

Providence Perspectives

Equipping our covenant youth for the present and for the future.



Fall/Winter 2012-2013

"An Evening of Thanksgiving" is a Success!

We were pleased to host our first ever promotional banquet, "An Evening of Thanksgiving," on Thursday, November 8, 2012. Faith United Reformed Church in Beecher, Illinois, graciously allowed us to use their facility, and we were thrilled to have nearly 100 attendees! The evening served a couple of purposes: to provide interested parties with vital information about us and to raise funds for our future. Both purposes were fulfilled.

Mr. Dan Bruinsma, father of 2 of our students, opened the evening with devotions and prayer. We then enjoyed a wonderful Italian meal catered by Scrementi's while we also enjoyed fellowship with one another. Board Member Tim Boer, also father of 2 of our students, gave a brief speech outlining our history, our mission and our plans for the future.

Then the student body joined us. They gave us a "taste" of what Providence Christian Academy is all about including: Latin chants and songs, a history timeline recitation, recitation of the Apostles' Creed with sign language, their Reformation Day recitation, and psalm and hymn singing. The students very much enjoyed being able to share what they had learned with the guests, and those in attendance

were very receptive.

Board Member Jeff Huizenga, father of 1 of our students, then thanked all for coming and explained the purpose of our fund raising — future plans for the purchase of land. We concluded our evening with the students leading us in singing "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

The evening was certainly a night of thanksgiving to our Lord for showing to us His faithfulness over the past several years.

It also served, for all of us — board members, faculty, parents and students, as a great encouragement. We raised nearly \$40,000, we received many kind and encouraging words, and we also had many prospective family inquiries. May the

Lord be glorified in our endeavors as we seek to educate these precious covenant children in the fear and knowledge of him.



We are currently seeking a qualified teacher for the **1st –3rd grade classroom** for the 2013-2014 school year.

Please submit your resumé or any questions to resume@providenceca.org.

We are also now open for enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year. For more information, please contact info@providenceca.org.



It was cool to see mummy falcons!
- Brandon, 3rd Grade

This fall the 3rd and 5th grades had the privilege of visiting the **Field**

Museum in Chicago, IL. We were studying ancient Egypt in school, so we toured the **Egyptian exhibit** where we saw many mummies and artifacts from that ancient world. It was quite moving to see mummies of babies all the way up to adults. The students were quite amazed that these were, indeed, real people that were alive many, many years ago.

We were also studying mammals in science, so we visited the **mammal exhibit**, too, where we saw many of God's creatures. There were many animals that we had never even heard of, and it was fascinating to see the different varieties of animals there truly are! We finished our tour of the Field Museum by visiting the **jade and gem exhibit**. We then took a walk by Lake Michigan and enjoyed the beautiful sunshine and the wonderful Chicago skyline.

A special thank you to our chaperones who drove and accompanied us on our trip.

I saw mummies; they were cool! It was very dark, so the mummies would preserve longer and nicer.
- Emma, 3rd Grade



The "Littles," as the K-2 class is sometimes called, enjoyed a trip to **County Line Orchard** in the early fall. They had learned about bees and pollination in science class, so they were especially excited in the **bee room!** They enjoyed a **tractor ride**, the selection of their own **pumpkins**, the **petting zoo** area, and, of course, delicious home-made donuts! They also were able to see how the **apples** are processed and how the **donuts** are made. Besides a few raindrops, it was a wonderfully fun day for everyone.

The donuts and apple cider were yummy!
-Lucas, 1st Grade

I liked learning the bee dance!
- Faith, Kindergarten



On Friday, December 17, 2012, the entire student body and teachers and chaperones went on a field trip to downtown Chicago. We started off by stopping at the Art Institute and having our picture taken by the huge lions that are in front of the building. We then went across the street to **Orchestra Hall** where we saw the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** perform various selections from the great composers of the past. We listened to the majestic strains of **Beethoven's 5th Symphony**, a symphony by **Haydn** where we imagined it was the sun rising over the horizon, a **Tchaikovsky** symphony where a lot of the percussion instruments were used, and an odd ending to a piece from **Charles Ives** where it sounded like the note was not in tune. We also took a stroll down State Street and saw all the busy shoppers looking for bargains for Christmas. Finally, we went to Millennium Park where we watched the ice skaters and saw the "Cloud" or as it is more popularly known, the "Bean." We all had a wonderful time, and we want to *thank Mr. Kevin McNamara who taught the students about symphonies and the great composers in preparation for our going to Orchestra Hall!*

We heard some classics like Beethoven's 5th Symphony and Charles Ives where it plays nice and calm and then goes off key for the last note!
- Matthew, 5th Grade



