

Terra Firma

A Student Magazine

Winter 2019



Providence Classical Christian School



PROVIDENCE
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Terra Firma, Vol. I 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.

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Cover: Kindergarteners Carson Taylor, Ashleigh Poole, Cara Wilson, Amelia Safarli, and Annah-Sophia Evangelista enjoy a field trip together.

Above: Lyla Belle, a second grader, paints a rock paperweight in the first meeting of the Craft Club.

Letter From the Student Editor

By Cienna Dumaoal, grade 12

In the three years since I joined the inaugural Providence journalism program, this program has grown in more ways than one, and watching this process has blessed me immensely. Serving the journalism program from simply doing whatever was needed to now being the senior editor has been a joy and honor. This team consistently works and plays hard, and I am proud to present the product of this work and play: The Winter 2018-19 *Terra Firma*.

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Below: Seniors enjoy a beautiful, fall day together.



FROM THE HEADMASTER:

"Standing Firm in the Faith"

Mr. Ryan Evans



CHRISTIAN schools are in trouble. Or at least that's the perception that some are trying to create. It's true that some Christian schools are caving to political correctness; others are facing heavy scrutiny for their failure to cave to the political and social ideologies in conflict with Scriptural teaching. By now most have heard of the "Expose Christian Schools" movement.

The goal, while ostensibly veiled in an objective appeal – was clearly intended to solicit perceived horror stories to fit tightly into a prefabricated narrative. Christians should be the first to admit that even our Christian organizations are flawed and can admit to failures. Anyone seeking dirt will find it, even in the most sanitized industries. But we all know goals of these movements are much more insidious than that.

Sadly, many schools are taking stances that clearly conflict with historical biblical teaching. For example, just recently in speaking with another Christian school administrator, I learned their school does not take a position on the issue of homosexuality. In other words, they refuse to call it sin. As Mark Stonestreet wrote in a recent BreakPoint article, "Neither the Bible nor nearly two millennia of Christian teaching are at any level ambiguous about homosexual behavior."

You may have heard about the Christian school in Virginia where

Second Lady Karen Pence teaches. The school holds to a biblical view of marriage. Another area school, upon hearing this news, decided to not have their athletic teams compete against Pence's school, citing their "fundamental belief in diversity and inclusion," and that some of their students expressed concerns about safety. Such a decision makes one wonder about their definition of tolerance...

Two thousand years ago, Paul instructed the Thessalonian church to, "Stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught..." (2 Thess. 2:15). Scripture implores us to be on guard, to be courageous, and to keep our feet rooted in the gospel of truth. As we instruct our students to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, we also must teach them to engage in the conversations of our day as they seek to love their neighbor in the name of the gospel. While this goal is not an easy one, it points to the necessity of Christian schools that refuse to compromise God's truth.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| • Semi-Formal Protocol | March 16 | • Spring Concert | May 16 |
| • Grammar Speech Meet Assembly | March 29 | • Fine Arts and Science Festival | May 24 |
| • Benefit Dinner and Auction | March 30 | • Commencement Ceremony | June 6 |
| • High School Drama Production | April 10-12 | • Field Day | June 7 |
| • Easter/Spring Break | April 15-19 | • Grand Tour | June 13-25 |
| • Senior Thesis Presentations | May 13-14 | | |

*See school calendar for a full listing of events.

Reformation Day

By Sydney Bredenberg, grade 9

Reformation Day is a time when the whole school community comes together to celebrate the time when serious misunderstandings in the church were revealed and corrected. Canyon Hills Community Church kindly let the school use their building, marking the first time that Reformation Day has ever taken place at a location outside of the school building. One welcome result of this change was the return of the Reformation Day feast, discontinued and sorely missed for the last couple of years. As usual, the grammar students dressed up as people who lived during the medieval era, while the secondary students dressed up according to their House themes. The Reformation Day celebration reminds all of us Who we worship, as well as how and why we ought to worship Him. In His mercy, He redirected His people, working through men like Abraham, Moses, Martin Luther, and of course His Son. Yes, it's fun to watch little knights in shining armor or little princesses playing games, or compete House against House, but the main focus of Reformation Day is what God has done for us.

Photo: Second grader Timothy Ma readies his bow and arrow for the shot.

