Terra Firma
Vol. I 2016-2017

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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A Different Kind of School
Classical: Liberal arts curriculum taught according to a child’s developmental stages; high academic expectations
Christian: An emphasis on the truth of Scripture in all subjects; encouraging students to think and act biblically
Culture: Partnering with Christian families with a focus on discipleship

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From the Editor:
The inaugural Journalism Staff and I are excited to announce that this Terra Firma is a student produced magazine, an embodiment of the Rhetoric stage in which we encourage individual initiative and inovation in each student. What better platform to express both initiative and innovation than a magazine in which the students are responsible for the writing, design, photography, and editing. Enjoy!

~Stephanie Robertstad
In his latest book, *The Road to Character*, author David Brooks proposes a way of thinking about the development of virtue within a human being. In so doing he uses the practical term, resume virtues, and contrasts those with the somewhat more sobering term, eulogy virtues. "Resume virtues," writes Brooks, "are the ones you list on your resume, the skills that you bring to the job market and that contribute to external success. The eulogy virtues are deeper. They're the virtues that get talked about at your funeral, the ones that exist at the core of your being – whether you are kind, brave, honest or faithful; what kind of relationships you formed."

So why am I mentioning this at commencement? The goals of Providence do, of course, include those of the academic variety. We are, after all, a school. Given all that you've learned over the years - philosophy, ethics, rhetoric, physics, Latin, history, literature, logic, music, grammar – it goes without saying that such things have primary value as you have become learned in the liberal arts. The liberal arts, as a reminder, have not made you liberal, but instead have liberated you, have pointed you toward freedom, have prepared you – to paraphrase the Greek poet Pindar - "to become who you are." Subsumed within the Providence Vision is character formation, the cultivation of virtuous traits that have shaped who you are today. These traits, as Mrs. Lemke poignantly reminded us, have been honed and sharpened over your years at Providence.

In his classic work, *The Cost of Discipleship*, German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about the call each Believer has to take up his cross and follow Christ. He writes, "Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes." As people called by God we have been saved from something, and also saved TO something. Bonhoeffer's call to discipleship cost him his life. In the midst of a tyrannical Third Reich he stood fast, and wrote about how to live coram deo in an evil age. Some say we are in a similar epoch in history, a time where we are, more than ever, seeking to redefine what it means to be Christian, what it means to be born in the image of God, what it means to be human. From a Nazi prison Bonhoeffer wrote prophetically, "We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, but more in light of what they suffer." Those in the faith, who can claim Christ by no good works of our own, do well to remember Bonhoeffer's advice.

So back to your education at Providence. At the end of 12 or 13 years, you've absorbed many of the resume virtues that have garnered academic achievements, athletic scholarships, and prestigious awards that with all due honor have proven beneficial throughout the college admissions process. But I'm confident that even more important to your education has been the inculcation of the eulogy virtues: humility in the classroom, compassion for a younger grammar school student, diligence in the face of a pressing senior thesis deadline, deference to a fellow classmate, the avoidance of complaint when you probably had a legitimate reason for so doing.

These virtues have not developed without the passion and challenge from your teachers, the unwavering commitment from your parents, the community of seniors and the quirky contributions from each person here, and the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit working in each of your lives. While eulogy virtues rarely make an appearance on a resume, they have made you more patient, more kind, more faithful, more compassionate, more Christ-like. They are what we as a school are most proud of, and the traits you leave as your legacy to the school community. They are evidence of discipleship; they are signs of you bearing your cross; they are miraculous manifestations of Christ's abundant grace poured out to you as you seek to become more like Him.

