

# Terra Firma

**A Student Magazine**

Winter 2021



Providence Classical Christian School



# TERRA FIRMA

VOL. I 2020-2021

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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# FROM THE HEADMASTER

*“Lessons from Churchill in a Global Pandemic” by Ryan Evans*



OUR CURRENT PANDEMIC presents an appropriate opportunity to learn valuable lessons from Churchill's life. In his book, *Churchill*, author Paul Johnson outlines five key lessons that offer significant relevance for parents as they raise children, and for all of us as we seek to live in way that maximizes the gifts God provides each of us as we seek to live coram deo.

Winston Churchill knew something about desperate times. If you've seen *The Darkest Hour*, you experienced on the screen the dire circumstances Churchill faced when the Third Reich had the Allies pinned on the beaches of Dunkirk. Churchill took a prescient stand as he gave his famous speech before the miraculous evacuation saved thousands and kept momentum at a critical junction during World War II.

**1. Aim high** – As a boy, Churchill did not naturally do well at school and his reports were average at best. “His father,” writes Johnson, “wrote him off as an academic failure.” In spite of the lack of support and encouragement from his parents, he set high goals for himself and excelled in all he did.

**2. There is no substitute for hard work** – Diligence and determination marked Churchill's life. He would often work 16-hour days and expected others near him to put in hard hours as well. Churchill was not afraid of leisure, but viewed it as a proper reward for diligence.

**3. Never allow mistakes, disaster, accidents, illnesses, unpopularity, and criticism to get you down** – I was surprised to learn how many obstacles Churchill had to overcome in his life. Military losses, parliamentary embarrassments, physical illnesses: Churchill displayed courage, resilience, and fortitude throughout his life. He embodied the modern term, grit.

**4. Don't waste time and emotional energy on the meannesses of life** – “There is nothing more draining and exhausting than hatred,” writes Johnson. Churchill avoided excuses, and spent little time on strategies that can easily entangle us and result in wrong priorities. He thus avoided shifting the blame to others, revenge seeking, dirty tricks, spreading rumors, harboring grudges, or waging vendettas.

**5. Pursue joy** – Johnson writes, “The absence of hatred left plenty of room for joy in Churchill's life.” Churchill found joy in big and small things, and was known for generosity, dignity, tradition, and civility. He loved to joke, sing, and celebrate with childlike enthusiasm.

Johnson makes the case that Churchill was the most important figure in the twentieth century. “No man did more to preserve freedom and democracy and the values we hold dear in the West.” In the age of cultural confusion in which we find ourselves, Christians would do well to follow the principles of life that Churchill modeled.





# HOUSE GAMES

*by George Owen*

Feet pound on turf. Yells ring from the sidelines as the runner makes it to third base. The date is September 18<sup>th</sup>, and all of Secondary is enjoying the House Games, a fun and competitive event at North Creek fields adjacent to Providence. Earlier that day, secondary students arrived at the school after a two hour late start. After opening the day with some singing and points announcements, the students launched into kickball, played by house. No points were given for kickball, but ultimate frisbee gave points to the winning house. After the competitions were finished, the students gathered for a pizza lunch before going home early. Normally, many similar activities occur during retreat, a week-long getaway at Lakeside Bible Camp on Whidbey Island, but this year, with COVID restrictions, it had to be postponed, so the faculty and House Council planned the House Games as a replacement for the bonding and fellowship that happens at retreat. “It was a good replacement for retreat,” says sophomore Kalinn Hilt. “I feel like it helped me get to know some of the other students, particularly the 7th graders, who I don’t get the chance to talk to as much.” The House Games provided a respite from the daily routine. Breaks like this keep our community vibrant and strong, serving and loving each other.





# INTRAMURALS

*by Ashley Knudsen*

The loss of fall sports damped athletes' spirits across Washington. However, Providence made lemonade out of lemons with their institution of the intramural program! This involved futsal (short field soccer) and ultimate frisbee. The games included playing two games a day over a two-week period until each team had played each other at least once. Following these games, the second place and third place teams played each other while the first and fourth place teams played each other to determine which teams would play in the championship. The teams (red, white, blue and black)

incorporated students of all grades in the secondary. This resulted in great community building among the student body. The red team won futsal and the blue team won ultimate. Their prize for winning was a pizza party and a free dress day. Even though we did not have retreat, intramurals brought the element of fellowship among students to fruition. Students really appreciated the after-school activity and the fun competition of intramurals. In this abnormal time, it is paramount to have connection with other people, even if it looks a little different. Intramurals not only provided the opportunity for athletes of all abilities to compete and have fun, but to also to bring them together as a group.