6th Grade Gold Rush Day

By Alyssa Dougherty, grade 9

At Providence, we make sure that the students not only learn the facts we teach but know and experience them. Take Gold Rush Day for example. After the sixth graders learn about what took place during the Californian Gold Rush, we then have them dress-up in plaid and participate in the game, Oregon Trail. The game helps them understand the rough adventurers of the old explorers. That experience helps engrain the learning far into the future. Days like this help cement the facts they have been learning in their minds.



Above: Sixth graders Natalee Jorgensen, Maddie Smith, and Aaron Langub sift for gold.

1st Grade Spider Day

By Alyssa Dougherty, grade 9

Spider Day is yet another example of how Providence tries to make learning fun. The first graders, after learning about different types of spiders and their body parts, bring a spider of their choice to Spider Day. The classroom is decorated with fun spider themed décor. Each student presents their spider to the class and tells them where it was found, and what name they were given. The children have fun and remember the interesting facts for years. You may be asking why it is important to learn facts about spiders, but this teaches the students to memorize facts which is useful throughout their lives. Also, it helps them be more observant with the smaller things in life, showing them the detail and importance of everything.



Below: First grader Memphis Brown proudly shows off his spider on Spider Day.

SECONDARY



Above: The girls on the high school volleyball team play their hearts out against Shoreline Christian School.

Sports

By Preston Robertstad, grade 11

Over the years, Providence athletes have consistently out performed expectations and battled to the playoffs. This year has been no exception. Despite losing last year's talented seniors, current seniors John Baron, Bradley Johnson, and George Mould stepped into these shoes, guiding the team through another successful season. With the help of two-time WIAA Player of the Week and team captain Culver Bontrager, the high school soccer team finished the season with a winning record, securing eight wins and seven losses. The high school volleyball team, also facing the loss of key senior leadership and skill, nevertheless found success this season. The senior girls, assisted by junior captain Claire Lyshol and a hard-working team, fought their way to a ten and two season and on to the state playoffs. Refusing to be left in the shadow of

high school sports, the middle school sports teams played competitively as well. Middle school volleyball quickly adapted to their new coach, Mrs. Christy Wu, and grew as team, improving throughout the season: the Division 1 squad had 11 matches and won all three games at the season ending jamboree, while the Division 2 squad played 9 matches but lost all three games at the season ending jamboree. The Middle school soccer team, coached by Mr. Dave Kowalick and Mr. Robert Welch, took a while to learn to work together, but finally gelled as a team winning their last two games of the season against two good rival teams: Evergreen and Rainier Christian. The middle school soccer team enjoyed bonding together and learning team-work. Once again, Providence athletes have revealed the power that God can exercise at the center of the team.



Top: Claire Lyshol, junior Captain and league MVP, prepares to dig a ball.
Bottom: The high school boys soccer team smiles for a team picture.

Formal Protocol

"Modern culture sees the self as the center of all, but a lady and a gentleman is a servant of others."

-Evan Bruce Wilson

By Preston Robertstad, grade 11

The lights fade away. The show has begun. Lions, giraffes, elephants, zebras, and monkeys flood the stage. Providence's juniors and seniors, full after a gourmet Italian meal at Barolo Ristorante, sit back to enjoy *The Lion King* at the Paramount Theater. This is formal protocol, the culmination of etiquette and behavior learned at Providence. The young men are given the chance to escort a young woman, exercising the godly principles taught by Pastor Dave Hatcher in the boys' protocol class. The girls put to use what they learned in their class with Mrs. Megan Haney regarding behavior towards boys. Everyone converses together at dinner, honoring God in their speech as taught in the conversations class with Glen and Samantha Ness. The students execute proper manners learned from Mrs. Kim Knudsen as they enjoy the meal. Other restaurant patrons wonder who these students are, not out of annoyance, but admiration. This is the beauty of protocol at Providence: it works. Providence students go into Seattle for an enjoyable evening yet make an impact in the culture around them as they do so.



Above: The juniors and seniors gather with a smile after a lovely night.



Above: The seniors give a big smile at their last protocol.

Below: Friendship continues to blossom at retreat between eighth graders Delina Besrat and Ashley Knudsen.