In Him,
Ryan Evans
KATHERINE ADAIR  
Cedarville University, OH  
Volleyball Scholarship  
Major: International Studies

HAILIEY FERGUSON  
Colorado Christian University, CO  
Volleyball Scholarship  
Major: Business

EVAN HANSEN  
University of Washington  
Major: Civil Engineer

DANIEL JEKEL  
Washington State University  
Major: Computer Science

KYLE JOHNSON  
Western Washington University  
Major: Theater

ROBBY JORGENSEN  
Bob Jones University, SC  
Major: Humanities

KATARINA KOWALICK  
New Saint Andrews, ID  
Major: Liberal Arts

MATTHEW LITALIEN  
Big Bend Community College, WA  
Major: Commercial Pilot/Aviation

NATE SMIDT  
Western Washington University  
Major: Political Science and Visual Journalism

WESLEY SU  
University of Richmond, VA  
National Merit Scholarship  
Major: Computer Science

MICHAEL WALSH  
Washington State University  
Major: Business/Entrepreneur

JUDAH WESSEL  
Northwest University, WA  
Major: Communications
# T3 Honor Roll and End-of-year Awards

## Secondary Honor Roll

### Summa Cum Laude
Anabelle Shen (7), Ashley Dougherty (8), Hollie French (8), Analia Johnson (8), Debbie Rocha (8), Angela Wessel (8), Autumn Wisler (8), Landon Butaud (10), Holly Evans (10), Katie French (10), Abbie Rocha (10), Matt Stoebe (10), Reyna Lacalli (11), Bailey Robertstad (11), Daniel Jekel (12), Kat Kowalick (12), Wesley Su (12)

### Cum Laude
Claire Lyshol (8), Ellie Smidt (8), Abbey Langub (9), Olivia Hatcher (10), Michael Howard (10), Molly Jorgensen (10), Lauren Haft (11), Joseph Moisant (11), Hailey Ferguson (12), Evan Hansen (12)

### Principal’s List
Jenna Jenkins (8), Preston Robertstad (8), Madi Marshall (9), Lindsey Litalien (10), Jackson Morris (11), Katherine Adair (12), Kyle Johnson (12), Robby Jorgensen (12), Nate Smidt (12)

## Secondary Awards

### Faculty Award
Ashley Dougherty (8), Molly Jorgensen (10), Katherine Adair, Katarina Kowalick, Hailey Ferguson (12)

### Character Award
Landon Butaud, Molly Jorgensen (10), Jackson Morris (11), Katarina Kowalick, Hailey Ferguson (12)

### Speech and Debate Award
Abby Langub (9), Daniel Jekel, Wesley Su (12)

### Outstanding Rhetorician
Daniel Jekel (12)

### Yearbook Award
Hailey Ferguson (12)

### Cliff Gillies Athletic Award
Katherine Adair, Evan Hansen (12)

### Drama Award
Katherine Adair, Kyle Johnson (12)

## Grammar Honor Roll

### A Honor Roll

### A/B Honor Roll
Kendall Backholm (3), Alex Bravo-Jump (3), Katie Brooks (3), Jackson Crabbe (3), Natalee Jorgensen (3), Sofia Ness (3), Olene Ordonez (3), Evan Graham (4), Beth Rocha (4), Hannah Wu (4), Eric Bartnik (5), Madeline Ness (5), Owen Ordonez (5), George Owen (5), Matthew Reeve (5), Anna Stoebe (5), Benjamin Wu (5), Jackson Baron (6), Sawyer Grant (6), Micah Hyink (6), Paige Johnson (6)

## Grammar Awards

### Fruit of the Spirit Award
K Ben Smith
1. Brinna Backholm
2. Brooke Byrnum
3. Natalee Jorgensen
4. Hannah Wu
5. Timmy Jorgensen
6. Sawyer Grant
(see photo on left)
Our Journey from Lynnwood to Bothell
By Ashley Dougherty

The Christ Church of Kirkland sold our building! This news was a shock to many. Teachers, students, and parents did not know what this would mean for Providence but change was near.

In 2016, the Providence community learned that the church sold the current school building to apartment developers. Though the school’s lease would not end for years, the company preferred that Providence leave as soon as possible. After much discussion and searching, the board found a potential new building that would fit Providence’s needs. It was in the Bothell area, a business development, and was the preferred location for a permanent home. Everything seemed to fit including the finances. Providence received a generous $1.5 million lease buy-out from the current church. The new building provides opportunity for growth and will eventually have assets such as a gym, fields, and our preferable floorplan.