# GOLF MARATHON

*by Jackson Baron*

It is a cool, misty morning on October 2nd as the annual Providence Golf Marathon begins. The Golf Marathon is an exciting fundraising event hosted each year by Providence. It is an outlet for faculty and friends, as well as the seniors and occasionally other students at school, to take a day and enjoy some golf together. As an added bit of fun, there are also various extra challenges while playing, like the farthest and most accurate shots as well as the infamous and ever-evasive hole-in-one challenge. This year, the event was hosted at Echo Falls Golf Club with a total turnout of fifty golfers and a net total of \$20,000 dollars raised. This exceeded the initial goal and will be put towards financial aid for the families at school. Overall, the Golf Marathon was a great time of fun and fellowship for everyone. Be sure to come next year to enjoy it with your family and friends!

# HOUSE SYSTEM

by Emily Brooks

While we may not have ancient tribes fighting each other for glory here at Providence, we do have Houses battling one another to win the glorious house cup each year! We have six amazing Houses that take part in various competitions each year including trivia games, sports, and acting in student-created plays. At the end of the 6th grade year, students are sorted into one of the six Houses: Heorot, Orfeo, Caspian, Eorl, Loxley, and Pendragon.



Heorot comes from the Mead Hall of Heorot in the book *Beowulf*, and their saying is “Honor we shall win!” which expresses their desire to live and compete in a manner which is worthy of respect and emulation.

The House of Orfeo is from the *Sir Orfeo* poem. “Wherever you go, I will go with you!” is their saying, which shows this House’s members’ devotion to each other in accordance with God’s will.



From *Prince Caspian* of Narnia the House of Caspian arose, and they say that, “Morning comes from over the sea,” or in other words their hope is in the Lord.

Eorl comes from *Lord of the Rings*, and “Forth, followers of Eorl!” is their saying. This House focuses on working hard and having excellent character.



The story of Robin Hood brought about the House of Loxley, who “Compete fairly and with determination,” and focus on justice and mercy.

Finally, the House of Pendragon derives from King Arthur, and they seek to overcome the challenges they are given with honor, with their saying, “Justice in Victory!”



Weekly, House lunches meet in which the students eat together as a House to talk and think up ideas for how to conquer the other Houses in this battle for fame. Having a House system helps students from separate grades and classes to become closer friends, leading to a friendlier and tighter community. To further these friendships in a fun way, competitions occur between the Houses as a way to have all the member of each House get together into a tight group and work together. Upperclassmen work with the underclassmen, seeking victory and honor for their House.

