



## Why Liberal Arts

by *Principal Melodie McKenzie*

Two weeks before school was out last May, I was on jury duty in a courtroom in the Daley Center in Chicago potentially being assigned to a two-week trial. With a rising stress level, I was thinking about how this just cannot happen. Our school is much more important than this trial. There are eighth grade speeches to practice, math classes to teach, and a hundred other end-of-the-year details. I cannot be assigned to a jury!

But why is my life and/or our school more important than the situation in this particular citizen's life that has necessitated civil court proceedings? I'm sure they would prefer to be somewhere else as well. Also, what is it that prepares any random citizen to join a group of other citizens on a jury to determine the fate of another?

The answer, I believe, lies in the liberal arts. Here at Providence we teach a well-rounded education that includes the typical elementary subject areas of math, grammar, writing, literature/reading, science, and history with the addition of Bible, music, drama, art, p.e., logic, and Latin. The Greeks are credited with developing the liberal arts in order to give a thorough education that would prepare folks to be responsible citizens. This form of education was continued by the Romans and spread to many other cultures including the founders of our nation. It is differentiated from subject-specific educational institutions like a math and science academy or a performing arts school.

We have chosen this liberal arts philosophy for the core reasons that it will help our students to love learning, to be well-rounded, and to show responsibility in whatever they do in life and for the Kingdom. The unexpected blessing of this education is that it typically also makes a person merciful. As you read and learn in such a broad way, it opens your eyes to view things from your neighbor's perspective. This will prepare you for serving on a jury, for working in a dentist's office, for helping in the new building, or for leading your family in worship.



## Welcome, New Faculty!

Each year, God blesses Providence with new and wonderful teaching staff who are committed Christian examples, passionate about learning, and ready to equip students with a Christian world and life view. For 2018-2019 we are proud to introduce you to the newest members of the teaching faculty of Providence Christian Academy.



**Mrs. Marjorie Colvin**  
5th - 8th Grade Choir

Mrs. Marjorie Colvin teaches fifth through eighth grade Choir. She holds a B.A. in Music Education from North Park College. Prior to teaching at Providence, she taught junior high music and choir at a Christian school in Illinois and taught (still teaches) piano lessons. Mrs. Colvin and her husband have four adult children and attend Oak Glen United Reformed Church.



**Mrs. Jessica Hoekstra**  
P.E.

Mrs. Jessica Hoekstra teaches first through eighth grade P.E. She holds a B.A. in Exercise Science with Minors in Coaching and Psychology from Trinity Christian College. Mrs. Hoekstra was a soccer and basketball coach at various levels prior to teaching at PCA. She and her husband, Jordan, have four children, all of whom attend Providence Christian Academy. The Hoekstra family attends Community United Reformed Church.

## A New Home for Providence

Since the school began in 2009, the Providence Christian Academy community has prayed for a permanent home. In November of 2013, Providence purchased 10 acres of land in unincorporated Lake County, Indiana on Calumet Avenue near 121st Street, but the high costs of water and sewer created significant delays for building at this site.

In February 2018, the board identified a building for sale near the corner of Calumet and 101st Avenue, only a few miles north of the property the school already owned. The board and association unanimously agreed to purchase this building for Providence Christian Academy. On April 27, 2018, the school closed on the new building and began to get it ready for the 2018-2019 school year. Parents, volunteers, faculty, and friends filled dumpsters, installed new lights and plumbing fixtures, cleaned vinyl baseboards and furniture, and gave the building a good, old-fashioned scrubbing. These projects were completed in time to celebrate with an ice cream social and new building dedication on August 14, 2018.

About 125 people attended the dedication event. After enjoying ice cream in the parking lot, parents, students, and visitors toured the building and new spacious classrooms while a slideshow of images from the summer renovations played in the great room. During the dedication service, Building Committee Chairman John Boersma attributed thanks to God, "I hope that all of you are able to see the Lord's hand in this process. The Lord has blessed us with a unanimous agreement to purchase, a safe renovation, and a new place to call home." Boersma then read Jeremiah 17:7-8 comparing those who trust in the Lord to trees planted by the water. "As we start this new school year in this new building," Boersma shared, "we are not looking for new roots, lest we forget where we came from, but new growth, continually being rooted in Christ. Just like the tree that was planted in our school playground in honor of this event, we look to develop our roots in this location, all while watching our children grow in the knowledge and understanding of Christ and His world around us."

Everyone joined in singing the school hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," and Board President, Brian Yonkman, closed the service in prayer. The event concluded with the cutting of a ceremonial red ribbon and a joyful cheer of praise for God's work and perfect timing in finding a place for Providence to call home.



Ribbon cutting (left to right: Board members Luke Darling, Brian Yonkman, Principal McKenzie, Pete Smith, Steve Vander Woude, John Boersma).



Tree that was planted at dedication with Mrs. Trester's 3rd and 4th grade class.



## End of Year Giving: Every little bit helps!

Providence Christian Academy is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Would you please consider giving a special of end-of-year gift of any amount for on-going operational support and teacher development? Donations must be postmarked by December 31 to be deductible for your 2018 taxes. A giving envelope has been provided in this newsletter, or click on the Donate button on Providence's website, [www.providenceca.org](http://www.providenceca.org).

Providence also invites friends and families to consider shopping on Amazon through AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) and selecting "Providence Christian Academy Association, Inc" as your charitable organization of choice. When you shop on AmazonSmile, Providence will get a small donation from Amazon at no cost to you.



