



Popcorn Players performed at the annual Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 1. The group also will perform Sunday evening at the Christmas Concert.

PROVIDENCE e-VISION NEWS

December 5, 2012

News for Parents, Alumni and Friends of Providence

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ONE DEANERY, ONE VOICE

The annual Christmas Concert will feature a new addition this year. Scheduled for this Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Robinson Auditorium, the concert will include the debut performance of the New Albany Deanery Honor Choir.

The Honor Choir is made up of fifth through eighth graders from eight Deanery schools and showcases some of the most talented vocalists in the area. The choir, which has chosen the theme "One Deanery, One Voice," is a collaboration of the Deanery music teachers, who nominated the 39 talented members. The students learned the songs they will be performing from their music teachers and then practiced together at the Deanery Music Workshop in November. The workshop also included lessons on stage presence and breathing techniques.

The Deanery Choir is directed by Providence music teacher **Mr. Rick Rebilas** and **Ms. Erica Pangburn**, who teaches music at Holy Family and Sacred Heart schools. The group will perform three to four songs at the Christmas Concert. The next performance will be at the Deanery Art Fair in May.

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Principal Dr. Mindy (Lankert) Ernstberger '74, who is also the fine arts chairperson, said she is excited for the chance to showcase the young vocalists in the Deanery schools and looks forward to their performance opportunities expanding in the future. "I'm amazed at the amount of talent these young students have," she said. "We want to provide more opportunities for music and make music more visible in the local Catholic community."

Providence eighth grader **Justine Oppelt** is in the choir and said she really enjoys it. "I like that we get to meet the new students that are going to be freshmen here next year," she said. "And I just like singing in general."

Also performing at the Christmas Concert will be the Popcorn Players, Providence Singers, and Campus Choir. Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students kindergarten through grade 12 and for senior citizens ages 62 and older. Children preschool age and younger are admitted free.

STUDENTS IN ACTION

NEWS FROM THE HOUSE OF SPIRIT, FAITH

From *House of Spirit* Communications Liaison senior **Mandy Ross**:

"The *House of Spirit* has had a very busy semester! We started our year by hosting the first annual Mr. PHS Pageant. Twelve senior men competed to win the coveted title of Mr. PHS. Senior **Jacob Resch** from the *House of Integrity* was crowned the winner and had the opportunity to crown the homecoming king at the school assembly.

"The *House of Spirit* also recently held No Shave November. Throughout the month of November, if a male student or teacher paid \$10, they were given permission to stop shaving their facial hair until Thanksgiving break to raise money for prostate cancer research. On Friday, Nov. 30, the *House of Spirit* also hosted a Spirit Wear day for all students and teachers who donated \$1 or more. Donations totaled \$750, which was given to the American Red Cross to benefit victims of Superstorm Sandy.

"To conclude the semester, our House is once again "Christmas Yard Crashing." Students and teachers in our House coordinate with a Deanery church and find a family that is unable to afford Christmas decorations. Last year, we bought a Christmas tree, donated lights and decorations, and went to the family's house on a Saturday to decorate.

[House Leadership System](#)

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We also all chip in money to cover the family's electrical bill for the month. This event was a huge success last year, and we are looking forward to it again this year."

From *House of Faith* Communications Liaison senior **Clair Slusser**

"This winter, the *House of Faith's* social project will be the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest. There are two categories: homemade sweaters and store-bought sweaters. On Dec. 10, students will be allowed to wear their ugliest Christmas sweater to school and the faculty judges will choose a winner by the end of the day.

"Next semester, we will put on a Silhouette Stations of the Cross in Lent for our spiritual project. In addition, our service project will be making Valentine's Day and Christmas cards for nursing home patients. There will be additional projects throughout the year too."

INDIANA SADD OFFERS LESSONS IN DISTRACTED DRIVING

Last week, representatives from *Indiana SADD* (Students Against Destructive Decisions) visited during the lunch periods to offer students traffic safety activities focused on discouraging distracted and impaired driving and encouraging responsible driving habits.

Students wore "drunk goggles" while attempting to drive a motorized cooler through a course, to operate a remote-controlled car, and to shoot basketballs. Students found that wearing the goggles did impair their vision and eye-hand coordination. Senior **Ryan Pickerrell** normally has no problem sinking free throws, but he could only hit the top right corner of the backboard while he wore the goggles.