# HOUSE COUNCIL

*by Jackson Baron*

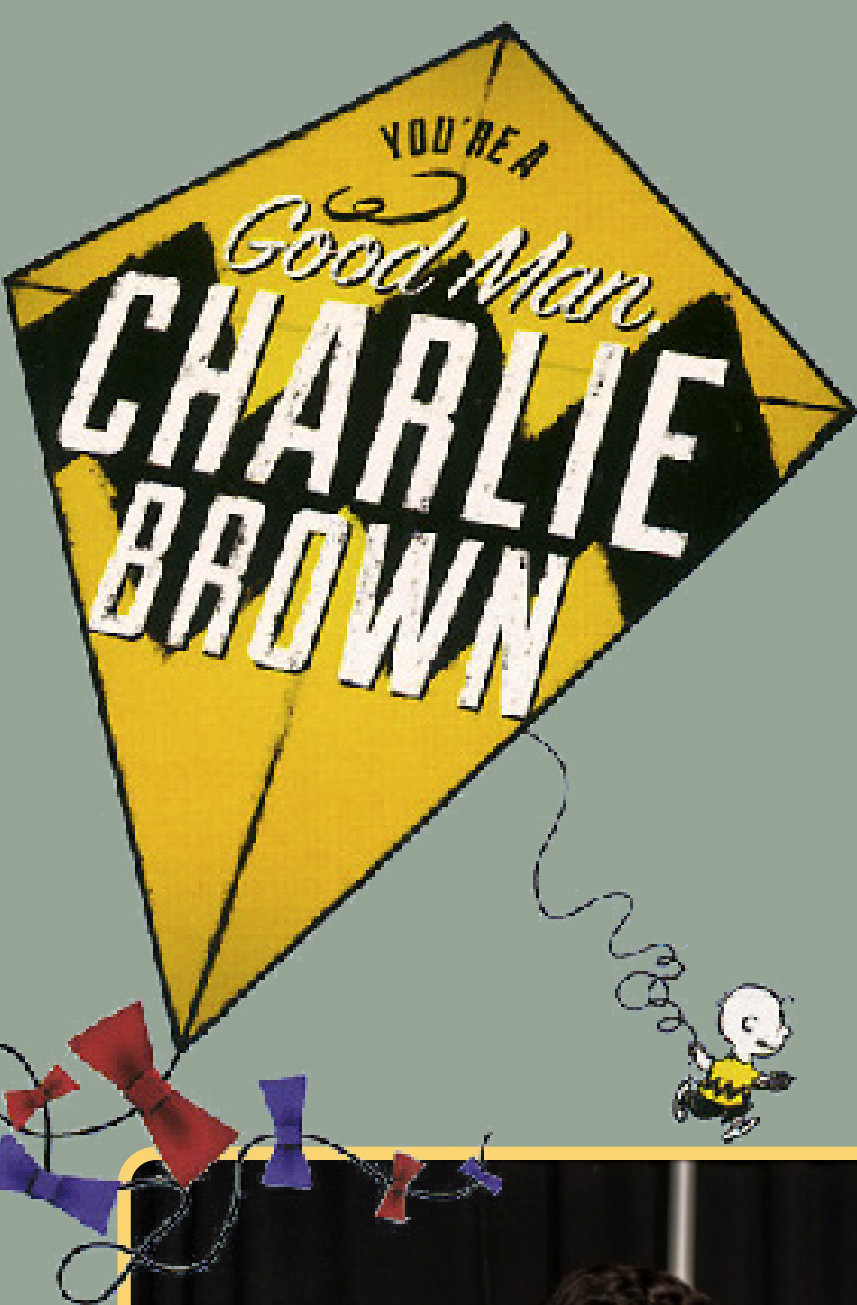
The House Council is one of the most important student-led groups at Providence. Every year, many of the high school students apply for various positions, each one with its own responsibilities, to help cultivate and enhance the student experience during the year. It also serves as a way for students to get leadership experience, as well as formulating and accomplishing goals and working together as a group.

Keith Larkin, a junior in high school, is this year's House Council president and has eagerly taken up the duties of that role, some of which are running meetings, planning school-wide events, and working with the faculty. Event planning especially is one of the major roles of the House Council. The process starts with a general idea from the students for an activity, which is then refined and submitted to the faculty.

Things to consider are what the event will specifically look like and what can and cannot be done in light of COVID-19. This year, says Keith, House Council is working harder to use ideas from the whole student body. Of course, just like everything else at school, House Council has seen some big changes arise. "Due to COVID, it has been difficult to organize feasible activities," he stated. Incorporating online students into meetings has also been a new challenge. Nevertheless, House Council continues to work hard to create an exciting student life. As the year continues, the Council hopes to plan more activities, in line with restrictions, to help the student body grow together.





