



The Providence Vanguard Choir performs the National Anthem at a September Aquasox game in Everett

Terra Firma

A Student Magazine
Vol. 1 | Winter 2023

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PROVIDENCE
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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.

GROWING FOUNDATIONS

A LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER

With the rise of progressive education that seeks to dismantle truth at all levels, more Christian parents are beginning a migration toward homeschooling and private, Christian schools. Progressive agendas are more blatant, ramifications more sweeping, and consequences of such educational models more insidious. Basic assumptions about education are even more important now than when Providence began 25 years ago:

1. Parents are their child's primary educator

The primary educator of children is not the school or the church, and certainly not the state. It's paramount that schools acknowledge that parents are responsible for the education of children. A school should be an extension of the home, and a child's school should comport with the training at home. A school partnership focused on discipleship – that is, an approach to training and biblical formation where parents and the school are committed to shared goals – provides a necessary environment for children to thrive.

2. All schools teach worldview

There is no neutrality in education. Whether explicitly or implicitly, every educational system promotes a distinctive worldview for life. Education is as much formation as information, and children learn by observing attitudes, speech, and embedded habits. One of countless examples: In many schools today kindergarteners are instructed that a boy may in fact be a girl and a girl may in fact be a boy.

It's patently absurd, thoroughly unbiblical, and inconsistent with science. This pervasive worldview, however, is taught as truth, with the intention of dismantling any objective moral foundation. Education is like a slow but constant intravenous worldview drip – it can feed or nourish, or it can harm and destroy.

3. Classical, Christian education is the best approach to preparing Christian disciples

A liberal arts foundation trains the whole person, providing a full-orbed approach that sets a healthy foundation for students to be challenged with high expectations and supported in their learning. As a classical, Christian school we train students how to reason well; Not so they can simply win arguments, but so they can win people, so that they understand how to “contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.”

4. Education is not primarily about training for college, but for life

We desire graduates who are daily encouraged in their commitment to Christ, who acknowledge that while we live in a fallen world, we are called to live with purpose, joy, and hope; who experience robust training in the liberal arts, who write and speak well, who understand that words have meaning, and that ideas have consequences, who don't see education merely as a means to a good job, but as a way to glorify God by taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, who live out God's Word with conviction and courage.



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Secondary Fall Retreat

Odessa Kaufman

Once again, retreat was a hit this year in the fall of 2022. Our secondary students thoroughly enjoyed this year's retreat activities at Lakeside Bible Camp residing on Whidbey Island. Over 100 students joined us on the trip, including our incoming seventh graders. It was a lovely experience to begin their first year in secondary.

The week full of frenzied fun immediately kicks off upon arrival, beginning with house competitions. Every year the boys play a game of either soccer or flag football with their respective houses. The girls play beach volleyball. Throughout the entire week there are many opportunities for each house to earn points ranging from sports and silly games to creative art, lively chants and finally the much-anticipated house skit based on a literary work. Much of the aforesaid competitions were planned by the remarkable Mrs. Jekel along with the high school house council and our admirable Mr. Worley.

We continued the night traditions of Name That Tune, Trivia Night led by Mr. Worley, Game Night for high school, and Movie Night for middle school. The senior class of 2023 orchestrated a creative game which they named "Ready Set Glow" that all of secondary participated in on the second night of retreat. This year Mrs. French, Mrs. Knudsen, Mrs. Bredenberg, and Mrs. Tibbets bravely stepped up and cooked for over 100 students at retreat. The food was delicious and plentiful. Needless to say, our bellies were full and our smiles were even bigger. To all of the faculty that joined us and served at retreat, thank you for making memories and being such a blessing to all the students. We look forward to next year!





AROUND CAMPUS

AND BEYOND

Rachel Duciuc



5th grade learns about Seattle's history at MOHAI.



1st grade on Spider Day with Mrs. Bouckennooghe.



Kindergarteners pick pumpkins at Swans Trail Farm.



2nd grade celebrates Velveteen Rabbit Day.