"It is not as easy as normal" to shoot the ball, Ryan said, adding that the exercise affirmed his determination to not drive while impaired. "That's just stupid to put yourself in danger while you're intoxicated. If you can't shoot a basketball, how are you going to operate a motor vehicle?"

Students also operated a distracted driving simulator in which they steered a car through a simulated course while listening to someone give directions and answering text messages that appeared on the screen. Students quickly found that trying to multitask, especially reading or sending text messages, resulted in swerving, missed turns and even crashes.

Junior **Joey Hayes** said he found that trying to text while driving the simulator - and an actual car - is dangerous. He said he doesn't text and drive because he tried it once and ended up swerving. "It's a lot harder than focusing on the road," he said.

STUDENT ATHLETES RECOGNIZED

Several athletes from the fall sports season have been recognized recently for their outstanding performance.

In Volleyball, senior **Kylie Flanagan** was named to the 1A/2A Senior South All-Star team and to the 2012 News & Tribune All-Area Volleyball

Second Team as libero. **Coach Terri (Blunk) Purichia '90** was named the Junior All-Star coach and the 2012 News & Tribune All-Area Volleyball Coach of the Year. The following were also named to the 2012 News & Tribune All-Area Volleyball team: First Team - sophomores **Taylor Wilson** at middle hitter and **Patricia Mattingly** at setter; and Second Team -sophomore **Haley Libs** at outside hitter.

In Girls Soccer, senior **Leah Mattingly** received an Honorable Mention to the Indiana Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team and was named the News & Tribune Girls Soccer player of the year. The following were named to the News & Tribune All-Area Girls Soccer Team: First Team -seniors **Erin Duncan** and **Maryashly Betz**, junior **Kasey Wallace**, and sophomore **Jordan Reger**; Second Team - senior **Katie Barron**, junior **Autumn Meyer** (goalkeeper), and sophomores **Alyssa Jones** and **Sarah Posante**.

In Boys Soccer, senior **Pierce Crawley** received an Honorable Mention to the Indiana Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team. He also was named to the News & Tribune All-Area Boys Soccer Team First Team as were seniors **Andrew Wimp** and **Cody Schrank** and junior **Evan Holkamp**. Named to the Second Team were senior **John "Tater" Murray** and juniors **Brent Hesse** and **Jeff Wiles** (goalkeeper).

In Football, junior **Owen Mattingly** was named to the Indiana Football Coaches Association First Team Junior All-State Team for Class 2A as a defensive back. He also was named to the News & Tribune All-Area Football Team First Team as defensive back. Also recognized were junior **Garrett Braun** for Special Teams and senior **Cory Cecil** for Second Team defensive line. Sophomore **Matt Bell** (running back) and junior **Tony Corrao** (offensive line) received Honorable Mention.

REMINDER: COLLECTIONS FOR NEEDY

Students have a few more days to write a Christmas card or bring in items to benefit those in need this season. The deadline to bring in new, unwrapped toys for the *House of Justice* Toys for Tots Drive is Monday, Dec. 10.



The deadline to bring in new or gently used blankets, coats, hats, or sleeping bags for the *House of Integrity* Blanket Drive to benefit the homeless (via In Heaven's Eyes ministry), is Wednesday, Dec. 12.

The deadline to write a holiday card for the *House of Loyalty* Christmas Cards for Hospice drive is Tuesday, Dec. 11.

SEND A JOLLY GRAM

The *Book Club* is selling Jolly Grams during lunches through Dec. 11 for 50 cents. The notes and candy will be delivered Dec. 12. Proceeds will allow the Book Club to sponsor an Angel Tree child.

CHRISTMAS DANCE COMING SOON

The annual Christmas Dance is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 18, from 8-11 p.m. in the Activity Center. Students must purchase tickets to the SADD-sponsored dance before they leave for Christmas Break. This semi-formal event features a DJ, refreshments, and door prizes. Tickets are \$10 and will not be sold at the door. Only Providence students will be admitted, and everyone must show an ID.

IN THE LAND OF OZ



The Spring Musical for 2013 has been announced.