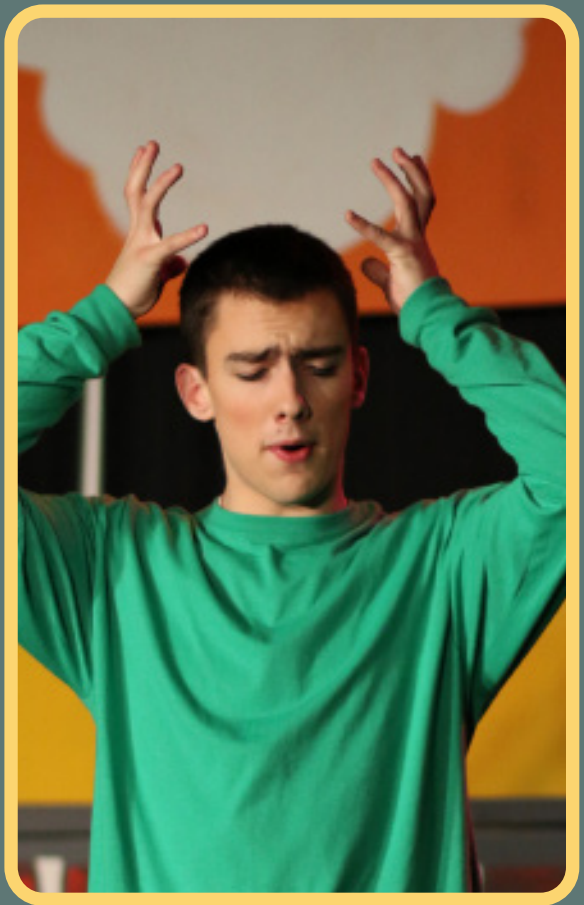




# HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

by Belle Marshall

Good Grief! This year's Providence 2021 high school drama production is none other than the lovable musical: *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!*, with beloved Peanuts characters such as Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy. People of all ages are sure to fall in love with these characters and their beloved backstories for the first time or once again. *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!* hit the stage at the end of January.



# NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHTS

*by Maddie Ness, George Owen, and Ashley Knudsen*



## **Mrs. Lukkasson**

Mrs. Lukkasson is new to the Providence community this year as a 2nd grade teacher.

From a young age, Mrs. Lukkasson felt the Lord calling her to teach. She finds great joy in the pursuit of knowledge and thoroughly enjoys sharing that knowledge with young learners. As the third eldest in a family of eleven children, she has a lifetime of experience working with and teaching young kids. “I wanted to be a teacher, and would play school with my siblings the way most children play house,” she says. That game became a reality last year, when Mrs. Lukkason taught second grade the same year her youngest brother was a student! This year, she has enjoyed the experience of teaching a hybrid (in-person/online) classroom. The whole experience has greatly helped her to broaden her skill set, become more flexible, and to adjust to changes quickly. Mrs. Lukkasson knows that it is important for all online learners to know that they are still valued and precious members of the Providence community. “God, in His grace and kindness, will still provide joy and opportunity for you in this time,” she says. As a matter of fact, this discipleship opportunity was one of the main draws that led Mrs. Lukkasson to Providence in the first place. She says, “I wanted to be in an environment where educators are encouraged and permitted to disciple students comprehensively and with grace. It was God’s providence, truly, that led me to Providence, and every day I am so grateful to get to educate and disciple learners here.”



### **Mr. Olsen**

All of the teachers at Providence have a unique journey. Looking back on his college years, Mark Olsen, who is new to Providence this year, sees how God guided him through a literal life-saving coincidence on the soccer field. Mr. Olsen went to Northwest University, where he majored in history and minored in biology and chemistry. He also studied theology at Regent College. Mr. Olsen loves teaching a variety of subjects, but in all of them he sees how faith plays a crucial role. Sophomore Andrew Letsche commented on how Mr. Olsen teaches, "In his class, I see how faith gives him such an excitement for and interest in whatever he is teaching. He is always eager to answer questions and dive deeper to help us understand God's creation better through biology." Mr. Olsen is a superb teacher and we are excited to see him as a part of our community!



### **Mrs. Knudsen**

Mrs. Knudsen is a new addition to the secondary faculty, and we are excited to welcome her! She is taking the position of Director of Student Life, College Advisor, and Athletic Secretary. As Director of Student Life, Mrs. Knudsen plans and executes events, builds community in the school, and organizes outreach opportunities. In College Advising, juniors and seniors learn about their choices for higher education. Mrs. Knudsen also helps Mr. Morris and Mrs. Elliott with organizing their respective sports as an athletic secretary. Mrs. Knudsen is excited to be at Providence. She said that she was always interested in working here at some point because her four children (Ashley, David, Sarah, and Evan) attend Providence. As soon as Evan was old enough to go to school, Mrs. Knudsen took a job as the Pre-K enrichment teacher, a job that she enjoyed thoroughly and will miss. When asked about how she felt regarding the timing of all these things, Mrs. Knudsen replied, "It was really a gift from God." She is incredibly grateful that things worked out the way they did and is looking forward to working with your students this year!