6th grade boys at their field trip to the Museum of Flight.

Secondary House Council

Dexter Kaufman, House Council President



House Council is striving to grow in intentionality and impact on the student body. In August, we began the year with a leadership retreat where members learned to work together, listened to speeches from advisors, and brainstormed strategies to improve engagement within their respective houses. New members were welcomed in and those taking up leadership positions took on their new responsibilities. In addition, House Council formulated a special game for Fall Retreat that some members, along with the help of Mr. Lukkasson, carpentered themselves.

Currently, House Council consists of twenty members across grades 9-12 that are divided into four committees: Student Activities, Student Life, Student Ministries, and Academic Success. Each committee has a director or two co-directors, these being Liz Godavarthi, Ashley Knudsen and George Owen, Gabriella Nursalim and Josiah Hansen, and Maddie Ness respectively. Besides these, House Council is run by President Dexter Kaufman and Vice President Kalinn Hilt, with Cody Tibbetts as Treasurer and Kylea Small as Secretary.

Our goal this year has been to increase engagement to ensure that students appreciate the Christ-centered education and community that their parents are paying for. Each committee has had great success:

- B.A.S.I.C (Brothers and Sisters in Christ, planned by Student Life) this year has attained a new level, with a school wide spoons tournament and a return of the Untalent Show.
- Student Activities created a game akin to hot potato, but with pumpkins, for the Fall Fling at Bob's Corn. Students who left the maze holding one of the special pumpkins would be required to spin the Wheel of Possibilities during matins the next week.
- In addition to running a morning Bible study, Student Ministries organized Operation Christmas Child this winter.
- The tutoring program has gained a ton of traction this year to the point that Academic Success has had difficulty finding enough tutors.

Overall, House Council is thriving, as we train each member to model Christ in their role as leaders of the Providence student body.

PROVIDENCE ATHLETICS

Nathan Welch

This fall season, high school and middle school students had the opportunity to partake in either soccer (for the boys) or volleyball (for the girls).

Our high school boys soccer team has come into the season after a great season last year, finishing second place in state. Coached by Matthew Morris and Michael Worley, and captained by seniors Dexter Kaufman, George Owen, Andrew Letsche, Matthew Reeve, and Jayden Lohman, the team played hard throughout the year, finishing with a 6-7-1 record.

The high school girls volleyball team, coached by Jennifer Friesen and led by team captains Odessa Kaufman and Sophie Day, finished the season with a 6-10 record. Every day after school, the girls practiced diligently under the supervision of their enthusiastic coach. Odessa Kaufman says, "This year has been a learning year from having such a young team, but it has been incredibly fun getting to know the girls and playing alongside such determined and driven young women. We have a loving and funny coach this year and we have loved playing on her team. It has been a great season of volleyball and we look forward to next year! Don't quote me on that."

Middle school boys and girls also had the opportunity to play either soccer or volleyball. Mr. Badillo led the middle school soccer team in a fantastic season this year. The team, consisting of 5-8th grade boys, played from August until October. The 5-8th grade girls had the opportunity to play volleyball led by Coach Elliott. They practiced and played their games at Park Ridge Community Church in Bothell.



REFORMATION DAY



Each year on October 31st, Providence celebrates our distinctive theological heritage – the Protestant Reformation. We take a step back in time to 1517, when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the All Saints Church in Wittenberg, Germany. We celebrate Luther’s Word-inspired boldness and faith, recognizing that in our own day, the need for truth is no less pressing.

Through a day of games, skits, contests, and learning, we hope to help students joyfully recognize God’s preserving power as He has kept and strengthened His church throughout the ages. The story of Luther is just one example of God’s unceasing faithfulness to His people, and the world-changing power of His word.