The Providence Players will stage "The Wizard of Oz" April 19, 21, 25-28, under the direction of **Mrs. Ellen Holifield**.

Information on auditions will be in early January.

At Providence, "The Wizard of Oz" has been staged only once in the the 50-years history of spring musicals. The 1989 production was directed by **Ms. Rebecca Reisert**.

NHS FUNDRAISER



The *National Honor Society* raised \$520.04 for the Piggies for Premies fundraiser in which members were given a piggy bank to raise funds for premature babies in the neonatal intensive care unit at Kosair Children's Hospital. Senior **Thomas Boly** was the top collector for this project.

HOUSE OF FAITH PAJAMA RUN/WALK

The *House of Faith* Pajama Run over Thanksgiving weekend raised \$488 for the New Albany Deanery Hispanic Ministry. The *House of Faith* would like to thank **Mr. Mike Stallings**



from Pacers and Racers who donated equipment as well as two \$25 gift cards to the winners and an additional donation to the Hispanic Ministry and **Ms. Mary Anne Tonini**, who set up the course and was in charge of volunteers.

PARENT CONNECTION

REMINDER: PLACEMENT TEST

The Placement Test for current eighth graders is Saturday, Dec. 8, from 8:45 a.m. to noon. This test is for prospective students of the incoming freshman class for the 2013-2014 school year.

Students should arrive by 8:45 a.m. at the Robinson Auditorium and bring two No. 2 pencils and a check for \$15 made payable to Providence High School. For more information, please contact the Providence Admissions Office at 812-945-3350 or e-mail dsmith@providencehigh.net.

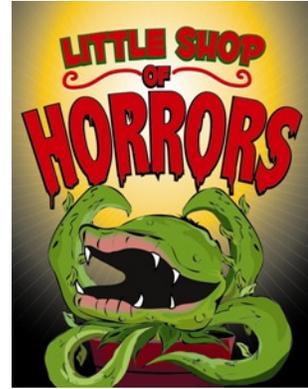
FINAL EXAM, E-VISION SCHEDULE

Dec. 13 marks the first day of final exams. [Click here for a schedule](#). Please note that Dec. 19 and 20 are snow make-up days, if needed.

Because of Christmas Break, the next two issues of eVISION will be Dec. 18 and Jan. 9.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW: FUNDRAISER AT DERBY DINNER

The BACKSTAGE CREW, the adult group supporting PHS theatre, will be sponsoring a fundraiser at Derby Dinner Playhouse on Feb. 20. The playhouse will hold 100 seats for Providence for the Wednesday evening show of "Little Shop of Horrors." Tickets are \$39 and include dinner, show and tax, and the Providence theatre program will receive a portion of the proceeds.



ALUMNI IN ACTION

TOYS FOR TOTS CHALLENGE

The alumni have once again been challenged by *The House of Justice* to donate the equivalent of 200 toys (cash or toys). So far, \$45 and six toys have been donated.

Last year, Providence was the largest local contributor to Toys for Tots, and the group is counting on PHS again this year. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at PHS during school hours through Dec. 12. To make a monetary donation, email advancement@providencehigh.net for more info.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA A SUCCESS



The Providence Alumni Association, Girls Soccer team and Popcorn Players thank all those who attended and made the annual Breakfast with Santa a success. More than 120 children enjoyed crafts, a visit with Santa, and a performance by the Popcorn Players.

PROVIDENCE GALA COMING SOON

The annual Providence Gala is scheduled for Jan. 19, 2013, at Huber Orchard & Winery Plantation Hall, and sponsors and donations are needed to make this important fundraiser a success. Funds raised support various programs, so your support is appreciated! To donate an item for the silent auction, sponsor the event, or join the planning committee, email **Mrs. Laura Brown** at advancement@providencehigh.net. Invitations will be mailed in the coming weeks.



ALUMNI SHIRTS ON SALE

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Providence Alumni golf shirts are on sale in the PHS Campus Store during school hours and on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shirts are \$35 and available in two styles and sizes for men and women. Get yours today!



Check out the cover photo on the [Our Lady of Providence High School Alumni Association Facebook](#) page to see the different styles. In the photo above, Spanish teacher **Alan Mathews '88** models one of the shirts.