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

*Bradley Johnson – Class of 2019*

*by Josiah Hansen*

## Bradley Johnson

Bradley Johnson is a former Providence student who graduated with the class of 2019. For a while, Bradley Johnson wanted to be a Marine. “What I saw in the Marines, is they were sharply dressed, cleanly shaved, and very knowledgeable people. I’d always wanted to join the military growing up. I wanted to challenge myself to have something that I can claim as my own.” Bradley feels that Providence aided him in this training. “Definitely Providence has helped... the education you receive at Providence and getting used to that academically rigorous education can help you get mentally prepared for boot camp. Don’t get me wrong, Providence is no boot camp, but having that prior education, reading, logic, and rhetoric, does really help. I have had conversations with my superiors just about philosophy and ethos, and they just do not expect a nineteen-year-old to talk about these things.” Bradley has done a lot and seen a lot, but there are some things he really, really enjoys. “The opportunities I get are great. I’m an anti-tank missile gunner. I mount machine guns on trucks and vehicles. It is a lot of fun setting up, and maybe even getting trigger time on the machine guns. It’s awesome.” Bradley is recently engaged and is ready to flip to the next page in his life: being a husband and a marine.



## Hello, Alumni!

Did you just get married? Engaged?  
Have a baby? Get a new job?  
Have something to share with your  
classmates and fellow alumni?

Let us know! Please email us at  
[terrafirma@pccs.org](mailto:terrafirma@pccs.org)

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## *New Engagements*



### **LANDON & HOLLY**

Holly Evans ('18) and Landon Butaud ('18) have been so thankful for the Lord's obvious provision and guidance in their relationship. They plan to be married early this summer and move to Ohio for a year, where Landon will finish his degree at Cedarville University and Holly will finish hers through Liberty University Online. They look forward to returning to Washington, Lord willing, after they both graduate in the spring of 2022.



### **PAUL & SARAH**

Paul Johnson ('15) proposed to Sarah at the historic Deer Lake cabin on Whidbey Island that has been in his family for generations. Sarah will finish her nursing education at Northwest University, and Paul will continue to work at Boeing in supply chain. They are so excited and blessed.

Robby Jorgensen ('16) proposed to Annie Castilla on November 25th. They met at college and dated for 3 years before their engagement. They will be getting married this summer.



### **ROBBY & ANNIE**

After meeting Freshman year at TCU and dating for five years, there was no way that Aidan Walsh ('15) and Lauren were going to let a closed Snoqualmie Pass throw off the proposal plans! Lauren and Aidan are so excited to be starting a life together.

### **AIDAN & LAUREN**



Ben Metsker and Olivia Hatcher ('18) were engaged on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be married in the summer of 2021.

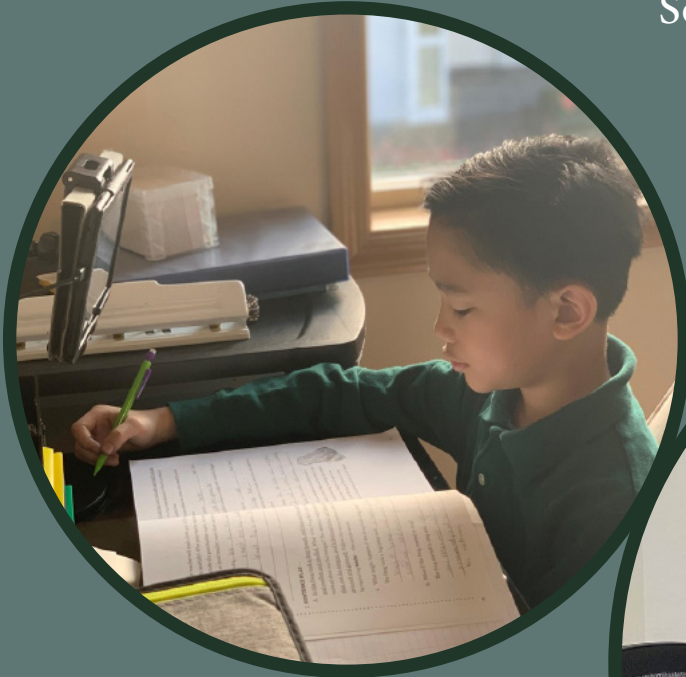
### **BEN & OLIVIA**



# ONLINE LEARNING

Some “Portholes” into Online Learners’ Lives

*by Gabriella Nursalim and Emily Brooks*





# PROVIDENCE IN 2020-2021

*by Belle Marshall*

Over the course of 2020, life as we know it drastically changed. Now, after the initial shutdowns, Providence has created safety measures that provide families with options for the education of their children.