3rd & 5th Grades

It is hard to believe, but half the school year is almost over! The 3rd and 5th graders are anticipating a great finish to the school year. While Matthew is reducing fractions in math, the 3rd graders are learning their multiplication tables. The students are enjoying writing their compositions based on Aesop's Fables and love reading about these same fables as we study ancient civilizations in History. This upcoming semester we will be focusing on the Greek and Roman civilizations and learning about their religion and legends. The students enjoy playing Latin baseball in freshening up their Latin language skills. They also love coming to the board and showing off their diagramming skills for Grammar. They keep a list of whose turn it is so that everyone gets a chance to show off their knowledge. The selection of books that the students have been reading has been very entertaining, and I hope the students develop a love for reading good books. In Science we are currently learning about the ability of machines to move things, and soon we will be learning about the stars and constellations. We give praise to our Heavenly Father for His Creation, and I pray that the students will continue to be curious and eager to learn about His world and grow in the knowledge of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Doris Trester

K-2nd Grade

An entire semester has already passed. The time goes so fast, but we've learned so much! Kindergarteners are now reading. The first and second graders have begun journal writing, which they really enjoy – both the writing and the sharing. The next semester promises much more. In Bible, we will follow the Israelites as they wander through the wilderness, marking their victories and their defeats. In Latin, we will learn words for parts of the face, the food we eat, and the weather. Math & Phonics are a daily persevering of the lessons laid before us. We rejoice in God's goodness to us in imparting the knowledge of His wonderful world and pray for the diligence and appreciation needed to grow in Him and His ways.



Valerie Knoll

from the

Board of Directors

by Randy Helmus

Last May I was asked to speak at the graduation of two students at a small Christian elementary school. I was not asked because I was known as an excellent speaker, but because I had taught them catechism for the last four years. The principal asked if I could say a few words to encourage them; he didn't say in what way or which area. He left that up to me.

I thought of some of the areas a catechism teacher should encourage them. They ought to be obedient to their parents and to God, love their neighbor, and be a witness for Christ. Many of the discussions we had over the last four years came to mind. We had spoken about their lives and how God's word and God's people had played a part in it. God is living and real and speaks to them, guides and comforts them. We talked about how the church of Christ plays an important role in raising them up in the fear of the Lord, and how the catechism that was written so long ago could be applied to the way you live the Christian life today. It shows them the sin that is ever present in their lives, the salvation God provides through Christ, and the service we give in thankfulness to Him. I had been encouraging them for the last four years, and wondered if ten or fifteen more minutes would make a difference.

In reviewing those past four years I realized how much they had encouraged me. It was a joy to see these young people grow and mature. God uses His church, parents and Christian schooling together to teach them doctrine and the Christian life. Many of their answers to my questions over the years were started with "My teacher said..." The instruction at school confirmed again and again what they were being taught in catechism and being preached from the pulpit. The three legged stool of church, home and school was effective, and to witness it for four years was a great encouragement to me.

I looked up the meaning of the word "encourage" in the dictionary and it was defined as "to give courage to" and "urge on." I then asked my students what they were afraid of as they left the 8th grade and moved on. Their united answer was that they feared the future; they didn't know about high school and what would happen to them. They worried about being able to make new friends. The uncertainty of the future was their greatest fear.

This brought us to a discussion from the catechism in Lord's Day 10 that speaks of God's
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Providence Christian Academy

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"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

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providence. It is instructive in teaching of God's almighty and ever present power by which he upholds heaven and earth, knowing that all things come not by chance but from his fatherly hand. The students believed God would take care of them, but they still feared. I asked them how their lives were going at the present time and they all talked excitedly about their school and friends and what they were doing. All their fears were gone and life was good.

This brings us to Providence Christian Academy. We too have some fears for the future. We cannot know what the future holds. Where will we meet next year? How many students will attend? Will we have the finances necessary for the next year? These are the unknowns that could, if we let them, cause us to worry and fret. So we look to the catechism, Lord's Day 9.

What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?"

Answer: "That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by His eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ His Son.

I trust Him so much that I do not doubt He will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and further, that whatever evil He sends upon me in this vale of tears, He will turn to my good; for He is able to do this because He is almighty God; He desires to do this because He is a faithful father."

What a comfort to know that God is not only able, but he also desires to provide all we need for body and soul. So for those of us who have fears about the school, the board, the teachers or the students, I suggest we use our catechism and look to the Lord who tells us, "Fear not, for I

Contact Us:

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We are currently meeting at:

Community United Reformed Church
8405 Alexander Street
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**If you would like information about setting up a classroom visit, please contact us by phone or email.



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