

Terra Firma

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PROVIDENCE
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Terra Firma

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.

Table of Contents

3	From the Headmaster
4-5	Providence Sports
6	Benefit Auction
7	Jog-a-Thon
8-9	Grammar Days
10	Grammar Wisdom
11	Student Spotlight
12	Secondary Themed-Tuesdays
13	Middle School Drama
14-15	Protocol
16-17	Senior Spotlights
18-19	Celebrating a Great Year
Back Cover	Student Art

From the Headmaster

Commencement Address to the Class of 2021

Cultivating virtue is hard. We can all provide appropriate reasons as to why, but the primary driver is that we are not born virtuous. Psalm 51 tells us we are conceived in sin, and a symptom of that is that virtue must be learned. We are prone to choose the easy road and opt for the path of least resistance. We learn from the prophet Jeremiah that it's a part of the human condition, where even our own hearts can deceive us.

As Mrs. Hansen wonderfully reminded us, your classical education has not been easy; it was never intended to be so. Your parents did not make sacrifices for you simply to enjoy a breezy path replete with minimal requirements, mere suggestions, and optional tasks.

As one classicist wrote, "The hard, precipitous path of classical education ideally led not to knowledge alone, but to the cultivation of mind and spirit. Knowledge did not, in and of itself, justify the sweat. The climb was meant to transform one's intellectual and aesthetic nature as well." Sweat is good, particularly when directed in a way that grows, reshapes, humanizes us.

The goal of your education over the years has been to learn to think and act biblically. Your class chose an appropriate verse to pass down this year: James 1:2-3. James tells us that when perseverance finishes its work, we are mature and complete, lacking in nothing. Persevering through trials matures and refines us.

The testing of your faith has produced perseverance, and you would not be sitting here but for a healthy level of faithfulness and steadfastness. In Romans 5, Paul says something counterintuitive: That we should rejoice in our sufferings. This is a Christian paradox: our suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope.

The Greek word for perseverance that Paul uses in Romans 5 is, "hupomeno," which literally means "remaining under." In other words, it means standing up under pressure and hanging in there. It often means sticking it out – battling through tough circumstances that are less than ideal.

Paul knew about trials. Imprisoned multiple times, countless beatings – often near death, stoned by accusers, three times shipwrecked, adrift at sea, danger from robbers, danger from his own people, danger in the wilderness, hunger and thirst, often without food. Not to mention his thorn in the flesh. But he kept on, boasting not in his strength but in his weakness.

We can all admit it can be hard to outlast a trial, to endure through difficulty, to remain focused and unmoved despite hardship. You wouldn't be here if you didn't stick it out. You wouldn't be here if you didn't hang in there. You have done it.



We acknowledge it was not easy. But easy rarely leads to growth, achievements, or victories. To grow, in order to progress, a person must work, must persist, must persevere, but with one important caveat. Christ said, "Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." We encounter here yet another Christian paradox: to bear fruit necessarily means trusting in Christ and relying on His strength, His perfection, His righteousness.

The pursuit of virtue is life-long; it does not end with a diploma. You now embark on the next phase, one that sends you into different callings, diverse places, circumstances that even now may seem murky.

The Greek poet, Hesiod, said "Before the gates of Excellence the high gods have placed sweat; long is the road thereto and rough and steep at first; but when the heights are reached, then there is ease, though grievously hard in the winning." God is there before you, calling you to stay the course, persevere, and embrace the new path with joy and with gratitude, because he has called you all to just that.

Mr. Ryan Evans, Headmaster



PROVIDENCE SPORTS

Aidan Welch & Mr. TJ Lukkasson

The 2020-2021 year was a unique one for sports at Providence. With condensed spring seasons for soccer and volleyball taking place as various COVID protocols lifted in stages, our teams had fewer practices and games than in a regular season. But even despite the shorter seasons, both the boys soccer and girls volleyball teams had significant turnout from students across the grade-range.

