



THE PRINCIPAL'S PAMPHLET

by Melodie McKenzie



PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**exists to assist parents in the covenantal education
of their children. We instruct students from a
Biblical perspective, within a confessionally
Reformed and classical framework, teaching them to
exalt Christ by pursuing truth, beauty, and goodness.**



February 25, 2021

Dyer, Indiana

School Teacher Warriors

In trying times as the difficult days in which we're living, the great hymn of the faith, "A Mighty Fortress is our God," is a great comfort. Verse three reminds us that even when the enemy of our souls rages on and seems to rule the world, we will not fear. The conquering King has gone before and won the victory. Even though we are still on this earth engaged in battle, we know the final outcome.

At other times of history and in some great kingdoms, the end was not expected to occur the way it did. Take Rome for example. The Roman Empire was one of the greatest ever on the face of this earth. Even in those ancient days, they built aqueducts to carry fresh water. They made cement and used it to build pilons—even under water for bridges—which even today cannot be replicated with the same materials and tools that were available at that time. Their education and learning were of such note that our modern classical schools are still harkening back to them.

Then, it all ended abruptly. (Read about this in Augustine's *City of God*.) In just a few decades, they went from clean, efficient drinking water to plague-ridden filth; from civilization to chaos; from one of the heights of education to centuries of little to no education. All this was lost because of barbarians.

Today's outlook also seems quite bleak in another nation who aspires to greatness. There is little listening and understanding of one another. Truth is hard to find. The views of some are forced on others. People are confused about matters as simple as gender. We see pending legal action against the Church.

For these reasons (and others), you have chosen not to depend on the government for the education of your children. You recognize that education is a daily battle over the minds of our youth. In Romans 12:2, Paul warns:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

There are subtle ways that the world ekes its way even into our Christian circles, lives, and school. We guard ourselves by having our minds transformed by the Spirit.

Now, I return to my opening premise that we're in a battle. Our teachers are warriors against the wiles of the devil, and they are training your Covenant youth to stand beside them in this battle. First, our children must be taught to know the truth inside

and out to the point that they are saturated in what is right. This knowledge must then settle into their hearts by intense study of what it means in every nuance. Lastly, the children are taught to apply this to their lives in practicality—living what they've been taught. In this way, truth travels from their heads to their hearts and out their hands.

Thankfully, we are not alone. Our great King has gone before us and sits on the throne of conquest. He calls us to follow Him with boldness. We pray for you families as you rear your children for this battle. Please faithfully lift our teachers before the Throne of Grace that we may not lose heart but stand firm till the end. May the Lord be with us!

“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

...

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
‘Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!’
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah”

~ Psalm 46:1, 8-11

Truth Learned and Applied

Each school day is filled with truth taught across the subject areas. Ratios are compared to form proportions, landscape and portrait are contrasted, *ambulo* is conjugated, Shakespeare lines are memorized, notes are sung, thinking skills are practiced, sight words are memorized, etc. Just like the Village Blacksmith, the students attempt much and accomplish much throughout their days here and likely come home very tired and worthy of rest.

We don't stop with just teaching truth. Gaining knowledge is of little use if it is not used to a good benefit. One of the most practical ways that the students apply what they've learned is through daily recess. What they've learned in history class about



how peoples interact when facing differences between themselves can be applied (hopefully to the good). For example, when a hobbit hole finely crafted in the snow crumbles into ruin, how will differing parties sort out why this happened, if there is fault, if it was accidental, what should be done, how to recover peace between themselves, etc.? These smaller interactions are shaping how they will interact with one another in the church of God.

Another way we help the older students shape and apply knowledge is with lunch discussions. We've had various topics most often on applying a given virtue while avoiding its paired vices. One time, we had a 5th – 8th boys' lunch one day and 5th – 8th girls' lunch another day. This gave Liz, Louise, and me a chance to zero in to more specifics with our coaching. For the girls, we discussed supporting our friends while also helping them not to stay in their distress but shift their minds to what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. We also discussed not being overly judgmental of the boys when they are not typically at the same level of maturity as girls at this age. We reminded them that our boys grow to be brave men to lead and defend their families. For the boys, Mrs. Wright challenged them to be warrior poets. While it is common to love destroying things, this is a gift of God to them as they will one day be destroying the strongholds of the devil. It is essential to learn to hone and point their passions in the right direction. We

discussed how King David and Tolkien's Aragorn are two examples of mighty men who were also gifted poets and wise souls.