This year we celebrated with class parties in grammar, and a variety of activities in secondary from dessert and carved-pumpkin contests to a massive game of medieval charades. For the second year in a row, the House Council served the grammar students by performing a skit for them. And this year Mr. Owen, pastor of Emmanuel Church and one of our Bible teachers, gave a rousing talk on themes of the Reformation to encourage our students to run the race and remain faithful to the God who has saved us.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Sophie Day



Rebecca is in the third grade at Providence. Some of her favorite parts of the school day are competing in four square with the older kids, playing silly games with her friends and Mrs. Hatcher at recess, and eating a delicious lunch cooked by her mom, especially when she makes minestrone soup! Mrs. Schultz teaches Latin, and Rebecca can't wait to start learning Latin next year. Rebecca looks forward to seeing her dog Stella after school and playing the piano; she has been playing piano for almost a year and is excited to start learning some Christmas songs this season!



Otto is enjoying his second year at Providence in the fourth grade. You can often find Otto playing with his friend Jacob Wier. Otto's favorite subject in school is Bible, and he enjoys having the discussions led by Mrs. Fechter. Outside of school, Otto plays soccer for the Bisons with some of his classmates. They finished up the season in November but look forward to playing again next year!



Eva is a second grader at Providence. One of Eva's favorite things about school is learning more about God in Bible class with her teacher. Eva loves Mrs. Lukkasson for her cheerfulness and godliness in class. At home, Eva is excited to be reading the *How To Train Your Dragon* series and has a lot of fun playing dragons with her younger brothers.

THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE

Sydney Owens

Mrs. Hannah Fechter is one of our 4th grade teachers here at Providence. She is originally from Sherwood, Oregon, where she was educated at George Fox University. She then heard about Providence at her church, King's Cross, in Kirkland. She started at Providence as a substitute teacher, became a teacher's aide, and finally joined the faculty this year. "I love teaching because I get to watch my students learn and grow," she enthused. "We have such fun subjects in 4th grade, and I enjoy teaching math and grammar!" She is delighted to have the opportunity to teach at Providence.



Mr. Wesley Su is a secondary teacher at Providence. He teaches 10th grade math and 8th grade logic. He was born and raised in Kirkland, Washington, and graduated from Providence not too long ago. He attended college at Richmond University in Virginia, where he majored in computer science, with minors in math and music. He also performed with his school choir, Schola Cantorum and had the opportunity to travel to Slovenia, Croatia, and Italy, including a performance at Basilica San Marco in Venice. "I choose to teach," he said "because I have always found it fulfilling. I enjoy meeting new students and helping them to learn. Each student is different, so the job never becomes repetitive. I believe strongly in the importance of classical, Christian education, so teaching at Providence allows me to do what I enjoy for an important cause."



Mrs. Alicia Philips is a 1st grade teacher at Providence. She is from Kenmore, Washington and was schooled at Corban University in Salem, Oregon. Originally, she wanted to be a missionary, but a missionary friend told her she should gain skills before she went out onto the mission field. So, she choose to teach, because she enjoyed teaching Sunday school. After she learned how to teach, she went out to be a missionary at Flagstaff Mission to the Navajo on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. But, after a year, she decided she could not help but go back to teaching. "I love to teach first grade because they are so sweet," she beamed, "they are very kind, and still learning how to read. I like teaching them math and geography." She is enjoying teaching 1st grade here at Providence.



GROWING FOUNDATIONS



...continued from page 3.

Prompted by a large influx of new families this year, we began a series of evening events titled, **Providence Foundations**. The goal is to encourage families together in community to train up children in the wisdom and nurture of the Lord, focusing on three distinct areas:

Practical Paideia: All Christian parents seek to train their children to love God with their heart, soul, mind, and strength. This October evening focused on practical principles and methods for teaching both younger and older students that align with a Christian “paideia,” a Greek term meaning education as enculturation.

Running the Race: Reflections of Providence Graduates: This January Foundations evening offered an opportunity to hear from four alumni:

Carter Butaud (2007), Becca Sakai (2014), Paul Johnson (2015), and Olivia Metsker (2018). The grads provided potent testimony to the preparation they received from their Providence education.

Habits of the Household: Healthy family habits teach our children to love others and serve our Lord in thought, word, and deed. In this upcoming meeting, we’ll highlight some of the habits outlined in Justin Whitmel Early’s book, *Habits of the Household*. This event is Tuesday, April 4 at 7 PM, and is open to all.