Providence plans to add a gym and small second floor, consisting of only a few rooms. All three phases cannot realistically be done before the next school year, but the projected date does not exceed more than five years. See the back cover for the floorplan that we will see entering the 2017-2018 school year. At this point the plans are finally coming together, forming a permanent school, once just ideals but now a reality. The classrooms hold top priority, but there are a few more things that need to be done. Ground rules and other necessary moving projects will take place at the end of August. These last weeks are crucial simply because there are things the faculty need to know before launching into another school year.

In September, Providence invites new and old students to an ice cream social at the school, making them feel welcome and secure in the new environment. This event, usually targeted at new students, is a great way to meet your classmates and become comfortable with the building. The culmination, yet also just the beginning of Providence’s efforts is September 6th when the new building is officially open. This marks the end of a great twenty years for Providence (Providence was started in 1997), but we can all expect many great years to come.

Looking back and looking forward at the same time, it will be easy to appreciate the school’s journey from Lynnwood to Kirkland to Bothell. The school has moved around, unsure of what the future held, but in each location they fulfilled their goal of teaching students to think and live in a wise and godly way. Many students and alumni appreciate what Providence has done in their lives. This school set them up on a stable platform, ready to face college and life with a godly perspective. Providence will continue to shape
young minds as they embark on the next adventure, ready to see what God has in store. The school aims to bring further progress and success to our school and this was achievable even prior to our large upcoming move.

God knows what’s in store for us as a classical Christian community in Bothell. Despite our anxiety and hesitation, He has everything under control and has led us to this point. Everything involved in our move was perfectly timed. We at last have a permanent home which is suited for true growth.

A Northwest native and long-time classical Christian education advocate, Lisa Sandeno counts it a privilege to teach first grade. Lisa graduated summa cum laude from Arizona State University where she studied communications and family studies. She has also completed training from the Association of Classical Christian Schools. Lisa aims to provide a peaceful and secure classroom in which students are able to grow academically, in character, and to delight in the Lord.

Cynthia Plante and her family recently moved here from Rhode Island for her new job at Providence and for her husband’s new job with the Family Policy Institute of Washington. She has been married 21 years to her husband and has three beautiful children: SarahGrace, Stephen, and Joshua. The boys attend Providence at the secondary level. She is enjoying teaching 5th Grade at Providence and is hopeful for an excellent year with the fifth grade.

Brook Backholm has played and loved sports since she was a kid and finds teaching PE a natural fit, where she taught for several years. Now Brook serves the school as the second grade teacher. Brook considers it a great privilege to partner with other Christian educators and parents as we work to prepare the next generation of leaders both on and off the field. Brook’s husband, Joseph, is equally committed to Providence and served on the Providence board for several years.

Katie Bascom: I just moved to the Northwest from the North… of Russia, that is. There, I taught English as a Second Language; here, I teach plain old English. I am a lifelong lover of language and literature, and I am glad to share that love with my students here at Providence. (And, in case you’re wondering, The Brothers Karamazov is my favorite Russian novel.)

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Young students begin their journey through life by learning the facts they need to be successful, through songs, jingles, and poems. The grammar students are introduced to classical education through a series of facts and stories that leave room for future questions they might have. Memorization and presentation are the two pillars that support the learning methods in grades Pre-K to 6th grade. The grammar children learn the basics in order to become the best person they can be.

Grammar teaching is focused on the essentials of Providence, memorization and presentation. Teachers stress the importance of presenting what the students have learned through a variety of Latin and English grammar chants, as well as catechisms and snippets from the literature books they are currently reading. The reason why the teachers give this information to the students is to prepare them for the rhetoric stage, secondary. The jingles and chants prepare the students’ minds for a higher level of learning; but for now, the students simply learn the facts. A way to demonstrate their copious knowledge is to present said facts in front of their class, or, in front of an assembly. The assemblies are no ordinary assemblies but are events such as the Speech Meet or the Spelling Bee. Events such as these allow the students to improve their presentation abilities while exercising their memorization skills. As they grow older, memorization and presentation will become an asset. Once the student masters the grammar abilities, they are able to transition to the second part of the trivum, the logic stage.

The former grammar students now enter grades 7-8, better known as middle school. They are preparing at an advanced level for their next phase of life. Middle schoolers are introduced to a higher level of thinking, the Socratic Method, a type of learning technique that allows the students’ minds to expand on the facts they learn in all of their subjects through the guided questioning of their teachers. The students learn the maieutic method in order to ask deeper questions that even the teachers may have trouble answering!