ALUMNI NIGHT - SAVE THE DATE

The winter Alumni Night is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 4, during the Girls Basketball/Boys Basketball double header vs. Clarksville. The event includes a reception from 6:30-7:30 for all alumni and recognition during halftime of the following teams: 1973, 1978, 1993, and 1998 Boys Golf; 1993 Wrestling; and 1998 Baseball.

NEXT YEAR'S REUNIONS

Reunion committees should be forming for next year's reunions for graduation years ending in 3 or 8. The Office of Alumni Relations provides various types of support and can cut out a lot of the tedium of reunion planning. So don't be shy! If you are interested in helping plan your get-together, email alumni@providencehigh.net for information.

The Office of Alumni Relations has yet to hear from representatives from the classes of 1968, 1973, 1988, or 1998.

Upcoming: The *Class of 1960* will hold its mini-reunion Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Holiday Inn Lakeview in Clarksville.

BLUE PRIDE ON DISPLAY

PROVIDENCE BIDS CHAPLAIN FAREWELL

Providence offers its gratitude and well wishes to **Fr. Eric Augenstein**, who has been the primary chaplain here since last school year. Fr. Eric Augenstein, who also has been pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, will become vocations director for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis starting in mid-January. We then will welcome **Fr. Eric Johnson**, who will trade jobs with Fr. Eric Augenstein. Fr. Eric Johnson has been vocations director and will become the new pastor at OLPH and chaplain for Providence.



"While we are sad to see Fr. Eric leave, we know the archdiocese will benefit greatly from his devotion to his faith and the energy he will surely bring to his new assignment," said **President Mrs. Joan Hurley**. "We welcome Fr. Eric Johnson, who has roots in this Southern Indiana area."

SERVICE WITH A SMILE!

Feeding teenagers nutritious food that they will enjoy eating is a challenge for many parents. Try feeding 551 of them - and more than 70 adults - on a daily basis. The PHS cafeteria staff members do their best to make not only nutritious school lunches but also ones that are tasty.

With new guidelines from the USDA for school lunches, the challenge seemed even more daunting when the school year began, they said. But as the students adjusted - especially to having the salt shakers removed and eating whole wheat bread and pasta - the cafeteria staff has noticed that they are eating healthier. Federal guidelines for plate lunches increased the number of sides from two to four -- two vegetables and two fruits.

"They really are eating more vegetables and fruit, especially fresh fruit, and drinking more water," said **Mrs. Lisa Murner**, who has worked in the cafeteria for four years.

The cafeteria staff wants the students to enjoy their meals and works to offer new entrees - and is surveying the students for suggestions and input. The "Lunch Bunch," as they call themselves, also want the lunch period to be fun for the students. When notified, they happily sing "Happy Birthday" and offer a treat with a candle to students on their

birthday. And they enjoy dressing up at holidays.

"We want to make them feel special," said **Mrs. Karen Hennessey**, who has worked here 16 years and is in her first year as cafeteria manager. Making the students happy makes their job more enjoyable, the cafeteria staff members said. "I like serving the kids," said **Ms. Wanda Case**, who is in her seventh year in the cafeteria. "I love being with people."



Dressing up, acknowledging birthdays, and joking with the students are all ways to make their job more fun, especially as they struggle to work in the small kitchen with its 1950s equipment. They deal daily with limited freezer and oven space and having the walk-in and freezer located outside the building. It's also typical for someone taking something out of the oven to bump into whoever is operating the dishwasher.

Mrs. Hennessey was excited to hear the news that the school recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County that will go toward the purchase of a new oven. The oven costs \$25,000, so \$15,000 still needs to be raised. Still, she is looking forward to having up-to-date equipment that can handle the number of lunches. In the meantime, the staff finds that making light of the situation helps them deal with the stress of feeding hundreds of people in such a short time in such a small space.

"We have as much fun as we can while we're working," said **Ms. Donna Miller**, who is in her eighth year here.

BLUE NEWS - OF OLD

In Pursuit of Trivia
By **Ray Day '57**

Often in recent years I've been asked all manner of questions about the "Providence-of-old." I suppose that's because of my 45-year Providence experience as student, faculty member and now website coordinator and archivist. The doors at Providence have been blue for many years, but when I entered as a freshman in 1953, the doors were dark green. They remained green for at least three decades. The ones near the lobby were even tan for several years.