One last example of how we are applying truth is in our care for the building, desks, textbooks, etc. that we use in school. We show good stewardship because these things are within our care for a measured amount of time. We also steward our time, using it wisely since it is another gift from God.

It is the mission of our school that as truth is learned and education occurs that it is also applied. We look for results of children who grow to pursue truth, beauty, and goodness on their own. We want them to love learning and to know how to apply their thinking skills across the broad spectrum of their lives.

Music studies harmonize with every core discipline of the curriculum: the music of various periods vocalizes the movements of history, the formal structures of music correspond to the formal structures of poetry, the theory of music applies principles of mathematics, the physics of music makes audible the laws of science.

— Lindsey Brigham Knott

Sights and Sounds at Providence

- ❖ January Chapel: Rev. Roets from Redeemer URC spoke to us this month. He began by having us think of the pictures that the Scriptures give us of Jesus like our Savior and our Redeemer. We were made in His likeness, but then broken by the fall. Satan tempted Adam and Eve to be seemingly more than what they were, but really he was tempting them to be different than what they were made to be. The world tempts us to create our own identity, but instead we remember that our identity is already made in God to be like Christ. We are like a vase that was broken beyond repair but has been expertly put back together by a professional restorer.
- ❖ February Chapel: This month, we had Rev. Marcusse from Oak Glen for chapel. He introduced us to our Colossians passage with a word picture. The students were asked to think about when they've come back from a fun day at the beach. As they enter the house, they take off all their old sandy beach clothes so as not to bring all that sand in with them. Imagine, though, if we don't want to put off the old clothes, but we like them better than clean clothes. Colossians directs us to put off the old man and to put on the new man. This is a pointed choice to be like Christ and not to cling to our sin.
- ❖ Challenger Learning Center: The 5th – 8th grade had a terrific time on their science lab field trip. The students participated in activities geared to learn about what life is like in space. They tried to screw bolts wearing gloves, add up how many calories they'd need in a space diet, try out the effects of pressure on whipped cream, and other instructional, fun endeavors.

Announcements

- ❖ Calendar: The new calendar for the 2021 – 2022 school year has been adopted and is attached with this newsletter. It continues with all our normal patterns and plans.
- ❖ Science Fair: For the last several months, the 6th – 8th graders have been working on their own individual science fair projects. They are completing the final touches and finishing up their experiments, observations, and displays in order to present their reports to the school. Please join us on Thursday and Friday mornings, March 11 & 12 from 8:25 – 9:15 am for our second triennial Science Fair.
- ❖ Field Trip: The K – 4th graders have a field trip! On Thursday, March 18, they'll head over to Deep River County Parks for their Maple Syrup Time interactive day. They'll get to see how trees are tapped, what they do to turn the sap into syrup, and how the French traders made maple sugar. Then, they'll get to taste a little.
- ❖ Standardized Tests: During the week of March 22, we'll be administering the Iowa Basic Tests to the 2nd – 8th grades. Typically, students do their best when they've had a full nights' sleep the previous night, have a good breakfast the next morning, and bring a healthy snack to eat. These tests are administered as one way to have an outside assessment on how our school is doing in an overall way. Also, we do have a couple of homeschool families who plan to join us that week.

- ❖ Recitation Night: We hope you are planning to join us on Thursday, March 25 at 7:00pm for our annual Recitation Night. We'll be meeting at Peace PR Church just about across the street from the school. Also, the Science Fair trifolds will be displayed that night. If you know of any prospective families who would like an evening's snapshot of our school, invite them along with you.
- ❖ Kindergarten Preview Day: A few weeks ago, Mrs. Knoll hosted prospective Kindergarteners for the morning. We had five children from our own school families as well as two prospective families. We are excited for these little ones as they move to this next step of life.
- ❖ Geography Bee: While the National Geography Bee was canceled for this year, Mrs. Trestler and Mr. Vander Woude took it upon themselves to ensure that our school could experience this event and choose our own in-house winner. Students from 4th – 8th participated in answering a wide array of questions. We are delighted to announce that Logan Darling is our 1st place school winner with Liam Vander Woude coming in a close 2nd.
- ❖ Theme of the Year: There was a mistake on our Theme of the Year page with the Colossians passage in NIV. It has been corrected to the ESV on the attached copy. The students will recite this full set of the Exodus and Colossians verses at Graduation.
- ❖ Quarantine: We praise the Lord that no one in our school family has needed to quarantine for COVID in the past two months. Thank you all for taking care to stay home when you are sick.