Memorization and presentation are still key in middle school, as seen by the many presentations done in the English and Logic departments. For example, the students present sections of their literature books to their class, exhibiting their abilities they attained in grammar school.

Middle schoolers are also introduced to logic in eighth grade where they learn how to argue correctly using valid premises, syllogisms, and inductive, as well as deductive, reasoning. Students are able to use their knowledge of logic in debates held in class or mystery stories they write, presented once finished.

In their first years of secondary, the middle schoolers attain the ability to think outside the box when answering questions as well as the ability to talk and argue in a correct and formal manner with others. The students exercise their ability to debate, a useful skill to have both in high school and in life.

These acquired skills: deeper thinking, questioning, and arguing many students their age at other schools do not and will not have. These newfound skills prepare the middle schoolers for their third and final stage of the Trivum and their Providence education, rhetoric.
As the students enter high school, the expectations grow with experience. This is known as the rhetoric stage, in which they put to use the information they have learned from the grammar and logic stages to create their own writings and creative presentations. In English class, they hold Harkness discussions, named after philanthropist Edward Harkness, in which all students lead and participate in a round-table discussion with well-supported arguments and thoughtful questions. They also write and present various creative writings and essays to practice proficiency in English and public speaking. This skill can be honed in one of the electives offered at Providence: Speech and Debate, which emphasizes writing and presenting well-developed, strong arguments.

Juniors and seniors participate in a Rhetoric class, which facilitates the students ability to think logically as well as develop and establish correct writing and speaking usage in a more compelling, advanced form to prepare them for their final project. In twelfth grade, the pupils write and present a thesis paper, in which they speak on a controversial topic and take questions from a panel.

Throughout the upper grades, the young scholars not only use what they have learned from previous grades, but also continue to learn in-depth history, advanced math, and writing skills to develop true copiousness.

The primary goal, however, is for students to learn how to honor one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. The school emphasizes how to act in public situations, how to treat peers, and how to respect authorities in the classroom, in the halls, and in the Protocol program. The various aspects of academic and social learning prepare them to succeed in college, work, and life.

Academic Dean Laura Young says, “Christian character that develops from being turned back and again to an eternal perspective that informs our every earthly purpose is preparation for life, and because college and post-college vocation is a part of life, the education and work ethic our students receive at Providence prepares them for whatever God brings to them upon graduation from high school.”

Throughout high school, the students develop thinking, writing, and conduct skills using the information they have learned in grammar school to put to use in their arguments, they have used their learning about the idea of an argument in middle school, and they developed their thoughts into persuasive speeches and essays in high school.

The culmination of all of the skills learned have prepared Providence students for the next stages of life upon graduation.

The alumni are invited to return to the school to speak about their college and majors and answer the students’ questions. After students move on from Providence, they experience various kinds of vocations in life. The behavior and conduct tactics learned at Providence provide confidence at interviews, and the academics prepare them for a variety of jobs. Some move across the country to get a job or go to school; others enlist in the military, such as Joe Morris who is in the Navy, and Aaron Johnson, a Marine Force Corpsman. By the time the pupils become alumni, they are prepared to take on whatever God has in store for them.
Hailey Ferguson and Katherine Adair (class of 2016) made history this fall as Providence Classical Christian School’s first female athletes to compete at the collegiate level. Neither are new to competition, as both young ladies were involved in their shared sport of choice, volleyball, from their middle school years, but Ferguson and Adair are well aware that the shift to college athletics is an entirely different ball game.

Ferguson, a statuesque, lovely girl who in high school was known around campus for her sweet disposition and perpetual smile, played on the junior varsity volleyball team for the Colorado Christian University Cougars this last season. She remarks that the coaching staff “pretty much owned (her) time,” and speaks to the regulations imposed concerning diet, workouts, and grades. In a separate conversation, Adair, whose ringing laugh could often be heard resounding through the halls of Providence, immediately brings up the huge time commitment when questioned about her experience with college volleyball as a Lady Yellow Jacket at Cedarville University in Ohio. “It’s not just the 2-3 hours of practice every day that make it difficult, because I had that in high school and club,” she says. “The part that makes it hard is the traveling.”