Providence students describe athletics as a great way to build community - a place where they can get to know their fellow students. Incoming senior Jackson Baron said that he has continued with soccer since he was three because he enjoys getting to know the team and participate with others. He sees it as an opportunity to grow closer to the team and have fun with fellow students. Graduating senior Culver Bontrager describes soccer as, “a great way to bond with fellow students and to get exercise in.” It is this opportunity for community, along with a competitive drive, that drove so many Providence students to return to athletics this year, even with the reformatted seasons.

Another unique element of athletics this year was the inclusion of middle school students on the varsity teams. Due to rule changes in the midst of COVID, the league allowed schools to combine their middle school, junior varsity, and varsity teams into one team so that more schools could field a full team. As a result, eighth graders participated on both the boys soccer and girls volleyball teams. While it is unfortunate that many schools were unable to assemble separate middle school and junior varsity teams, one silver lining is that these eighth graders gained invaluable experience playing with and against substantially older players, and will enter into high school more prepared for the intense competition that comes with high school athletics.

So, while this year certainly presented unique challenges for our athletic programs, it still served as a fantastic community building experience for our students. It gave older students the opportunity to lead and set an example in adversity - and gave younger students the chance to compete against older and more experienced players. Even though this year was certainly different than what we may have hoped for, we recognize God’s providential hand graciously orchestrating history - even the details - for His glory and our good.

Left:

Odessa Kaufman (left), Rose Brokaw (right), and Jessica Olson (center) prepare for a volley against Tulalip Heritage High School. Odessa is now entering her freshman year, while Rose and Jessica are each entering their senior years.



Left:

Incoming senior Sydney Bredenber bumps the ball to a teammate in an April volleyball match.

Above:

Alex Bravo-Jump tracks the ball down the field in a game against Cedar Park Christian. Alex, who plays striker, is heading into his freshman year.



Right:

Incoming junior Jayden Lohman winds up to kick the ball downfield to a teammate.

Left:

Outgoing senior Culver Bontrager prepares to kick the ball downfield.



A large photograph of auctioneer John Curley, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and white shirt, holding a microphone and gesturing with his hands. The background is blurred with bokeh lights.

BENEFIT AUCTION 2021

Belle Marshall

The 2021 auction was a smashing success! After months of COVID-19 lockdowns and little to no gatherings for large-scale events, Providence pulled off an incredible night of fundraising at the Lynnwood Convention Center. Last year's auction, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, forced Providence to pursue an online option for auctioning; however, the school quickly came up with a solution and pulled off the immensely difficult task of managing an entire event on the internet. This year, Providence chose to return to their standard in-person auction, still holding to the proper precautions, and managed to raise an impressive and generous amount of money that will help the school flourish and grow.

Auctioneer **John Curley**





JOG-A-THON

As the '20-21 school year drew to a close, one final fundraising event remained. Though Jog-a-Thon usually happens in the fall, the leadership made the decision to postpone until the spring, and it was worth the wait. Students from grammar to secondary were grateful for an opportunity to get out in the sun, dress up in fun outfits, and raise money to help with the tuition costs of their fellow students.

On May 21st, the Providence community took to the field, grammar students in shirts of varying bright colors, and secondary students in themed clothing ranging from "Madagascar" to "Up." Upperclassmen pulled children in wagons and underclassmen cheerfully handed out water cups to winded joggers. Each grammar grade spent an hour running and an hour cheering on the other grades.

But the event could not have worked so well without the ample parent involvement and the generosity of the many community members who made pledges. Events like these remind us of the strength and unity of the Providence community.



GRAMMAR DAYS

Josiah Hansen



EGYPTIAN DAY

A Providence favorite, Egyptian Day involves the second grade class going back to the times of the Ancient Egyptians with Mrs. Lukkasson. Here, they dress up as pharaohs, mummies, and more. They play games and do crafts on a day filled with themed activities for the whole class to enjoy.



WORLD WAR II DAY

World War II Day is a new event at Providence this year led by Mrs. Letsche. Sixth grade explores newspapers from the time, even listening to the infamous “December 7th” radio transmission. They also look at propaganda from the time, with some of the girls even dressing up as Rosie the Riveter herself. This is a great day of learning that helps the sixth graders truly understand what it would have looked like to live a day in WWII.