One of the most asked questions is, "What year had the largest student enrollment and how many students were enrolled?" An exact number is somewhat elusive, but it appears 1962-63 saw the largest enrollment. The Pioneer Post (September 7, 1962, issue) indicated student population was 920. However, an article published later that year on March 8, 1963, in the same student newspaper is probably more accurate. It read:

"While eight clocks in the hall of Providence tick away the time, 899 students are being taught by 34 teachers. 326 windows help to shed light on the 36 subjects offered here. With the clanging of the midday bell, the industrious Provites flee to eight drinking fountains, eight restrooms, Holy Communion offered at all three lunch periods, and the cafeteria.

"At dismissal time students participate in the 14 extracurricular clubs and activities or the five major sports. They pass the trophy case in the lobby containing 16 trophies. Twenty-five giant steps are necessary to get from the front doors to the curb in front of the building where 10 buses are parked. In the back, approximately 80 cars fill the parking lot.

"On an average day, 12 boys wear ties and, of course, all girls wear navy blue uniforms."

The second most asked question is, "Which is the largest graduation class?" Our records show the top five graduation classes are:

1. 1965 - 221
2. 1966 - 213
3. 1964 - 197
4. 1961 - 188
5. 1968 - 188

Things changed drastically over the next few years.

- By October 1972 when the Sisters of Providence announced their need to sell Providence, enrollment had dropped to 533.
- Student-Teacher Ratio in 1962 was 26.4:1.
- Today, Providence enjoys a Student-Teacher Ratio of 13:1.
- Enrollment for the 2012-2013 school years is 551 (HS-461, JR.HS-90).

From 1955 to 2012, a total of 8514 students have graduated from Our Lady of Providence.

COMING EVENTS

- Dec. 6-7 - Popcorn Players/Providence Singers Deanery Tour*
- Dec. 8 - Placement Test for 8th Graders - 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*
- Dec. 8 - Mini-Reunion for Class of 1960*
- Dec. 9 - Christmas Concert - 7:00 p.m. - Robinson Auditorium*
- Dec. 10 - Deadline for "Toys For Tots" collections*
- Dec. 10 - Ugly Sweater Contest*
- Dec. 11 - Deadline for "Jolly Grams" sales*
- Dec. 12 - Deadline for "Blanket-Coat Drive" collections*
- Dec. 13-14 - First Semester Exams - NOON DISMISSAL EACH DAY*
- Dec. 17-18 - First Semester Exams - NOON DISMISSAL EACH DAY*
- Dec. 18 - End of First Semester*
- Dec. 18 - Christmas Dance - 8-11 p.m.*
- Dec. 19 - Christmas Break Begins (SNOW MAKE-UP DAY #1)*
- Dec. 20 - SNOW MAKE-UP DAY #2*
- Jan. 3 - Classes Resume - Begin 2nd Semester*
- Jan. 4 - Alumni Night (see story above)*
- Jan. 19 - Annual Providence GALA Dinner & Auction*

* * PROVIDENCE WAY * PROVIDENCE WAY * *

And lastly...

As we approach the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, Dec. 8, we pause to ask Mary for help in avoiding sin. We continue to invoke her protection for our school, Our Lady of Providence, so named in her honor.

O Virgin Immaculate, Mother of God and my Mother, from thy sublime height turn upon me thine eyes of pity. Filled with confidence in thy goodness and knowing full well thy power, I beseech thee to extend to me thine assistance in the journey of life, which is so full of danger for my soul. And in order that I may never be the slave of the devil through sin, but may ever live

with my heart humble and pure, I entrust myself wholly to thee. I consecrate my heart to thee for ever, my only desire being to love thy divine Son Jesus. Mary, none of thy devout servants has ever perished; may I too be saved. Amen.

By Scott P. Richert, of About.com Catholicism

Your e-VISION Staff

Christa Hoyland

Director of Communications & Alumni Relations

Principal e-VISION reporter/writer

choyland@providencehigh.net

Debbie Marshall

Administrative Assistant - Office of Institutional Advancement

dmarshall@providencehigh.net

Ray Day

Website Coordinator / Archivist

rday@providencehigh.net