However, both women themselves seem to be unaffected by the restrictions and commitments required of them—not only because it is simply what one does for the sport one loves, not only because it is what is expected of them as collegiate athletes, not only because these rules are what will help them win. Ferguson and Adair are not as concerned with winning as they are with growing.

It is a testament to the character of these young women that the majority of the time spent in conversation with them about their college volleyball experience is devoted to the joy they find in community with the people around them. The girls vividly describe the lengthy bus rides with their teams as time for “fruitful conversations” (Adair) and “a chance to get to know teammates on a deeper level” (Ferguson). Ferguson refers to these travels as her favorite memories from her first season and appreciates the opportunity they give her team to spread the word about their school’s message and ministry.

The girls speak of the unique, loving atmosphere, of the preparation it gave them to serve and lead as Christian women, of how their education at Providence taught them to love others well. It connects the students in innovative ways, creating friendships that extend far beyond high school, such as in the case of Ferguson and Adair.

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The two girls have been classmates since first grade, but they grew close for the first time during their freshman year of high school, when they discovered that they shared a love for volleyball and a dream of playing for the University of Washington. Adair recalls, “Little did we know that in order to play at a D1, Pac12 School, we would have to be a lot better than we were at that age!” She shares how the girls were challenged in their journey with God and with each other during their junior year and grew even closer because of it. Adair and Ferguson still message each other constantly and describe their relationship as “inseparable.”

Their first season of college ball has officially come to an end, after Adair’s team competed in the NCAA Division II Championships and Ferguson also completed a successful year in the extremely competitive Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. As they reflect on the experience as a whole, the friends minimize the less glamorous parts of the season in a strikingly similar fashion, both glossing over the restrictions and regulations in a hurry to discuss the communities they have been accepted into at their respective schools. Adair thanks her team for “the blessing of a family,” and Ferguson describes the relationships within the team itself and with their trainers as reflective of a family as well.

The conversation about volleyball falls away, and the focus entirely shifts to a glowing description of camaraderie and growth. Sports become secondary to the relationships that grow out of them, and these relationships serve to glorify the Creator. The hierarchy in these women’s lives is God first, relationship second, and sports third.

By Cienna Dumaoal
Alumni Updates

Births:
Joe Morris ('09), a Navy ensign officer, and his wife Marcella, who recently bought a house in San Diego, welcomed their second child, Charles Sebastian Morris, in January 2017.

Aaron Johnson ('12) and his wife Kaleah, who currently reside at Aaron’s naval base in Virginia, are expecting their first child in July 2017.

Melissa (Moisant) Doran ('09) and husband Daniel welcomed their third child, Zoey Kate, in September 2016.

Marriages:
Former teacher Rebecca Nadeau married Nate Cejka in October 2016 and lives in the area.

Former teacher Jeanette Wesner married Matthew Barnes in October 2016. The couple now lives in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.


Other Updates:
Chad Hummel ('13), a senior studying Business at Texas Christian University, spent the spring of 2016 studying in Florence, Italy, where he put his Latin education at Providence to use in order to pick up Italian.

Josiah Warner, husband to Elise (Hatcher) Warner ('11), was recently accepted to Northwestern University’s Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Program. The Warners will be moving to Chicago in May 2017 to follow Josiah’s calling.

Aaron Johnson ('12) recently achieved his dream of becoming Fleet Marine Force Corpsman after graduating at the top of his class at Navy Boot Camp.

Ryan ('11) and Luke Morris ('12) graduated from the University of Mount Olive, each with a BS in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. The brothers played on the varsity lacrosse team that placed 8th overall in NCAA Division II and gained the titles of All-Conference Academic Team and All-Tournament Team.

Harrison Hummel ('12) graduated from Texas Christian University in December 2016 with a BS in Nursing and recently moved to Seattle to pursue a Nursing residency at Virginia Mason Medical Center.
OUR NEW HOME

Phase 1: Build-out completed for our 2017-2018 school year.

Phase 2: Completion of a regulation size gym and updated design.

Phase 3: Mezzanine level expansion classrooms for the growing secondary.