COLONIAL TEA

A blast to the past! On this day, Miss Butaud and her fifth grade class experience the life of a colonial. Here, they are able to wear fun outfits and costumes, and the best part of the whole day, have a class tea party. This day allows the class to bond, have fun, and experience first hand what they read about in history and their other books during their time in fifth grade.

WHAT IS A LEADER?

Wisdom from Grammar Students

Gabriella Nursalim



Evy



Jack



Luke



Ben



Kate

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity,” reads 1 Timothy 4:12.

At Providence, we desire to foster a strong community of student leaders following the model of this verse, starting in grammar school.

What do our grammar students and teachers recognize as leadership qualities?

3rd graders Jack, Luke, and Evy agree that a good leader “helps others” and “tells others what to do with good advice.” 6th graders Ben and Kate add that a leader makes well-considered decisions, is “wise,” and “instructs” and “nurtures” others. All of them admire their hardworking parents and fellow classmates who demonstrate patience and kindness. From one grammar teacher’s perspective, a key trait of a leader is compassion—always considering others valuable. This type of student humbly asks questions, willingly admits personal weaknesses, and desires to patiently help struggling students.

What do grammar students think leadership looks like in the classroom?

Helping peers hold their materials or picking up things they dropped, say Evy and Jack. Luke adds that a leader is quick to help someone being teased. Ben and Kate agree that leaders explain information to students who might have missed a lesson, left materials at home, or not understood a concept. Mrs. Letsche, the 6th grade teacher, explains that when a student is engaging and gracious out of the classroom but also focused in the classroom, others naturally will emulate them and want to ask for their help. She compliments Kate and Ben for exemplifying these qualities, and Mrs. Owens similarly commends Jack for leading this way in the 3rd grade classroom.

So, all in all, what tips do grammar students give their peers regarding leadership?

Kate explains, “[A leader] is not in charge of everyone. Listen to others’ needs so that you can help guide them.” Luke additionally advises being inclusive and good-humored. As incoming secondary students, Kate and Ben hope upper-classmen will be patient and compassionate student leaders who will help the new students adjust to secondary. Finally, as Jack, Evy, and Luke note, following Jesus’ example is key. By imitating how Jesus served in kindness, a student will often garner the regard and respect of their peers.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Gabriella Nursalim

Drew French, a 7th grader here at Providence, is known for his cheery smile, friendly attitude, and helpful personality. In the classroom, he loves volunteering to help pass out books or papers, and his mom says he even helps his dad with landscaping at home, to which Drew proudly says, “Yes, I do!” Now, he is not merely a helpful 7th grader but also Mr. Johnson’s Facilities Assistant! During his free 5th period on Mondays and Fridays, he dons his orange safety vest and begins one of a variety of tasks including cleaning windows, servicing vacuums, and doing trash and recycling “runs.” In preparation for the Fine Arts Fair, Drew also helped clean the floor of the Grand Hall. He especially loves “blowing” when he wields a backpack blower to clean the leaves from the front of the school building, courtyard, and playground. While relating his duties to me with a broad grin, Drew explains that it is “so fun . . . to get the school cleaned up” and that it makes him feel “good” as “God is good.” Drew leads and inspires with his heart to serve. If you happen to spot him next year in his orange safety vest, make sure to say hello and thank him for keeping our school tidy!

THEMED TUESDAYS

Belle Marshall



Throughout the months of March and April, the Secondary Spirit Club organized a unique way to involve students and have a healthy competition between classes. Over the course of three Tuesdays, students dressed up for Pajama Day, Decade Day, and Mystery Theme Day. On Pajama Day, students arrived at school in comfy plaid pants, sweatshirts, slippers and fuzzy socks, in an effort to win the prize for “best dressed” according to that day’s theme. The following week, students chose some groovy outfits, ranging in date from the 60s to the early 2000s. The junior class specifically chose to portray the 80s, wearing tie-dye and bodacious hairstyles, and boy did they impress! Finally, for Mystery Theme Day, every class chose themes such as *Clue*, *Madagascar*, *Despicable Me*, etc., hoping to win the coveted pizza lunch chosen as the prize. Dressed in luau shirts, socks and sandals, the senior class creatively decided on dressing as “Dads on Vacation”, sunglasses and beach hats included. These three Tuesdays are testament to the creativity and imagination the Secondary Students hold when it comes to dressing competitively.



MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA

AeraBella Fitzgerald



This year's middle school drama team put on a Festival of Arts filled with exciting, one-act plays. The plays each introduced different styles of theater such as storybook, Shakespearean, hip-hop, melodrama, and avante-garde, and featured students from sixth to eighth grade as actors. This one-act festival was a creative way to include as many students as possible in the drama program while still striving to limit the number of students on stage at once. We are grateful for the creativity and passion of both Mrs. Robin Hilt and Miss Mattie Butaud, who worked diligently to put together a great set of plays.

A unique feature of this year's middle school dramas was the introduction of high school directors. Two of the one-act plays were directed by high school students, which gave them both invaluable leadership experience. Sophomore Ashley Knudsen, one of the directors, says that directing younger students has been a great learning opportunity which she's found thoroughly enjoyable. Senior Avery Hilt, our other student director, says that working with the middle school students has been great - she especially appreciates their enthusiasm and willingness to share new ideas.

So - even though drama may look different from year to year and we may not always be able to do things just as we have in the past, the old axiom rings true; the show must go on - and this year, it went on in style.



Protocol

James Hurst

“It gives us all a chance to dress up and act like the great men and women we are becoming.”

Protocol is one of the main events all highschool students look forward to. It gives us all a chance to dress up and act like the great men and women we are becoming. This year's protocol took a turn for the best, as we all traveled over to Idaho for an adventurous one night stay at Coeur d'Alene Resort. Upon arrival, students were given a few hours to settle in and get ready, before splitting up into two different groups. The juniors and seniors had a formal dinner, while the freshmen and sophmores had a semi-formal dinner. Following the dinners, both groups came together, for a night to remember as they embarked on an amazing dessert cruise. Next on the itinerary was the drive to Silverwood Theme Park, where the students would spend the remainder of their time in Idaho, before the long drive home. All in all, Protocol was an action-packed event that everyone enjoyed.





SENIOR

SPOTLIGHTS

Cole

Lyshol has been a Providence student since seventh grade. Cole started playing soccer for Providence at the beginning of eighth grade. He was a captain this year and helped lead the team to multiple victories. After Providence, he is going to go to Everett Community College for a year, before transferring to a four-year university. Cole hopes to use his degree to create a successful company of his own.



Anabelle

Shen first came to Providence in sixth grade. She has participated in many activities, but notable among those things, is the play, *Newsies*. She was a part of the ensemble. Anabelle decided to go to the University of Washington to study, though she hasn't yet decided on a major. But, given her status as the 2021 valedictorian, we're sure she'll succeed at whichever path she chooses.



Isabelle

Marshall first came to Providence as a kindergartener. Throughout the years, Belle partook in many school plays and musicals, including *Newsies*, *Seussical*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!* She also played volleyball her junior year. She plans on going to Washington State University to study photo-journalism.





Along with her fellow graduate Isabelle Marshall, Avery Hilt first jumped into the pool of Providence in kindergarten. Avery performed in *Newsies*, *Seussical*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown!*, and played middle school basketball. After graduation, Avery will be going to Central Washington University. "I am going straight into my major of musical theatre."



Tim Walsh began at Providence in his sophomore year. He swam competitively for each of his three years at Providence, going to the state tournament and earning a letter each year of high school. He will be heading to WSU this fall to study Biology/Pre-Med, with the aspiration of pursuing a career in the medical field.