Fall Retreat

By Rebecca Arneson, grade 9

What is Fall Retreat? Why do we do it? Retreat is a fun time of relaxation where the secondary goes to Whidbey Island for about a week at a beginning of the year. It starts the year on a high note and kicks off the house competitions with a bang. Five house competitions take place during Retreat: soccer for the boys, volleyball for the girls, ultimate frisbee for everyone, then a house skit and craft project. Aside from these, Retreat includes a plethora of other games, such as Name That Tune (a student favorite), Bingo, Game night, and the senior game, which was directed, hosted, and designed by this year's beloved senior class. During free time, students can participate in swimming or any combination of three tournaments – two on two beach volleyball, carpetball, or pickleball. Finally comes one of the favorite parts of Retreat – the food. The cooks this year, Mrs. Baron (the head cook), Mrs. Larkin, Mrs. Jorgensen, Mr. & Mrs. Bartnik, and Mrs. Jekel, all worked to supply breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks for everyone. This year, they put together an elaborate "Taco Tuesday" dinner, and "Italian Night," both of which were spectacular. From the ferry trip on the way there to the lunch stop on the way back, Retreat is fun all the way through, and everyone makes memories to treasure the rest of the year and beyond.



What's New

By Cienna Dumaoal, grade 12

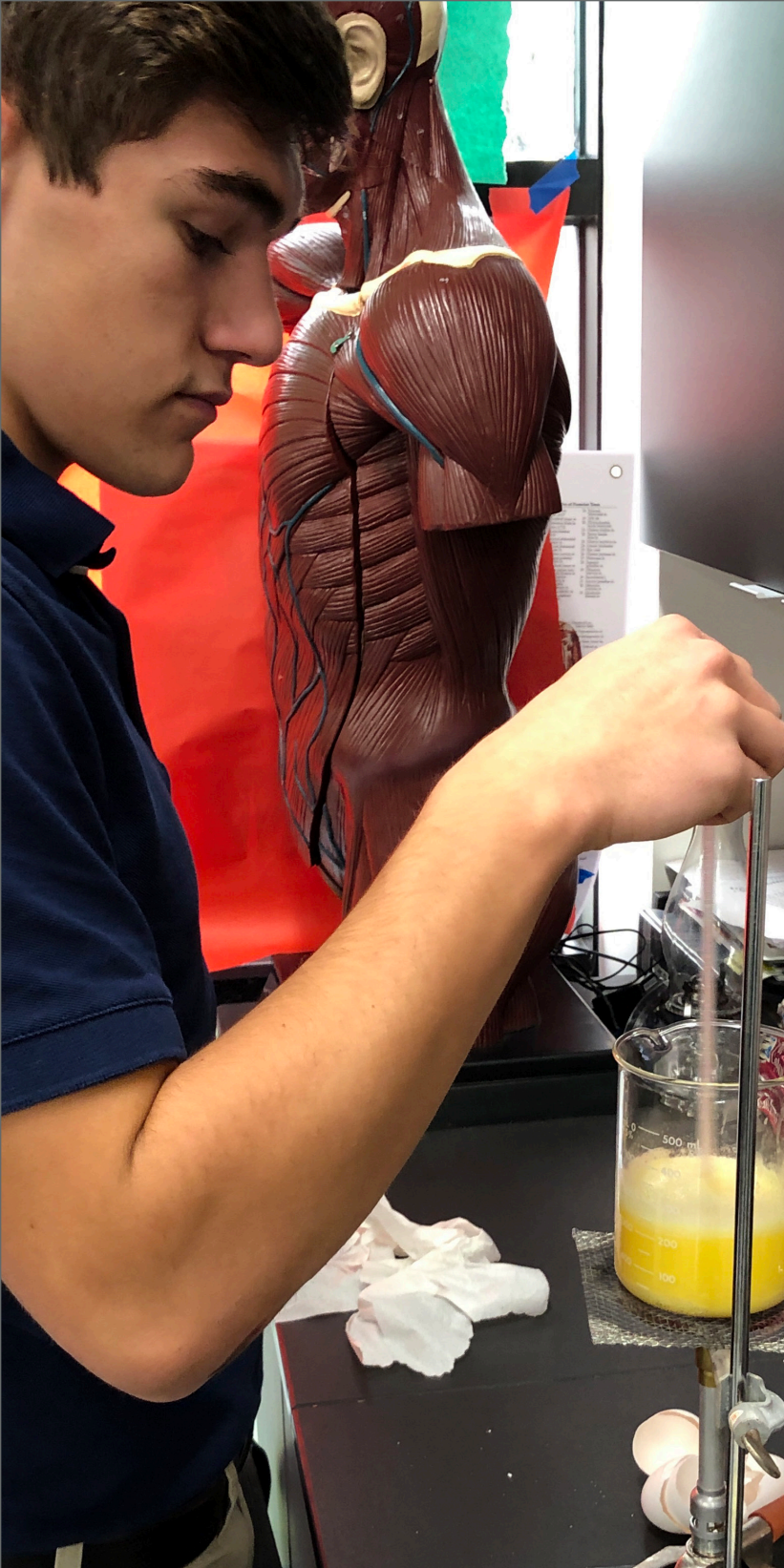
Providence expanded its horizons this year both in the student body and the staff. Over 20 families joined the school community along with several new teachers. These new additions have contributed to the school greatly. For example, the Larkin brothers, Ethan and Keith, joined eleventh and ninth grade, respectively, and brought abundant athletic talent with them. So far, Ethan has played on the soccer and basketball teams for Providence, while Keith has played football and wrestled for local schools. The brothers also fought their way to third in the volleyball tournament at fall retreat as the "Larkinators."

