sports Winter and

Providence student-athletes competed with heart for the latter half of the school year. The high school boys basketball team (2-16) was in the process of forming a new foundation this year, as a young team that is only graduating one senior, John Baron. The boys also have a new coach, Miles Mason, who pushes them to improve both in practice and in games. The future looks bright for the boys of Providence basketball.

The high school athletics program continues to partner with Cedar Park Christian High School for CPC's spring sports. This year, freshman JD Olson took advantage of the opportunity to play golf, qualifying all the way to bi-districts as one of only two young men from the team to do so and the only player from his grade. Four students participated in track and field, with junior Benjamin Brokaw qualifying for districts and senior Cienna Dumaoal qualifying for bi-district finals, where she missed state by one place and broke the school record in the 100-meter hurdles.

The middle school track team set several records this season: 5th grade: Von Sandeno 800m 3:08, 1600m 7:08.9; 6th grade: David Knudsen 400m 69.11; Sofie Hilt 400m 1:11.65; 7th grade: Reagan Grant 200m 28.05, 400m 1:03.96, 800m 2:37.47, Long Jump 14'8"; 8th grade: Dexter Kaufman 100m 12.2, 400m 1:00.34; Matthew Reeve 800m 2:55.0; Gabriella Nursalim 800m 2:59.9.

As always, such athletic success, both in performance and in character, leaves the Providence community hungry for the next season.

~ by Cienna Dumaoal, 12



This year's 9th and 10th grade event included a visit to the newly remodeled Space Needle observation decks, dinner at Ivar's Acres of Clams in Seattle, and a spin on the Seattle Great Wheel.

The Space Needle now offers a "must do experience" that provides "breath-taking views through floor-to-forever glass."

Following the Space Needle, we dined at Ivar's Acres of Clams with stunning views of Elliot Bay.

Once we feasted on dinner and dessert, we walked the seawall to Pier 57 to ride the Seattle Great Wheel, where students enjoyed a gondola ride with views of the glittering night skyline of downtown Seattle.

Semi-Formal Protocol



VALEDICTORIAN: CIENNA DUMAOAL

"For seven years, I was in the class of 2020, so even though I have known many of these people since I was six, I only joined their grade sophomore year. [...] Providence does that; it allows kids who weren't even in the same grade to become young adults in caps and gowns, still smiling about shared memories from twelve years ago. [...] But it's not that that makes Providence special, [...]. It's the people. They're what's different. They're the truest blessing.

This blessing looks like siblings hugging in the hallways. It looks like breaking into songs from school concerts years ago by the lockers. It looks like seniors being friends with seventh graders. It looks like your class becoming your best friends and your family. [...]

Providence was and is a blessing in all the right senses of the word. It was given to all of us by God, on purpose. My prayer is that we do something with it, and maybe – who knows? – bless someone else along the way."

WHERE THEY WILL BE...

JOHN BARON:

Where: Bob Jones University;
Greenville, SC
Major: Business

SAMRY BESRAT:

Where: University of Washington, Seattle
Major: Biology, Pre-Med

CIENNA DUMAOAL:

Where: Whitworth University;
Spokane, WA
Major: Communications

BRADLEY JOHNSON:

Where: US Marine Corps

SALUTATORIAN: ABBEY LANGUB

"Andy Bernard once said, 'I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them.' Looking back, I can say that I knew. To be sure, there were definitely several moments during senior year that weren't the best: [...] Yet with all of these difficult moments came even greater positive ones: We went to Starbucks so often that the baristas there know our names, pretended to tap dance throughout the hallways as we screamed "King of New York" at the top of our lungs, laughed so hard that we couldn't breathe [...]

Senior year was definitely not perfect, but that's perfectly fine, because each and every one of those moments lead to this one: our graduation. Though it is time to leave our "good old days" behind, I think all of us can say that we knew that we were in them... Here's to the 'good old days' and to the bright futures ahead of us."

G r a d u a t i o n | 2 0 1 9

ABBEY LANGUB:

Where: University of Washington, Seattle
Major: Law, Societies, Justice;
Pre-Law

MADI MARSHALL:

Where: Trinity Western University, BC
Major: Education with a minor in
Chemistry and Theatre

GEORGE MOULD:

Where: Mission Aviation Training Academy
(MATA), Marysville, WA
Major: Aviation/Pilot

Awards

END OF YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

GRAMMAR

Exemplary Character Awards:

PreK Blue – Arden Reph
PreK Green – Zoe Djajadi
1st Grade – Ella Mattson
2nd Grade – Addie Millett
3rd Grade Blue – Helen Owen
3rd Grade Green – Emily Belle
4th Grade – Olivia Moses
5th Grade – Jacob Haikel
6th Grade Blue – Sofia Ness
6th Grade Green – Peter Bredenberg

Running Club Awards:

All school total miles: 2,014.6

Highest Individual Student Totals:

Caden Biggerstaff - 250+ miles
Von Sandeno - 208 miles
Peter Bredenberg - 150 miles
Nathaniel Millett - 111 miles
Gresham Nugent - 102 miles
Elly Wilson - 101.4 miles

SECONDARY

Student Character Awards:

John Baron, Cienna Dumaoal,
Ashley Dougherty, Ethan Larkin,
Delina Besrat, Josiah Hansen

Faculty Awards:

Grades 7/8 - Andrew Letsche
Grades 9/10 - Jeffrey Evans,
Keith Larkin
Grades 11/12 - Ethan Larkin

Athletic Awards:

John Baron
Madi Marshall
Claire Lyshol

Extra-Curricular Awards:

Journalism – Cienna Dumaoal
Yearbook – Madi Marshall
Drama – Bradley Johnson, Abbey
Langub, Madi Marshall, Hollie
French



Farewell from the Editor

CIENNA DUMAOAL

On a Tuesday early in my sophomore year, I walked into an airless conference room containing four broken-down office chairs and took the first steps toward my future career. Although I spent the period eating slightly stale Life Savers and making shy, infrequent contributions to a soccer-related blurb someone else was writing, I trace my passion for journalism back to that tiny room. That Tuesday marked my first class in the journalism program, which rarely got more glamorous at any time for the remainder of the year. The whole department consisted of nine students, tasked with producing the school magazine, which Mrs. Robertstad circulates to anyone and everyone remotely connected to our student body.

Our staff was so small and our task so large that we could not even designate positions. We were all writers, editors, designers, photographers. Even though I was designing borders when I wanted to be writing editorials, the ability to look at any page in the magazine and point to something I had created got me hooked.

Although the department nearly tripled the next year, and I no longer had to use my writer's hands for photography, the work did not get any easier. I spent November editing articles instead of eating pie and May cramming for deadlines instead of batting around a volleyball. I had ideas shot down a week before we went to print. Work I was extremely proud of was mistakenly credited to other writers. Space restrictions slashed my articles to a quarter of what they were when I originally wrote them.

However, none of this could make me love what I did any less. Every unexpected, frustrating, exhausting event led me closer to the moment I would get to touch the glossy pages of our finished product. That moment, every time I experience it, reminds me of why I want to write for the rest of my life; the rush of emotions – pride, happiness, relief, excitement – that it carries is something I want to chase for the rest of my life.

Now that I am moving on and chasing that dream, every time I find that rush of emotions, I will think back to that conference room, with its creaky chairs and old candy, and smile.





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Photographer's Gallery

Student photographers, cockwise from L to R: Preston Robertstad, George Mould, Ethan Grant, Tryn Haney, Hollie French, Belle Marshall, Jenna Jenkins.