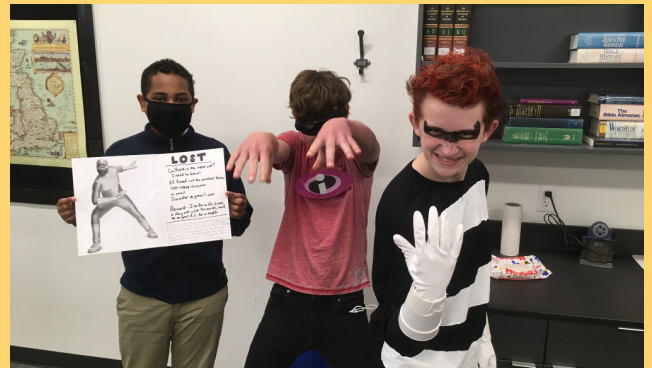


Culver Bontrager just finished his fourth year at Providence. "I plan to go to Lincoln Tech, where I'll study to be a diesel mechanic, and eventually work for Cummins Diesel." Somewhere down the road, Culver would like to own his own diesel mechanic shop. During his time at Providence, Culver played four years of soccer and participated in *Newsies*, which was the 2019 high school production.



Naomi Walter began at Providence in eighth grade. She is highly interested in language and linguistics, and after a gap year, she plans to pursue a related degree at the University of Idaho. In addition to her love of language, Naomi also has a theatrical side, which led her to participate in the musical, *Newsies* her sophomore year.

CELEBRATING A Great Year

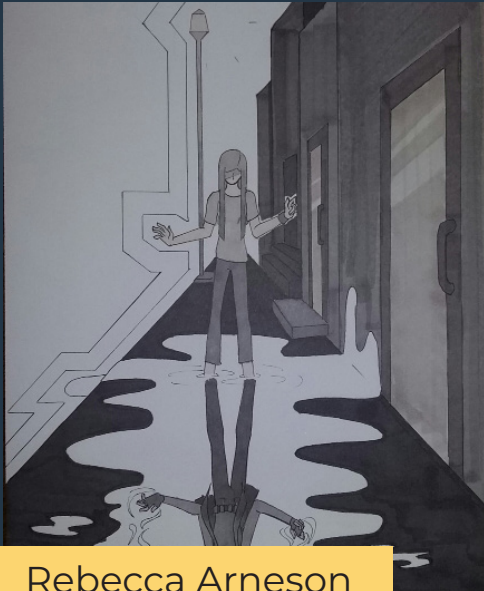






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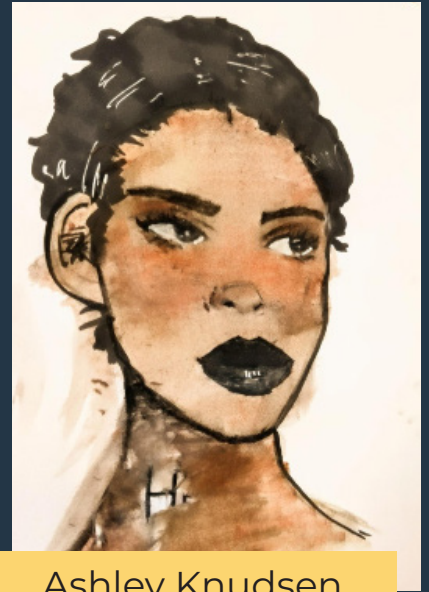
STUDENT ART



Rebecca Arneson



Paige Johnson



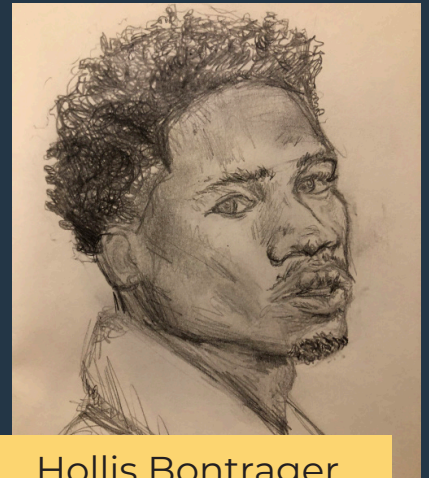
Ashley Knudsen



Aidan Welch



Ella Walsh



Hollis Bontrager



Kylea Small



Sophia Sykes