The new teachers came to Providence with fresh expertise and personality. New grammar teachers are Mrs. Julie Letsche in 2nd grade, Mrs. Pati Smith in 3rd grade, and Miss Julia Lodder in 6th grade. While the student body bid a sad farewell to Mr. Andrew Weiseth in October, it welcomed Dr. Jeff Capshaw, who now teaches Bible, history, and Rhetoric. Miss Megan Andrews also joined the teaching staff, guiding her students through *Beowulf* and the *Great Gatsby*, as well as Mr. Godbey, teaching Logic, Bible, and History. Mrs. Julie Hansen joined the staff teaching foreign languages and math, while Mrs. Jill Walsh teaches math.

Along with several new grammar aides, others joining the staff are Mrs. Nikki Brown (P.E.), Mrs. Kim Knudsen (Pre-K Enrichment), and Mrs. Julia Badillo (Finance Director).

From the classroom to the secondary retreat beach volleyball court, Providence became bigger and better this year.

Top left: Junior Ethan Larkin mixes ingredients in the beaker for his experiment during Chemistry class.
Bottom left: Dr. Jeff Capshaw converses with Mr. Andrew Weiseth about the transition between the two teachers.



Alumni

"Not all who wander are lost."

-J.R.R. Tolkien

By Cienna Dumaoal, grade 12

Living in Switzerland as an *au pair*, interning at a newspaper just outside of Washington D.C., serving Middle Eastern refugees through soccer in Austria – this is what summers look like post-Providence for alumni Bailey Robertstad, Bradley Evans, and Cole Butaud. The three spoke at a secondary assembly in January about their experiences and shared some tidbits about their respective summers.

Bailey Robertstad

'17

Bailey is a Global Business major at George Fox University, where she is a sophomore. When she heard about the chance to work for the summer as an *au pair* with her French professor's family in Geneva, she bought a plane ticket immediately. Bailey spent her weekdays with the two young girls she nannied (with the added perk of improving her French skills) and her weekends off traveling throughout Europe – to Austria, Italy, and France. She feels that Providence prepared her for the experience through fostering student/teacher relationships, pushing her to be a leader, and helping her market herself to those who can provide amazing opportunities like the one she experienced last summer.

Bradley Evans, a senior at Grove City College who is majoring in Political Science and English, also drew from the student/teacher relationships he nurtured at Providence as he interned at the American Spectator newspaper in Alexandria, Virginia. He spent most of his time writing and editing the fall newspaper, along with exploring the D.C. area, which he describes as ruthless but exciting, full of opportunity. The education Bradley received at Providence led him into the heart of American political life and will surely continue to assist him through his college graduation and beyond.

Bradley Evans

'15

Cole Butaud

'15

Cole Butaud shone on the soccer field while at Providence and continues to do so at Cedarville University, where he is in his senior year studying International Business. However, he never imagined that the game would lead him all the way to Austria. Cole first traveled to Austria on a mission trip with his soccer team during his freshman year of college, and when his coach presented him with an opportunity to play the game he loved while serving those who desperately needed it, he jumped at the chance. Refugees pour into Europe from Asia and the Middle East, and they can find an escape from their uncertain situation in soccer, what Cole calls "the world's game."