- JANUARY 18 - Geography Bee
- MARCH 4 - Kindergarten Preview Day
- MARCH 28 - Recitation Night
- APRIL 1-5 - Spring Break
- APRIL 25 - Association Meeting
- MAY 28 - Graduation
- MAY 30 - Last Day of School

## A Grand Day for Grandparents Day

Providence Christian Academy hosted Grandparents Day on Friday, November 2nd. This special day was held to honor grandparents, give them a peek into the new school building, and remind students of the guidance and wisdom that grandparents can offer. Grandparents certainly have an important role in each child's life and in the life of our school community!



## Teacher Feature

featuring **Mr. Ed Vander Woude**

It is my privilege this year to be teaching History and Geography to the fifth and sixth graders and Formal Logic to the eighth-grade class.

One of the foundational disciplines in the classical curriculum is the study of history. Having studied Ancient Times and the Middle Ages in third and fourth grades, students at Providence Christian Academy in the fifth and sixth grades are ready to study the Early Modern and Modern periods. This year we are using Story of the World book 3, starting with the age of discovery in Europe and North America but learning about what was going on simultaneously in the major cultures of Asia and Africa. In Geography, we will learn about the countries, cultures and land features of South and North America.

Students at PCA have studied Informal Logic in seventh grade, learning to identify logical fallacies. In eighth grade, we move to Formal Logic, learning the vocabulary of categorical logic, how to determine the truth-value of a logical argument, and identifying relationships of logical opposition and equivalence. From there we will move to the construction and evaluation of logical syllogisms.

Studying History and Geography affords students at Providence Christian Academy the opportunity to understand where they fit within the millennia that have passed since the beginning of recorded history and the diversity of the world God created. Logic teaches older students how to think clearly and form their thoughts into arguments that give evidence of sound reasoning.



## Fall Field Trips



Countyline Orchard K-2nd Grade



Wheaton College Symphony K-4th Grade



# Evening of Thanksgiving

129 parents, grandparents, and supporters of Providence Christian Academy filled Community United Reformed Church on November 1, 2018 for the annual Evening of Thanksgiving fundraiser. This year's theme, "Plans for a Hope and a Future," set the tone for the event. People didn't just come for the wonderful food and fellowship; they came ready to raise money for Providence Christian Academy. By the end of the event, the school's proceeds were over \$107,000 – with more donations still coming in!

The Progress and Promotions Committee, comprised of Jessica Hoekstra, Shari Spoolstra, Steve Vander Woude, and Luke and Kim Darling, pulled out the stops to bring this event together. Ciao Bella Ristorante outdid itself with an Italian-style menu that included Chicken Limone, Meatballs Marinara, Italian Sausage and Peppers, Mixed Sautéed Vegetables, and Garlic Mashed Potatoes. As in the past, the Providence Christian Academy moms provided a delicious homemade dessert buffet.

A highlight of the evening was the recitation program given by the student body which consisted of singing and recitation of Scripture and poems. The evening concluded with a fundraising appeal by Luke Darling, Treasurer, a freewill donation, a closing prayer by Brian Yonkman, Board President, and "Great is Thy Faithfulness" sung by 42 students and the 129 attendees.

Thank you to all who contributed to this annual fundraiser. All money raised will be used to aid the ongoing work of Providence Christian Academy.



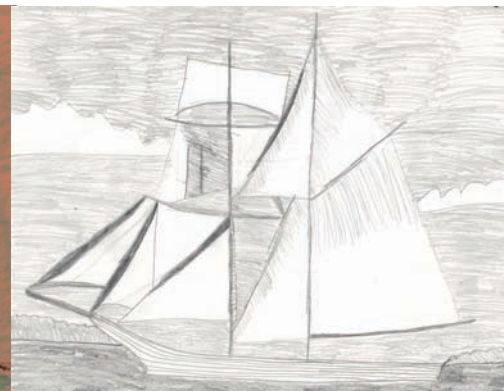
## Fine Art

"Mayflower" by Louis Hoekstra (1<sup>st</sup> grade)

"Boat" by Selah Boer (5<sup>th</sup> grade)

"Playing Ball with Grandpa"  
by Nolan Regnerus (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

Grandpa threw the ball  
like Javier Baez.  
Wham!  
I hit the slow-thrown sphere.  
The ball whizzed past Grandpa  
like a diving eagle.  
I ran the bases  
like a thunderbolt.  
"Good job," he congratulated.  
That was the end of the game.  
"O man," I complained.  
I wanted to play more.





## Providence Christian Academy

14795 101st Avenue  
Dyer, Indiana 46311

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

--Proverbs 22:6 ESV



# Kindergarten

PREVIEW DAY

FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR!

**WHEN: Monday, March 4, 2019**

**TIME: 8:25 - 11:00 AM**

**LOCATION: Providence Christian Academy  
14795 101st Avenue in Dyer, Indiana**



While prospective Kindergarten students "go to school" for the morning, parents will hear more about the Christian, classical education offered at Providence and how to prepare their child for Kindergarten.

To learn more about Providence Christian Academy please visit [www.providenceca.org](http://www.providenceca.org)

### Contact Us:

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Dyer, Indiana 46311  
(219) 588-9090  
[info@providenceca.org](mailto:info@providenceca.org)  
[www.providenceca.org](http://www.providenceca.org)

\*\*If you would like information about setting up a classroom visit, please contact us by phone or email.