The Scriptures reinforce the necessity of a solid foundation. He who builds on the sand will collapse, but he who builds on the rock will stand (Matthew 7:24-27). May Christ our Rock and Redeemer serve as our solid foundation as we partner together in the discipline and discipleship of these young saints!



A Murder is Announced

The 2022 High School Fall Drama | Blake Tibbets

Delicious Death! All is calm at the Little Paddocks house in England when suddenly, an announcement in the newspaper appears, “A murder will take place at 6:30!” As the clock chimes, the lights turn off. BANG! The house falls into chaos as Miss Marple and Inspector Craddock scramble to find the culprit. Ashley Knudsen, Josiah Hansen, and Opal Bontrager starred in this exciting theater adaptation of an Agatha Christie murder mystery. Senior and Agatha Christie fan George Owen told us, “From the way the actors maintained strict British accents the whole way through to the elements of mystery and surprise at the end, it was perfect.” Our first fall production here at Providence drew in many fans of the stage, filling every seat in the audience each night. Who do you think did it?



SECONDARY LIFE

Daniel Niculescu & Emily Xin

Secondary at Providence is chock full of various events, clubs, musical groups, and competitions in which students with a wide variety of interests can take part.

Flings and BASICS are trimesterly events every Providence student loves. This year during the fall BASIC our guest speaker was pastor Brett Baker from Trinity Church who gave us an enlightening speech on the Pauline epistles. BASICS are a wonderful opportunity for students to bond with school mates and learn many things listening to the guest speaker.

This fall, secondary students enjoy clubs led by student leaders based on interests like tea, guitar, art, trivia, math, chess, Spanish, and food! Clubs rotate every month and most are open to all secondary students!

In high school, students also participate in Protocol training – etiquette courses designed to help students understand how to conduct themselves with dignity and grace in a variety of social settings.

Twice a week, the Vanguard choir, led by Mrs. Hilt, meets to practice together to perform at various events in the community. As seen in the cover photo, Vanguard performed the national anthem at an Everett Aquasox game in September.

Eorl, Heorot, Loxley, Caspian, Orfeo, and Pendragon compete against each other each year for the House Cup. Competitions range from athletic games at retreat, to art and literary contests, to bulletin board decorations. Rewards of the House Cup include: first served in lunch, no lunch clean-up, and other benefits that give houses a competitive edge. Last year's winners, Eorl and Heorot, tied for first. May the best house win!



7th grade girls at the Family Ball.



House Council members load up donations from the secondary Operation Christmas Child event.



Sophomores Emily and Bridget at semi-formal Protocol.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alec Giacommetti



Annual Benefit Auction

The annual benefit dinner and auction, happening March 18, is coming up! Items range from physical items to vacations. The auction is an excellent way to meet and get to know other families as well as supporting the school by bidding on assorted items or experiences, so we encourage everyone to come.



High School Drama: *The Sound of Music*

The high school drama, occurring from April 27-29, will be a production of *The Sound of Music*. Each year, the high school has put on amazing plays and musicals for everyone, so we encourage everyone to come! This year, to play the wide range of ages in the von Trapp family, students from 2nd to 12th grade will be featured.



Highlander Fest

The Highlander Fest is an event happening on May 19 on campus. There will be music performed by Providence choirs and bands, art created by students displayed, as well as food served by food trucks. It is a lively, cheerful time with lots of entertainment and fun, so we hope you all come!



Senior Thesis Presentations

Senior thesis presentations, which occur from May 22-24, are the culmination of the arduous work the seniors have put in this year. Topics will include everything from when children should be allowed to use social media, to how strongly we should hold to six-day creationism, to whether Guam should be a state. It is a wonderful way to support our seniors and see the end result of a Providence education.



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Our mission at Providence is to partner with Christian parents in educating their children, in the classical tradition, to think and act biblically and to pursue academic excellence in joyful submission to the Lord Jesus Christ.