Christmas Concert

By Rebecca Arneson, grade 9

The Providence Christmas Concert is an annual tradition and one that brings a lot of joy. This year marks the first year of the new Secondary choir director, Mrs. Hilt, and the first year that the Grammar and Secondary concerts performed at two different times on the same evening. The theme this year was “Let There Be Light,” celebrating the gift of Christ’s Light coming into the world. The opening song for secondary was sung by the Vanguard – a smaller Audition Choir that performs twice in the concert. The secondary then filed in singing the chorus. This was also the second year of the Junior High Ensemble – a group much like Vanguard, but composed of seventh and eighth graders. This is also the fourth year of the Providence band, directed by Mrs. Salzman, performing as well. Both concerts delighted the listeners, and it was amazing to see current and coming generations learn the art and joy that is music.

Jog-a-Thon



Above: Lucy Sykes (grade) 5 and Rebecca Arneson (grade) 9 play wind instruments in the Intermediate Band performance.

By Sydney Bredenbergh, grade 9

The Jog-a-thon, which is planned and executed by Mrs. Marshall, is the first whole school event – a fantastic and easy way for everyone to get involved in helping PCCS. The grammar students love running, and the Jog-a-thon is an excellent opportunity to turn this love into action. The secondary students helped out in every way from providing water to cheering the younger kids on, and the high schoolers decorated wagons according to their class themes. The freshmen’s Cops and Robbers theme – complete with candy as a reward for catching the bad guys – was a favorite. Many parent volunteers helped the Jog-a-thon run smoothly. Jog-a-thon is a wonderful example of Hebrews 12. This verse discusses how we as Christians are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Therefore, bearing this in mind and looking to Jesus, we can run the race that’s before us. Even in the day to day occurrences at Providence, constant reminders of this verse exist in students smiling and laughing with each other. Jog-a-thon stands out because everyone, grammar students, secondary students, teachers, parents, and donors are all in the race together, helping and encouraging each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

STUDENT

WHAT DO THESE 3 STUDENTS THINK?

VOICES

"What is your favorite and your least favorite book that you have ever read at Providence?"

Page by Cienna Dumaoal, grade 12

Madi Marshall, 12th

I haven't finished reading *The Old Man and the Sea*, but I have a feeling it will end up being my favorite. But [at this point], I'm between *Till We Have Faces* and *The Scarlet Letter*, though it's probably *Till We Have Faces* because it puts love into biblical perspective, which is really important. [My least favorite] is *Beowulf*, because it felt unnecessarily repetitive. It [also felt to me that it] was a narrative story that would've been better suited to prose form. I prefer poetry that is more symbolic, like *Paradise Lost* or Dante's *Comedia*.



Jenna Jenkins, 11th

My favorite book is between *Inferno* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I liked *Inferno* because Dante's thoughts about hell are really creative, and it's a different perspective on what the afterlife looks like, which was really new [to me], though it's not 100 percent accurate. *To Kill a Mockingbird* first introduced me to what I want to do when I get older [...] a lawyer [and/or] politician. [...] I knew racism was a thing, but [it was important] to have it thrown in my face. [My least favorite book was] *Great Expectations*. It might have been well written for that time, but personally I didn't understand why the characters interacted the way they did.

JD Olson, 9th

Does our favorite have to be one we've already read? If so, my favorite is probably *The Odyssey*. I like the storyline, and it's entertaining to read. [In general], I really like good stories that have some amount of action and suspense. I know my least favorite was *Great Expectations*, because it was too slow-paced [for me]. The social interaction was a little bit forced. [Although], *Tale of Two Cities* was good; it's probably my other favorite book next to the *Odyssey*.





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Top Left: Josh Wheeler 9 and Cole Lyshol 10 have fun warming up for their high school soccer game.
Top Middle: Junior Claire Lyshol makes ice cream during Chemistry class.
Top Right: Fifth graders Hayley Belle and Cecilia Owen pause to give a thumbs up as they run during the Jog-a-Thon.
Left: Sixth graders Odessa Kaufman, Sofia Hilt, and Peter Bredenberg perform in the drama dress rehearsal of *Alice in Wonderland*.
Right: Freshman Sawyer Grant enjoys a snow fight with a snow boulder?!
Bottom Left: The senior girls show their team spirit during the high school boys soccer senior night.
Bottom Middle: The fourth graders show their wacky faces during their field trip to a museum.
Bottom Right: The house of Orfeo successfully makes a human pyramid at retreat.