First, all students are given the option of choosing remote or in-person learning. All remote students tune into their classes from the start of school day to the end, with breaks matching their class's schedule. Teachers educate in front of desks and a computer screen, with remote students eagerly engaging beside their classmates. One online student, senior Anabelle Shen, has fully embraced remote learning and is grateful for the option of socially-distanced education. She says, "I enjoy that I don't have to commute and I waste less paper... and focusing in class is easier because there are less distractions."

Providence has created social platforms on the school education site for all grades. Providence has always encouraged a larger sense of community and being together as one, and these varied learning options provide everyone that opportunity.



# GRAMMAR FUN!

*A Few Examples of Our Grammar “Fun” Days*



**Read-  
In  
Day**



## Interactive Learning

The grammar school years are filled with special activity days that complement the academic curriculum. From 1<sup>st</sup> grade Spider Day, to the mining adventures of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Gold Rush Day, to the school-wide opportunity to dress up in medieval garb in honor of the Protestant Reformation, the themed days bring classroom learning to life in unique and memorable ways.

Fantasy

Mystery

Adventure

Historical

Poetry

Super Heroes





**Fall-time  
Fun!**



**Class  
Parties**



**Teddy  
Bear  
Day**





# AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

*by Ashley Knudsen and Kalinn Hilt*



## **Duncan Ness - 4th Grade**

Golfing is Duncan Ness's favorite after school pastime. Duncan has been golfing since about six years old. Conveniently, his backyard is up against the Mill Creek Country Club, which is where Duncan, Theo, and Mr. Glen Ness go to golf. Duncan is serious about golfing. So much so, that he goes an average of three times a week. Even though Duncan is only in fourth grade, he plays a full eighteen holes and loves every minute of it. Starting sports early has a lot of benefits. When you start something young and keep with it, you will have those skills for the rest of your life. Duncan has wisely chosen to keep practicing and playing golf. When asked what he likes best about golfing, Duncan said, "It's really relaxing for me and it's nice to get out of the house." While Duncan loves golfing, it is interestingly not his favorite sport. His favorite sports are basketball and football. He is quite an athlete!

## **Andrew Letsche - 10th Grade**

Normally, at a music camp, you would sing or play an instrument, right? Well, for sophomore Andrew Letsche, music camp sparked his love for archery. Five years ago, he had some free time at music camp, so he decided to go to the archery range. He didn't expect to be any good at it, but to his surprise, he shot the arrow almost exactly in the middle of the target on his first try. After that, Andrew joined a team that met three times a week to practice. He even attended a Jr. Olympic archery development program to improve his natural talent. His team travels around the country to compete in tournaments. They have made it to nationals each year and won first and second place in the team category. In the singles category, Andrew has ranked in the top twenty at nationals almost every time. It looks like Providence has their very own Robin Hood!



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR  
**CORPORATE PARTNERS**







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# Artist's Gallery

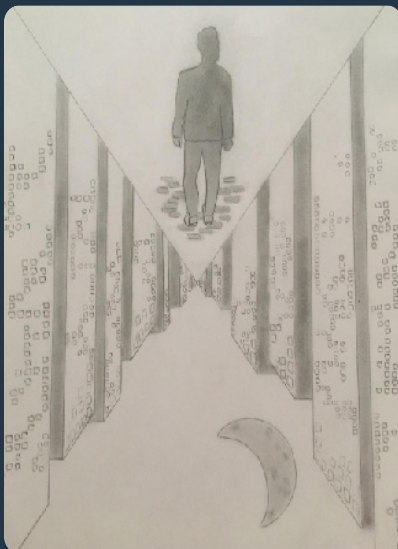
Artwork from a few of our talented students.



Ashley Knudsen  
10th Grade



Mrs. Luke and 1st Grade students in front of their Christmas art board.



Paige Johnson  
11th Grade



David Knudsen  
8th Grade



Rebecca Arneson  
11th Grade